

ADDRESS BY  
GENERAL MAXWELL D. TAYLOR  
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY  
AT THE COTTON FESTIVAL (OPEN GATHERING)  
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1955 -- 1:15 PM (EST)

GOOD AFTERNOON, CITIZENS AND GUESTS OF AIKEN.

I AM MOST HAPPY INDEED TO APPEAR AT YOUR INVITATION AT

AIKEN'S SEVENTH COTTON FESTIVAL. YOU HAVE INDEED BEEN

MOST HOSPITABLE IN WELCOMING THIS SOLDIER TO YOUR MIDST

*In spite of the mist that met death an Army football team by the U. of S. C.  
at WP Jeter a year ago*

TODAY. I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO FORGATHERING WITH YOU

EVER SINCE I RECEIVED SENATOR THURMOND'S INVITATION TO

ATTEND THE FESTIVAL. I HAVE BEEN PERHAPS A LITTLE

EMBARRASSED TO EXPLAIN MY PRESENCE HERE, FEELING THAT

*in Washington*  
MANY OF MY FRIENDS WOULD SAY THAT GENERAL TAYLOR HAS

ABSENTED HIMSELF FROM THE CHORES OF THE PENTAGON TO TAKE

ADVANTAGE OF THIS SPORTS CENTER OF THE SOUTH. I AM AFRAID

THAT THEY KNOW MY WEAKNESS FOR SPORTS AND NATURALLY LOOK

FOR SOME SPORTING REASON TO ACCOUNT FOR BEING WITH YOU

TODAY. ACTUALLY I COME FIRST TO RENEW A LONG STANDING

PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH THE CITIZENS OF THE SOUTH AND

SECONDLY TO BRING A FEW WORDS FROM THE ARMY-- TO EXPRESS

TO YOU HOW HAPPY THE ARMY IS TO BE A PART OF THE SOUTH.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY IS CALLED UPON TO  
APPEAR ON MANY DIFFERENT SOAP BOXES FROM TIME TO TIME.

SOMETIMES I ASK MYSELF, "WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I DOING,"

BEFORE SOME OF THE AUDIENCES WHICH I ADDRESS. I FEEL LIKE

A SURGEON WHO SERVED WITH ME IN THE 101<sup>st</sup> AIRBORNE <sup>Division</sup> DURING

WORLD WAR II. JUST BEFORE THE INVASION OF NORMANDY, WE

DISCOVERED THAT WE WERE SERIOUSLY SHORT OF DOCTORS WHO

COULD PARACHUTE WITH US. WITH SOME DIFFICULTY WE WERE

ABLE TO FIND A BOLD, RUGGED CHARACTER AMONG THE ARMY

DOCTORS IN LONDON, WHO OFFERED TO GO WITH US AND MAKE HIS

FIRST PARACHUTE JUMP INTO THE HOTTEST SPOT OF THE WAR.

HE JUMPED INTO COMBAT ON D-DAY AND DID HIS DUTIES

SPLENDIDLY. I SAW HIM IN A PRIMITIVE FIELD HOSPITAL ON THE

MORNING AFTER OUR LANDING IN A SETTING SO GORY THAT IT  
WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE EXCEPT IN TERMS OF THE  
OPERATING ROOMS OF THE CIVIL WAR. AFTER THE SITUATION  
HAD SETTLED DOWN A BIT I WENT AROUND TO TALK TO HIM  
AND TO THANK HIM FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE FOR THE DIVISION.  
I ASKED HIM, "BY THE WAY, DOCTOR, HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN  
YOU STOOD IN THE DOOR OF YOUR PLANE IN ALL THAT ANTI-AIRCRAFT  
FIRE AND HAD TO BAIL OUT INTO THE DARKNESS?" "WELL," HE  
SAID, "GENERAL, AS I STOOD IN THE DOORWAY OF THAT PLANE,  
I LOOKED AT THE EARTH BELOW ME, THE HEAVENS ABOVE ME,  
AND THE FLAK THAT WAS FLAMING UP, I THOUGHT OF MY MEDICAL  
TRAINING, MY HOME AND MY FAMILY I HAD LEFT BEHIND, AND I  
CLOSED MY EYES AND SAID, 'DOCTOR, WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE  
YOU DOING HERE?'"

SOMETIMES ON MY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS ABOUT THE  
COUNTRY, I ASK MYSELF, "TAYLOR, WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE  
YOU DOING HERE?" BUT I WOULD SAY THAT I FIND IT VERY EASY  
TO ANSWER WHY I AM HERE AT AIKEN. I AM HERE BECAUSE I  
REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES ARMY, AND THE ARMY FEELS  
ITSELF VERY MUCH A PART OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND OF THE  
ENTIRE SOUTH.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE ARMY SHOULD BE AT HOME AT  
ANY AMERICAN EVENT. <sup>the</sup> ARMY IS AN INTIMATE PART OF  
AMERICA -- FOUNDED IN 1775, IT IS FOURTEEN YEARS OLDER THAN  
THE UNITED STATES ITSELF. IT IS OUR OLDEST MILITARY SERVICE,  
HAVING FOUGHT ALL OF AMERICA'S WARS IN DEFENSE OF THIS  
NATION.

IN TIME OF WAR, A LARGE SEGMENT OF AMERICAN MANHOOD  
PASSES THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE ARMY, LATER TO RETURN

HOME AS VETERAN ALUMNI OF THE <sup>Service</sup> ~~ARMY~~. I AM AWARE THAT  
MANY OF THOSE STANDING BEFORE ME TODAY HAVE SERVED  
THEIR COUNTRY ON MANY DISTANT FIELDS OF BATTLE IN THE  
UNIFORM OF THE ARMY.

I AM PARTICULARLY HAPPY THAT MY VISIT TO AIKEN HAS  
*allowed the Army to render a salute to this great product of the South*  
COINCIDED WITH THE COTTON FESTIVAL. COTTON HAS PLAYED  
AN HISTORIC ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND OF ITS MILITARY FORCES. ALL OF US IN THE ARMED SERVICES  
RECOGNIZE WHAT COTTON MEANS AS A NATIONAL RESOURCE.  
*It*  
~~COTTON~~ USED TO BE CALLED IN THE SOUTH "KING COTTON,"  
BECAUSE IT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT SOUTHERN PRODUCT AND  
THE ONE ON WHICH SO MUCH OF THE ECONOMY DEPENDED. AT  
ONE TIME THIS DEPENDENCE OF THE SOUTHERN ECONOMY WAS A  
SERIOUS WEAKNESS BUT THAT TIME IS PAST. ONE HAS ONLY TO  
LOOK AT THE CITY OF AIKEN AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

TO BE REMINDED HOW THOSE CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED, HOW  
THE SOUTH IS NO LONGER DEPENDENT ON ONE PRODUCT BUT  
HAS BECOME A MAJOR PRODUCER AND MANUFACTURER OF MANY.  
THE RESULTANT ECONOMY OF BROAD BASE AND PROFOUND DEPTH  
HAS ADDED IMPORTANTLY TO THE STRENGTH OF OUR COUNTRY  
IN PEACE AND IN WAR.

THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT COTTON ITSELF HAS LOST ITS  
NATIONAL, IN FACT ITS INTERNATIONAL, IMPORTANCE. JUST AS  
IT HAS BEEN SPUN, WOVEN, AND DYED SINCE PREHISTORIC TIMES,  
TODAY 90 PERCENT OF THE MATERIAL USED FOR CLOTHING IN  
THE WORLD IS STILL COTTON. IN MANY FIELDS, SUCH AS MEDICINE,  
SURGERY, EXPLOSIVES, AND FOOD, COTTON AND ITS BY-PRODUCTS  
PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN NATIONAL DEFENSE.

*particularly*  
COTTON IS IMPORTANT TO THE ARMY ~~IN PARTICULAR~~ BECAUSE  
*↑* *to the ground soldier.*  
OF ITS MANY ~~MILITARY~~ USES. IT APPEARS IN GUNCOTTON, IN

THE WEBBING AND THE COVERS FOR MANY TYPES OF EQUIPMENT,  
THE TENTAGES AND UNIFORMS OF OUR SOLDIERS. DURING THE  
PAST FISCAL YEAR THE ARMY HAS CONTRACTED FOR MORE THAN  
30 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF COTTON FABRICS AND COTTON  
CLOTHING. IF IT IS TRUE THAT AN ARMY MARCHES ON ITS STOMACH,  
THEN COTTON HAS BECOME ITS SHOE LEATHER.

ANY DISCUSSION OF COTTON AS AN ELEMENT OF NATIONAL  
DEFENSE ~~CANNOT FAIL TO~~ SUGGESTS THE SUBJECT OF THE BATTLE  
OF NEW ORLEANS. THERE, IN 1815, THE ARMY UNDER GENERAL  
ANDREW JACKSON FOUGHT ACROSS BARRICADES OF COTTON BALES  
AND SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THE CITY AGAINST THE BRITISH  
FORCES UNDER SIR EDWARD PAKENHAM.

I WAS REMINDED OF THAT HISTORIC EVENT IN KOREA WHEN  
AN ENTERPRISING CITY OF THE SOUTH SENT A BALE OF COTTON  
ALL THE WAY TO KOREA TO THE SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

OF THE THIRD DIVISION, WHICH WAS THEN IN THE LINE FACING  
THE COMMUNISTS. THE REGIMENT'S NICKNAME IS "THE COTTON-  
BALERS" BECAUSE THEY WERE A REGIMENT AT THE BATTLE  
OF NEW ORLEANS, AND THEY HAVE A COTTON BALE AS THE  
REGIMENTAL CREST. IT WAS MY HONOR TO PRESENT THE BALE  
TO THE REGIMENT AS A SYMBOL OF A TRADITION ALREADY 139  
YEARS OLD. INCIDENTALLY, SINCE A COTTON BALE WEIGHS  
500 POUNDS, I HAVE WONDERED HOW MANY HUSKY GI'S WILL BE  
REQUIRED TO TOTE THE REGIMENTAL SYMBOL FROM COUNTRY TO  
COUNTRY AS THE SEVENTH INFANTRY MOVES ABOUT THE WORLD.  
IT MAY BE THAT THEY WILL NOT BE TOO SYMPATHETIC TO THIS  
RESPECT FOR ~~THE~~ OLD ARMY TRADITION.

I AM OFTEN IMPRESSED WITH HOW MUCH THE ARMY HAS  
IN COMMON WITH SOUTH CAROLINA AND WITH THE SOUTH.

THE ARMY IS BOTH A HAPPY CUSTOMER AND A HAPPY RESIDENT  
OF YOUR PART OF THE COUNTRY. IT RESIDES HERE ON MANY  
POSTS, CAMPS, AND STATIONS WHERE IT BECOMES INTIMATELY  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY. THE SOUTH IS  
THE PRINCIPAL TRAINING AREA OF THE ARMY AND MANY OF OUR  
MAJOR INSTALLATIONS ARE LOCATED WITHIN A FEW HUNDRED  
MILES OF AIKEN. TO MENTION A FEW, I COULD POINT TO

FORT JACKSON, WHICH I VISITED YESTERDAY, WITH  
22,000 TROOPS INCLUDING A TRAINING DIVISION  
WHICH BEARS THE PATCH OF MY WARTIME  
COMMAND, THE 101st AIRBORNE DIVISION.

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, WITH 32,000 TROOPS, THE  
HOME OF ALL GOOD INFANTRYMEN, AND OF THE  
3d INFANTRY DIVISION. THIS DIVISION FOUGHT  
GALLANTLY UNDER MY COMMAND IN KOREA AND

IS NOW ENGAGED IN SOME EXTREMELY IMPORTANT  
TESTS TO DEVELOP NEW TACTICS AND ORGANIZA-  
TIONAL TECHNIQUES FOR THE ARMY OF THE  
ATOMIC AGE.

FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA, WITH 37,000 TROOPS,  
THE CENTER OF OUR AIRBORNE ACTIVITIES. THE  
MORE THE ARMY REFLECTS UPON ITS ROLE IN THE  
FUTURE WITH ITS REQUIREMENT TO RESIST AGGRESSION  
PROMPTLY AT ANY PLACE, AT ANY TIME, WE ARE  
IMPRESSED WITH THE NEED FOR GREATER STRATEGIC  
MOBILITY. FORT BRAGG IS THE CENTER OF THE  
ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO DEVELOP AN ARMY CAPABLE  
OF MOVING RAPIDLY BY AIR TO ANY PLACE TO WHICH  
THE AIRPLANE CAN FLY.

WE HAVE ALSO IN THIS AREA FORT McPHERSON, GEORGIA,  
THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE THIRD ARMY; FORT  
McCLELLAN, ALABAMA, THE HOME OF THE TRAINING  
FOR OUR WOMEN SOLDIERS, THE WACs; AND CAMP  
RUCKER, ALABAMA, THE SEAT OF THE ARMY AVIATION  
SCHOOL. RUCKER IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE ARMY AVIATION  
IS IMPORTANT. I HAVE OFTEN REFLECTED HOW ESSENTIAL  
TO OUR SUCCESS IN KOREA WERE THE ARMY AIRPLANES  
AND HELICOPTERS WHICH ADJUSTED THE FIRE OF OUR  
WEAPONS, MOVED OUR RESERVES OF MEN AND EQUIPMENT,  
AND ALLOWED COMMANDERS TO FOLLOW CLEARLY THE  
COURSE OF THE BATTLE. IT WAS 125 MILES FROM MY  
HEADQUARTERS IN SEOUL TO THE RIGHT FLANK OF THE  
EIGHTH ARMY LINE, BUT I COULD GET THERE AND STAND  
ON A MOUNTAINTOP IN THE OUTPOST LINE IN LESS THAN

AN HOUR. THIS WAS THANKS TO ARMY AVIATION.

THESE AIRPLANES DO NOT COMPETE WITH THE AIR

FORCE BUT GIVE THE ARMY, WITHIN ITS OWN COMBAT

AREA, THE ABILITY TO MOVE RAPIDLY BY AIR IN

EXECUTING ITS MISSION OF DEFEATING THE ENEMY

ON THE GROUND.

I HAVE MENTIONED THAT THE ARMY IS A SATISFIED DWELLER  
AND CUSTOMER OF THE SOUTH. PERHAPS I MIGHT INDICATE TO  
WHAT EXTENT WE ARE A CUSTOMER AND TO WHAT EXTENT WE  
BUY SOUTHERN GOODS AND SERVICES. THROUGHOUT THE THIRD  
ARMY AREA, WHICH COMPRISES THE SOUTHEASTERN STATES, DURING  
THE PAST FISCAL YEAR THE ARMY CONTRACTED TO SPEND ABOUT  
480 MILLION DOLLARS, EXCLUSIVE OF PAYROLLS, FOR VARIOUS  
*Commodities*  
~~GOODS~~ AND SERVICES. OF THIS SUM, ABOUT 137 MILLION DOLLARS OF  
THE CONTRACTS WENT TO SMALL BUSINESSES. THE ARMY MADE

EXTENSIVE USE OF A VARIETY OF CIVILIAN SKILLS, EMPLOYING A  
~~CIVILIAN~~ PAYROLL AMOUNTING TO 165 MILLION DOLLARS. WHEN  
ONE ADDS TO THIS AMOUNT THE MILITARY PAYROLL OF 538 MILLION  
DOLLARS, MOST OF WHICH IS SPENT IN THE SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES  
IN WHICH OUR SOLDIERS LIVE, YOU SEE THAT THE ARMY IS INDEED  
A CUSTOMER OF REAL IMPORTANCE, EXPENDING ON THE ORDER OF  
A BILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR, IN THE EXPANDING ECONOMY OF  
THIS AREA.

I WOULD NOT PUT THE EMPHASIS ON WHAT THE ARMY BRINGS  
TO THE SOUTH -- IT ALSO RECEIVES IN VERY RICH AND AMPLE  
MEASURE. THE ARMY HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSCIOUS OF THE SOUTH'S  
PATRIOTIC UNDERSTANDING OF ITS PROBLEMS AND OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. MEN OF THE SOUTH HAVE  
ALWAYS BEEN AMONG THE FIRST TO HEED THE CALL TO ARMS  
WHEN DANGER THREATENED THIS COUNTRY. THE SOUTHERN STATES

HAVE ALWAYS FURNISHED MORE THAN THEIR SHARE OF SOLDIERS,  
SAILORS, AND AIRMEN TO OUR ARMED FORCES. I NEED ONLY  
MENTION THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S GREAT  
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS THE CITADEL AND CLEMSON,  
TO EVOKE THE MEMORY OF MANY MILITARY LEADERS WHO HAVE  
BEEN NURTURED IN THIS STATE.

THE SOUTH HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUTSTANDING IN THE SUPPORT  
OF OUR ARMY RESERVE ACTIVITIES. AS AN EXAMPLE OF DEVOTED  
PARTICIPATION AND INTEREST IN RESERVE AFFAIRS, I NEED ONLY  
CITE SENATOR THURMOND, WHO HAS JUST COMPLETED A TERM  
AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION.  
THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM WAS AT THE ARMY WAR COLLEGE IN THE  
UNIFORM OF A BRIGADIER GENERAL WHERE HE WAS CONTRIBUTING  
TO THE INSTRUCTION AT OUR HIGHEST SCHOOL OF MILITARY  
LEARNING. TODAY THE SOUTH HAS 125,000 CITIZENS PARTICIPATING

IN OVER 2,000 RESERVE COMPONENT UNITS, INCLUDING ALMOST HALF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD DIVISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES. THESE RESERVE UNITS, THEIR MILITARY READINESS, THEIR SOLIDITY OF STRUCTURE, AND THEIR TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY ARE OF TREMENDOUS CONCERN TO ME AS CHIEF OF STAFF. UNLESS THEY ARE AMPLY TRAINED IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS, THE ARMY CANNOT PERFORM ITS ROLE IN PROVIDING SECURITY TO OUR COUNTRY. LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO TELL YOU WHY.

IF WAR BREAKS OUT AGAIN, IT IS LIKELY TO TAKE ONE OF TWO FORMS. IT MAY BE A GREAT CONFLAGRATION INVOLVING THE SOVIET BLOC AND THE FREE NATIONS OF THE WORLD IN A DESTRUCTIVE HOLOCAUST WHICH WE CALL "GENERAL WAR." IN SUCH A DISASTER, ATOMIC WEAPONS OF GREAT POWER ARE LIKELY TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE. HOWEVER, AS TIME GOES BY, THE OBVIOUS FACT THAT NEITHER SIDE CAN REALLY

WIN IN SUCH A WAR MUST INCLINE COMMUNIST LEADERS TO RECOIL  
FROM THE DELIBERATE DECISION TO INITIATE SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL  
CATASTROPHE AS NUCLEAR WORLD WAR III. THUS IT BECOMES  
INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT <sup>an</sup> ~~ANY~~ AGGRESSOR WILL BE LIKELY TO  
RESORT TO FORCE <sup>only</sup> UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH WILL AVOID THE OUT-  
BREAK OF GENERAL WAR. I MAKE THIS STATEMENT, RECOGNIZING  
THE GREAT DANGER THAT A MILITARY ADVENTURE PLANNED BY AN  
AGGRESSOR AS A LOCAL EPISODE RUNS A TREMENDOUS RISK OF  
UNLEASHING GENERAL WARFARE BY MISTAKE. NONETHELESS, I AM  
GREATLY IMPRESSED BY THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF READINESS  
TO COPE WITH LOCAL AGGRESSION, TO STOP ANY FURTHER  
NIBBLING AWAY OF THE FREE WORLD.

IN ANY EVENT, WHETHER IN LARGE WAR OR IN SMALL WAR,  
YOUR ARMY MUST BE READY TO DISPATCH SIZABLE FORCES  
IMMEDIATELY, EITHER TO REINFORCE OUR TROOPS UNDER ATTACK

OVERSEAS OR TO STAMP OUT BRUSH FIRES IN AREAS WHERE WE HAVE  
NO FORCES AT PRESENT. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE ARMY  
LEADERS ARE SO INSISTENT UPON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR  
RESERVE FORCES. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO HAVE A STANDING ARMY  
IN BEING LARGE ENOUGH TO MEET THE <sup>fuel</sup> REQUIREMENTS, WITHOUT  
THE BACKUP OF CIVILIAN RESERVES. NATURALLY, THE ARMY HAS  
VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED THE NEW NATIONAL RESERVE ACT WHICH  
WAS PASSED IN THE LAST CONGRESS. IN ITS PRESENT FORM THE LAW  
IS NOT THE WAY THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT, AND IT IS NOT  
PRODUCING VOLUNTEERS IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS. NEVERTHELESS,  
WE FEEL THAT THE CONGRESS HAS GIVEN US FOR THE FIRST TIME  
A STARTING POINT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF READY RESERVES  
CAPABLE OF PROVIDING TRAINED MANPOWER FOR THE NATIONAL  
GUARD AND THE RESERVE UNITS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. I DO  
NOT DOUBT THAT WE WILL RETURN TO CONGRESS NEXT YEAR AND  
SUGGEST FUNDAMENTAL MODIFICATIONS OF THE PRESENT LAW

BUT MEANWHILE WE ARE TRYING THIS YEAR TO DERIVE ALL  
POSSIBLE BENEFIT FROM THE LAW IN ITS PRESENT FORM.

MOST OF THE MILITARY UNITS WHICH ARE STATIONED IN THIS  
PART OF THE SOUTH BELONG TO THE GENERAL RESERVE OF THE  
ACTIVE ARMY -- THE THIRD DIVISION AT BENNING IS AN EXAMPLE.  
THESE UNITS MUST BE READY FOR PROMPT DEPLOYMENT OVERSEAS  
AT ANY TIME, EITHER TO RESIST A SERIOUS THREAT AGAINST  
WESTERN EUROPE IN SUPPORT OF THE TROOPS WE NOW HAVE THERE  
OR TO ENGAGE IN THE RESISTANCE OF LOCAL AGGRESSION IN  
RELATIVELY REMOTE PARTS OF THE WORLD. BECAUSE OF THE  
CRITICAL NEED TO REACT RAPIDLY, THE ARMY IS CONSTANTLY  
THINKING IN TERMS OF AIR-TRANSPORT, AND THE USE OF STRATEGIC  
AIR FLEETS WHICH CAN PICK UP OUR SOLDIERS AND MOVE THEM  
PROMPTLY TO ANY AREA. I WOULD REMIND YOU THAT KOREA,  
~~WHICH WAS~~ OUR MOST SERIOUS ENCOUNTER WITH COMMUNISM ~~SINCE~~

~~WORLD WAR II~~, WAS IN AN AREA RELATIVELY EASY TO REINFORCE  
FROM JAPAN. THE COMMUNISTS COULD HARDLY HAVE FOUND  
ANOTHER SPOT IN THE WORLD IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES FORCES  
COULD HAVE INTERVENED IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREVENT THE  
SUCCESS OF COMMUNIST AGGRESSION. THE NEXT TIME THE AGGRES-  
SORS MIGHT NOT PICK SUCH A CONVENIENT LOCATION. THEY MIGHT  
CHOOSE SOME SOFT SPOT WHERE THE GOING WOULD BE EASIER FOR  
THEM AND THE AMERICAN RIPOSTE, THEY WOULD HOPE, MUCH  
SLOWER. THE UNITED STATES ARMY IS DETERMINED TO SEE THAT  
OUR REACTION CAN BE FAST ENOUGH TO GAIN SUCCESS ONCE MORE,  
NO MATTER WHERE THE ENEMY CHOOSES TO STRIKE. THUS, WE  
ARE DETERMINED TO BECOME AN AIR-TRANSPORTABLE ARMY  
*WHICH*  
~~WHERE WE~~ CAN TAKE ALL OF *ITS* ~~OUR~~ ESSENTIAL WEAPONS AND  
EQUIPMENT BY AIR, AND WE APPEAL FOR THE AIRPLANES OF THE  
PROPER TYPE AND NUMBER TO ALLOW US TO ACCOMPLISH THIS  
MISSION.

NOT ONLY DOES THE ARMY INTEND TO BECOME AIR-  
TRANSPORTABLE TO DO ITS JOB BUT WE EXPECT TO BECOME AN  
ATOMIC ARMY, EQUIPPED WITH WEAPONS OF GREAT POWER,  
AND TRANSPORTABLE BY AIR. THE DAY HAS PASSED WHEN THE  
ATOMIC WEAPON IS SYNONYMOUS WITH A BOMB DELIVERED BY  
AN AIRPLANE. WE NOW HAVE WEAPONS WHICH CAN BE FIRED BY  
ARTILLERY PIECES AND BY ROCKETS EASILY TRANSPORTABLE BY  
ARMY TROOPS. THUS THE ARMY WILL CARRY TO THE BATTLEFIELD  
OF THE FUTURE DESTRUCTIVE POWER VASTLY IN EXCESS OF  
ANYTHING THAT HAS EVER BEEN IMAGINED IN THE PAST.

BY POSSESSING BOTH CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS,  
THE ARMY CAN ADJUST THE POWER OF ITS BLOWS TO THE SITUATION  
AT HAND. I FEEL THAT THERE IS GREAT MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE  
IN THE FACT THAT THE ARMY HAS WEAPONS WHICH VARY FROM THE  
MP'S PISTOL TO THE KILOTON YIELD OF HEAVY ATOMIC WEAPONS.

THIS GRADATION IN THE EFFECT OF OUR WEAPONS GIVES A GREAT FLEXIBILITY IN THE APPLICATION OF THE MILITARY POWER OF WHICH THE ARMY DISPOSES. THE ARMY HAS A UNIQUE ABILITY TO PROPORTION PUNISHMENT TO FIT THE CRIME OF AGGRESSION. WE ARE INTENT UPON DEVELOPING VERSATILE AND FLEXIBLE MILITARY FORCES, PREPARING TO FIGHT EITHER THE SHORT WAR OR THE LONG WAR, THE SMALL WAR OR THE BIG ONE. IN ANY CASE, WE EXPECT TO HAVE AN ARMY WHICH IS AN INSTRUMENT CAPABLE OF KEEPING WAR AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FROM THE AMERICAN HOMELAND. THE ARMY IS PLAYING ITS PART TODAY IN HOLDING THE ENEMY AT A DISTANCE. IT IS TODAY IN THE FIRST-LINE OF DEFENSE. IT IS DEPLOYED ALONG THE IRON CURTAIN IN EUROPE AND ALONG THE BAMBOO CURTAIN IN THE FAR EAST. IF THE COMMUNIST FORCES START TO MOVE AGAIN, AMONG THE FIRST TO CONFRONT THEM WILL BE AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.

*Keep the peace but if peace is broken to*

THE SAFETY OF THIS COUNTRY CAN NO LONGER PERMIT THE  
ARMY TO STAND BEHIND COTTON BALES ON AMERICAN SOIL AND  
AWAIT THE ENEMY. IT MUST MAN THE OUTPOSTS ABROAD, AND  
KEEP THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT OF WAR AS FAR REMOVED FROM  
OUR HOMELAND AS POSSIBLE. THE ENEMY MUST BE MET AND  
STOPPED BY GROUND FORCES DEPLOYED ABROAD, AND ~~THEY~~  
DEFEATED BY THE COMBINED EFFORT OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AND  
AIR FORCES SUPPORTED BY THE RESOURCES GENERATED AT HOME,  
YES, GENERATED IN YOUR SOUTHLAND.

IN CLOSING, LET ME SAY THAT THE ARMY IS YOUR ARMY. IT IS  
NO BETTER THAN YOU INSIST THAT IT BE. WE WHO WEAR THE ARMY  
UNIFORM NEED VITALLY AND ESSENTIALLY THE SYMPATHETIC  
UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CITIZENS AT HOME IF WE ARE TO DISCHARGE  
THE TASKS ASSIGNED TO US. WE ARE AT ONCE RESIDENTS OF THE  
SOUTH, CUSTOMERS OF THE SOUTH, AND SERVANTS OF THE SOUTH,

DEPENDENT UPON THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR AN  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.  
JUST AS AT NEW ORLEANS THE ARMY HAD THE HELP OF SOUTHERN  
COTTON TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY, TODAY THE ARMY NEEDS THE HELP  
OF ENLIGHTENED SOUTHERN UNDERSTANDING <sup>for</sup> OF ITS VITAL MISSION  
AS A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE TEAM OF THIS COUNTRY. I PLEDGE  
YOU THAT WE, THE LEADERS OF THE ARMY, ARE BENT UPON GIVING  
YOU A HARD-HITTING AGGRESSIVE ARMY, EQUIPPED WITH THE BEST  
OF MODERN WEAPONS, GUIDED BY THE BEST OF MODERN TACTICS,  
LED BY THE BEST MEN WHO WILL GIVE THEIR LIVES TO SERVE THEIR  
COUNTRY IN THE ARMY UNIFORM. IN RETURN I ASK YOU TO SAY,  
"THIS IS MY ARMY; IT IS IN MY IMAGE; IN THE LONG RUN IT WILL  
SERVE ME WITH THE SAME DEVOTION WHICH I SHOW IN SUPPORTING IT."  
THAT COMBINATION OF CITIZEN AND SOLDIER EFFORT IS THE SUREST  
GUARANTEE OF OUR NATIONAL SAFETY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. IT HAS INDEED BEEN A PLEASURE TO  
HAVE BEEN WITH YOU TODAY.

- END -