

The original documents are located in Box D14, folder “Holland American Legion, July 4, 1951” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Excerpts from Comments by Representative Gerald R. Ford, Jr.
at the Holland American Legion Fourth of July celebration, 1951

"The United States and some of the other free nations in the United Nations during the past year have forcefully demonstrated to the Kremlin that bullets can and will be met with bullets. If a just and honorable peace is achieved in Korea, the United States must thereafter combat ideas with ideas. The truth is a flaming sword. Let America carry the sword of truth to the oppressed peoples of the world who have long been subjected to the deceitful propaganda of ruthless leaders behind the Iron Curtain. The ideas of the free world can be as successful in peacetime in defeating communism as our military forces have been in conquering the armies of communism on the battlefields.

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"The United Nations should enter into peace negotiations ready to satisfy the desire of humanity for world peace but our citizens should not surrender to temporary emotionalism and false propaganda. We are dealing with the shrewdest and most diabolical bargainers on earth, and our representatives in the crucial negotiations should be equally shrewd lest the United States and the United Nations lose on the conference table what we have gained on the battlefield. The American people and our allies should be wary of any superficial armistice."

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"Every American prays the terrible war in Korea can be ended on just and honorable terms without further bloodshed. General Ridgeway has my full support in his great task. I sincerely hope the President will make full use of our most competent negotiators, both military and civilian, without regard



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to political affiliation. Bipartisanship in Far Eastern foreign policy matters could be re-established if the President would use in the negotiations the best informed authorities and top leaders in both major political parties. The situation is so critical the United States needs its best team at the conference table to avoid another Yalta. Our negotiators must make certain our heroic and valiant defenders of freedom have not sacrificed in vain."

