

Tuesday  
8-7-45  
Moscow

## Hiroshima

Each morning at about ten o'clock we receive a multigraphed sheet giving in ticker tape form the "Army News Service" as received over the military mission teletype. Usually, we don't pay much attention to it because the more important news is repeated in the "OWI (Office of War Information) News Bulletin" which we get later in the day. Since, however, we had received no news since leaving London on August 4, I looked at the ANS bulletin more carefully than usual to find the startling news that last night the President had announced the bombing August 5 of Hiroshima, a Japanese munitions manufacturing city, by the first atomic bomb, equivalent to twenty thousand tons of TNT. I learned later that this news had been broadcast late last night and at 9:00 AM today, but as, I had gotten up late, I did not hear it on the radio.

My first reactions were: (1) It should hasten the end of the war against Japan, and (2) Thank God the Russians don't have the secret. I hope we will not be suckers enough to give it to them.

Ambassador Pauley says that the University of California, of which he is a Trustee, carried out much of the preliminary research on the bomb, and that the experimental bomb exploded in the New Mexico desert during the Potsdam Conference killed everything living within a twenty-five mile radius. He said it turns the red corpuscles white. Maybe so.

Mr. Harriman says the British deserve much of the credit for the atomic bomb - their research was ahead of ours when the project was turned over to the United States to develop because our laboratories and manufacturing facilities were out of range of bombing, and it was the Prime Minister who sold the idea of pushing the project to both the British and the United States Governments.

At 4:20 PM the Ambassador went to the airport to meet T. V. Soong, Chinese Foreign Minister, here to make a deal with the Russians on their relations after the Japanese are driven out of Manchuria. At the airport WAH asked Molotov what news he had from Japan about the effect of the atomic bomb. Molotov said that they had no news yet, and commented, "You Americans can keep a secret when you want to." The Soviets had been told about the atomic bomb at the Potsdam Conference.

## The USSR Declares War on Japan

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About 5:30 PM Pavlov (Stalin's interpreter) phoned to say that Molotov wanted to see Mr. Harriman and the British Ambassador at the Foreign Office at 7:00 PM. WAH was at Mokhovaya, so I phoned him the message and then called Pavlov back, accepting. Pavlov made a great point of making sure I had told the Ambassador that the British Ambassador would be there.



Miss Jacoby and I speculated on whether: (1) The Russians had declared war on Japan, or (2) They were going to tell us of another Jap peace offer, and we arranged a code by which I could let her know at her apartment by phone.

The Ambassador and Page went straight to the Foreign Office from Mokhovaya. On their return from the appointment, his nibs came stamping gleefully into my bedroom-office saying, "Now we can go home. Russia has declared war on Japan." I couldn't help saying, after congratulating him, "Well, they just got in under the wire," referring to the atomic bomb and the fact that the Japs were obviously on the verge of surrender already. He agreed.

Actually, the Soviets, as they have since said very pointedly over their radio and in the press, are adhering precisely to what they promised at Yalta, that they would be ready to attack Japan three months after the end of the war in the west, and what Stalin told Harriman and Hopkins in Moscow on May 28, that they would be ready to move on August 8. Nevertheless, they are bound to appear in history to be playing the jackal's role (as Italy did in its invasion of France), and that only serves them right for the outrageous way they have carried on about Germany and the part the Anglo-Americans played in the European war.

We learned later that Molotov had informed the Japanese at 5:00 PM (Saito agreed that the war would not last long), and he informed the Soviet and foreign press in a press conference at 8:30 PM. The story was announced over the Soviet radio at 10:00 PM, and I heard it as a news flash over the U. S. Army radio in Europe at about 10:10 PM, and shortly thereafter as an announcement by President Truman. The time in New York would be 3:00 PM, seven hours behind Moscow.

As WAH had an appointment at 9:00 PM with Stalin on matters affecting Soong's visit and Chinese-Soviet relations, we had supper without him, and Ambassador Pauley bet Colonel Anderson that we would find that Japan had surrendered the day before Russia declared war on her. Pauley has caught on quickly about our "gallant" ally.

None of us doubt that the atomic bomb has speeded up the Soviets' declaration of war. We are also amused by their contention in their declaration that they are activated by a desire to save the Japanese suffering by shortening the war. In other words, they have declared war on the Japs for their own good. A new approach to international relations.