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"MAGIC"—FAR EAST SUMMARY

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1. Status of Japanese Soldiers after Surrender—Opinion of Army General Staff:

A Japanese Army General Staff message, sent from Tokyo on 17 Aug to major Army commands, reads as follows:

"With the cessation of hostilities, the ending of fighting and the surrender of arms to the enemy by an order from the highest authority in our land, problems in the field of international law will no doubt be raised. Japan, for her part, however, certainly will not consider her soldiers as having

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	NND 949022
By	MN NARA Date 07/07/05

been taken prisoner--regardless of how the enemy may handle the problem. Therefore, be sure to assemble your units, do your best to maintain discipline, and see to it that the gist of this message is made clear to all echelons."

2. Japanese Directive on Communications Security:

At 1837I on 17 Aug the following message was sent from the Japanese Navy Minister to "the Naval Establishment":

"Because of the danger of confiscation of the mails, and in order to maintain security, do not use the mails for transmitting documents that may be disadvantageous to us. Use couriers for such matter. [Words missing] acknowledgement of this dispatch."

3. Southern Area--Army and Navy Reactions to Surrender:

a. In two messages sent out to his subordinate commands on the night of 16-17 Aug, Field Marshal Count Terauchi, the commander of Japanese forces in the Southern Area, made the following statements:

(1) "The intention of Imperial GHQ is that the contents of the Imperial edict of 14 Aug be carried out."

(2) "I will observe the above Imperial edict as a law that must be obeyed."

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	MND 949022
By	MN NARA Date 07/07/05

(3) The Imperial orders are to be obeyed "in full". There is to be "not the slightest disorder", and, "through all future troubles", officers and men are to bear in mind the immortality of Japan.

b. At 0922I on 16 Aug the Tenth Area Fleet (Hq Singapore) directed that "all forces afloat cease battle operations immediately". Until the conclusion of the agreement for the termination of hostilities, however, all units were ordered to "resist any attempt of the enemy to use force of arms against you".

4. Navy Minister's Account of Surrender Deliberations:

A message from the Navy Minister, apparently sent out from Tokyo on 16 Aug, gives the following account of the deliberations which preceded the issuance of the Imperial Rescript:

"I respectfully submit a report on the events which led to the Empire's acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration.

"With regard to this matter, several meetings were held by the Supreme Council for the Direction of the War and by all of the [word missing], during which it was studied from all possible angles. No agreement could be reached.

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	NND 949022
By	MN NARA Date 2/1/05

I and the Minister of War expressed our thanks. At the same time we stated that we would issue the orders ourselves and would not trouble him to do so. We advised him that we would assume the duty of controlling and maintaining order within our respective departments.

"These were the events which led to the decision.

I therefore order that all concerned be advised of the above. At the same time--as the Emperor directed in his radio broadcast on the 15th--maintain order

within all units so as to prevent our nation's being forced to go back to the very beginning of its history.

These are the Emperor's wishes and the Emperor can best be served by obeying these orders."

5. Nagasaki--Japanese Report on Atomic Bomb Attack:

There are available the last four parts of an 11-part message, sent on 12 Aug by the Sixteenth Area Army (Hq Fukuoka, NW Kyushu), which apparently discusses the results of the atomic bomb attack on Nagasaki.* Those parts of the message read as follows:

*The message is believed to refer to Nagasaki and not Hiroshima because (i) the effects of the blast described in the message extended over distances considerably greater than those given in any of the available Japanese reports on Hiroshima, and (ii) the message was originated by the Sixteenth Area Army, which has a command including the Nagasaki area but not the Hiroshima area.

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	MND 949022
By	MV NARA Date 07/01/05

"The special-type bomb which drifted in the air above exploded 500 meters above the ground. At the same time that the explosion occurred, there was a flash, an overpowering heat wave and a great blast. The heat wave ignited [word missing] on the ground near the spot of the explosion and burned men and horses.

"The effects of the blast extended beyond a radius of 12 kilometers. The houses in the [word missing] area [more than] two kilometers from the center of the explosion were practically all flattened; roof tiles, window glass and [word missing] were [words missing].

"After the concussion, fires burst out and almost everything burned up. Houses within 4 to 6 kilometers of where the bomb fell were badly [word missing]. In the area within a radius of 8 to 10 kilometers, 30 to 40 per cent of the roof tiles were blown off civilian homes, and [words missing] within houses were scattered all about. In the area within a radius of 10 to 12 kilometers, all glass was broken."

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	MND 949022
By	MV NARA Date 07/07/05

6. Hiroshima--Further Report on Atomic Bomb Attack:

A Japanese Army report, sent from Hiroshima on 13 Aug, reads as follows:

"(1) The substance of this bomb is not an ordinary explosive charge or incendiary material. We conclude that it is an atomic bomb. It is dropped from a single plane or several planes, not necessarily with a parachute.

"(2) The explosion occurred about 300 meters south of the Gokoku Shrine in the center of Hiroshima, at a height of approximately 350 meters.

"(3) The force of the blast, at a point on the ground at the center of the explosion, is estimated at 5 kilograms per square centimeter (enough to knock a man down). However, more accurate and careful examination will be necessary.

"(4) We are quite sure that the burns were caused by the flash, which includes infra-red to gamma rays. Moreover, we suspect that beta rays may also be involved. Apparently the duration of the flash is more than momentary.

"(5) Some of the fires were caused by highly inflammable materials (such as straw, thin boards, paper, black cloth, etc.) which caught fire from the flash.

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	NND 949022
By	MN NARA Date 07/07/05

"(6) People were killed principally by being crushed or burned to death in collapsing houses. Eighty per cent of the wounded were burned and the outlook for their recovery is not favorable.

"(7) This type of bomb explodes [word missing] an ordinary bomb and produces an intense blue-white flash. The flash usually burns exposed skin. Since the emission of light lasts for some time, the immediate loss of [words missing] is low. If the exposed parts are covered, one can avoid burns."

Note: At this point there is a fragmentary sentence which appears to state that, since the blast travels at a speed much slower than that of the flash, it is possible for persons at a distance from the center of the explosion to avoid injury, "if steps are taken immediately upon perceiving the flash".

"(9) The principal countermeasures appear to be the following:

"(a) When it is known that enemy planes are approaching (even during the preliminary alert), people should leave their homes and take shelter in covered air raid shelters.

"(b) Those who cannot enter an air raid

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	NND 949022
By	MN NARA Date 07/07/95

shelter will take cover and lie low and, after perceiving the flash, will immediately escape to open ground.

"(c) People should dress so as to expose as little of the body as possible and wear heavy clothing. Insofar as possible [words missing] white underwear.

"(d) Glass windows cause many injuries, so they are to be removed at once. Japanese houses are to be rebuilt as half-underground shelters.

"(e) Fire-fighting apparatus will be placed in an outdoor shelter where there is little danger from falling houses.

"(f) Aircraft [words missing] covered [words missing] or will be housed underground.

"(g) Shelters used by AA artillery and other AA units should, as far as possible, be made high and camouflaged.

"(h) In general, it is necessary to [words missing] fuel and ammunition [words missing].

"(i) Army hospitals must prepare to [words missing] a large number of burned patients, and all medical supplies must be carefully stored underground.

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	NND 949022
By	MN NARA
Date	09/09/05

"(j) Other points are as in ordinary air raid precautions."

7. Imperial Edict to Southern Area:

A 17 Aug message from Tokyo discloses that Prince KANIN Haruhito, a cousin of the Emperor, has been designated as the emissary to deliver the Emperor's surrender order to commands in the Southern Area.



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