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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

23 November 1949

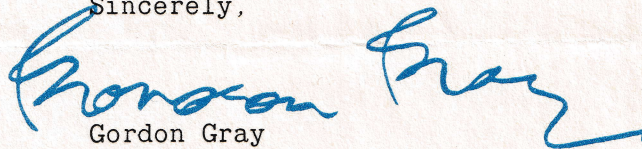
Dr. Herschel Alt
288 East 19th Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Alt:

It is with great pride that I transmit to you who have served in the United States Military Government in Germany, this message from the President of the United States.

As Secretary of the Army I feel that this generous praise from our Commander in Chief has been well earned by all of you who participated in this great accomplishment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordon Gray", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Gordon Gray
Secretary of the Army

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 26, 1949

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Last Wednesday, when the new German Federal Republic was formed, the Department of the Army completed its task of military government in Germany.

I wish that you would convey to the Secretary of the Army, and through him to all the personnel—military and civilian—who have participated in this historic work during these past four and a half years, the thanks of the President of the United States personally, and of the nation, for the achievements of Military Government in restoring and preserving the peace in Germany and in resisting fearlessly and successfully the blockade of Berlin. In so doing, the Army was brilliantly supported by its sister services, especially in the airlift.

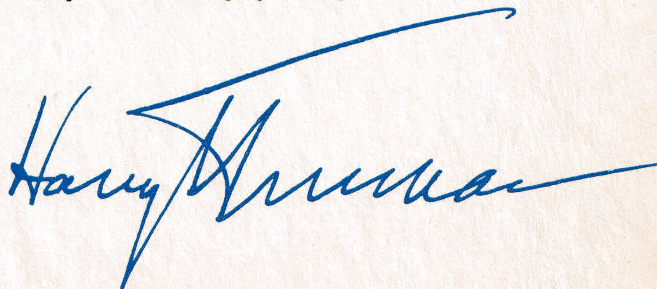
Confronted at first with destruction, famine, and chaos, our Military Government in Germany restored order and made a beginning of local democratic government in the United States zone. Later, through economic fusion with the British zone, it laid the foundation upon which, with the still later addition of the French zone, it became possible to establish the German Federal Republic and to integrate Western Germany into the European Recovery Program.

These accomplishments were made possible in large measure by the United States Army, which, after playing such a significant role in the defeat of Germany, turned to what was perhaps the greatest single mass relief task in history. Thereby it saved millions of Germans from starvation and gave the German people the strength and the will to win for themselves a place in the family of free democratic nations.

Upon the return of General Clay last spring, the people of our country spontaneously poured forth their expressions of gratitude for what had been achieved under his direction. At this time when Military Government's work is done, I wish to have all those who assisted in this great effort receive recognition by their country for the contribution which they have made to the peace of the world. This includes those in the War Department and its successor, the Department of the Army, who furnished from Washington the planning, support and supervision which contributed to the achievement in Germany.

I am sure that history will find that the unprecedented relationship established between victors and vanquished has indeed strengthened the peace of the world.

Very sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Harry Truman". The signature is written with a fluid, cursive style and extends across the right side of the page.

The Honorable Louis A. Johnson,
The Secretary of Defense,
Washington, D. C.