

437-122

*Truman, J.*

December 14, 1950

Dear Mr. President:

The General Assembly has come to an end for all intents and purposes, though I understand it will probably only recess and that the delegates may be on call.

In any case, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity of serving in this General Assembly and to tell you that I have been somewhat disturbed by the atmosphere which I found prevalent toward the United States.

Committee #3, not being a political committee as you know, the members of the various delegations act with a good deal of freedom and less direction from the top than they would in a political committee where the results of their actions would have more immediate political repercussions. Therefore I think one sees what might be called honest-to-goodness trends of feeling.

It certainly is a trend of dislike of the domination of big nations and a feeling that small nations should have more to say.

The race question has become a very vital one since much of the feeling is that of the colored races against the white race. We are classed with the Colonial Powers has having exploited them because our business men in the past have exploited them, so we have no better standing than the United Kingdom or any other Colonial Power. I think we have to reckon with this in our whole world outlook because we will need friends badly and it is surprising how few we have in spite of all we have done for other peoples in the past.

I realize I sound like Cassandra, but I think this situation should be better understood by our people as a whole and we should be bending every effort to correcting it as soon as possible.

Dear Mr. President:

Very sincerely yours,  
The General Assembly and the Executive Council  
of the United States

In any case, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity of serving in this General Assembly and for the fact that I have been elected to it. I am sure that I shall be able to do my duty to the best of my ability.

As a member of the various delegations to the various international conferences, I have had the opportunity to meet with the representatives of other nations and to discuss with them the various problems of the world. I think that this has been a very valuable experience for me and for the people of the United States.

It certainly is a great privilege to be a member of the Executive Council of the United States and I feel that I shall be able to do my duty to the best of my ability.

The race question has become a very vital one since much of the feeling in that of the colored race against the white race. We are blessed with the Colonial Power and having exploited them because our business men in the past have exploited them so we have no better standing than the United Kingdom or any other Colonial Power. I think we have to reckon with this in our whole world and it is not because we will need friends badly and it is not because we have in spite of all we have done for other peoples in the past.