

Yet Another example of Declaration against Interest

Testimony by Maj. Gen. Emmett O'Donnell, Jr., US Air Force, Commander, Far Eastern Air Force Bomber Command, Testimony before the US Senate, June 25, 1951

Gen. O'Donnell: It was my intention and hope, not having any instructions that we could be able to get out there and to cash in on our psychological advantage in having gotten into the theater and into the war so fast, by putting a very severe blow on the North Koreans, with advance warning perhaps telling them that they had gone too far in what we all recognized as being a case of aggression, and General MacArthur would go top side to make a statement, and we now have at our command a weapon that can really dish out some severe destruction, and let us go to work on burning five major cities in North Korea to the ground, and to destroy completely every one of about 18 major strategic targets.

Senator Russell:... As I understand it, you intended to give them notice you had better get out of the war or we will burn your cities?

Gen. O'Donnell: I thought that would take care of the humane aspects of the problem, We thought we could do it. Tell them to either stop the aggression and get back over the 38th parallel or they better have their wives and children and bedrolls to go down with them because there is not going to be anything left up in North Korea to return to.

Chairman Russell: What decision was made at that suggestion of yours?

Gen. O'Donnell: We were not at that time permitted to do it...

Senator Stennis:... Now as a matter of fact, Northern Korea has been virtually destroyed, hasn't it? Those cities have been virtually destroyed.

Gen. O'Donnell: Oh, yes: we did it all later anyhow... I would say that they entire, almost the entire Korean Peninsula is just a terrible mess. Everything is destroyed. There is nothing left standing worthy of the name... Just before the Chinese came in we were grounded. There were no more targets in Korea.

From I. F. Stone, *The Hidden History of the Korean War* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1989), p. 312.