

320 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn 11, New York
March 25, 1956

Hon. Dwight D. Eisenhower
President Of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am an American citizen who served in the United States Army under another president, the Honorable William Howard Taft, who was then, as you are now, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of our country. The world, at that time, was young, naive, and innocent (or, at least, I was). Trenches were unheard of. We were getting \$13 a month in the Army then. Later, it was raised to \$15, which made us all very happy and contented, of course.

We heard of wars. Our Colonel Blatchford once delivered a speech to us, while we were maneuvering out in the Colorado mountains. He told us that the rifles were actually given to us to shoot with, and not as an ornament. The trouble was, it seemed to me at the time, that there was no enemy around to shoot at. In retrospect, I can still recall how amused the men were, and the many jokes that were made about an enemy that would most likely be thousands of miles away.

One can't exactly blame the men for having so much fun at the expense of our good Colonel, because those were the days of, what I call, the "No Bra"-no radio, no television, no airplanes, no rocket torpedoes or guided missiles, no atom bombs, and, of course, no "H" bombs. Our country was sound, serene, and secure, and the only thing we were in need of then, as one of our vice-presidents said, was "a good 5¢ cigar".

Now, nearly half a century later, my vision is much clearer, my horizon much wider, my understanding, I hope, a little better. I have since learned the horrors of war, the destruction and devastation that it brings, the physical and mental agonies that it leaves behind. I have lived through two World Wars, and had my two sons serve in the Armed Forces of our country, first as privates, eventually, as commissioned officers. I

know the sorrow and the aching heart of parents who have to watch their sons leave their homes for wars in foreign lands.

It is my belief that there is no man in this wide world who has seen so much, and who detests war as much as you do. I, therefore, appeal to you, Sir, to save from war's destruction that little country, Israel, which only a short eight years ago, this beloved United States of ours helped to create, and which has since been a haven of refuge to thousands of poor, helpless, and persecuted people from different parts of the world.

Twenty centuries of Jewish history look to you, Mr. President, for help, sympathy, and understanding. Twice in that long history, help came from a non-Jew, at the most critical time; Zion was redeemed, and Israel was returned to its former glory. The first time was two thousand years ago when King Cyrus of Persia allowed the Jews to go back to their land, and helped to restore the temple. The second time was in our own day when your distinguished predecessor, the Honorable Harry S. Truman, recognized the independence of Israel.

For that act, Mr. Truman earned the gratitude of Israel, and will be remembered by Israel until the end of time. I hope and pray, Mr. President, that after this critical emergency passes, posterity will add another great and glorious name to the list of those who came to the aid of Israel in its hour of need, and that that name will be "Dwight D. Eisenhower".

Most sincerely and most respectfully,

ABRAHAM LIPSON