

LETTER

## 'Torture" Lie

In an article titled, "In adopting Harsh Tactics, No Look at Past Use", [April 22, 2009] the *New York Times* recently repeated the lie that the US got many of its torture techniques from looking at what the Chinese communists did to POWs during the Korean War.

But research shows that the overall approach of the Chinese communists to these POWs was one of leniency, providing basic necessities and "re-education." *In Mortal Combat : Korea 1950-1953*, by Pulitzer Prize winner John Toland, recounts how POWs were given healthy meals along with "communal lectures." Toland says, "Religion was denounced as a capitalist device for controlling people's minds, yet prisoners were allowed to keep Bibles and religious articles, and were even permitted to hold religious discussions and readings."

Even Congressional hearings after the war conducted by the notorious Joseph McCarthy were unable to document Chinese Communist use of the kind of torture techniques the US has employed.

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