

2335 Norwalk Avenue  
Los Angeles 41, Calif.  
September 12, 1948

President Harry S. Truman,  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The so-called "Berlin Crisis" is entirely an outgrowth of your own incredible stupidity. When you attended the Potsdam Conference to arrange final details for the occupation of Germany, it was your duty to look out for American interests and insist upon the establishment of a corridor to the American Zone for ingress and egress to the city. This you failed to do. Possibly this was because you believed Joe Stalin to be a "good old chap," as you expressed it some time ago. But I am inclined to think that you were just too dumb to know that such a corridor was necessary.

In the meantime, you seem to be willing and even eager to force this country into a war with Russia merely for the purpose of "saving face." If you do this, the blame for such a war will rest upon your own shoulders, and the blood of American boys butchered in this war will be on your head.

Read the inclosed article from the Los Angeles Times of September 12, and then perhaps even your feeble mind will grasp the fact that the Berlin Crisis can be solved without dragging the United States into war.

Yours truly,  
Philip Johnston

My dear chocolate uncle,

We live near the airfield at Tempelhof and our chickens think your airplanes are chicken hawks, and they become frightened when you fly over to land. They run in the shelter and some molt and give us no more eggs....

When you see the white chickens please drop [the chocolate] there, all will be OK.

Mercedes Simon

November, 1948

Dear Mercedes,

I can't find your chickens. I hope this is OK.

Your Chocolate Uncle (American Col. Gail Halvorsen who was nicknamed the "Candy Bomber" during the Berlin Airlift.)

Memorandum for the Secretary (of President Truman) from the U.S. Department of State

The following are the principal elements in public comment which continues to be extremely heavy...

1. The overwhelming majority of press and radio commentators remain united in support of the official U.S. position—that we shall not be “coerced” out of Berlin.
2. At the same time, there is very strong sentiment to the effect that this Government should explore every possibility of a negotiated solution, providing that such a solution does not violate our principles and our national interests.
3. The position taken by a small number of influential papers indicates that these sources do not believe our position in Berlin is worth risking a war, implying support for evacuation if the alternative is the use of force...
4. On balance, however, this attitude is heavily outweighed by the belief that surrender in Berlin would only result in future aggression elsewhere....
7. While the possibility of UN action has received little discussion during the past week, it is evident from previous discussion that such a step would be supported by most observers if direct negotiations fail to break the deadlock.

4201 Spruce St.  
Vancouver, Wa  
Oct. 11, 1948

My dear Mr. President:

Christianity—not force & fear—is the answer to communism! We must in our international relations practice the “Golden Rule” with Russia, therefore we must open negotiations with Russia over the Berlin crisis! That is my demand! I can not allow my country to be Pagan as Russia is.....

Our occupational forces must be withdrawn from all areas and use the money, as it should have been used from the beginning, in feeding the hungry & healing the sick by Christian & social agencies. You know how easy resentments are made in a home! How much more easy resentments can be made by our army men in Greece, Germany, China, Korea & other places. We have nothing to fear if we really practice the golden rule in government issues.

God grand “Our President” courage and understanding is my earnest prayer!

Very sincerely yours,  
Elizabeth L. Roeder

Long Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Long Beach 2, California  
October 13, 1948

Dear President Truman:

Our national affairs committee has given much of its attention to the present international situation. That committee urged and our Board of Directors on October 11 approved a motion placing our Chamber of Commerce on record as backing the federal government in its decision to take a strong stand in the present Berlin and German crisis.

We recommend that the United States not retreat from Berlin in the face of Russian threats since such retreat would ultimately throw all of western Europe into the Russian sphere of influence. It is also recommended that the federal government continue its present practice of using all reasonable diplomatic means possible to avoid war.

We hope this expression of opinion will be of value to you and we are forwarding similar letters to our congressional representatives and to the Secretary of State.

Respectfully,  
C.E. Scott, President

The Honorable Harry S. Truman  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.