Thursday 8-9-45

Nagasaki

Moscow

The "OWI Bulletin" announces that the Japanese naval base of Nagasaki has received the second atomic bomb. The Bulletin is standing very high in the diplomatic colony just now in view of the fact that, yesterday morning before the news of Russia's declaration of war on Japan, they came out with a number of maps of Manchuria and northern China to help in following the war in the Pacific. They don't deny charges that they knew all about the Russian declaration twelve hours in advance.

Fri-Sat 8/10-11/45

Surrender

Moscow As we were getting set to hear the 2:00 PM news broadcast, Kathleen came in all of a dither, saying that the Japanese radio was warning people to listen in for an important announcement of interest to all the world. The 2:00 PM broadcast confirmed this, but gave no news as to what the announcement would be.

After lunch, Mrs. Pauley got the 3:00 PM news on her radio and said it was to the effect that the Japanese were saying they accepted the July 26 Potsdam surrender ultimatum on condition that no foreign troops occupy the mainland of Japan.

I got the 4:00 PM BBC News which described the Japanese broadcast as saying that they accepted the July 26 ultimatum on condition that the Emperor's status be not affected, and that a note to this effect had been communicated by the Japs to the Swiss and Swedish Governments for transmission to the United States, British, Chinese and Soviet Governments.

Mr. Harriman went riding with Kathleen at 6:00 PM, and on the way back stopped in to see Soong and the Chinese Ambassador. They gave further details to the effect that the Japs had also communicated with the Soviet Ambassador in Tokyo and said that they accepted the July 26 ultimatum without mentioning any conditions but saying that they understood it to mean there would be no change in the Emperor's status.

WAH considers that the surrender is in the bag as the Potsdam ultimatum envisaged letting the Japanese choose their own form of government, which would probably include the Emperor, and, anyway, the only alternative to the Emperor is Communism. Also, our military consider that the Emperor must be kept alive to order the surrender or the fanatical soldiers all over the world might still keep on fighting even after the homeland was occupied.