

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1945.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The White House announces that there will be
~~no~~ no new statement until tomorrow. This means, of course,
that discussions by radio telephone are being held,
discussions of Japan's offer of surrender. Washington,
London, Moscow, and Chungking are framing their decision.
Then this decision will be communicated to Tokyo, via
the governments of Switzerland and Sweden. That takes
time - and meanwhile the formal end of the war is in
abeyance.

^{even}
It took time for the surrender offer to become
official today. The Tokyo announcement by radio came ~~at~~
~~at eight twenty seven~~ ^{seven-thirty-five} this morning, with the statement
that Tokyo was communicating with the Allies through
Swiss and Swedish diplomatic channels. Messages had to be

coded and decoded and transmitted, and it was not until
afternoon that the White House gave out the statement
that - yes, the Jap surrender offer was official.

Whereupon President Truman went into conferences with
his Cabinet members, and the interchange between the
Allied capitals began.

The whole question centers around the rather
unimpressive figure of the Japanese Emperor Hirohito,
white horse and all,
Tokyo accepts the terms of the Potsdam Ultimatum, which
strips Japan of its conquered territories and its military
power, *but* ~~and it~~ provides for the survival of the Japanese
nation under a peaceful and democratic government. That
Ultimatum made no mention of the *Mikado, who* ~~Jap sovereign, which~~ is
a religious as well as a political figure to the Japanese.
This left a loophole, which the Japs now are seeking -
with the proposal that they'll give up if they can keep
their Emperor.

What answer will they get? Well, maybe the Allied powers will reply that the Mikado can stay on his throne, or maybe they'll say - no Emperor. Or perhaps they may simply refuse to give any assurance on that point, refuse to concede any condition - and take the attitude that the question of the Japanese Emperor is for the ^{Allies} ~~to~~ to decide.

The word from London is that Great Britain is willing to let the Japs have their Mikado, if the United States is willing to do so. And the view is that the Washington government may be included to keep Hirohito on the throne in Tokyo - as a means of carrying out the surrender and of avoiding chaos. ^{TR} It is pointed out that American propaganda leaflets, telling the Japs to quit, urged them to ask their Emperor to surrender. Today one line of London comment is this:- "Nobody would have urged the German people to ask Hitler to surrender."

What about China, ^{which} ~~who~~ suffered so much at the hands of Japan? There have been Chinese demands that Hirohito be treated as a war criminal. This, however, has not been put forward as the official view of the Chiang Kai-shek government.

And what about Moscow? Soviet Russia, as usual, is the engima. There has been no intimation of what Stalin thinks about the fate of the Emperor of defeated Japan. We can only note that the Potsdam capitulation demand was drawn up at the conference of the Big Three, and the surmise would be that its terms were framed with the ~~advice~~ advice and consent of Stalin - the terms that pointedly left out the question of the Japanese Emperor.

All of which is reasoning along the rather paradoxical lines of the conditions that were set forth for unconditional surrender.

MIKADO

One story tonight is that the Japanese capitulation came at the instance of the Emperor Hirohito himself, the Mikado, acting to bring an end to the war and the atomic bombing. The report is from Chungking and goes on to say that Hirohito formed a "peace committee", consisting of members of the royal family and high government officials. The members of the royal family included the Emperor's two brothers, Prince Chichibu and Prince Takamatsu. The Committee is said to have met Friday morning, Tokyo time - last night, our time. And the decision was made to offer surrender at once.

J. B. POWELL

By happy coincidence, I had an appointment this morning with one of our foremost American authorities on the Far East, J.B.Powell, who for twenty-five years edited the China Weekly Review. Most of you will remember those pictures of J.B.Powell that appeared in LIFE two and a half years ago, when the Japs finally released him from prison and he came home on the Gripsholm, emaciated, feet gone, and weighing just seventy-nine pounds. He had been down to seventy but he gained nine pounds on the homeward journey.

First, I wanted to know what he thought about this whole matter of the Emperor, whether he should be allowed to retain his position as the head of the Japanese government. He said that in his opinion the Emperor was not really very important. But, that he might be exceedingly useful in actually bringing the war to an end, in getting the Japanese armies in Manchuria to

put down their arms, and all their forces in China, Indo-China, and elsewhere. Who else could do this better than the Emperor?

And then he spoke of something that is not often mentioned, of how the Emperor in Japan has only been an important figure for a comparatively short time, how before the days of Commodore Perry the Emperor was a mere figurehead. In fact, the importance of the Emperor even reached such a low ebb that one Emperor was a beggar on the streets of Kobe. He pointed out how the militarists - recently - had given the Emperor a tremendous build-up for the sole purpose of completely subjugating the people; and of how easy it should be now to reduce him to his former status.

In speaking about this he referred to the way the militarists had been using the Emperor for propaganda purposes. When a Japanese child entered the

school room in the morning, directly in front of him was a picture of Hirohito. First, he had to bow low before that picture, then afterward he could say good morning to the teacher. And of how, when street cars would pass the Imperial Palace & all the people in the street car would bow their heads.

NEWS

The Jap surrender was one of the fastest ^{breaking} ~~dragging~~ news stories - flashing through this morning with split second transmission.

In a radio station, a listening post in California, a United Press telegrapher was on the job - taking down radio stuff from Tokyo. The Japs were putting on a usual kind of broadcast - in English, and in Morse code. The telegrapher was typing out the Morse code, but not on a typewriter. He was punching the keyboard of a teletype machine, and what he copied came out on the other end of the wire in the United Press news room at San Francisco. There, News Editor Hennen Hacket stood watching a message as it was ticked off on the machine. It was coming in slowly, the Japs were sending their Morse code at a dragging pace, about twenty-five words a minute.

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For an hour or so, Tokyo had been broadcasting humdrum news - something about the Japanese Red Cross,

for example. *Then,* here ~~it was~~ ^{came} another dispatch, as the news editor happened to be standing there, looking. This one, like the others, was flat and dull - or so it seemed. The slow worded bulletin began in tedious fashion:

This way:-

^ "The Japanese Government today addressed the following communication to the Swiss and Swedish governments."

That made News Editor Hennen Hacket feel like yawning. It sounded like another Jap protest about the atomic bomb. Tokyo had been shooting out a routine of propaganda, complaining about the elemental devastation that had hit Hiroshima. And this sounded like an announcement of an official remonstrance through the Swiss and Swedish governments.

The bulletin continued in that same slow gait, twenty-five words a minute. "The Japanese government," it said in that ~~slow~~ dragging way, "are ready to accept the terms of the joint declaration which was issued at

Potsdam." ^{He} And that brought a wild howl from one electrified news editor. There it was. "Flash", he ~~howled - roaring~~ ^{shouted} to the teletype operators in the news room, the men who sat at machines connected with newspaper offices all across the continent. ~~They~~ stopped what they were doing, ~~and~~ ^{they} immediately started ~~off on what~~ ^{teletyping what} he called to them: - "The Japs offer to surrender"! And so on for the rest of the bulletin, the first news flashed to the American people of the Japanese acceptance of the Potsdam ultimatum. That's how the story broke.

DISTURBANCE

From China we have a story bearing on one curious fact that was noted in the Tokyo surrender broadcast this morning. The Japanese radio message, in Morse code, gave the surrender offer in a fashion complete enough to be definite - and then was interrupted. The radio telegrapher was going into another sentence, when ~~it~~ he was abruptly cut off. And that led to surmises ^{something} that [^]untoward may have happened at the other end - maybe some disturbance. Maybe some Japs, opposing capitulation, had broken in and interrupted the broadcast acceptance of the Potsdam terms.

The word from China states that a Tokyo broadcast hear^d in Chungking admitted that there had been disturbances when the first surrender offer was put on the air. These disturbances were suppressed. ^{So} ~~and~~ [^]
Chungking reports the Tokyo radio as saying.

RUSSIA

As the Japs decided to give up, the Russians were driving into Manchuria. The latest states that Red Army columns have thrust a hundred and twenty-five miles into that province grabbed by the Japs. Also, the Russians have pushed into Korea - a sweeping offensive under way. Soviet Russia ~~is~~ just able to get going against the Japs, as the end comes.

CELEBRATION

It is easy to imagine the celebration all over the world - the shouting, the cheering, the laughing, the jubilation. Or perhaps it isn't so easy to imagine the scenes at some places. ^{JP} ~~On~~ Okinawa, for example, where the troops who ~~have~~ fought the Japs in such bitter battles "went wild", ^{So reads} ~~in the words of~~ ^{the} dispatch. ~~It~~ It was night on Okinawa, when the news came, and the scene in the darkness on that ~~savage~~ island battleground is described as follows: "The sky was criss-crossed by tracers and flares. Guns banged all over the island. Men were yelling and beating on buckets. They hammered one another's backs and shouted - 'The war is over!'"

Nor is it easy ~~x~~ for mere imagination to picture the celebration at Chungking. You've got to summon a bit of oriental fantasy to envision the wild night in China's capital.

"The city ~~s~~swelled with a jubilant roar from a hysterical mob," says the news dispatch. "Firecrackers

added to the din, exploding in the packed streets and on the rocky slopes leading down to the great Yangtze River. Searchlights that once lanced the sky for Japanese planes, in this much bombed city, were weaving a lustrous pattern of victory in the dark sky. Merchants opened their shops along the streets and handed out the fiery liquor of Szechuan." ^P In other words China, which has suffered the ordeal of this war longer than any other nation, ~~seems~~ ^{for more than 10 years -} ~~to have~~ ^{appropriately} put on the wildest, most picturesque celebration.

ATOMIC BOMB

Today's jubilation is tempered by serious reflections of the astounding way in which the war in the Pacific has ended. In the case of V-E Day, the rejoicing was simple, unmixed, as in times past: - "The war has ended!"

1 "But now
Peace has come. ~~Now~~ we think of the atomic bombing.

The mere stark drama of it would make us pause: - two blows launched from the sky, and Japan surrenders!

The cataclysmic force of the atom hurled once, and then again - and the war is over. ~~It~~ *this week* We've been saying that the power of the elemental weapon is hardly to be believed, and tonight we can add that nobody ever dreamed of a secret weapon ending a war so suddenly, so quickly.

On top of the startling drama of the atomic bomb and the surrender of Japan, we can add that those thoughts *that have* ~~had~~ been in mind ever since the first annihilating blow hit Hiroshima, the reflection that we have a weapon that can exert an almost incredible effect on the politics of

the world, the society of mankind. Also - that the atomic bomb has potentialities so terrifying that ^{it} ~~it~~ ^{does} suggest thoughts of world destruction *as all have been saying.*

This forboding was emphatic in President Truman's fine address last night, in which he dwelt on the need of the highest wisdom, the highest of statecraft, in dealing with so frightful an engine of destruction. And the President made it clear that, at least for the present, this wisdom of statecraft was the duty of the English-speaking peoples - the President stating outright that the atomic bomb is the exclusive possession of the United States, Great Britain and Canada. So the thing stands at the moment; - but, you can never tell when other nations may develop the atomic weapon, on their own.

Serious thought is deepened when we hear that some British physicists refused to work on the development of the atomic bomb - because they thought

the weapon was too terrible to be brought into existence. And the word is that other scientists hoped that the atomic research would fail - they were afraid that the atomic explosions, when set in ~~motion~~^{motion}, might ~~get~~^{get} out of control and spread, leading to the fantasmal thought of the destruction of the world.

All of which makes it pertinent to look at today's descriptions of the effect of the second atomic bombing - the destruction hurled on Nagasaki. For example, there was Robert Shaplen, correspondent of Newsweek, who broadcast over N.B.C. today. He was in a Liberator ten miles away from Nagasaki, and what he saw was a considerable period of time after the atomic bomb had burst. Here's the description he gives: "It was like looking over the rim of a volcano in the process of erupting, even though it was twelve hours after the bomb had been dropped. Nagasaki is a mass of angry flames and

smoke, a blazing area that extends at least ten square miles. We saw four huge tongues of flames shoot skyward, indicating that explosions still were going on." 12 hours later,

The bombing of Japan continued today - ~~our~~ air power striking only a few hours before the Tokyo radio made its announcement of surrender. The bombs that fell upon Japan, at that late hour, were the ordinary sort, regulation high explosive - ~~and~~ ^{but} tons of T.N.T. ~~being~~ almost an anti-climax now.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Ever since the news came in this morning of the Japanese surrender, I have been thinking about our fighting men scattered all over the globe. Having recently flown around the world, the picture is a vivid one:- Our great air bases in North Africa, the Middle East, and Southern Asia - to say nothing of Europe - with hundreds of thousands of our boys tonight in Morocco, Tunis, Tripoli, Egypt, Arabia, Iraq, India, China, to mention only a few places.

In all the history of man there has never been anything like it, they way our Army and Navy people are deployed over most of the planet, over all the continents and all the seas, even in the Arctic, all working with just one objective in view. And today the job is finished.

Chennault's air men in Kunming, our jungle specialists in Burma, those boys that I found marooned at remote air strips in tropical South America, our Arctic weather detachments in Baffinland, and Elsmereiland, and Greenland, those chaps I met on the Tibetan frontier

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS - 2

who were buying up Central Asian horses for the Chinese armies, the cook who made us that delicious chocolate pie on a carrier off Okinawa, a carrier that a few days before had been hit by a suicide plane --- they can all come home now --- that is, as soon as it can be arranged. And what a job that's going to be. And it isn't the same world at all that they knew when they went away, those two or three years ago.

Just some rambling reflections on this momentous day. And So Long Until Tomorrow.