

# Truman: Documents reveal A-bomb use planned to bring Korean War to quick end

United Press International

HOUSTON — A researcher studying the private writings of President Harry Truman has discovered Truman considered the nuclear annihilation of major Chinese and Soviet cities as a method of ending the Korean War.

The Houston Chronicle reported Sunday that Rice University historian Francis L. Loewenheim found handwritten memoranda in Truman's private journal. The entry has stunned even Truman's top advisers.

The discovery was made in a passage written by Truman on Jan. 27, 1952.

"It seems to me that the proper approach now would be an ultimatum with a 10-day expiration limit informing Moscow that we intend to blockade the China coast from the Korean border to Indochina and that we intend to destroy every military base in Manchuria, including submarine bases, by means now in our control and if there is further interference we shall eliminate any ports or cities necessary to accomplish our peaceful purposes."

"This means all out war. It means that Moscow, St. Petersburg, Mukden, Vladivostok, Peking, Shanghai, Port Arthur, Dairen, Odessa, Stalingrad and every manufacturing plant in China and the Soviet Union will be eliminated. This is the final chance for the Soviet government to decide whether it desires to survive or not."

Truman's memoranda were part of an intermittent journal all in his own handwriting that he kept during his nearly eight years in the White House from April 1945 to January 1953. Truman considered the threat as a means to end the war,

**"We did not start this Korean affair but we intend to end it..."**

force the Soviet Union to free East European satellites and stop worldwide communist aggression.

The Chronicle contacted several Truman advisers and each was surprised.

Averell Harriman, then special assistant to the president, said that on no occasion "was this subject ever discussed between us."

Gen. Matthew E. Ridgway, then UN commander in Korea, said, "I never had an intimation that the president had any such thoughts."

After retiring, Truman retained custody of his personal records in his own wing of the Truman Library at Independence Mo., closed and inaccessible even to the official archivists at the library, Loewenheim said.

After his death in December 1972, the records were transferred to the custody of the library. They had never before been reported.

Loewenheim said a preventive strike against China and the Soviet Union was discussed publicly from time to time during the Korean War but Truman and leaders of his administration

invariably declared themselves strongly opposed to any such action.

When Navy Secretary Francis P. Matthews advocated preventive war in an address in Boston in August 1950, he was chastised promptly by Truman, removed from office and named U.S. ambassador to Ireland.

When Maj. Gen. Orvil Anderson, commandant of the Air War College, declared soon afterward in a newspaper interview that the Air Force, equipped and ready, only awaited orders to bomb Moscow, he was retired immediately.

In April 1951, Truman dismissed Gen. Douglas MacArthur partly because of the widespread concern that the Far Eastern commander's aggressive views and proposed policies might lead to all-out war between the United States and China and perhaps the Soviet Union, Loewenheim said.

"Dealing with the communist governments is like an honest man trying to deal with a numbers racket king or the head of a dope ring. The communist governments, the heads of numbers and dope rackets have no sense of honor and no moral code," Truman wrote.

"We did not start this Korean affair but we intend to end it for the benefit of the Korean people, the authority of the United Nations and the peace of the world."

On May 18, 1952, Truman wrote that the conferences on a Korean armistice were "propaganda sounding boards for the commies."

"If you signed an agreement it wouldn't be worth the paper it is written on," he wrote.

## But he doesn't milk goats

# Saver offers housesitting

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DENVER — Paul A. Sauer will fix your furnace, shovel your sidewalk and even fix your furnace. But don't ask him to milk your goats.

Sauer, 40, employs 30 persons in his Homewatch Corp. The firm's business is to look after a person's home, pets and plants while he is away.

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Sauer said about 90 percent of the business involved watching pets, making sure they are fed correctly and on time and taking them to their own veterinarian if they need it.

Many pet owners have exotic pets for their animals and Sauer makes certain each is fed strictly according to the owner's instructions.

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