

# In '51, Nixon Critized Truman Secrecy on Korea

WASHINGTON, June 23 (AP)—Twenty years ago, Richard M. Nixon accused the Truman Administration of holding back classified documents for political reasons.

"The new test for classifying secret documents now seems to be not whether the publication of a document would affect the security of the nation," Mr. Nixon, then a Senator from California, said at the time, "but whether it would affect the political security of the Administration."

Mr. Nixon demanded that Mr. Truman make public the complete report on which The New York Times had based an article about charges that Gen. Douglas MacArthur had miscalculated in Korea.

Now the Nixon Administration is struggling in court to keep The Times and other newspapers from printing information obtained for secret documents on the Vietnam war.

A few days after Mr. Truman relieved General MacArthur as the allied commander in Korea, The Times on April 21, 1951, published an article, based on secret records of talks between General MacArthur and President Truman on Wake Island on Oct. 15, 1950.

Drawing from the confidential papers, The Times said General MacArthur had predicted that the Chinese would intervene in the war and had boasted they would be "slaughtered" if they did.

The Times also said that General MacArthur had told President Truman and others that victory would be obtained by Thanksgiving, 1950, and that the Eighth Army would be back in Japan by Christmas.

The next day Mr. Nixon responded that "one of the most vicious smear campaigns in history" had been planned against General MacArthur.

Mr. Nixon said that the documents that had been leaked were "obviously selected to spotlight every action of the general which might reflect on him unfavorably."

"Certainly," Mr. Nixon then said in a statement

made public in Washington, "if classified documents are now to be made public, the committees of Congress and the American people should be entitled to see not only those documents which might reflect against MacArthur, but also those which might reflect in his favor."

## Given to Senate Groups

On May 3 the Truman Administration gave the collection of documents, entitled "Substance of Statements

Made at Wake Island," to the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Affairs Committees, which then made most of them public.

The documents made public supported The Times article, quoting General MacArthur as having said at the conference that there was "very little" chance of Chinese intervention.

A report by the Joint Chiefs of Staff said that General MacArthur had assured the conference: "We are no longer fearful of their intervention." The five-star general was also quoted as having said: "I believe that formal resistance will end throughout North and South Korea by Thanksgiving."

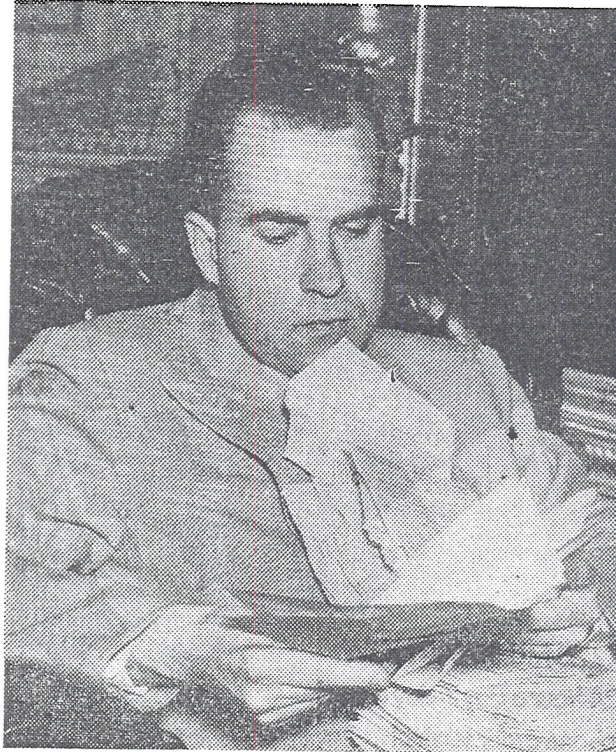
Ten days after that conference, Chinese troops crossed the Yalu River from Manchuria, and more than 105,000 United Nation troops had to be rescued from Hungnam at Christmas. The war continued until a truce was agreed to on July 27, 1953.

## Fears for Security

Although the Truman Administration released the documents as Senator Nixon sought, it, like the current Administration, expressed fear of danger to the national security.

The Pentagon and Congressional Democrats opposed a public Senate hearing on the MacArthur discharge and only Senators were allowed in. General MacArthur's testimony was given to the press, but only after it was censored for military secrets.

General MacArthur said in 1951 that the six-month-old documents had "just about as much bearing on the problem of Korea today as a report on the military operations on Bunker Hill."



Associated Press

**Richard M. Nixon, when he was Senator in 1951, leafing through telegrams on President Truman's ousting of Gen. Douglas MacArthur 10 days before The New York Times published an article based on secret records of talks between General MacArthur and Mr. Truman on Wake Island.**

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