

384.1 SURRENDER TERMS, JAPAN  
MISCELLANEOUS

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) of (E)  
By *W. J. NARS*, Date *Feb. 21, 1975*  
*3/16/75*


DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Sec. 11  
By *SR*, NARS Date *2/3/75*  
AND 760055

“ ”

# Armorclad

Made in U. S. A. T. M. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.  
U. S. Patents No. 1,370,424 -- 1,511,268 -- 1,544,818  
British Patent No. 224,787

## Guides and Folders



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~~SECRET~~



LIST OF PAPERSFILE NO. 384.1 SURRENDER TERMS, JAPAN MISCELLANEOUS

NO.	FROM	DATE	TO	SYNOPSIS
16	Mr. Byrnes	6/5/46	Memo for the Pres.	Re: Request of the Chairman of the Far Eastern Commission for Documents Relating to the Appointment of General MacArthur as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.



## LIST OF PAPERS

FILE UNDER NO. 384.1 SURRENDER TERMS, JAPAN

Serial No.	From	Date	To	Synopsis
1	Lt. Co. Fahey	2/8/45	Mr. McCloy, Gen Hilldring	Memo re: Brief of Item 2 for 9th Meeting of SWNCC on Unconditional Surrender of Japan ( SWNCC 21)
2				Draft on anticipated disclosure concerning Japan after Japan's defeat or surrender.
3		5/8/45		Unused paper on "Definition of Unconditional Surrender Terms for Japan.
4	J.W. Ballanetyne	8/12/45	Mr. Dooman	Memo re text of telegram containing draft of surrender terms.
5	OPD	8/11/45	Commanders of Theaters	Radio re: official text of Potsdam Surrender Ultimatum to Japan.
6				General Order No. 1 - Military and Naval (Draft)
7				Draft of General Provisions - U.S. Initial Post-Defeat Policy Relating to Japan.
8		8/11/45		Proposed draft of instructions to be sent to Japanese Government on receipt of notification that it intends to proceed with surrender.
9	Sec Forrestal	8/11/45	Sec of State	Letter re recommended changes in Surrender Terms documents.
10	<del>WRS</del> JC/S	8/15/45	Commanders of Theaters	Message re Part I of General Order No. 1 (Military and Naval)
11		8/17/45		Memorandum for Information No. 19 - Surrender of Japan
12		8/17/45		Memorandum for Information No. 20 - Surrender of Japan.
13	Lt. Gen. Hull	8/18/45	C.G., INDIA	Memo encl. memos 19, and 20, for Info.
14	Sec. Reid	5/7/46	State, War, Navy Members	Memo re: President's proposals of August 11, 1945 as found in Numbered Memo. 20.
15	Mr. Hilldring	5/27/46	Sec. of State	Memo re: Transmittal to U.S. Member, Far Eastern Commission, of copies of messages from the President to Governments of China, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union.



384.1

*Surrender  
Terms Japan*

JUN 5 1946

*MS*

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

**Subject:** Request of the Chairman of the Far Eastern Commission for Documents Relating to the Appointment of General MacArthur as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

In a letter addressed to me, dated May 1, 1946, a copy of which is attached hereto, Major General Frank R. McCoy, U.S.A. (Ret), Chairman of the Far Eastern Commission, has requested that certain documents relating to the appointment of General MacArthur as Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers be transmitted to the Commission for its files.

The State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee has approved General McCoy's request and has requested the Department of State to transmit the attached documents to the Far Eastern Commission.

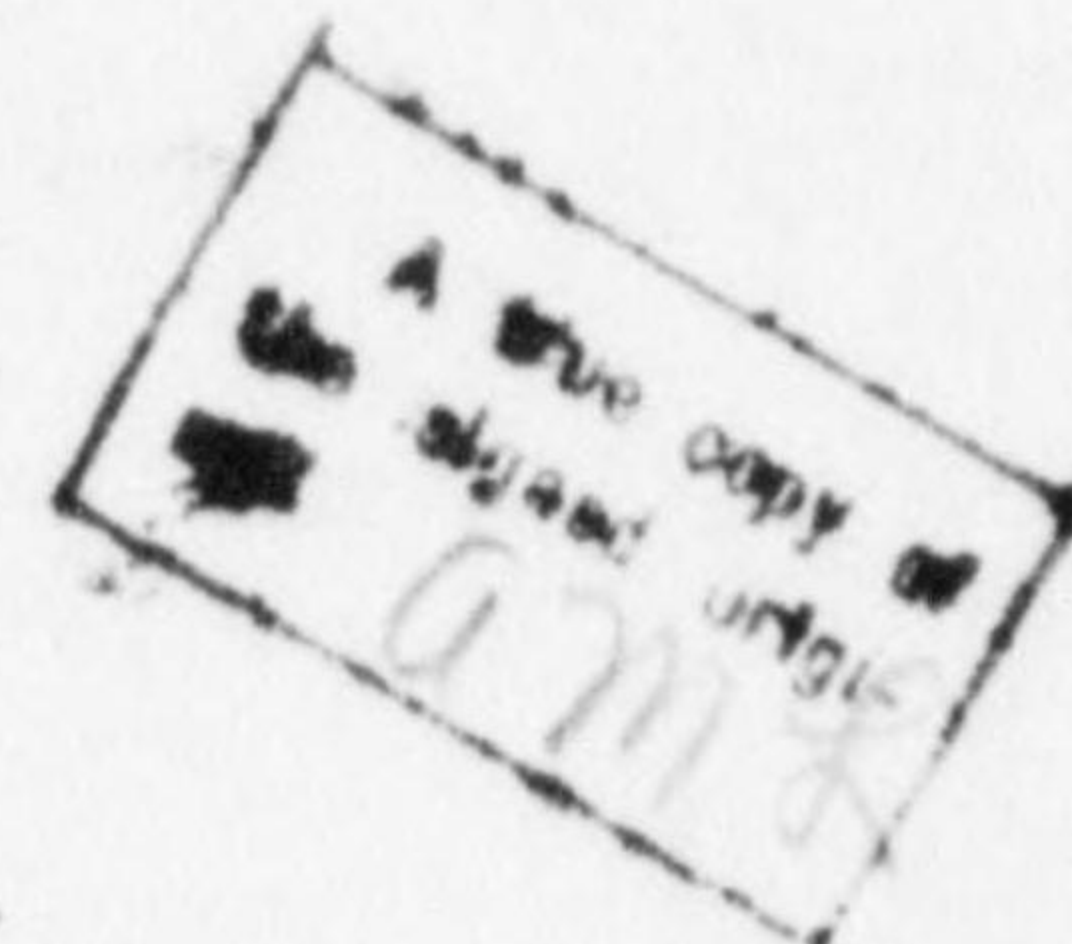
In view of the fact that the messages addressed to the Prime Minister, Generalissimo Stalin and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, dated August 11, 1945, were sent from the Map Room and not from the Department of State, your permission is requested to release the attached documents to the Far Eastern Commission. The Far Eastern Commission will be requested to consider the documents under reference as being in a "top secret" classification.

JAMES F. BYRNES

**Enclosures:**

1. Copy of General McCoy's letter dated May 1, 1946.
2. Copies of messages addressed to the Prime Minister, Generalissimo Stalin and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

EUR:JPGardiner:nla 6/4/46



16



**TOP SECRET**SWN-4346  
27 May 1946

VFF:aj

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE:**

**Subject:** Transmittal to U.S. Member, Far Eastern Commission, of copies of messages from the President to Governments of China, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union.

In response to a request from the U.S. Member, Far Eastern Commission, attached are copies of messages from the President to the Governments of China, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, for certification by the Department of State and transmittal to Major General Frank R. McCoy, U.S. Member, Far Eastern Commission.

In transmitting these documents to the U.S. Member, Far Eastern Commission, he should be advised by the Department of State that these proposals were accepted unconditionally by these Governments on the following dates:

China - August 13, 1945  
U.K. - August 11, 1945  
U.S.S.R. - August 12, 1945

Two additional uncertified copies are also enclosed for the files of the Department of State.

The above action was approved by the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee on 24 May 1946.

For the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee:

JOHN H. HILLDRING  
State Department Member

Enclosures

COPY FOR SWNCC FILES

**TOP SECRET**

15



TOP SECRET

THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

*memo DPMs.  
5/4/46 - ERM J.P.M.A*

SWN-4259  
7 May 1946

*File*  
*[Handwritten squiggle]*

MEMORANDUM TO THE STATE MEMBER, SWNCC ←  
WAR MEMBER, SWNCC  
NAVY MEMBER, SWNCC

The enclosure, presented by the State Member, is circulated for your consideration.

The President's proposals of August 11, 1945, to the Governments of the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China, are published in SWNCC Memorandum for Information No. 20 dated 17 August 1945, as Enclosures "A", "B" and "C" thereto.

If you approve, the Secretariat will furnish Enclosures "A", "B" and "C" of Memorandum for Information No. 20 to the State Department for transmittal to the Far Eastern Commission with a statement that these proposals were accepted unconditionally by the Governments of China, U.K., and U.S.S.R. on the following dates:

- China - August 13, 1945
- U. K. - August 11, 1945
- U. S. S. R. - August 12, 1945

I concur:

CO: PAB-AB7 + subject to other memos  
JA: HB  
FE: JAC

*A. D. Reid.*  
A. D. REID,  
Secretary

APPROVED: *J H H*, STATE MEMBER

DATE: *5-24-46*

Enclosures:  
Memo from State Member, SWNCC  
Copy of ltr from Chairman, FEC  
Copy No. 46, Memo for Info No. 20

TOP SECRET

(14)



**TOP SECRET**

THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



SWN-4259  
7 May 1946

MEMORANDUM TO THE STATE MEMBER, SWNCC  
WAR MEMBER, SWNCC  
NAVY MEMBER, SWNCC

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China - August 13, 1945  
U.K. - August 11, 1945  
U.S.S.R. - August 12, 1945

A. D. REID,  
Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosures:**

Memo from State Member, SWNCC  
Copy of ltr from Chairman, FEC  
Copy No. 46, Memo for Info No. 20

**TOP SECRET**



**TOP SECRET**

COPY 1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WashingtonTOP SECRET

May 6, 1946

MEMORANDUM FROM THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT MEMBER OF SWNCC

There is enclosed a copy of a letter of May 1, 1946, from the Chairman of the Far Eastern Commission in which he requests that a copy of the President's proposal of August 11, 1945, regarding the nomination of General MacArthur as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers be transmitted to him for filing with the Commission, together with the substance of the acceptances of this proposal received from the Governments of China, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union. General McCoy adds that this information is in the files of the SWNCC.

It is requested that if the Committee perceives no objection the desired information be supplied to the State Department for transmission to General McCoy.

/s/ J. H. Hilldring

J. H. Hilldring  
State Member

## Enclosure:

1. From Far Eastern Commission, May 1.

**TOP SECRET**



**TOP SECRET**TOP SECRET

COPY 1

1 May 1946

The Honorable James F. Byrnes  
Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

One of the three reserved questions in the Terms of Reference of the Far Eastern Commission is the subject, "The Regime of Control." It is my understanding that the Terms of Reference are to be interpreted in this respect to the effect that no change may be made in the present control machinery for Japan, namely, the Far Eastern Commission, the United States Government, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and the Allied Council for Japan, until the Far Eastern Commission has agreed on such a change.

The basic documents relating to the surrender of Japan and the establishment of the present regime of control have now been filed with the Far Eastern Commission with one exception, the one which is the cornerstone on which the whole structure rests. That is the original proposal by the President on August 11, 1945, to the Governments of China, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, nominating General MacArthur as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, together with the acceptances of this proposal by the Governments concerned.

It is felt that these documents should now be filed with the Commission for its information, unless there are compelling reasons of security to the contrary. It is therefore requested that copies of the original proposal of the President to the three powers be forwarded me for circulation to the Commission, together with a statement to the effect that these proposals were unconditionally accepted by the three powers. The dates for this correspondence would also appear to be an essential part of the documentation.

It is understood that the initial United States proposals have been circulated to the members of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee as M.I. No. 20, Top Secret, dated 17 August 1945, and that the notes of acceptance are also on file in the Secretariat of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee.

Respectfully yours,

Frank R. McCoy  
Major General, USA (Ret)  
Chairman

**TOP SECRET**



STANDARD FORM NO. 64

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TOP SECRET

TO : EUR - Mr. John P. Gardiner

DATE: May 23, 1946

FROM : CON - Mr. R. L. Bannerman *RLB*

SUBJECT: SWN-4259, with Enclosures

Reference is made to your memorandum dated May 14, 1946, regarding the above subject.

If the substance of the above-captioned memorandum reflects an established policy of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee, then this office concurs.

The security aspects of the matter in question have been considered in this office and in discussion with Captain Parke, CY, and it is concluded that the Enclosures may be furnished for transmittal, as indicated, without paraphrase.

Attention is invited, however, to the recommendation of *with the retention of the date & of transmission* Captain Parke, in which this office concurs, that only the text of the Enclosures, the body of the messages between quotes, should be so transmitted, and that the identifying data at the head of each Enclosure which serves to fix the channel and fact of previous cryptographic transmission, should be omitted.

If there is any further question regarding the concurrence of this office in the security aspects of the above-captioned matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

*HUT*  
CON:HThomas:ef

TOP SECRET



## TOP SECRET

EUR - Mr. John P. Gardiner

May 23, 1946

CON - Mr. R. L. Bannerman *RJB*

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*HBT*  
CON:HThomas:ef

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET

THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.SWN-4259  
7 May 1946MEMORANDUM TO THE STATE MEMBER, SWNCC  
WAR MEMBER, SWNCC  
NAVY MEMBER, SWNCC

The enclosure, presented by the State Member, is circulated for your consideration.

The President's proposals of August 11, 1945, to the Governments of the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China, are published in SWNCC Memorandum for Information No. 20 dated 17 August 1945, as Enclosures "A", "B" and "C" thereto.

If you approve, the Secretariat will furnish Enclosures "A", "B" and "C" of Memorandum for Information No. 20 to the State Department for transmittal to the Far Eastern Commission with a statement that these proposals were accepted unconditionally by the Governments of China, U.K., and U.S.S.R. on the following dates:

China - August 13, 1945  
U.K. - August 11, 1945  
U.S.S.R. - August 12, 1945

A. D. Reid.

A. D. REID,  
SecretaryAPPROVED: *W. W. Whitcomb* *Ch. Sec. for AFSA*WITH STATE CHANGE TO *AFSA*  
COPIES OF NOTES INSTEAD OF CABLES.DATE: May 14, 1947*G-2 security 62  
2925 25780 2468*

## Enclosures:

Memo from State Member, SWNCC  
Copy of ltr from Chairman, FEC  
Copy No. 47, Memo for Info No. 20

TOP SECRET



**TOP SECRET**

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WashingtonTOP SECRET

May 6, 1946

MEMORANDUM FROM THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT MEMBER OF SWNCC

There is enclosed a copy of a letter of May 1, 1946, from the Chairman of the Far Eastern Commission in which he requests that a copy of the President's proposal of August 11, 1945, regarding the nomination of General MacArthur as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers be transmitted to him for filing with the Commission, together with the substance of the acceptances of this proposal received from the Governments of China, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union. General McCoy adds that this information is in the files of the SWNCC.

It is requested that if the Committee perceives no objection the desired information be supplied to the State Department for transmission to General McCoy.

/s/ J. H. Hilldring

J. H. Hilldring  
State Member

## Enclosure:

1. From Far Eastern Commission, May 1.

TOP SECRET



**TOP SECRET**

THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SWN-4259  
7 May 1946

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WAR MEMBER, SWNCC  
NAVY MEMBER, SWNCC ←

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China - August 13, 1945  
U.K. - August 11, 1945  
U.S.S.R. - August 12, 1945

*A. D. Reid*  
A. D. REID,  
Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

14 MAY 1946

Enclosures:

Memo from State Member, SWNCC  
Copy of ltr from Chairman, FEC  
Copy No. 50, Memo for Info No. 20

**TOP SECRET**

4259



**TOP SECRET**

COPY 1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WashingtonTOP SECRET

May 6, 1946

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/s/ J. H. Hilldring

J. H. Hilldring  
State Member

## Enclosure:

1. From Far Eastern Commission, May 1.

**TOP SECRET**



TOP SECRET

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COPY

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Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

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It is understood that the initial United States proposals have been circulated to the members of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee as M.I. No. 20, Top Secret, dated 17 August 1945, and that the notes of acceptance are also on file in the Secretariat of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee.

Respectfully yours,

Frank R. McCoy  
Major General, USA (Ret)  
Chairman

TOP SECRET



**TOP SECRET**SWN-4259  
7 May 1946MEMORANDUM TO THE STATE MEMBER, SWHCC  
WAR MEMBER, SWHCC  
NAVY MEMBER, SWHCC

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The President's proposals of August 11, 1945, to the Governments of the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China, are published in SWHCC Memorandum for Information No. 19 dated 17 August 1945, as Enclosures "A", "B" and "C" thereto.

If you approve, the Secretariat will furnish Enclosures "A", "B" and "C" of Memorandum for Information No. 30 to the State Department for transmittal to the Far Eastern Commission with a statement that these proposals were accepted unconditionally by the Governments of China, U.K., and U.S.S.R. on the following dates:

China	- August 13, 1945
U.K.	- August 11, 1945
U.S.S.R.	- August 12, 1945

A. D. REID,  
Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosures:**

Memo from State Member, SWHCC  
Copy of ltr from Chairman, FEC  
Copy No. , Memo for Info No. 20

(4259)

(State- No. 46  
War - No. 47  
Navy - No. 50)

COPY FOR SWHCC FILE

**TOP SECRET**



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COPY 1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WashingtonTOP SECRET

May 6, 1946

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J. H. Hilldring  
State Member

## Enclosure:

1. From Far Eastern Commission, May 1.

**TOP SECRET**



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Respectfully yours,

Frank B. McCoy  
Major General, USA (Ret)  
Chairman

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRETMESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  
TO GENERALISSIMO STALIN

August 11, 1945

"In accordance with the message dated August 11, addressed by the United States to the Swiss Government for transmission to the Japanese Government in reply to the note received from the Swiss Government on August 10, 1945, I propose that General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur, be designated Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to accept, coordinate, and carry into effect the general surrender of the Japanese armed forces.

"If you will notify me of the designation of the officer you wish to act as your representative, I will instruct General MacArthur to make the arrangements necessary for your representative at the time and place of surrender.

"It is also contemplated that General MacArthur will direct the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to have Japanese forces in your area of operations surrender unconditionally to the Soviet High Commander in the Far East or to his subordinate commanders.

"I am assuming that you are in general accord with the above procedure and am issuing preliminary instructions to General MacArthur to this effect. Request you advise me immediately of your designated representative so that I may notify General MacArthur. I suggest that direct communication with General MacArthur on each arrangement be initiated at once."

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Sec. 11  
NND 760055  
By BR, NARS Date 10/30/75

(14)



TOP SECRET

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  
TO GENERALISSIMO STALIN

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"I am assuming that you are in general accord with the above procedure and am issuing preliminary instructions to General MacArthur to this effect. Request you advise me immediately of your designated representative so that I may notify General MacArthur. I suggest that direct communication with General MacArthur on each arrangement be initiated at once."



TOP SECRET

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TO GENERALISSIMO STALIN

August 11, 1945

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**TOP SECRET**

BY AUTHORITY OF A.O. OF S., OPD

Date

Initials

OPD 387.4 TS (16 Aug 45)

16 August 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL, U. S. FORCES, INDIA-BURMA THEATER,  
NEW DELHI, INDIA:

SUBJECT: Surrender of Japan

1. The inclosures pertaining to the above subject are forwarded  
for information.

2. Identical inclosures have also been forwarded to:

Commanding General, U. S. Forces, China Theater  
Commanding General, U. S. Military Mission, U.S.S.R.  
Commander in Chief, U. S. Army Forces, PacificJ. E. HULL  
Lieutenant General, GSC  
Assistant Chief of Staff, OPDHAROLD P. TASKER  
Colonel, GSC  
Executive Officer  
Strategy & Policy Group

2 Incls

1. SWNCC MFI No. 19, Cy No. 56
2. SWNCC MFI No. 20, Cy No. 56

Copies furnished:

- G-2, w/cy No. 57, SWNCC MFI No. 19 & 20  
Sec, JCS, w/o incls  
Sec, SWNCC, w/o incls

SWNCC	
COL. MCCARTHY	.....
COMDR. RICHARDSON	.....
MR. R. E. COX	.....
LT. COL. PENNOYER	.....
LT. COMDR. WEILFUSS	.....
MR. H. W. MOSELEY	.....
MR. J. P. GARDINER	.....
LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER	.....
LT. COL. V. F. FIELD	.....
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER	.....
1ST LT. E. SPITTALL	.....
ENS. F. WHITESIDE	.....
FILE	.....

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**TOP SECRET**

(13)



TOP SECRET**TOP SECRET**COPY NO. 4017 August 1945Pages 1 to 3, Incl.STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEEMEMORANDUM FOR INFORMATION NO. 20SURRENDER OF JAPANNote by the Secretaries

Enclosed are texts of messages to the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Generalissimo Stalin, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek from the President of the United States, which are circulated for the information of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee.

CHARLES W. McCARTHY

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON

RAYMOND E. COX

Secretariat

**TOP SECRET**

(12)



TOP SECRET

ENCLOSURE "A"

U.S. URGENT

11 AUG 1945

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON.

Please deliver the following message from the President to the Prime Minister:

QUOTE In accordance with the message dated August 11, addressed by the United States to the Swiss Government for transmission to the Japanese Government in reply to the note received from the Swiss Government on August 10, 1945, I proposed that General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur, be designated Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to accept, coordinate, and carry into effect the general surrender of the Japanese armed forces.

If you will notify me of the designation of the officer you wish to act as your representative, I will instruct General MacArthur to make the arrangements necessary for your representative to be present at the time and place of surrender.

It is also contemplated that General MacArthur will direct the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to have Japanese forces in Southeast Asia and parts of Malayasia surrender unconditionally to Admiral the Lord Louis Mountbatten or his subordinate commanders.

I am assuming that you are in general accord with the above procedure and am issuing preliminary instructions to General MacArthur to this effect. Request you advise me immediately of your designated representative so that I may notify General MacArthur. I suggest that direct communication with General MacArthur on such arrangement be initiated at once  
END QUOTE.

A true copy of the  
signed original.



TOP SECRET

ENCLOSURE "B"

August 11, 1945

U.S. URGENT

AMEMBASSY

MOSCOW.

Please deliver immediately the following message to Generalissimo Stalin from the President:

QUOTE In accordance with the message dated August 11, addressed by the United States to the Swiss Government for transmission to the Japanese Government in reply to the note received from the Swiss Government on August 10, 1945, I propose that General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur, be designated Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to accept, coordinate, and carry into effect the general surrender of the Japanese armed forces.

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I am assuming that you are in general accord with the above procedure and am issuing preliminary instructions to General MacArthur to this effect. Request you advise me immediately of your designated representative so that I may notify General MacArthur. I suggest that direct communication with General MacArthur on each arrangement be initiated at once.

END QUOTE

A true copy of the signed original.



TOP SECRET

ENCLOSURE "C"

August 11, 1945.

AMEMBASSY

CHUNGKING (CHINA)

U.S. URGENT.

Please deliver immediately the following message to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek from the President:

"In accordance with the message dated August 11, addressed by the United States to the Swiss Government for transmission to the Japanese Government in reply to the note received from the Swiss Government on August 10, 1945, I propose that General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur, be designated Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to accept, coordinate, and carry into effect the general surrender of the Japanese armed forces.

"If you will notify me of the designation of the officer you wish to act as your representative, I will instruct General MacArthur to make the arrangements necessary for your representative to be present at the time and place of surrender.

"It is also contemplated that General MacArthur will direct the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to have Japanese forces in China, other than those opposing the Russians, surrender unconditionally to you or your subordinate commanders.

"I am assuming that you are in general accord with the above procedure and am issuing preliminary instructions to General MacArthur to this effect. I request you advise me immediately of your designated representative so that I may notify General MacArthur. I suggest that direct communication with General MacArthur on such arrangements be initiated at once END QUOTE.

A true copy of the signed original.



WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WASHINGTON

16 Aug

Col McCarthy

See source

from:

Col Brewster

(S)

HAROLD P. EASTER  
Colonel, U.S.A.  
Executive Officer  
Strategy and Policy Group, OGD

20

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Mem for Info  
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NO DISTRIBUTION

U.S. URGENT

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON.

Please deliver the following message from the President to the Prime Minister:

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It is also contemplated that General MacArthur will direct the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to have Japanese forces in Southeast Asia and parts of Malayasia surrender unconditionally to Admiral the Lord Louis Mountbatten or

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DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Sec. 11  
NND 760055  
By STR, NARS Date 10/30/75

~~TOP SECRET~~



TOP SECRET

-2-

his subordinate commanders.

I am assuming that you are in general accord with the above procedure and am issuing preliminary instructions to General MacArthur to this effect. Request you advise me immediately of your designated representative so that I may notify General MacArthur. I suggest that direct communication with General MacArthur on such arrangement be initiated at once END QUOTE.

A true copy of  
the signed orig-  
inal. A.M.W.

This is single copy of "a true copy"  
per above.

C. H. Bonesteel III  
C. H. BONESTEEL III, Colonel, GSC.

A-D: JCD:BSM 8/11

~~TOP SECRET~~



**TOP SECRET**

TOP SECRET

August 11, 1945

SECRET

NO DISTRIBUTION - NO STENCIL  
U.S. URGENT  
AMEMBASSY

MOSCOW

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It is also contemplated that General MacArthur will direct  
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I am

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Sec. 11NND 760055  
By BR NARS Date 10/30/75



**TOP SECRET**

SECRET

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A true copy of  
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A.M.W.

This is single copy of "a true copy"  
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C. H. Bonesteel III  
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A-D:JCDunn:BB 8/11/45

~~TOP SECRET~~



~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

August 11, 1945.

TOP SECRET

NO DISTRIBUTION - NO STENCIL

AMEMBASSY

CHUNGKING (CHINA)

US URGENT.

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the

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~~TOP SECRET~~DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Sec. 11NND 760055  
By DR, NARS Date 10/30/76



TOP SECRET

- 2 -

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"I am assuming that you are in general accord with the above procedure and am issuing preliminary instructions to General MacArthur to this effect. I request you advise me immediately of your designated representative so that I may notify General MacArthur. I suggest that direct communication with General MacArthur on such arrangements be initiated at once END QUOTE.

A true copy of  
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This is single copy of "a true copy" per above.

C. H. Bonesteel III  
C. H. BONESTEEL III, Colonel, GSC

A-D JCD:AMW

~~TOP SECRET~~



40

17 August 1945Pages 1 - 9, incl.STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEEMEMORANDUM FOR INFORMATION NO. 19SURRENDER OF JAPANNote by the Secretaries

Enclosed are a series of notes between the Legation of Switzerland and the Secretary of State and a text of the Imperial Rescript, all pertaining to the surrender of Japan, which are circulated for the information of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee.

CHARLES W. McCARTHY

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON

RAYMOND E. COX

Secretariat

(11)



ENCLOSURE "A"

LEGATION DE SUISSE

Washington, D. C.

August 10, 1945

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Japanese Minister to Switzerland, upon instructions received from his Government, has requested the Swiss Political Department to advise the Government of the United States of America of the following:

"In obedience to the gracious command of his Majesty the Emperor who, ever anxious to enhance the cause of world peace, desires earnestly to bring about a speedy termination of hostilities with a view to saving mankind from the calamities to be imposed upon them by further continuation of the war, the Japanese Government several weeks ago asked the Soviet Government, with which neutral relations then prevailed, to render good offices in restoring peace vis a vis the enemy powers. Unfortunately, these efforts in the interest of peace having failed, the Japanese Government in conformity with the august wish of His Majesty to restore the general peace and desiring to put an end to the untold sufferings entailed by war as quickly as possible, have decided upon the following.

"The Japanese Government are ready to accept the terms enumerated in the joint declaration which was issued at Potsdam on July 26th, 1945, by the heads of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, and China, and later subscribed by the Soviet Government, with the understanding that the said declaration does not comprise any demand which prejudices the prerogatives of His Majesty as a Sovereign Ruler.

The Honorable

James F. Byrnes

Secretary of State



"The Japanese Government sincerely hope that this understanding is warranted and desire keenly that an explicit indication to that effect will be speedily forthcoming."

In transmitting the above message the Japanese Minister added that his Government begs the Government of the United States to forward its answer through the intermediary of Switzerland. Similar requests are being transmitted to the Governments of Great Britain and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics through the intermediary of Sweden, as well as to the Government of China through the intermediary of Switzerland. The Chinese Minister at Berne has already been informed of the foregoing through the channel of the Swiss Political Department.

Please be assured that I am at your disposal at any time to accept for and forward to my Government the reply of the Government of the United States.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

/s/ Grässli

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim  
of Switzerland

- - -



ENCLOSURE "B"

August 11, 1945

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your note of August 10, and in reply to inform you that the President of the United States has directed me to send to you for transmission by your Government to the Japanese Government the following message on behalf of the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and China:

"With regard to the Japanese Government's message accepting the terms of the Potsdam proclamation but containing the statement, 'with the understanding that the said declaration does not comprise any demand which prejudices the prerogatives of His Majesty as a sovereign ruler,' our position is as follows:

"From the moment of surrender the authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the state shall be subject to the Supreme Commander of the Allied powers who will take such steps as he deems proper to effectuate the surrender terms.

"The Emperor will be required to authorize and ensure the signature by the Government of Japan and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters of the surrender terms necessary to carry out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration, and shall issue his commands to all the Japanese military, naval and air authorities and to all the forces under their control wherever located to cease active operations and to surrender their arms, and to issue such other orders as the Supreme Commander may require to give effect to the surrender terms.

"Immediately upon the surrender the Japanese Government shall transport prisoners of war and civilian internees to places of safety, as directed, where they can quickly be placed aboard Allied transports.

Mr. Max Grässli

Chargé d'Affaires ad Interim of  
Switzerland



"The ultimate form of government of Japan shall, in accordance with the Potsdam declaration, be established by the freely expressed will of the Japanese people.

"The armed forces of the Allied Powers will remain in Japan until the purposes set forth in the Potsdam declaration are achieved."

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration,

JAMES F. BYRNES  
Secretary of State

- - -



ENCLOSURE "C"

LEGATION DE SUISSE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 14, 1945

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to your note of August 11, in which you requested me to transmit to my Government the reply of the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and China to the message from the Japanese Government which was communicated in my note of August 10.

At 20.10 today (Swiss Time) the Japanese Minister to Switzerland conveyed the following written statement to the Swiss Government for transmission to the four Allied Governments:

"Communication of the Japanese Government of August 14, 1945, addressed to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China:

"With reference to the Japanese Government's note of August 10 regarding their acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam declaration and the reply of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China sent by American Secretary of State Byrnes under the date of August 11, the Japanese Government have the honor to communicate to the Governments of the four powers as follows:

"1. His Majesty the Emperor has issued an Imperial rescript regarding Japan's acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam declaration.

"2. His Majesty the Emperor is prepared to authorize and ensure the signature by his Government and the Imperial General Headquarters of the necessary terms for carrying out the provisions of the Potsdam declaration. His Majesty

The Honorable

James F. Byrnes

Secretary of State



is also prepared to issue his commands to all the military, naval and air authorities of Japan and all the forces under their control wherever located to cease active operations, to surrender arms and to issue such other orders as may be required by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces for the execution of the above-mentioned terms."

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

/s/ Grässli  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim  
of Switzerland

- - -



ENCLOSURE "D"

August 14, 1945.

Sir:

With reference to your communication of today's date, transmitting the reply of the Japanese Government to the communication which I sent through you to the Japanese Government on August 11, on behalf of the Governments of the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which I regard as full acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration and of my statement of August 11, 1945, I have the honor to inform you that the President of the United States has directed that the following message be sent to you for transmission to the Japanese Government:

"You are to proceed as follows:

"(1) Direct prompt cessation of hostilities by Japanese forces, informing the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers of the effective date and hour of such cessation.

"(2) Send emissaries at once to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers with information of the disposition of the Japanese forces and commanders, and fully empowered to make any arrangements directed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to enable him and his accompanying forces to arrive at the place designated by him to receive the formal surrender.

"(3) For the purpose of receiving such surrender and carrying it into effect, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur has been designated as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and he will notify the Japanese Government of the time, place and other details of the formal surrender."

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

JAMES F. BYRNES  
Secretary of State

Max Grässli, Esquire,  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim  
of Switzerland.



ENCLOSURE "E"

TOKYO (DOMEI) IN ENGLISH AT 11:07 PM TO THE AMERICAN ZONE

(TEXT OF IMPERIAL RESCRIPT)

(TEXT) TOKYO, AUGUST 15--The text of the Imperial Rescript follows:

"To our good and loyal subjects: after pondering deeply the general trends of the world and the actual conditions obtaining in our empire today, we have decided to effect a settlement of the present situation by resorting to an extraordinary measure. We have ordered our government to communicate to the governments of the United States, Great Britain, China and the Soviet Union that our empire accepts the provisions of their joint declaration."

"To strive for the common prosperity and happiness of all nations as well as the security and well-being of our subjects is the solemn obligation which has been handed down by our imperial ancestors and which we lay close to the heart."

"Indeed, we declared war on America and Britain out of our sincere desire to ensure Japan's self-preservation and the stabilization of East Asia, it being far from our thought either to infringe upon the sovereignty of other nations or to embark upon territorial aggrandizement."

"But now the war has lasted for nearly four years. Despite the best that has been done by every one--the gallant fighting of the military and naval forces, the diligence and assiduity of our servants of the state and the devoted service of our 100,000,000 people, the war situation has developed not necessarily to Japan's advantage, while the general trends of the world have all turned against her interest."

"Moreover, the enemy has begun to employ a new and most cruel bomb, the power of which to do damage is indeed incalculable, taking the toll of many innocent lives. Should we continue to fight, it would not only result in an ultimate collapse and obligation of the Japanese nation, but also it would lead to the total extinction of human civilization."



"Such being the case, how are we to save the millions of our subjects; or to atone ourselves before the hallowed spirits of our imperial ancestors. This is the reason why we have ordered the acceptance of the provisions of the joint declaration of the powers.

"We cannot but express the deepest sense of regret to our Allied nations of East Asia, who have consistently cooperated with the Japanese towards the emancipation of East Asia.

"The thought of those officers and men as well as others who have fallen in the fields of battle, those who died at their posts of duty, or those who met with untimely death and all their bereaved families, pains our heart night and day.

"The welfare of the wounded and the war sufferers, and of those who have lost their home and livelihood, are the objects of our profound solicitude. The hardships and sufferings to which our nation is to be subjected hereafter will be certainly great.

"We are keenly aware of the inmost feelings of all ye, our subjects. However, it is according to the dictate of time and fate that we have resolved to pave the way for a grand peace for all the generations to come by enduring the (unavoidable?) and suffering what is insufferable. Having been able to ..... and maintain the structure of the imperial state, we are always with ye, our good and loyal subjects, relying upon your sincerity and integrity.

"Beware most strictly of any outbursts of emotion which may engender needless complications, of any fraternal contention and strife which may create confusion, lead ye astray and cause ye to lose the confidence of the world.

"Let the entire nation continue as one family from generation to generation, ever firm in its faith of the imperishableness of its divine land, and mindful of its heavy burden of responsibilities, and the long road before it. Unite your total strength to be devoted to the construction for the future. Cultivate the ways of rectitude, (further?) nobility of spirit, and work with resolution so as ye may enhance the innate glory of the imperial state and keep pace with the progress of the world."



384.1 *Nisse*

COPY

LEGATION DE SUISSE

Washington, D. C.

August 10, 1945

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Japanese Minister to Switzerland, upon instructions received from his Government, has requested the Swiss Political Department to advise the Government of the United States of America of the following:

"In obedience to the gracious command of his Majesty the Emperor who, ever anxious to enhance the cause of world peace, desires earnestly to bring about a speedy termination of hostilities with a view to saving mankind from the calamities to be imposed upon them by further continuation of the war, the Japanese Government several weeks ago asked the Soviet Government, with which neutral relations then prevailed, to render good offices in restoring peace vis a vis the enemy powers. Unfortunately, these efforts in the interest of peace having failed, the Japanese Government in conformity with the august wish of His Majesty to restore the general peace and desiring to put an end to the untold sufferings entailed by war as quickly as possible, have decided upon the following.

"The Japanese Government are ready to accept the terms enumerated in the joint declaration which was issued at Potsdam on July 26th, 1945, by the heads of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, and China, and later subscribed by the Soviet Government,

The Honorable

James F. Byrnes

Secretary of State

14



with the understanding that the said declaration does not comprise any demand which prejudices the prerogatives of His Majesty as a Sovereign Ruler.

"The Japanese Government sincerely hope that this understanding is warranted and desire keenly that an explicit indication to that effect will be speedily forthcoming."

In transmitting the above message the Japanese Minister added that his Government begs the Government of the United States to forward its answer through the intermediary of Switzerland. Similar requests are being transmitted to the Governments of Great Britain and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics through the intermediary of Sweden, as well as to the Government of China through the intermediary of Switzerland. The Chinese Minister at Berne has already been informed of the foregoing through the channel of the Swiss Political Department.

Please be assured that I am at your disposal at any time to accept for and forward to my Government the reply of the Government of the United States.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

/s/ Grassli

Charge d'Affaires ad interim  
of Switzerland



August 11, 1945

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your note of August 10, and in reply to inform you that the President of the United States has directed me to send to you for transmission by your Government to the Japanese Government the following message on behalf of the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and China:

"With regard to the Japanese Government's message accepting the terms of the Potsdam proclamation but containing the statement, 'with the understanding that the said declaration does not comprise any demand which prejudices the prerogatives of His Majesty as a sovereign ruler,' our position is as follows:

"From the moment of surrender the authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the state shall be subject to the Supreme Commander of the Allied powers who will take such steps as he deems proper to effectuate the surrender terms.

"The Emperor will be required to authorize and ensure the signature by the Government of Japan and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters of the surrender terms necessary to carry out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration, and shall issue his commands to all the Japanese military, naval and air

Mr. Max Grässli  
Chargé d'Affaires ad Interim of  
Switzerland



authorities and to all the forces under their control wherever located to cease active operations and to surrender their arms, and to issue such other orders as the Supreme Commander may require to give effect to the surrender terms.

"Immediately upon the surrender the Japanese Government shall transport prisoners of war and civilian internees to places of safety, as directed, where they can quickly be placed aboard Allied transports.

"The ultimate form of government of Japan shall, in accordance with the Potsdam declaration, be established by the freely expressed will of the Japanese people.

"The armed forces of the Allied Powers will remain in Japan until the purposes set forth in the Potsdam declaration are achieved."

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration,



LEGATION DE SUISSE  
WASHINGTON D.C.

August 14, 1945

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to your note of August 11, in which you requested me to transmit to my Government the reply of the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and China to the message from the Japanese Government which was communicated in my note of August 10.

At 20.10 today (Swiss Time) the Japanese Minister to Switzerland conveyed the following written statement to the Swiss Government for transmission to the four Allied Governments:

"Communication of the Japanese Government of August 14, 1945, addressed to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China:

"With reference to the Japanese Government's note of August 10 regarding their acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam declaration and the reply of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China sent by American Secretary of State Byrnes under the date of August 11, the Japanese Government have the honor to communicate to the Governments of the four powers as follows:

"1. His Majesty the Emperor has issued an Imperial rescript regarding Japan's acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam declaration.

The Honorable  
James F. Byrnes  
Secretary of State



"2. His Majesty the Emperor is prepared to authorize and ensure the signature by his Government and the Imperial General Headquarters of the necessary terms for carrying out the provisions of the Potsdam declaration. His Majesty is also prepared to issue his commands to all the military, naval and air authorities of Japan and all the forces under their control wherever located to cease active operations, to surrender arms and to issue such other orders as may be required by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces for the execution of the above-mentioned terms."

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Gra"ssli  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim  
of Switzerland



COPY

August 14, 1945.

Sir:

With reference to your communication of today's date, transmitting the reply of the Japanese Government to the communication which I sent through you to the Japanese Government on August 11, on behalf of the Governments of the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which I regard as full acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration and of my statement of August 11, 1945, I have the honor to inform you that the President of the United States has directed that the following message be sent to you for transmission to the Japanese Government:

"You are to proceed as follows:

"(1) Direct prompt cessation of hostilities by Japanese forces, informing the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers of the effective date and hour of ~~such~~ <sup>such</sup> cessation.

"(2) Send emissaries at once to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers with information of the disposition of the Japanese forces and commanders, and fully empowered to <sup>make any arrangements directed by the</sup> /Commander for the Allied Powers' Supreme to enable him and his accompanying forces to arrive at the place designated by him to receive the formal surrender.

"(3) For the purpose of receiving such surrender and carrying it into effect, General of the Army

Max Grässli, Esquire,  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of  
Switzerland.



Douglas MacArthur has been designated as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and he will notify the Japanese Government of the time, place and other details of the formal surrender."

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.



**SECRET**WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER**TOP SECRET**  
**OUTGOING MESSAGE**Joint Chiefs of Staff  
W. W. Ext. 77500  
Col. C. R. Peck

15 August 1945

Commander in Chief, Army Forces Pacific Command, Manila, P I  
 Commander in Chief, Pacific, Advanced Headquarters, Guam  
 Commanding General, U S Forces China Theater, Chungking, China  
 Commanding General, U S Army Strategic Air Forces, Guam  
 Commanding General, U S Army Liaison Section, Headquarters,  
 Southeast Asia Command, Kandy, Ceylon  
 Commanding General, U S Military Mission to U S S R,  
 Moscow, Russia

Number: WARX 49961

TOPSEC book message from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to  
 MacArthur for action, to Nimitz, Wedemeyer, Spaatz, Wheeler  
 and Deane for information.

General Order No. 1, which is set forth as the fourth  
 document in WAR ~~48762~~, has now been approved by the Presi-  
 dent. 48672

Part I of General Order No. 1 now reads as follows:

"MILITARY AND NAVAL.

1. The Imperial General Headquarters by direction  
 of the Emperor, and pursuant to the surrender to the  
 Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers of all Japanese  
 Armed Forces by the Emperor, hereby orders all of its  
 commanders in Japan and abroad to cause the Japanese  
 Armed Forces and Japanese-controlled forces under their  
 command to cease hostilities at once, to lay down their

CM-OUT-49961 (Aug 45)

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**SECRET**38  
COPY No.

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*File***TOP SECRET***SMRCC (at MacArthur)*



**SECRET**WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER**TOP SECRET**  
**OUTGOING MESSAGE**

Number: WARX 49961

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**TOP SECRET**

arms, to remain in their present locations and to surrender unconditionally to commanders acting on behalf of the United States, the Republic of China, the United Kingdom and the British Empire, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as indicated hereafter or as may be further directed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. Immediate contact will be made with the indicated commanders, or their designated representatives, subject to any changes in detail prescribed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and their instructions will be completely and immediately carried out.

a. The senior Japanese commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces within China (excluding Manchuria), Formosa and French Indo-China north of 16 degrees north latitude shall surrender to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

b. The senior Japanese commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces within Manchuria, Korea north of 38 degrees north latitude and Karafuto shall surrender to the Commander in Chief of Soviet Forces in the Far East.

c. The senior Japanese commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces within the Andamans, Nicobars, Burma, Thailand, French Indo-China south of 16 degrees north latitude, Malaya, Borneo, Netherlands Indies, New Guinea, Bismarcks, and the Solomons, shall surrender (to the Supreme Allied Commander, Southeast Asia Command or the Commanding General, Australian Forces - the exact breakdown between Mountbatten and the Australians to be arranged between them and the details of this paragraph then prepared by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers).

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Number: WARX 49961

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d. The senior Japanese commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces in the Japanese mandated islands, Ryukyus, Bonins, and other Pacific Islands shall surrender to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

e. The Imperial General Headquarters, its senior commanders, and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces in the main islands of Japan, minor islands adjacent thereto, Korea south of 38 degrees north latitude, and the Philippines shall surrender to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Army Forces in the Pacific.

f. The above indicated commanders are the only representatives of the Allied Powers empowered to accept surrenders, and all surrenders of Japanese Forces shall be made only to them or to their representatives.

The Japanese Imperial General Headquarters further orders its commanders in Japan and abroad to disarm completely all forces of Japan or under Japanese control, wherever they may be situated, and to deliver intact and in safe and good condition all weapons and equipment at such time and at such places as may be prescribed by the Allied Commanders indicated above. (Pending further instructions, the Japanese Police Force in the main islands of Japan will be exempt from this disarmament provision. The Police Force will remain at their posts and shall be held responsible for the preservation of law and order. The strength and arms of such a Police Force will be prescribed.)". This ends Part I.

The remainder of General Order No. 1, as approved, is identical with Parts II to XII, inclusive, in WAR 48762.

General Order No. 1 is approved by the President with the understanding that it is subject to change, both by

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Number: WARX 49961

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further instructions issued through the Joint Chiefs of Staff and by changes in matters of detail made by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in light of the operational situation as known by him. The action on the portions of paragraphs 1 c and 1 f, above, which are in parentheses, is a matter for the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

In the issuance of detailed orders to the Imperial General Headquarters and in connection with any detailed changes in General Order No. 1 by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, the facilitation of immediate local surrenders of Jap Forces in such ports around the Yellow Sea as seaborne forces enter should be borne in mind.

End

ORIGINATOR: JC/S

INFORMATION: Admiral Leahy  
General Arnold  
General Hull  
General Bissell  
SGS  
Admiral King  
SWNCC (Colonel Charles McCarthy)  
C. of S.

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(Aug 45)

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Staff Communications Branch  
 72660 Major G B Johnston

15 August 1945

Commander in Chief, Army Forces Pacific Command, Manila, PI

Commander in Chief, Army Forces Pacific Advanced, Guam

Commanding General, U.S. Army Strategic Air Forces, Guam

Commanding General, Liaison Section SEAC, Kandy, Ceylon

U.S. Military Mission, Moscow, Russia

Number: WARK 50166

Repeat all addressees WARK 50166

Please correct reference number to read 48672 in our  
 WARK 49961 TOPSEC msg dated today.

End

ORIGINATOR: WDSCB

INFORMATION: JC/S, Adm Leahy, Gen Arnold, Gen Hull,  
 Gen Bissell, Adm King, SWNCC (Col C.W. McCarthy)  
 C of S

CM-OUT-50166

(Aug 45) DTG 160023Z

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

**TOP-SECRET**

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State.

Dear Mr. Secretary:-

I have been furnished a copy of the Memorandum forwarded to you by the Secretary of War, dated 11 August, 1945, enclosing:-

1. Draft of Instructions to Japanese Emperor
2. Draft Proclamation by Japanese Emperor
3. Draft "general Order No. 1"
4. Draft Directive to Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

I am further advised that the enclosures were not referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for comment regarding the military aspects, but that they do meet with the approval of the Chief of Staff of the Army.

These drafts have been considered by Admiral King, who recommends the following changes, with which I concur:-

1. Draft of Instructions to Japanese Emperor.

Substitute "Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers" for "Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers".

2. Draft Proclamation by Japanese Emperor.

(a) Correction listed under 1. above.

(b) On Page 3 place the following on the left of and even with the signature of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers:-

"Countersigned:-

United States Representative  
British Representative  
Soviet Representative  
Chinese Representative

*Noted by Mr. Dunn  
File  
Proposed changes were incorporated into SHRC 21 series - No further action req. by the President.  
8/15/45  
JHM*

*2  
Dunn*

9



**TOP-SECRET**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON3. Draft "General Order No. 1"

(a) Paragraph 1 a., as expressed, this provides for the surrender of forces in DAIREN to the Soviet Commander in Chief. The President has directed preparations for the occupation of DAIREN by United States Forces. This paragraph can be corrected by changing the second line to read "auxiliary forces within MANCHURIA and KOREA north of the 39° north latitude".

(b) Paragraphs 1 e. and 1 g. In Paragraph 1 e. insert after "BONINS" "the RYUKYUS" and eliminate "the RYUKYUS" from the third line of Paragraph 1 g.

(c) Paragraph 1 f. substitute "Commander" for "Commanding General".

4. Draft Directive to Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

(a) Change the last sentence of Paragraph 3 to read "You will immediately arrange for appropriate representatives of the United States, British, Chinese, and Soviet commands to be present with you". Add a new sentence to read "Fleet Admiral Nimitz is designated as the United States representative".

I consider that the Supreme Allied Commander should act for all the Allied Nations, and, in his capacity as Supreme Allied Commander, should not act for the United States. This can be most appropriately done by the Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas (Fleet Admiral Nimitz).

Sincerely yours,

*James Forrestal*  
Secretary of the Navy.



**TOP SECRET***Japan*

11 August 1945

3841

Proposed draft of instructions to be sent to Japanese Government on receipt of notification that it intends to proceed with surrender:

You are to proceed as follows:

(1) Direct prompt cessation of hostilities by Japanese forces, informing the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers of the effective date and hour of such cessation.

(2) Send emissaries at once to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers with information of the disposition of the Japanese forces and commanders, and fully empowered to make any arrangements directed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to enable him and his accompanying forces to arrive at the place designated by him to receive the formal surrender.

For the purpose of receiving such surrender and carrying it into effect, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur has been designated as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and he will notify the Japanese Government of the time, place and other details of the formal surrender.

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11 August 1945

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1

D R A F T

UNITED STATES INITIAL POST-DEFEAT POLICY RELATING TO JAPAN

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

I. OBJECTIVES

The general objectives of the United States in regard to Japan are:

(1) The stripping from the Japanese Empire of territories, including the Mandated Islands, in harmony with the Cairo Declaration and such other pertinent agreements as may be reached by the United Nations, and to which the United States is a party;

(2) The creation of conditions which will insure that Japan will not again become a menace to the peace and security of the world;

(3) The establishment, in accordance with the freely-expressed will of the Japanese people, of a peacefully inclined and responsible government which will respect the rights of other states and Japan's international obligations, and which will be compatible with the ideals and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations Organization. We would seek to develop in Japan respect for fundamental human rights and principles of liberal and representative government.

(4) The eventual participation of Japan in a world economic system on a reasonable basis.

II. ALLIED CONTROL

From the moment of surrender the authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the State shall be subject to the Supreme Commander of the Allied powers who will take such steps as he deems proper to effectuate the surrender terms. The Emperor shall authorize and insure the signature by the Government of Japan and the Japanese General Headquarters of the surrender terms necessary to carry out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration and shall issue his commands to all

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Japanese military, Naval and Air Authorities and to all forces under their control wherever located to cease active operations and to surrender their arms and to issue such other orders as the Supreme Commander may require to give effect to the surrender terms.

B. POLITICALI. THE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF MILITARY OCCUPATION

The immediate objective of the military occupation in Japan shall be the strict enforcement of the surrender terms. Within such framework, the general political objectives of the military occupation are:

- (1) The abolition of militarism and militant nationalism;
- (2) The encouragement of democratic tendencies and processes; and
- (3) The encouragement of liberal political elements and the creation of conditions in Japan which will facilitate the emergence of a peacefully-inclined and responsible government.



TOP SECRETII. MILITARY OCCUPATION

(1) Security. Japan's ground, air and naval forces are to be disarmed and disbanded; military and naval materiel, vessels and installations are to be surrendered or destroyed; industries primarily military in character are to be eliminated. All measures taken in this connection shall be designed to accomplish the permanent disarmament and demilitarization of Japan.

(2) Responsibilities of the Japanese Government.

The Japanese Government should be responsible for the carrying out of the policies and directives of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers. It should remove from public office or from any other position of responsibility or influence in public or quasi-public enterprise, those persons who have been flagrant exponents of militant nationalism and aggression and who consequently are obstacles to the revival and strengthening of democratic tendencies among the Japanese people.



TOP SECRET(3) Some of the Initial Tasks of Military Occupation.

Among the requirements which will be imposed at an early date upon the Japanese Government by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces will be the following:

(a) Reform of the Japanese Government. Reconstitution of the personnel of those instrumentalities and agencies of the Japanese Government whose primary functions are the formulation, consideration and the carrying out of national policies, such as the Privy Council, the Cabinet and the Diet, to the end that exponents of militant nationalism and aggression shall be removed and shall be replaced by cooperative and forward-looking persons.

(b) Nullification of obnoxious laws. Suspension or repeal of laws, ordinances and regulations which conflict with the purpose and policies outlined herein. The abolition or appropriate modification of agencies charged specifically with the execution of such laws, ordinances and regulations.

(c) Political parties or agencies. Encouragement of political parties, organizations and societies whose activities are consistent with the general political aims indicated herein, and the abolition of those whose activities are inconsistent with such requirements and aims.

(d) Freedom of speech and freedom of religion. The establishment of freedom of speech, or religion and of thought, subject to the requirements of public order and military security.



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(e) Media of public information. Facilitation of the dissemination of democratic and liberal ideals and principles and, in general, the ideals and principles expressed in the Charter of the United Nations.

(f) The educational system. The elimination from the educational system of Japanese militarism and ultra-nationalism including para-military training, making possible the development of democratic ideas, and the inclusion in educational instruction of the principles and ideals expressed in sub-paragraph (e) immediately above.



TOP SECRET(g) The Administration of Justice

The reform of the judicial and legal system, to the extent necessary, to conform to the objectives stated in paragraph I(3). The release of persons unjustly or illegally held for political reasons.

(h) War Criminals

Delivery into Allied custody of all persons requested for prosecution as war criminals, including those who have visited cruelties upon our prisoners.



TOP SECRETC. ECONOMICI. GENERAL POLICY

Japan shall be permitted to maintain such industries as will sustain her economy and permit the exaction of just reparations in kind, but not those which would enable her to re-arm for war. To this end, access to, as distinguished from control of, raw materials shall be permitted. Eventual Japanese participation in world trade relations shall be permitted.

II. ECONOMIC DEMILITARIZATION

The Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers should enforce a program to demilitarize industry with the aim of preventing Japan from again developing an economic war potential. There should be developed and established a system of controls that can be continued after occupation has ceased and which will assure the continued economic disarmament of Japan over a longer period. Japan should be permitted to retain no specialized facilities for the production or repair of implements of war or aircraft of any type and shall be deprived of the heavy industry capacity in excess of normal peacetime requirements and those key industries upon which an extensive war industry could be redeveloped. Pending decision on disposition either by transfer abroad, use in Japan or scrapping, there should be no swareuxrion of facilities readily convertible to civilian production except in emergency situations.



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D R A F TGENERAL ORDER NO. 1MILITARY AND NAVAL

I. The Imperial General Headquarters by direction of the Emperor, and pursuant to the surrender to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers of all Japanese armed forces by the Emperor, hereby orders all of its commanders in Japan and abroad to cause the Japanese armed forces and Japanese-controlled forces under their command to cease hostilities at once, to lay down their arms, to remain in their present locations and to surrender unconditionally to commanders acting on behalf of the United States, the Republic of China, the United Kingdom and the British Empire, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as indicated hereafter. Immediate contact will be made with the indicated commanders, or their designated representatives, and their instructions will be completely and immediately carried out.

a. The senior Japanese commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces within China, excluding Manchuria, Formosa and French Indo-China north of 16° north latitude shall surrender to the Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

b. The senior Japanese commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces within Manchuria, Korea north of 38° north latitude and Karafuto shall surrender to the Commander-in-Chief of Soviet Forces in the Far East.

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c. The senior Japanese commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces within Thailand, Burma, Malaya, French Indo-China south of 16° north latitude, Sumatra, Java, Andamans, Nicobars, Borneo and the Lesser Sundas shall surrender to the Supreme Allied Commander, Southeast Asia Command.

d. The senior Japanese commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces in the Celebes, Halmahera, New Guinea, the Banda Sea areas, Bismarcks and Solomons shall surrender to the Commander-in-Chief, Australian Imperial Forces.

e. The senior Japanese commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces in the Japanese Mandated Islands, Bonins and other Pacific Islands shall surrender to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

f. The senior Japanese commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces in Korea south of 38° north latitude shall surrender to the Commanding General, U.S. Expeditionary Forces in Korea.

g. The Imperial General Headquarters, its senior commanders, and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces in the main islands of Japan, minor islands adjacent thereto, the Ryukyus, and the Philippines shall surrender to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Army Forces in the Pacific.

The Japanese Imperial General Headquarters further orders its commanders in Japan and abroad to disarm completely all forces of Japan or under Japanese control, wherever they may be situated, and to deliver intact and



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in safe and good condition all weapons and equipment at such time and at such places as may be prescribed by the Allied Commanders indicated above. (Pending further instructions, the Japanese police force in the main islands of Japan will be exempt from this disarmament provision. The police force will remain at their posts and shall be held responsible for the preservation of law and order. The strength and arms of such a police force will be prescribed.)

II. The Japanese Imperial General Headquarters shall furnish to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, within (time limit) of receipt of this order, complete information with respect to Japan and all areas under Japanese control, as follows:

a. Lists of all land, air and anti-aircraft units showing locations and strengths in officers and men.

b. Lists of all aircraft, military, naval and civil, giving complete information as to the number, type, location and condition of such aircraft.

c. Lists of all Japanese and Japanese-controlled naval vessels, surface and submarine and auxiliary naval craft in or out of commission and under construction giving their position, condition and movement.

d. Lists of all Japanese and Japanese-controlled merchant ships of over 100 gross tons, in or out of commission and under construction, including merchant ships



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formerly belonging to any of the United Nations which are now in Japanese hands, giving their position, condition and movement.

e. Complete and detailed information, accompanied by maps, showing locations and layouts of all mines, minefields, and other obstacles to movement by land, sea or air, and the safety lanes in connection therewith.

f. Locations and descriptions of all military installations and establishments, including airfields, seaplane bases, anti-aircraft defenses, ports and naval bases, storage depots, permanent and temporary land and coast fortifications, fortresses and other fortified areas.

g. Locations of all camps and other places of detention of United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees.

III. Japanese armed forces and civil aviation authorities will insure that all Japanese military, naval and civil aircraft remain on the ground, on the water, or aboard ship, until further notification of the disposition to be made of them.

IV. Japanese or Japanese-controlled naval or merchant vessels of all types will be maintained without damage and will undertake no movement pending instructions from the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. Vessels at sea will immediately render harmless and throw overboard explosives of all types. Vessels not at sea will immediately remove explosives of all types to safe storage ashore.



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V. Responsible Japanese or Japanese-controlled military and civil authorities will insure that:

a. All Japanese mines, minefields and other obstacles to movement by land, sea and air, wherever located, be removed according to instructions of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

b. All aids to navigation be reestablished at once.

c. All safety lanes be kept open and clearly marked pending accomplishment of a. above.

VI. Responsible Japanese and Japanese-controlled military and civil authorities will hold intact and in good condition pending further instructions from the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers the following:

a. All arms, ammunition, explosives, military equipment, stores and supplies, and other implements of war of all kinds and all other war material (except as specifically prescribed in Section IV. of this order).

b. All land, water and air transportation and communication facilities and equipment.

c. All military installations and establishments, including airfields, seaplane bases, anti-aircraft defenses, ports and naval bases, storage depots, permanent and temporary land and coast fortifications, fortresses and other fortified areas, together with plans and drawings of all such fortifications, installations and establishments.



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d. All factories, plants, shops, research institutions, laboratories, testing stations, technical data, patents, plans, drawings and inventions designed or intended to produce or to facilitate the production or use of all implements of war and other material and property used by or intended for use by any military or para-military organization in connection with its operations.

VII. The Japanese Imperial General Headquarters shall furnish to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, within (time limit) of receipt of this order, complete lists of all the items specified in paragraphs a., b., and d. of Section VI, above, indicating the numbers, types and locations of each.

VIII. The manufacture and distribution of all arms, ammunition and implements of war will cease forthwith.

IX. With respect to United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees in the hands of Japanese or Japanese-controlled authorities:

a. The safety and well-being of all United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees will be scrupulously preserved, to include the administrative and supply services essential to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, and medical care until such responsibility is undertaken by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers;

b. Each camp or other place of detention of United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees together with its equipment, stores,



TOP SECRET

records, arms, and ammunition will be delivered immediately to the command of the senior officer or designated representative of the prisoners of war and civilian internees;

c. As directed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, prisoners of war and civilian internees will be transported to places of safety where they can be accepted by allied authorities;

d. The Japanese Imperial General Headquarters will furnish to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, within (time limit) of the receipt of this order, complete lists of all United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees, indicating their location.

X. All Japanese and Japanese-controlled military and civil authorities shall aid and assist the occupation of Japan and Japanese-controlled areas by forces of the Allied Powers.

XI. The Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and appropriate Japanese officials shall be prepared, on instructions from Allied occupation commanders, to collect and deliver all arms in the possession of the Japanese civilian population.

XII. This and all subsequent instructions issued by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Forces or other allied military authorities will be scrupulously and promptly obeyed by Japanese and Japanese-controlled military and civil officials and private persons. Any delay or failure to comply with the provisions of this or subsequent orders, and any action which the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers determines to be detrimental to the Allied Powers, will incur drastic and summary punishment at the hands of allied military authorities and the Japanese Government.



## WAR DEPARTMENT CLASSIFIED MESSAGE SERVICE

UNCLASSIFIED

Implementing Sec Strategy and  
Policy Group, Operations Div  
5402 Capt L E Martell

11 August 1945

Commander in Chief, Army Forces, Pacific Command, Manila, P.I.

Commanding General, US Forces China Theater, Chungking, China.

Commanding General, US Forces India Burma Theater, New Delhi,  
India.

Commanding General, US Army Strategic Air Forces, Guam.

Number: 1230

To CINCAFPAC, CGUSFCT, CGUSFIBT, CGUSASTAF from WAROPDIV.

Following official text of Potsdam Surrender Ultimatum of 26  
July 1945 is for your information:

1. We--the President of the United States, the President of the National Government of the Republic of China, and the Prime Minister of Great Britain, representing the hundreds of millions of our countrymen, have conferred and agree that Japan shall be given an opportunity to end this war.
2. The prodigious land, sea and air forces of the United States, the British Empire and of China, many times reinforced by their armies and air fleets from the west, are poised to strike the final blows upon Japan. This military power is sustained and inspired by the determination of all the Allied nations to prosecute the war against Japan until she ceases to resist.
3. The result of the futile and senseless German resistance to the might of the aroused free peoples of the world stands forth in awful clarity as an example to the people of Japan. The might that now converges on Japan is immeasurably greater than that which, when applied to the resisting Nazis, necessarily laid waste to the lands, the industry and the method of

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(Aug 45)

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*JW ncc  
Room 178  
State Dept.*

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Number: 1230

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life of the whole German people. The full application of our military power, backed by our resolve, will mean the inevitable and complete destruction of the Japanese armed forces and just as inevitably the utter devastation of the Japanese homeland.

4. The time has come for Japan to decide whether she will continue to be controlled by those self-willed militaristic advisers whose unintelligent calculations have brought the Empire of Japan to the threshold of annihilation, or whether she will follow the path of reason.

5. Following are our terms. We will not deviate from them. There are no alternatives. We shall brook no delay.

6. There must be eliminated for all time the authority and influence of those who have deceived and misled the people of Japan into embarking on world conquest, for we insist that a new order of peace, security and justice will be impossible until irresponsible militarism is driven from the world.

7. Until such a new order is established and until there is convincing proof that Japan's war-making power is destroyed, points in Japanese territory to be designated by the Allies shall be occupied to secure the achievement of the basic objectives we are here setting forth.

8. The terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out and Japanese sovereignty shall be limited to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and such minor islands as we determine.

9. The Japanese military forces, after being completely disarmed, shall be permitted to return to their homes with the opportunity to lead peaceful and productive lives.

10. We do not intend that the Japanese shall be enslaved as a race or destroyed as a nation, but stern justice shall be meted out to all war criminals, including those who have visited

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cruelties upon our prisoners. The Japanese Government shall remove all obstacles to the revival and strengthening of democratic tendencies among the Japanese people. Freedom of speech, of religion, and of thought, as well as respect for the fundamental human rights shall be established.

11. Japan shall be permitted to maintain such industries as will sustain the economy and permit the exaction of just reparations in kind, but not those which would enable her to re-arm for war. To this end, access to, as distinguished from control of, raw materials shall be permitted. Eventual Japanese participation in world trade relations shall be permitted.

12. The occupying forces of the Allies shall be withdrawn from Japan as soon as these objectives have been accomplished and there has been established in accordance with the freely expressed will of the Japanese people a peacefully inclined and responsible government.

13. We call upon the Government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction.

End.

ORIGINATOR: OPD

INFORMATION: JC/S  
CG AAF  
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TOP SECRET

12 August 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DOOMAN.

Mr. Balfour, of the British Embassy, called and left with me the attached text of a telegram from Mr. Bevin to Mr. Balfour containing a draft of surrender terms.

Mr. Balfour said that this draft was tentative as it had not yet cleared with the Chiefs of Staff and with the Dominion Governments but represented in general the views of the British Government. He said that the British Government attached great importance to having the text and procedure settled and desire an opportunity to clear with the Dominion Governments before action and publication.

I told him that I would see that the document reached our military authorities promptly.

He read me also a telegram from the Foreign Office quoting the text (somewhat garbled) of a telegram sent by the Prime Minister to the President in which it was stated that the Prime Minister was in general accord with the procedure which the President proposed and designated Admiral Sir Bruce Austin-Frazer as the British representative.

Joseph W. Ballentine

Enc.

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(4)



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 1945

## STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

38 11.1

Nazi Germany has been defeated.

The Japanese people have felt the weight of our land, air and naval attacks. So long as their leaders and the armed forces continue the war the striking power and intensity of our blows will steadily increase and will bring utter destruction to Japan's industrial war production, to its shipping, and to everything that supports its military activity.

The longer the war lasts, the greater will be the suffering and hardships which the people of Japan will undergo -- all in vain. Our blows will not cease until the Japanese military and naval forces lay down their arms in unconditional surrender.

Just what does the unconditional surrender of the armed forces mean for the Japanese people?

It means the end of the war.

It means the termination of the influence of the military leaders who have brought Japan to the present brink of disaster.

It means provision for the return of soldiers and sailors to their families, their farms, their jobs.

It means not prolonging the present agony and suffering of the Japanese in the vain hope of victory.

Unconditional surrender does not mean the extermination or enslavement of the Japanese people.

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(9)



# The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1945—THIRTY PAGES. ★★★

President Truman today proclaimed V-E day and warned solemnly that with Germany defeated, the mightiest war machine in the history of the world will be turned against Japan.

"Gen. Eisenhower informs me that the forces of Germany have surrendered to the United Nations. The flags of freedom fly all over Europe," the President told the American people in a broadcast at 9 a.m., in which he also designated next Sunday, May 13, as a day of prayer and thanksgiving.

While announcing that the Nazi war machine had been finally crushed, the President gave no details of the surrender which had been flashed to the world 24 hours earlier by the Associated Press. In his address from London, Prime Minister Churchill filled in some of the details, while news dispatches added still more.

There was no mention by Mr. Truman of the possible lifting of such restrictions as the racing ban, the midnight curfew or the brownout, which had been promised for V-E day by former War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes. Later, the War Production Board announced the end of the brownout restriction.

#### Talks Informally With Reporters.

The Chief Executive's declaration about the power that will be thrown against Japan was made informally at a news conference shortly before his broadcast. There he discussed with reporters the messages to be given to the people and also issued a statement calling anew for the "unconditional surrender" of Japan and promising the Japanese people that to lay down their arms does not mean "their extermination or enslavement."

The suffering and hardship accompanying war will be "all in vain" for the Japanese, Mr. Truman asserted.

Members of the cabinet, congressional chiefs, military leaders of this and the British government and other officials attended the news conference. Mrs. Truman and Margaret, their daughter, also were there.

The President told the gathering that he also was sending congratulatory messages to Prime Minister Churchill, Premier Stalin, Gen. Charles de Gaulle and Gen. Eisenhower.

Turning to where the military leaders sat, Mr. Truman said he was informed by those leaders that the Japanese are going to have a terrible time from now on.

#### Job Only Half Done.

The President also stressed informally that with the defeat of Germany the job is only half done. Slowly he told the newsmen before him that he wants it emphasized time after time that the war is only partly concluded.

The President's V-E day proclamation, which was carried on all networks, was prefaced by a brief statement.

The President said simply:

"This is a solemn but a glorious hour. I only wish that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had lived to witness this day. Gen. Eisenhower informs me that the forces of Germany have surrendered to the United Nations. The flags of freedom fly all over Europe. For this victory we join in offering our thanks to the Providence which has

rejoicing of the American people "is sober and subdued by a supreme consciousness of the terrible price we have paid to rid the world of Hitler and his evil band."

He called on his fellow citizens to remember the sorrow which the war has brought to so many American homes and declared that the debt to the dead—and to our children—can only be repaid "by ceaseless devotion to the responsibilities which lie ahead of us."

"If I could give you a single watchword for the coming month, that word is—work, work, work."

Declaring that "when the last Japanese division has surrendered unconditionally, then only will our fighting job be done," the President added that then must come the work of building an abiding peace—"a peace rooted in justice and in law."

As Mr. Truman read this statement at his news conference, he looked up from the manuscript and told his audience that he wanted

to emphasize that this country wants peace and justice in law. And that is what we are working for at the San Francisco Conference and that is what we are going to get.

#### Big Job Ahead.

We've got a terrific problem facing us, the President continued in his informal remarks, adding that the opportunity is present either to make the world a happier place to live in or to go wrong. In his formal speech he said, "The job ahead is no less important, no less urgent, no less difficult than the task which now happily is done."

"I call upon every American to stick to his post until the last battle is won. Until that day let no man abandon his post or slacken his efforts," the President said.

In his V-E day proclamation, the President emphasized the same thought.

"The Allied armies through sacrifice and devotion and with God's help, have wrung from Germany a final and unconditional surrender," he said. But he added, "Much remains to be done. The victory won in the west must now be won in the east. The whole world must be cleansed of the evil from which half the world has been freed."

#### Recalls German Scorn.

In his proclamation he also referred to the Nazi military cliques that once "called up soft and weak," and when he was reading this to newsmen he looked up and said wryly that he would like to know what the Germans think of that now.

At his news conference also, the President said it was exceedingly fitting that Sunday, which he is proclaiming a day of prayer, is also Mother's Day.

In the statement on Japan which was not broadcast, the President said: "Nazi Germany has been defeated."

"The Japanese people have felt the weight of our land, air and naval attacks. So long as their leaders and the armed forces continue the war the striking power and intensity of our blows will steadily increase and bring utter destruction to Japan's industrial war production, to its shipping and to everything that supports its military activity."

#### Warning to Japan.

"The longer the war lasts, the greater will be the suffering and hardships which the people of Japan

will undergo—all in vain. Our blows will not cease until the Japanese military and naval forces lay down their arms in unconditional surrender.

"Just what does the unconditional surrender of the armed forces mean for the Japanese people?"

"It means the end of the war."

"It means the termination of the influence of the military leaders who have brought Japan to the present brink of disaster."

"It means provision for the return of soldiers and sailors to their families, their farms, their jobs."

"It means not prolonging the present agony and suffering of the Japanese in the vain hope of victory."

#### Does Not Mean Enslavement.

"Unconditional surrender does not mean the extermination or enslavement of the Japanese people."

In his congratulatory message to Gen. Eisenhower, Mr. Truman asked that he accept the "fervent congratulations and appreciation of myself and of the American people for the heroic achievements of your Allied Army, Navy and Air Forces" in bringing about "unconditional and abject surrender of the Nazi barbarians."

The President also praised "the superb leadership shown by you and your commanders in directing the valiant legions of our own country and of our Allies in this historic victory."

The Chief Executive also directed that his message be transmitted and published in all theaters of operation.

In his message to Prime Minister Churchill the President congratulated the head of the British government on the achievements of their armed forces and said that the Government of the United States is "deeply appreciative of the splendid contribution of all the British Empire forces and of the British people to this magnificent victory."

#### Message to Stalin.

To Premier Stalin he said: "You have demonstrated in all your campaigns what it is possible to accomplish when a free people under superlative leadership and with unflinching courage rise against the forces of barbarism."

To Gen. de Gaulle, Mr. Truman expressed "appreciation of the contribution made by valiant soldiers of France to our Allied victory."

As the news conference assembled in Mr. Truman's office at 8:30 o'clock, the President joked with the men and women about getting them up so early and then told them that he proposed to read his speech and proclamation to them but then they would have plenty of time to handle it as it would only take about seven minutes. He recalled that this was his own birthday and smiled when expressions of good wishes came from all quarters of the room.

Among the officials at the news conference were Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff; Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet; Admiral

William D. Leahy, the President's chief of staff, and Field Marshal Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, the British representative on the combined chiefs of staff.



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DRAFT - May 3, 1945

*Memorandum by the Under Secretary of Navy*

From: The Under Secretary of the Navy  
To: The Secretariat, SWNCC

I think it might be helpful if <sup>the State-War Navy Coordinating Committee</sup> SWNCC could consider and prepare a formulation of its views on the question as to whether it would be, first, feasible and, second, advisable for this Government to publish an expression of its intentions concerning Japan after Japan's defeat or surrender - in other words, explain to some extent what we mean by "unconditional surrender."

On the merits of such a suggestion the Navy <sup>Department</sup> has at present no opinion, but it does consider a discussion of the question advisable.

In many quarters it is being suggested that the fanatical last ditch resistance we are meeting with on the part of the Nazis might have been avoided, or mitigated, if the world, including Germany, had been told what we intend to do to Germany instead of being left to speculate about the consequences of "unconditional surrender." The lack of definition gave the Nazi propagandists an opportunity to <sup>c</sup> predict to their home population the direst of consequences. Perhaps they would have had less success in keeping their army and homefront together for a last ditch stand if it had been possible for this Government to state what its actual intentions were.

Certainly any pronouncement would have to be <sup>quite</sup> pretty general in character, but some things certainly could be said. We do not intend



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to kill <sup>all the Japanese</sup> every last Japn and we could, of course, tell them that much. We do not presumably intend to break up the main islands of Japan as an economic and political unit and we could say that, while at the same time repeating the assurance already given to the world by the Big Three that ~~we do intend~~ <sup>it is intended</sup> to strip the Japanese Empire of various areas which it has taken by aggression. We might even be able to say something about our proposed treatment of the Emperor, a subject which some authorities feel would have to be mentioned in any such pronouncement because of its emotional and semi-religious importance to the Japanese. There are doubtless other <sup>points</sup> ~~painful things~~ we could mention as things we do not intend to do to them and it is statements of this kind which would be most useful in any such pronouncement.

There is strong opinion in the Navy, <sup>Department</sup> to the effect that if such a proclamation were to be made, it should take the form simply of a statement of <sup>United States</sup> ~~our~~ policy by the President or the State Department, to the American people released for publication here. It is not felt that the system of propaganda broadcasts to Japan now sponsored by this Government should be used for the purpose because <sup>bringing</sup> ~~getting~~ it to <sup>attention at the</sup> the Japanese people in that way would detract from its credibility to them. No concern is felt about its getting to the Japanese adequately and convincingly if simply published here by this Government to its own people as an expression of our policy. The theory is that the Japanese ~~statements made solely for their consumption~~ will not believe ~~what we tell them~~ but will believe what this Government tells its own people.

The foregoing is submitted simply as a suggested topic of



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~~discussion at some early SWNCC meeting.~~



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SWMC 122

8 May 1945

Pages 1 to — Incl

State War - Navy Coordinating Committee

Defuncton of Unconditional Surrender Term for Japan

Note by the Secretaries

The enclosure, a memorandum presented by the <sup>Asst. Sec. Navy</sup> Under Secretary of the Navy, <sup>Adm. Navy</sup> is circulated for consideration by the Committee

Charles W. McCar

Alvin F. Rutan

Raymond E. Cox

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SWMC 122

8 May 1945

Pages 1 to — Incl

State War Navy Coordinating Committee

Definition of Unconditional Surrender Terms for Japan

Note by the Secretaries

The ~~enclosure~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~memorandum~~ <sup>draft Navy member</sup> presented by the Under Secretary of the Navy, <sup>Navy member</sup> is circulated for consideration by the Committee

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Alvin F. Rutledge

Raymond E. Cox

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