

RUSSIA

C.I. - Sumoco

Wed., Aug. 8, 1945.

Russia declared war ahead of schedule. That's the word we have from Washington tonight, word based on what the United Press dispatch calls - "the best available information." According to the story, the Soviets were not to have declared war on Japan for some weeks - this according to agreement made by the big three at Potsdam. It has been officially stated, of course, that Stalin informed Messrs. Truman and Attlee that Russia would get in the Pacific war.

The question arises, if Soviet Russia did declare war in advance, why? What's the reason that Moscow announced the declaration today instead of waiting for some weeks, according to schedule? You guessed it - the atomic bomb. The Washington information is that when Stalin learned of the cataclysmic destruction wrought by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, he decided on war against Japan right away - which, of course, is okay with us, I suppose.

The timing appears to be excellent, calculated to knock Japan silly. Yesterday they were hit by the atomic bomb. Today - by the Soviet declaration of war. *like that -* Fast, - in swift succession, ~~the one-two punch~~. Our leaders undoubtedly reckon on an overwhelming psychological effect, *dazing* ~~knocking~~ the Japs; ~~dizzy~~ - and hastening their surrender.

The way the historic headline broke in Washington was in the informal manner that we associated with President Truman - no dramatics, ~~just plain~~. The President called a special news conference, and to the assembled correspondents he said: "I have only a simple announcement to make. I can't hold a regular press conference today, but this announcement is so important, I thought I would call you in. Russia has declared war on Japan! That's all."

The terms of the Russian declaration of war, as handed to the Japanese Ambassador at Moscow today,

disclose a thing never officially revealed before -
although it was persistently rumored. This was - that
Tokyo had appealed to Moscow to mediate between the Allies
and Japan, in an effort to bring the Far Eastern war to
an end. ^{It} When President Truman went to the Potsdam Conference
we heard that Stalin had received a peace offer from
Japan - peace proposals to be presented at the gathering
of the Big Three. The result of it was - the Truman-
Churchill-Chiang Kai-shek ultimatum to Japan, to surrender
or be destroyed. ^{It} The Russian declaration of war today
points out that Japan rejected the ultimatum, and thereby
is continuing the war. Russian intervention is intended to
help ~~in~~ bringing ~~ing~~ the conflict to an end - that's the ~~main~~
reason ~~which~~ Moscow gives for declaring war against Japan.
*But there are other reasons - as
we all well know.*

SOVIET STRENGTH

The biggest question evoked by the Russian declaration of war is this - how much power can the Soviets hurl against the large armies of Japan, in China and Manchuria? And what is the Russian strategy likely to be - the lines of attack? ^HThe best information that I can find is given by a veteran Moscow newspaper correspondent, who in the Soviet capital kept an eye on Russian military developments. He is Harrison Salisbury of the United Press, and tonight he writes:

"Russia probably has an army of a million veteran troops on the move against Japan's outposts in Manchuria and Korea. Most of these troops are veterans of years of service in the two special Red Banner Far Eastern Armies, which were maintained by Russia in almost full strength throughout the war against Nazi Germany, even at the times of the greatest crisis on the eastern front."

Harrison Salisbury goes on to say that, during his

service in wartime Moscow, no information was given out about the actual strength of the Red Banner Far Eastern forces. "No Russians in official position," says he, "would even discuss the armies. However," he goes on, "some facts could be ascertained from various sources. And, so far as I could determine, no major bodies of Far Eastern troops ever were transferred to European Russia. The Russians felt that if they ever weakened their position in the Far East, Japan would take advantage of the opportunity to jump on their back."

As for the probable line of Russian offensives^{ive,}
the United Press correspondent believes that the first operations will include ^a~~the~~ drive southward at the extreme east - a drive to clear the Japs out of territory that threatens the all-important ^{city}~~port~~ of Vladivostok. Another thrust, he thinks, will be farther to the west, straight into Manchuria - and directed toward the key city

of Harbin. And still another into western Manchuria to protect the great Russian military base at Khabarovsk.

The U. P. man
~~Harrison Salisbury~~ indicates that all through the

European war, the Red army had the battle against Japan constantly in mind, and maintained elaborate preparations to strike with great strength at the Japs, when the moment arrived.

*We drop the atomic bomb.
The moment arrives.*

BOMB EFFECTS

The ultimate proof of the atomic bomb came today. Yesterday we knew that one of the cataclysmic missiles had been hurled - also, ^{that} ~~new~~ spectacular tests had proved the unearthly power of the bomb. But, there is all the difference between a successful test and equal success in operation - at first. ^{That is,} ~~often,~~ a new weapon has to be used a few times before it operates with real effectiveness. Some of the greatest of gadgets have been comparatively ineffectual when used first - only to become enormously effective, after repeated use and practice, learning how to do it.

So it was reasonable to wonder about the actual performance of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima - ^{reasonable to} ~~and~~ think that maybe it hadn't been as devastating the first time used, as the tests had indicated it would be. So there was suspense - waiting for an official appraisal of the damage done by the forces of the atom.

(Today that appraisal came with terrifying eloquence - from the Japs, themselves. Our own Air Forces surveyed the damage at Hiroshima, and reported that more than four square miles of the city had been utterly destroyed, razed to the ground, by that one mere four hundred pound bomb. The casualties, according to the American estimate, might be over a hundred thousand. That figure would now seem to be an under-estimate - according to what the Japs have to say. Tokyo today announced that, what it called, "a new type bomb" had completely destroyed Hiroshima. The words "completely destroyed" are from a Japanese account, which states: "The impact of the bomb was so terrific that practically all living things, human and animals, were literally seared to death by the tremendous heat and pressure engendered by the blast."

Tokyo indicates that sixty per cent of the city was damaged, burned and disintegrated into rubble,

Buildings, factories, levelled to the ground by the force of the exploding atoms. The magnitude of the devastation is indicated vividly by the fact that the Japanese today, several days after the explosion, were not yet able to ascertain the full extent of the havoc.

The Japs are screaming that the atomic bomb ~~was~~ a horror against the laws of war - the Japs talking about the laws of war! They claim it was sheer terrorism to blot out a city of civilians - never mentioning the fact that Hiroshima was an important center of the Japanese army, *and that they themselves have been utterly ruthless.*

PROPULSION

A vision of atomic speed as applied to airplanes was raised in Washington today. Aircraft engineers looked ^{ing} forward to the flying machine of the atomic age - "a plane flying many times around the world ~~that~~ speeds faster than sound, without refueling." But a note of caution was included. The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics takes cognizance ^{of all} ~~of~~ the deluge of speculation about atomic energy as a possible source of power. That may eventually come about, but not for a long time. The Advisory Committee states that many years of research and development lie ahead before a successful atomic engine emerges.

And that's in line with what cool-headed scientists are saying - amid all the excited talk about ~~atomic~~ ^{air} motors, ^{air} airplanes and automobiles driven by atomic power. The experience of the past shows that violent explosives ^{so far} ~~are~~ not ^{useful} means of propulsion. Dynamite and T.N.T. have plenty of power, but ^{they} ~~it~~ never did

any good in motors. What we need for propulsion is a skillfully modulated kind of explosion, something that can be controlled precisely - and not a violent blast.

In fact, the stupendous violence of the atomic bomb seems to be just the opposite of what is needed to propel an

automobile, or an airplane. That's in line with the caution today from the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

ETHICS

From London comes a religious protest against the use of the atomic bomb. It emanates from a council named "Christianity Calling", and takes the form of a telegram to Prime Minister Attlee and President Truman. In the telegram the atomic bomb is called "unparalleled terroism." And the contention is made that the new elemental destruction should not be used - even against Japan.

This follows a previous expression of ~~religious~~ ^{alarm} ~~disapprobation~~ - from the Vatican. The atomic bomb was today deplored as a weapon of destruction that might destroy civilization and mankind. ^a ~~The~~ Vatican publication recited a story of how that protean genius, Leonardo da Vinci, made plans for a submarine. ^B But then he grew afraid that mankind would use 'an undersea craft for war and destruction, instead of civilized progress. So Leonardo da Vinci destroyed his plans for a submarine.

These thoughts of the ethics of the atomic bomb are by no means limited to the world of religion. Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in the announcement that he drew up, stated the hope, ^{these are} ~~the~~ ^{the} Churchill words:- "that these awful agencies will be made to promote peace among nations." He spoke of the atomic forces as having possibilities - "of wrecking measureless havoc upon the entire globe." Instead of that, Churchill hoped that they would become, as he said, "a perennial foundation of world prosperity."

Today, Dr. Arthur ~~W~~ Compton, one of the greatest of ^{the} scientists who worked on the atomic bomb, stated in behalf of himself and his fellow scientists:

"During the years that we have spent developing ~~the~~ ^{bomb,} ~~atomic bomb,~~ ^{said he,} "my associates and I have lived constantly with the solemn thought expressed by Mr. Churchill."

And Dr. Compton added that he hoped the new weapon would "speed our victory over Japan - and hasten world freedom."

CONGRESS

An intimation that the end of the war in the Pacific may be hastened is to be noted in ^a~~the~~ Washington report that President Truman may call Congress into session. Congress is now taking a vacation, and is not scheduled to reassemble until October Eighth. - ~~But~~ the lawmakers may find themselves ^{summoned}~~called~~ to Washington before that time. Such is the prediction of Senator Kilgore of West Virginia, who pointed out today that if the war with Japan should end suddenly, Congress would, in the nature of things, be called to Washington by the President. ~~And this may happen because of swift events that may be set in motion by the atomic bomb and the Russian declaration of war against Japan.~~

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Clare Booth Luce. She was known, of course, as a writer of successful plays - before she was elected to Congress.

And so it is not ^{too} surprising that, during the present congressional vacation, the blond lady of the legislative

halls has been appearing as an actress. ^{What in? Oh,} She has been

playing as ~~the~~ star in ~~REHEARD~~ George Bernard Shaw's

comedy, "Candida," ^{Summer Theatre} ~~There has been a tryout~~ in Stamford,

Connecticut, ~~with Broadway the presumed destination of~~

~~the Clare Booth Luce version of "Candida."~~ But the word

today; ~~is~~ - the whole thing is off. Congresswoman Luce,

after several appearances in the Shaw comedy, has

cancelled her engagement. This, she explains, is because

she expects to be called back to Washington for a session

of Congress. She must hold herself ready for a

presidential summons; ~~of~~ Congress to reassemble.

It is being mentioned that the drama critics were not any too flattering about the Clare Booth Luce

enactment of the role of "Candida." Their notices had not been ^{extatic.} ~~exactly enthusiastic~~. However, that didn't make any difference from a box office point of view. So say the theatre people at Stamford. They insist that, in spite

of the reviews, *Clare Booth Luce has been a great drawing card.* ~~business has been good~~

It's a little odd to find show business, with the performances of actors and actresses, mixed up in the news of the atomic bomb, the Soviet declaration of war against Japan, and a possible speedy ending of the conflict in the Pacific - but that's the way it is when Congress is ornamented with blond buoyance, scintillating wit and theatrical talent.

And speaking of blond buoyance + so on - here's H.