HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES FORCES, KOREA
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96301

May 16, 1983

Office of the Public Affairs Officer

Mr. Hal Barker
Barker Associates
Box 1492
Boulder, Colo. 80306

Dear Mr. Barker,

Thank you for your letter of May 10, 1983. I believe your request is on track. I have asked my Community Relations Officer, Mr. George Kim, to check with the Korea Revisit Program authorities about your request to visit the Bloody Ridge area outside the Demilitarized Zone.

There is not a forced march to Chipyong-ni. The 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry, does hold a memorial ceremony each February at the Chipyong-ni War Memorial and, in some past years, it has marched the 80 or so miles back to Camp Casey (HQs, 2d Infantry Division) over a three-day period. The battalion did not make the march this year. Coverage of this ceremony generally has been by local and Army-oriented publications.

As to your status as a free-lancer, I strongly recommend that you arrange a commitment--a "Letter of Interest" in potential articles you will write about your visit here should suffice--from a newspaper or other news medium. It should be on the company's letterhead paper. You should also obtain a Korean visa that identifies you as a journalist. These steps will help you in interesting necessary Republic of Korea Information and Defense Ministry authorities to offer you cooperation in writing and photographing the area you wish to visit. Otherwise, they may treat you (very well, of course!) as a tourist and not make available the working opportunity you will need. I also suggest you inform them about your book.

I hope the above answers your questions. I look forward to seeing you this Fall.

Regards,

[Signature]

Rallin J. Aars
Colonel, USAF
Public Affairs Officer