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Honorable Ms. Nikki Haley, Governor
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

Your recent decision on the issue of the Confederate Flag is a conundrum. I am not sure of the basis of your decision. It was like others, an overreaction to a very sad isolated incident. The perpetrator of the incident ignored his civil responsibilities.

The Confederate Flag, not the Confederacy's national flag; it was just the battle flag of the South in the Civil War. It was to identify the conflicting forces. It stands red, white and blue just as the current U.S. flag. Red = valor, blue = justice and white for purity.

"It represents the South wanting out of the Union after the Northern aggression to push their laws on the South". It never represented race or racism, slavery or white supremacy (that some believe it did). Simply put, the South did not like its coloniousness; they just wanted to leave the Union.

Doubtless, your decision is politically driven, with no justifiable cause. You are shooting all the dogs because one of them (Mr. Roof) had fleas on him. You seem to be condemning a lot of innocent people just for political expediency. What the nation needs is to come up with an honest solution, not a steady drumbeat of condemnation of ALL the white people, who are already burdened with guilt. We must inject TRUTH in dealing with racism.

- Even today, the real cause for the start of the Civil War is debatable. Some questions need to be answered.
 - ✓ Was slavery the main issue? That is debatable.
 - ✓ Were industrial supremacy of the North and the agricultural supremacy of the South cause of friction?
 - ✓ Was North's holier-than-thou posture, and aggressively pushing its laws upon the South a cause of friction?
 - ✓ Does anyone know what percentage of people in the North were for slavery as compared to those in the South?

- All of those who fought for the South or the North were also great Americans. Reportedly, the South lost about 600,000 men in the war. Doubtless, the North also lost a large number of men in the war.
- The Confederate Flag, an American Symbol, is a historical "monument" for those who fought for the South; and, the Old Glory, also an American Symbol, is a historical "monument" for those who fought for the North.
- In the current debate over the Civil Rights, proportionately a much larger amount of blame is apportioned to the white people. Assuredly, all the white people are not racists.

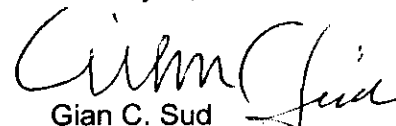
This world is inhabited by human beings (not angels) full of fragilities and fallibilities. Thus, it is not easy to eradicate human trait of discrimination. India has been trying to amalgamate the Caucasoids and the Dravidians for the last 20 thousand years with questionable success.

The kind of comments made by Mr. Obama, (and Mr. Holder, and Mr. Sharpton in the past), during the recent racial tensions, provoke more anger than calm. They are adding fuel to the fire. It would be nice for them to come up with a positive solution to the problem, and not dwell on self-made didacticism.

Now that the war is over, and we are one nation under God, our national flag is the Old Glory. She is the hope for one and all.

But, LEAVE THE CONFEDERATE FLAG ALONE, LET IT FLY IN ITS APPROPRIATE PLACE. It is a proud American symbol for a lot of people, who also have a right to their "freedom of choice".

Thank you,


Gian C. Sud
Retired Professor

cc: Pres Pro-tem. S.C. Senate
Speaker, S.C. Assembly
Governor of Alabama; Governor of Arkansas; Governor of Florida; Governor of Georgia;
Governor of Mississippi; Governor of N. Carolina; Governor of Tennessee