

Harry S. Truman to Richard Russell, August 9, 1945. Official File, Truman Papers.

197

Misc.

August 9, 1945

Dear Dick:

I read your telegram of August seventh with a lot of interest.

I know that Japan is a terribly cruel and uncivilized nation in warfare but I can't bring myself to believe that, because they are beasts, we should ourselves act in the same manner.

x197
xPP7185

For myself, I certainly regret the necessity of wiping out whole populations because of the "pigheadedness" of the leaders of a nation and, for your information, I am not going to do it unless it is absolutely necessary. It is my opinion that after the Russians enter into war the Japanese will very shortly fold up.

x220

My object is to save as many American lives as possible but I also have a humane feeling for the women and children in Japan.

x190

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Honorable Richard B. Russell
Winder
Georgia

xPP71072
xGen 1

x190-Misc.

692-A

August 11, 1945

My dear Mr. Cavert:

I appreciated very much your telegram of August ninth.

Nobody is more disturbed over the use of Atomic bombs than I am but I was greatly disturbed over the unwarranted attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor and their murder of our prisoners of war. The only language they seem to understand is the one we have been using to bombard them.

x PP7 185
x 197-Miss
x 400 Hawaii Pearl Harbor
x 190-8

When you have to deal with a beast you have to treat him as a beast. It is most regrettable but nevertheless true.

x 197

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Mr. Samuel McCrea Cavert
General Secretary
Federal Council of
The Churches of Christ in America
New York City, New York

x PP7 33
x 213



x 692-A-Misc.

The White House

Washington

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AUG 9 11 22 AM 1945

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HONORABLE HARRY S TRUMAN

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE WHITE HOUSE

MANY CHRISTIANS DEEPLY DISTURBED OVER USE OF ATOMIC BOMBS
AGAINST JAPANESE CITIES BECAUSE OF THEIR NECESSARILY
INDISCRIMINATE DESTRUCTIVE EFFORTS AND BECAUSE THEIR USE SETS
EXTREMELY DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE OF MANKIND. BISHOP
OXNAM PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL AND JOHN FOSTER DULES CHAIRMAN
OF ITS COMMISSION ON A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE ARE PREPARING
STATEMENT FOR PROBABLE RELEASE TOMORROW URGING THAT ATOMIC
BOMBS BE REGARDED AS TRUST FOR HUMANITY AND THAT JAPANESE

XPP7 21



NATION BE GIVEN GENUINE OPPORTUNITY AND TIME TO VERIFY FACTS
ABOUT NEW BOMB AND TO ACCEPT SURRENDER TERMS. RESPECTFULLY
URGE THAT AMPLE OPPORTUNITY BE GIVEN JAPAN TO RECONSIDER
ULTIMATUM BEFORE ANY FURTHER DEVASTATION BY ATOMIC BOMB IS
VISITED UPON HER PEOPLE

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA

SAMUEL MCCREA CAVERT GENERAL SECRETARY.





December 12, 1946

My dear Mr. Bohnen:

I appreciated very much your letter of December second and thank you for suggesting to Mr. Mayer of M.C.M. that I become a movie star. In the first place I haven't the talent to be a movie star and, in the second place, I am sure you will do the part creditably.

The only objection to the film, as it was, was that it appeared to have been a snap judgment program. It was anything but that - the use of the atomic bomb was deliberated for long hours and many days and weeks, and it was discussed with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy and the General Staff of the Allied Armies, as well as with Mr. Churchill and Mr. Attlee.

When it was finally demonstrated in New Mexico that the operation of the bomb was a successful one, it was decided to give the Japanese ample warning before the bomb was dropped. I have no qualms about it whatever for the simple reason that it was believed the dropping of not more than two of these bombs would bring the war to a close. The Japanese in their conduct of the war had been vicious and cruel savages and I came to the conclusion that if two hundred and fifty thousand young Americans could be saved from slaughter the bomb should be dropped, and it was.

A survey was made and the cities on which the bombs were dropped were those which were devoted almost exclusively to the manufacture of ammunition and weapons of destruction.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including the number 11-929.

As I said before, the only objection to the film was that I was made to appear as if no consideration had been given to the effects of the result of dropping the bomb - that is an absolutely wrong impression.

Sincerely yours,



HARRY S. TRUMAN

Mr. Roman Bohnen
10537 Valley Spring Lane
North Hollywood, California

10537 Valley Spring Lane - Roman Bohnen

Harry S. Truman to Mrs. Haydon Klein, Jr., August 4, 1964. Post-Presidential File, Truman Papers.

HARRY S TRUMAN
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

August 4, 1964

Dear Mrs. Klein:

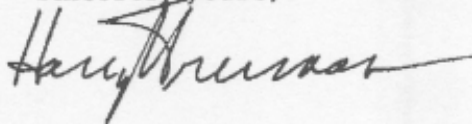
In reply to yours of the 28th of July, the matter about which you wrote me - the atomic bomb - is one that is of interest to most people. The only reason the atomic bomb was used was because it was a weapon of war.

While I was on the way home from Potsdam I sent a message to the Japanese Government asking them to surrender unconditionally and I hoped that would end the war. They refused and then I ordered the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, just as I would have used the long gun as the Germans did in the first World War.

The dropping of those bombs ended the war and that was the objective. There is nothing to take home with you to sleep with - it was a means to end the war and save 250,000 men from being killed on our side and that many on the Japanese side, plus twice that many being injured for life. You will find this information in my Memoirs and in any other documents.

I have never worried about the dropping of the bomb. It was just a means to end the war and that is what was accomplished.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Haydon Klein, Jr.
Route 2, Box 100-A
Attalla, Alabama