



Atomic Bombs Shortened War

US newspapers generally welcomed former Secretary of War Stimson's article in *Harper's Magazine* and President Truman's letter in *Atlantic Monthly* as clarifying the steps and responsibilities attendant to the use of atomic bombs to shorten the war against Japan.

The *New York Times* said in part: "Both are keenly aware of the gravity of the step they took. But both agree in their promises and their reasoning, which led to an unchallengeable justification of their judgment. Both accept full responsibility—President Truman for making the final decision, Mr. Stimson for recommending it.

"As Mr. Stimson shows, the use of the bomb was no sudden inspiration. On the contrary, the bomb was the product of a desperate race with the Germans . . . in which the Germans had a head start. There was never any plan except to use the bomb as a legitimate if deadly weapon as soon as it could be perfected. When it was ready, all those who had anything to do with it agreed that it should be used . . .

"As weapons, and despite their terrifying potency, the two bombs caused less death and devastation than the incendiary raids over Tokyo. But the psychological impact of the new weapon, and the dread of more to come, put an end to the war, and, by sacrificing thousands of lives, saved millions. That is the justification for the bomb's use.

"Yet Stimson, like many others, is well aware that a justification by practical results cannot be the final one.

"For otherwise it would be no more than the German military thesis that necessity knows no law, that the most brutal war is the most merciful because it ends more quickly, and (thus) it is necessary to indict, not the weapons, but rather war itself. There can be no doubt that the atomic bomb marks the climax of a development away from the

concepts of an earlier age, which justified war but tried to make it more humane, toward a new concept which accepts the threat of total war, but outlaws aggressive war as such, without depriving the defense of available weapons. That is the end toward which the moral conscience of the world must work if mankind is to escape destruction."

The *New York Herald Tribune*: "Whether or not the bombs were the sole determining cause of the peace, it is difficult to see how any other decision could have been taken under the context of the time. So much for the past. The future awaits us in which this kind of grim calculation will confront other statesmen. They will find themselves compelled to balance the instantaneous destruction, not of 100,000 but (if General Kenney is right) of millions of enemy lives against potentially greater losses or sufferings to their own side. Stimson refuses to 'pretend that war is anything else than what it is.'

Statesmen — perhaps our own confronting others or others weighing us as the necessary victims — will have to juggle these frightful balances. And they will do so, unless the new powers of destruction can be curbed now once and for all. In all the diplomatic and political maneuvering over atomic policy that sometimes seems to be the last thing anyone remembers."

The *Washington Post*: "Perhaps the Stimson argument will not altogether remove the feeling that the use of the bomb put upon us the mark of Cain. But there can be no question either of Stimson's statesmanship or his sincerity, or his unerring knowledge of the Japanese mind . . . however, there are one or two points that remain unclear. Aside from the evidence that in offering the Japanese a way out, we in effect conditioned the surrender, we are not convinced that in July 1945, there was no sign of any 'weakening of the Japanese determination to fight.' . . . In this light, as well as with the foreknowledge that we had the atom bomb

up our sleeve, we have never understood why at the Yalta Conference of February, 1945, we made so many disastrous decisions, including the one on the Kuriles."

The **Cleveland Plain Dealer**: "All Americans hope such a choice may never again rest on the shoulders of any man. The only answer is to insure the absolute control of atomic energy on a world scale. To that and this country must stand firm in its plan before the United Nations."

Spadework for Treaties

A number of editorials in the US press have taken cognizance of the "spadework done at London by the Deputy Foreign Ministers on the German and Austrian treaties in preparation for the Moscow conference in March.

The **Norfolk (Va.) Ledger-Dispatch**, said: "For all the differences of viewpoint, there is an encouraging atmosphere of give-and-take about the opening sessions. More important, there is an air of patient willingness, at least on the part of the western powers to hear out views of the group of lesser powers who warred against the Hitlerian colossus. Most important, there is a broad area of agreement among the great powers as to the kind of peace that shall be imposed on Germany.

"The pact with Austria will present few difficulties; the pact with Germany, many. France understandably has been the most stubborn of the Big Four in her views on the German settlement, insisting as she has on a harsh peace with her ancient enemy. Yet there are signs that France will defer to Anglo-American and Russian contention that there should be no amputation of the Ruhr and Saar and that there must be some semblance of a central German government."

The **Washington News**: "In London... the Russians have deadlocked the proceedings by objecting to Canada's demand to be heard on procedural matters relating to the German treaty. The Russian view is that participation in the actual treaty making should be limited to the Big Four: Russia, United

States, Britain and France. This position is as arbitrary as it is unjust.

The **Philadelphia Inquirer**: What is being dealt with at London is not the grievous past but the perilous future in which all free nations, large and small, are deeply concerned.... Within reason the smaller nations should be consulted in the making of treaties that may, if properly drawn, promise long peace and security for all nations."

The great need for mutual accord on both the political and economic phases of Germany's future, is stressed by many American commentators.

On the economic problem, the **Baltimore Sun** said in part: "As things stand today, Germany is a drain not on the economy of Europe alone. It is not only Britons who have to tighten their belts in order to feed idle Germans, nor Frenchmen who have to keep their factories closed because they cannot get coal and iron from the Ruhr. The Russians also begin to suspect that they have too hurriedly sought to throttle the goose which lays the golden egg. The situation is made to order for the presentation by our own State Department of a realistic program for the restoration of Middle and Western Europe to something like 'self-support.'"

On the political problem the **Jackson (Mich.) Daily News'** view is representative of much comment: "It must be firmly established (at the Moscow meeting) that expediency must not permit the re-creation of the 'German menace' in any guise."

Business at Postwar Peak

Commenting on the fact that business volume in the United States reached a new postwar peak early this month, the **New York Journal of Commerce** said: "Business sentiment has shown considerable improvement in recent weeks because the setback in business activity as widely predicted for early this year... clearly is not materializing at this time... Most significant factor behind the improvement in sentiment is the continued high rate of cotton consumption."

German highway transport vehicles; the Operations Section, dealing with methods and control of highway transport operations; and the Highway Maintenance Section, handling the maintenance and construction of roads and bridges.

The Road Branch is represented on the Highways and Highway Transport Committee of the Transport Directorate where MG policy on a quadripartite basis is established. Those matters having direct relation to US-British bizonal economic unity in the highway transport field are considered and decided on a bipartite basis. Those affairs affecting only the US Zone or which have been left to the discretion of Zone Commanders as a result of quadripartite action are handled unilaterally.

DIRECTION BY LAND MG

An organization of German highway and highway transport authorities has been established within the German government organization, both bizonally and within the US Zone, to supervise and control German highway transport operations. Direct supervision and inspection of German authorities is carried out through the Transportation Offices of the MG Land Offices using information furnished them by the Road Branch.

Certain responsibilities have been delegated to the German authorities but at the same time their activities are limited by the framework of established MG policy. It is the purpose of the Road Branch to transfer additional authority to the German agencies as rapidly as they are able to absorb the new duties. As this is accomplished, MG regulations are modified or withdrawn accordingly. For an indefinite period there will remain certain affairs which the Germans will not be allowed to handle. These include the procurement of highway maintenance and automotive supplies from other than German indigenous sources; arrangements for interzonal traffic, and contact with the US military forces. At the present time, responsibility must remain with Military

Government in connection with most interzonal matters, but further development of economic unity and the establishment of central German agencies will permit transfer of authority in this field to the Germans.

The responsibility of the Movements Branch is to advise the Director of the Division on movement priority policies. German authorities at the bizonal level set the priorities of all German movements. The Movements Branch does not interfere in their work, but retains copies of the German movements program and prepares statistical information on the percentage performance of the various phases of this program.

Movements of particular interest to MG authorities are handled by the German transport agencies in a priority higher than German items. High priority traffic includes material for the Military authorities, international traffic, displaced persons movements, and exports for dollar credit. The Movements Branch collects these requirements through liaison with G-4 USFET, the European Central Inland Transport Organization (ECITO), the OMGUS Economics Division, and CRX.

WORK OF BRANCH OFFICES

In order to accomplish its objectives, the Movements Branch maintains branch offices in Berlin, Frankfurt, and Bielefeld. The Berlin office is responsible for direct advice to the Director of Transport and for liaison with the Economics Division of OMGUS and Combined Repatriation Executive. The Frankfurt office is responsible for liaison with G-4 USFET, and the German Zonal Movements Office for the US Zone; for preparation of the tentative monthly movements program based on requirements received; and for representation at monthly meetings of ECITO to cover international movements requirements. The Bielefeld office handles liaison work with the German Executive Committee for Transport and with the British at the bizonal level to clear the US portion of the monthly movements program.

Austrian nationals) currently in the US Zone will be returned to their countries of origin without regard to their personal wishes. The PW & DP Division sets the overall policy governing the repatriation of these people. Under MG supervision, the German authorities register all enemy and ex-enemy nationals and assemble them where they are screened with the aid of repatriation officers from their respective countries to determine who is to be returned to his native land and who is to be resettled in Germany. It is estimated that some 25,000 enemy and ex-enemy nationals still live in the US Zone.

TRACING AGENCY ESTABLISHED

As a result of the war, thousands of people from many nations became separated from their families and friends while in Germany. In many cases members of families from the countries occupied by Germany were forced to come to Germany to work. Children and young men and women were taken from their parents to be trained and work in Germany. Many such persons are still searching for their relatives and friends and it is a primary objective of the Allied Control Authority to see that these families are reunited as quickly as possible. A Central Tracing Policy Board was set up by ACA, operating under the PW & DP Directorate, which sets the overall policy to be followed by all Allied tracing agencies in Germany. Under this board the Central Tracing Bureau, operated by UNRRA, serves as a clearing house for requests originating with United Nations or neutral nationals which are processed by the four Zonal Tracing Bureaus, each under the jurisdiction of its respective Zone Commander.

MISSING FOREIGNERS TRACED

The most important work of the Central Tracing Bureau is the receiving, processing, and distributing to the interested nations of records and documents pertaining to their citizens missing in Germany. These docu-

ments enable the various nations to solve many legal problems resulting from the war. The Records Processing Division of the CTB has received documents concerning approximately 2,720,715 persons and has dispatched to the various National Tracing Bureaus documents concerning 910,604 persons.

The United States Zonal Tracing Bureau, with headquarters at Wiesbaden, has processed documents pertaining to the whereabouts of 1,670,777 persons and forwarded them to the interested national bureaus. There are still many tons of documents which have been located but not yet processed. Some 14,500 tracing inquiries have been received and of these 12,217 have been completed. Information has been received on 4,000 United Nations orphan children and of this number 1,300 have already been repatriated.

CRX HANDLES MASS MOVES

The Combined Repatriation Executive, a quadripartite executive agency operating under the PW & DP Directorate, is responsible for the arrangements for transportation including clearance for all organized mass movements of repatriates, expellees, and refugees through, into, and out of Germany as well as movements between the four zones. Any controlled movement of 10 or more people requires authorization by CRX.

For its overall work, the Division maintains informal liaison with all the accredited Military Missions as well as Repatriation Missions for the United Nations. Informal liaison also is maintained with representatives of enemy and ex-enemy ministries of interior and foreign relations on matters involving citizens of their respective countries. PW & DP Division also must negotiate with the other occupying powers in order that US soldiers killed in the war and buried in Germany may be removed to US cemeteries in France and Belgium. Most of this work is completed inasmuch as only some 1,600 US military dead are yet to be located in the Soviet Zone.