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## THESIS

The Political Utility of Nuclear  
Weapons in Nuclear War Termination

by

Mark K. Johnston

June 1989

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The Political Utility of Nuclear  
Weapons in Nuclear War Termination

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Submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of

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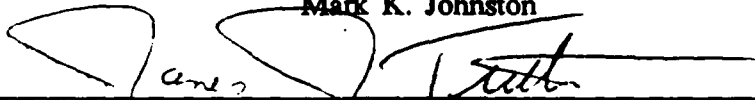
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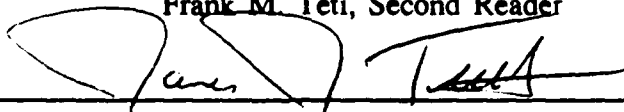
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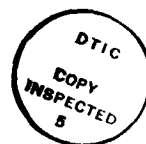
  
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## ABSTRACT

This thesis begins with a discussion of the theoretical aspects of nuclear war termination. Specifically, the objective of war termination, the requirements necessary to meet that objective, and the unclassified guidance available on war termination. As a more practical matter, the Soviet view of war termination is then covered. This is followed by a discussion of the goals of the United States in the event of a nuclear war and how those goals may change depending on the scenario. Finally, the surrender of Japan at the end of World War II is analyzed as a case study to determine the significant historical lessons which may be of value in the future. Particular attention is given to the political actions which were taken as a result of the use of nuclear weapons.



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## I. INTRODUCTION TO WAR TERMINATION

The subjects of war termination and the political utility of nuclear weapons are addressed in this thesis not because nuclear war is desirable or likely, but because the potential for a nuclear war exists. As a result, the United States should consider the possible results and the factors which could affect the outcome in an effort to ensure the most favorable terms in any future war termination agreement.

### A. OBJECTIVE

The United States objective for war termination is clearly described by Leon Sloss:

To end the war someone else is likely to have started, the United States must work to persuade the enemy to change his mind and to terminate the conflict short of achieving his original objectives. Thus, he must be forced to reassess either the cost of pursuing the war or the prospects for success.<sup>1</sup>

The difficulty in meeting this objective is in determining the best method(s) to be used to persuade the enemy to accept a cease-fire. In order to understand how this objective could be achieved, several related topics must be discussed. First, a brief definition of nuclear war termination, then a determination of what guidance has been provided for war termination over the last decade in the Defense Secretary's Annual

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<sup>1</sup>Leon Sloss, "Flexible Targeting, Escalation Control, and U. S. Options," Ending a Nuclear War: Are the Superpowers Prepared?, eds. Stephen J. Cimbala and Joseph D. Douglass, Jr. (New York: Pergamon-Brassey's International Defense Publishers, 1988), p. 2.

Report to the Congress. This will be followed with a discussion of the theoretical requirements for war termination and factors affecting the success of the negotiations.

## B. DEFINITION

At present, there is no accepted definition of what is meant by war termination. Some authors have provided definitions for their own work, but none have been widely accepted.<sup>2</sup> The concept of nuclear war termination is simple, the use of nuclear weapons has been stopped; it does not imply that all conflicts have been resolved. "War termination is a necessary but not sufficient condition for peace, since the discontinuation of hostilities does not perforce include positive progress towards peace."<sup>3</sup> War termination therefore, is one of the foundations for the establishment of a peace agreement and peace itself.

For the purposes of this paper, nuclear war termination is defined as the cessation (for any reason) of the use of all nuclear weapons; it is the transition from a state of nuclear war to one of conventional war or non-war. Nuclear weapons may cease to be used for several reasons: both nuclear arsenals are exhausted, the combatants reach a mutual cease-fire agreement, one opponent accepts defeat, or both sides agree to deescalate from a nuclear war to a conventional war. In any case, all of the remaining

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<sup>2</sup>Herman Kahn, William Pfaff and Edmund Stillman, War Termination: Issues and Concepts (New York: Hudson Institute, 1968), pp. 32-66; George H. Quester, "The Difficult Logic of Terminating a Nuclear War," Strategic War Termination, ed. Stephen J. Cimbala (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1986), p. 56; and SRI International Strategic Studies Center, War Termination Concepts and Political, Economic and Military Targeting (Arlington, Virginia: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, 1978), p. 3.

<sup>3</sup>Michael I. Handel, War Termination: A Critical Survey (Jerusalem, Israel: Alpha Press, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1978), p. 10.

nuclear weapons should be withheld by each side. In the event that an agreement were reached which allowed the continued use of some types of nuclear weapons, such as sub-kiloton nuclear artillery, the temptation to escalate would be much stronger than if the original nuclear threshold were reestablished. By agreeing to deescalate to a completely conventional war or to an end of hostilities, the combatants could return to a more familiar relationship. The conditions below the nuclear threshold will have changed vastly, both sides may have been devastated and the nuclear balance will have shifted to some unpredictable situation, but actions and responses are more clearly understood below the nuclear threshold. Additionally, mistaken interpretations may be less costly in a conventional war. It has been stated that all wars since World War II involving nuclear capable countries (the United States since 1945, the Soviet Union since 1947, etc.) have been nuclear wars, but that a nuclear option has only been used once.<sup>4</sup> With this perspective in mind, the question arises, does the prevention of crossing the nuclear threshold fall within the category of war termination or is war termination limited to methods of reducing the conflict?

In Western nuclear theory the limitation of deliberate or inadvertent growth in the scope of destruction of a conflict has traditionally been referred to as escalation control. The ability to impose escalation control at each and every level of the escalation ladder has been referred to as escalation dominance.<sup>5</sup> A contemporary view of escalation

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<sup>4</sup>James John Tritten, "Are Nuclear and Non-nuclear War Related?," The Journal of Strategic Studies, 11 (Sep. 1988), pp. 371, 372.

<sup>5</sup>Herman Kahn, On Escalation: Metaphors and Scenarios (New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1965), pp. 3-9.

dominance is that "the defending NATO forces are adequate to deny the Warsaw Pact any quick victory without NATO resort[ing] to nuclear weapons."<sup>6</sup> With these two perspectives in mind, it is clear that preventing escalation does not fall within the purview of war termination. Although escalation control/dominance is not a component of war termination it must be pointed out that these two concepts are related. The ability of one of the combatants to control the level of destruction would greatly enhance that sides bargaining position in any war termination efforts.

### C. GUIDANCE

In the event that a nuclear war has become unavoidable and the threat of retaliation has proven insufficient to deter the Soviets from an attack, the United States is expected to ride out the initial attack and then counter-attack with a measured response. Often the discussion of the war ends at this point. Before continuing, it is important for the reader to note that the Annual Report of the Secretary of Defense is not a war-fighting document, but a programming document. Therefore, it is possible that there is no relationship between its guidance and that of the classified war-fighting documents. In order to prevent classification of this thesis, these reports will be used and will be considered to at least be consistent with the intention of the actual guidance on war termination. The last ten years statements by the Secretary of Defense as recorded in his Annual Reports to the Congress are organized below:

1981      Brown

"-- to hold the elements of a reserve force for a substantial period after a strategic exchange." p. 6; also listed

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<sup>6</sup>Cimbala, Nuclear War and Nuclear Strategy: Unfinished Business (New York: Greenwood Press, 1987), p. 184.

- "Finally in the event deterrence fails, our forces must be capable...of preventing Soviet victory and securing the most favorable possible outcome for U.S. interests." p. 68.
- 1982      Brown      "should deterrence fail, to deny the aggressor its objectives or to retaliate so as to prevent it from gaining more than it would lose at any level of conflict..." p. 29.
- 1983      Weinberger      "to impose termination of a major war--on terms favorable to the United States and our allies--even if nuclear weapons have been used--and in particular to deter escalation in the level of hostilities;" p. I-18.
- 1984      Weinberger      "In the event of an attack, to deny the enemy his objectives and bring a rapid end to the conflict on terms favorable to our interests; and to maintain the political and territorial integrity of the United States and its allies." p. 16.
- 1985      Weinberger      "so that we might terminate the conflict on terms favorable to the forces of freedom, and reestablish deterrence at the lowest possible level of violence, thus avoiding further destruction." p. 29.
- 1986      Weinberger      "Should deterrence fail, to seek the earliest termination of conflict on terms favorable to the United States, our allies, and our national security objectives, while seeking to limit the scope and intensity of the conflict." p. 25.
- 1987      Weinberger      "but if deterrence fails, by fighting to restore the peace." p. 33.
- 1988      Weinberger      "should deterrence fail, by defeating the armed aggression and ending the conflict on terms favorable to the United States, our allies, and our interests at the lowest possible level of hostilities." p. 42.

- 1989      Carlucci                      "should deterrence fail, by defeating the armed aggression and ending the conflict on terms favorable to the United States, its allies, and interests at the lowest possible level of hostilities." p. 45.
- 1990      Carlucci                      "should deterrence fail, by defeating armed aggression and ending hostilities on terms favorable to the United States and its allies." p. 34.

There are two major themes and several less consistent themes in these statements which should be pointed out. First, the nuclear reserve force is to provide for a peace settlement which is more favorable to the United States than the Soviet Union. This theme appears in eight of the ten statements. This clearly recognizes that there will not be a "winner" in the sense of imposing an unconditional surrender upon a "loser." Instead the guidance recognizes that generous peace terms (far short of unconditional surrender) may be necessary to end a nuclear war. In this event, the terms should be such that they benefit the United States more than the Soviet Union. The necessity for a conditional surrender will become clearer after reviewing the requirements for nuclear war termination. The second major theme (listed in five of the ten years) is to limit the escalation to the lowest possible level. The NRF would be used to establish what is commonly called intra-war deterrence which means that having failed to persuade the enemy not to escalate, the threatened use of nuclear weapons is now used to compel the enemy to stop attacking. The change in concepts is subtle but important. Deterrence is "a threat made passively to persuade the other to remain passive." whereas intra-war deterrence or compellance is a threat "made actively to stop the other

[from] being active."<sup>7</sup> This is generally done through coercion, threatening the destruction of a highly valued item of the enemy.<sup>8</sup> There are three less frequent themes in the statements of the last ten years. The first is that the United States will defeat armed aggression. This concept has only appeared in the three most recent years. Second, is the theme that the United States will deny the enemy his objectives. This theme has appeared only twice and not since FY 1984. Finally, the idea that the United States will seek a rapid end to the conflict has also been stated twice.

#### D. REQUIREMENTS

Several academics have listed the assets that they consider necessary for the United States, the Soviet Union and in some cases the NATO allies to possess for successful nuclear war termination. Below is a list of items drawn from four sources and organized into three categories.<sup>9</sup> These requirements assume that there is no "winner" in which case the nuclear war will most likely be terminated by negotiations.

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<sup>7</sup>Lawrence Freedman, The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1981), p. 222.

<sup>8</sup>Cimbala, Nuclear War and Nuclear Strategy, p. 80.

<sup>9</sup>Sloss, pp. 3, 4; Robert G. Leahy, "The Mechanics of War Termination." Ending a Nuclear War: Are the Superpowers Prepared?, eds. Stephen J. Cimbala and Joseph D. Douglass, Jr. (New York: Pergammon-Brassey's International Defense Publishers, 1988), pp. 91-94, 127, 182; Barry R. Schneider, "War Termination for Strategic Nuclear Conflicts," Strategic War Termination (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1986), p. 129; Clark C. Abt, A Strategy for Terminating a Nuclear War (Boulder Colorado: Westview Press Inc., 1985), p. 142.

## 1. Personnel

### a. *A Legitimate Leader*

An authenticated (recognized) national level command authority must survive in each nation. In the United States, Presidential succession is provided for by several legal documents: the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, the 1947 Presidential Succession Act (61 Stat. 380) and United States Code, Annotated, Title 3, Section 19. The succession starts with the Vice President and in the event of simultaneous vacancies in the offices of the President and the Vice President, the national leadership then passes first to the Speaker of the House, then to the President pro tempore of the Senate followed by the Cabinet officers in the order in which their offices were established.<sup>10</sup>

In the event of certain dire military emergencies when the normal chain of command cannot be followed and immediate decisions are required by the National Command Authority (NCA), nuclear weapons release authority, goes from the President to the Secretary of Defense and then if necessary to military commanders in the field until a Cabinet member or other legitimate authority can be located. This delegation of the NCA is authorized by the National Security Act and delineated in a classified document known as the National Command Authority. It is endorsed by each President at the beginning of his tenure.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>Ronald C. Moe, Presidential Succession: A Short History (Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service Report No. 78-244 GOV, 1979), pp. CRS-1, 2.

<sup>11</sup>National Security Policy: Conflict over Control. Issue Brief No. 81086, Jul. 5, 1981, p.7, and Stewart W. Taylor, Jr., "Disabling of Reagan Provokes a Debate over Nuclear Authority in Such Cases," New York Times, Apr. 4, 1981, p. 9; as cited by Stephen W. Stathis, "Presidential Disability Agreements Prior to the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment,"



What would the United States NCA do in the event that a Soviet leader could not be authenticated, but there existed one or more non-recognized officials who demonstrated that they were in control of the remaining Soviet nuclear weapons? This question is not addressed by the academics and the answer is unclear. It is possible that the United States would negotiate with such individuals in an effort to end the nuclear strikes. It is equally possible that they could be viewed as illegitimate leaders who are in control of some nuclear weapons, but not enough to put them in control of the Soviet Union and therefore, they would not be qualified to be spokesmen or representatives of the Soviet people or the Communist Party.

*b. Pragmatic Political Leaders*

The political leaders that survive must be pragmatic and prevail over zealous war hawks, because historically the zealots cannot end a war once it has begun. A pragmatic leader is more likely to be able to objectively assess the situation, open negotiations, and reach a settlement. This capability has often eluded zealots caught up in conflicts throughout history. This point is discussed in great detail by Fred C. Iklé in Every War Must End.

2. Hardware

*a. A Nuclear Reserve Force*

In theory, a survivable and enduring nuclear reserve should be retained after a major attack to hold at risk those assets the enemy values most highly to effectively threaten their destruction and cause him to cease his offensive operations.

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Presidential Studies Quarterly, 12 (Spring 1982), p. 212.

Furthermore, these forces should consist of some weapons from each leg of the TRIAD to provide flexibility to the NCA in accomplishing this task. Realistically, this may or may not happen. This would prevent limiting a United States response to counter-value (primarily cities and civilians) targeting or any other single solution.

The reserve force should also be of sufficient size to prevent successful coercion by all enemies. If the enemies have retained a larger and qualitatively better reserve force than the United States, their bargaining position could be significantly better than that of the United States. It is therefore important to have a comparable reserve force both in size and quality.

*b. Command Centers*

Command centers must survive to provide a location for the evaluation of damage reports, intelligence estimates, and threat assessments. These centers will provide the NCA with the best data available on the condition of the nation and the status of the war. The NCA should also be able to coordinate his military, intelligence, and diplomatic assets from this location. Finally, these centers will provide an area for decision makers to develop and evaluate a strategy to bring the conflict to an end.

*c. Communications Capability*

Retention of communications capability is also vital to the success of any war termination effort. The NCA must be capable of communicating with the enemy to have an opportunity to establish a cease-fire. He must maintain communications with his own nuclear forces to maintain control and prevent actions which could be misinterpreted as hostile and escalatory in nature. This would also

allow for a verification of control over surviving forces. Since the United States does not intend to fight the war alone, consultation with allies would also be necessary to present a coordinated and cohesive response to any proposed peace agreement. Finally, the NCA must be able to inform the populace of his action, reassure them that every effort is being made to end the war and restore the peace. Communications will also be needed to provide information on relief efforts that are under way to provide the victims with assistance.

*d. Sensors*

The final hardware requirement falls into the category of warning and assessment capability. The NCA must have the sensors necessary: to assess damage around the world, to continue monitoring for another attack and provide warning, and to gather intelligence on enemy communications, plans and actions. The information provided by these sensors would allow for the evaluation of the enemy's capabilities and enhance the United States' bargaining position. Following a major nuclear strike the requirements for warning and assessment will be reduced. The requirements for detection will be less stringent because the knowledge that the attacks have stopped or are continuing will be more important to the establishment and monitoring of a cease-fire than the warning of where the warheads are targeted.<sup>12</sup> Is it likely that sufficient warning sensors will survive? The answer is probably yes, because enough of them are either relatively survivable space-based systems or mobile systems.<sup>13</sup> The damage

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<sup>12</sup>Leahy, p. 94.

<sup>13</sup>Leahy, p. 126.

assessment sensors may be another matter. They provide only the size and location of the detonations and this is fed into a computer program to determine what assets were destroyed and the amount of damage inflicted to the surrounding area.<sup>14</sup> These computers would not be expected to survive this attack.

Can the United States accept such uncertainties when ending a war? An agreement can always be reached, but the more information available to the United States negotiators, the less likely they will be bluffed or forced into accepting unfavorable terms. Likewise, the information could be used to the Soviets disadvantage in order to reach an agreement more favorable to the United States.

### 3. Diplomatic Requirements

#### a. *Enemy Authentication*

One of the primary functions of the diplomats working on the establishment of a cease-fire (or a more enduring peace agreement) will be for them to determine the authenticity of the enemies leaders and negotiators. They must verify that the individuals they are going to negotiate with are in fact the legitimate representatives of the USSR and that they are in control of all Soviet nuclear weapons in their arsenal. In the event that a legitimate Soviet leader is authenticated while an illegitimate leader is determined to be in control of some or all of the Soviet nuclear reserve force (NRF), how should the United States respond? Again the answer is unclear, and will probably vary with the scenario. The United States response may

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<sup>14</sup>Leahy, p. 126.

2longhinge on several factors such as demonstrated power of the individuals, international pressure to end the war, or internal support or dissent.

*b. Verification*

Once an agreement has been reached, it will be the job of the diplomats to ensure the cease-fire measures are being implemented and to clarify misunderstandings which could undermine the continued success of the agreement. Once a cease-fire has been successfully established, the diplomats will have to negotiate and conclude a long term peace settlement. Provisions of this agreement will also require diplomatic verification. The success or failure of the negotiations will depend on several key factors discussed below.

## E. FACTORS AFFECTING THE SUCCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

### 1. Positive Control

Successful wartime efforts to establish a cease-fire will hinge on both sides demonstrating positive control of their respective nuclear arsenals. Positive control will be necessary because each side will be very wary of the opponent and his intentions. Negative control, demonstrating the ability to prevent the continuation of nuclear strikes, is unlikely to provide either side with satisfactory proof of control. Demonstrating positive control can be accomplished in several ways. The most likely is that each side will demand that their opponent launch a specific type of weapon or a weapon from a specific ICBM field to an acceptable location, possibly mid-ocean. This will not only demonstrate positive control, but also show good faith by expending some of the remaining nuclear weapons. Positive control does not imply all nuclear strikes will cease. It may be perceived to be in the best interest of either or both

nations to continue selective strikes during the negotiations to enhance their credibility or to demonstrate their willingness to carry out threats which would make deterrence more effective in the future.<sup>15</sup> These strikes do not necessarily have to be strategic in nature, but could be conducted at the operational or tactical level. It is possible that if the negotiations are progressing, such strikes could be used to demonstrate deescalation (decrease from strategic attacks to theater attacks). By continuing to attack, both sides will demonstrate their willingness and capability to retaliate in an effort to enhance their enemies perception of them as possessing a credible deterrent.

## 2. National Will and Cohesion

A strong national will and cohesion both within the United States and among its allies, would enhance the bargaining position of the United States. If the divisions among the allies were minimized, and a coordinated international response was prepared, the Warsaw Pact might be prevented from reaching multiple peace accords which are not in the best interests of the NATO Alliance as a whole. Additionally, differences among groups within the United States could weaken the perception of United States negotiators as legitimate representatives of the nation and thereby weaken the United States' bargaining position. By keeping the United States public informed of the government actions, and its efforts to reach a nuclear cease-fire, national unity could be improved.

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<sup>15</sup>Quester, p. 65.

### 3. Willingness to Negotiate

If both sides can be made to feel that negotiating would be more beneficial than continuing the war, then the discussion will have a much better chance of producing an agreement that is acceptable to both parties and their allies. Public pressure within the nations and by the international community could improve this desire to negotiate and bring about a peace settlement.

### 4. Agreement

Finally, success in the negotiations will be much more likely to occur if both sides can agree who won and who lost or that the war resulted in a standoff. If there is a "winner" it would be in his own best interest to offer generous peace terms to the "loser" out of respect for the damage the "loser's" nuclear reserve could inflict upon the "winners" homeland. If the victor insisted upon the unconditional surrender of the vanquished there would be no reason for the "loser" not to use the remaining nuclear warheads prior to accepting such a surrender.

## F. CONCLUSION

The goal of nuclear war termination for the United States is to persuade the enemy to end the conflict without achieving his original objectives and on terms which are more favorable to the United States than the Soviet Union. In order to accomplish this, the United States must be able to meet the hardware, personnel, and diplomatic requirements outlined above. While both national leaders are expected to have a threatening nuclear reserve force to bargain with, the success of such negotiations will depend on the willingness of each nation to negotiate and reach agreements, as well

as their national and alliance cohesion and ability to demonstrate positive control over their respective nuclear reserves.

Up to this point, only Western concepts and theories of nuclear war termination have been discussed. Since the Soviet Union has been perceived as the primary enemy of the United States and is at present the only other nation with a nuclear arsenal capable of threatening the existence of the United States, their views of war termination must also be considered.



## II. SOVIET VIEW OF WAR TERMINATION

### A. INTRODUCTION

Having reviewed the Western theory of war termination it is appropriate to explore the Soviets statements on how wars are terminated. To understand the Soviet point of view, it is necessary to look at their statements on several topics. First, is the Soviet theory of *just war*, because it provides insight into the political objectives which the Soviets have historically said would lead the Soviet Union into a nuclear war. This will be followed with the views of Soviet authors on the possible forms of nuclear war (limited nuclear war, massive preemption or a decapitating strike). Finally, the question of how do Soviet authors define "victory" and what is its application to war termination?

The Soviets adopt much of their military doctrine from the writings of Clausewitz, who asserts that "the degree of force that must be used against the enemy depends on the scale of political demands on either side."<sup>16</sup> An application of this to a modern day nuclear war could be interpreted to read that a large scale nuclear war could only be justified when the enemy's objective is the complete annihilation of your nation-state as a sovereign political entity. American authors that believe this interpretation is

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<sup>16</sup>Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, edited and translated by Michael Howard and Peter Paret (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1976), p. 585.

correct, cite Soviet military authors that recommend a strategy which would result in large scale nuclear strikes.<sup>17</sup>

Following such a full scale global nuclear campaign by the Soviets, they could use approximately two-thirds of their nuclear weapons. Deterrence would have failed and both nations would have executed their major preplanned options. A state of war would continue to exist between the United States and the Soviet Union. If either nation were to use all of its nuclear weapons while its enemy withheld some small portion of its arsenal, the withholding nation would be in a much better position to force terms of surrender on its enemy. In order to prevent this type of coercion both nations are expected to retain a portion of their arsenals (one-third is assumed here) as a nuclear reserve force (NRF). The Soviets are expected to target intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) fields, long-range bomber bases, SSBN home ports, nuclear weapons production and storage facilities, many military bases, key defense industries, and politico-military command and control centers.<sup>18</sup> The damage inflicted could reach 50% of the United States population and 75% of the industrial base.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>Cimbala, Nuclear War and Nuclear Strategy, pp. 86-91.

<sup>18</sup>William Lee, "Soviet Nuclear Targeting Strategy and SALT," World Communism at the Crossroads, ed. Steven Rosefielde (Boston: Martinus Nijhoff Publishing, 1980), p. 57.

<sup>19</sup>K. V. Tarakanov, Matematika i vooruzhennaya bor'ba (Moscow: Voenizdat, 1974), pp. 185-186; as cited by Graham T. Allison, Albert Carnesale, and Joseph S. Nye, Jr., Hawks, Doves and Owls: An Agenda for Avoiding Nuclear War (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1985), p.174.

What can be inferred, from Soviet military doctrine and from other analyses, about the Soviet NRF? What have Soviet authors historically said about how their NRF would be utilized to stop the conflict?<sup>20</sup>

## B. JUST vs. UNJUST WARS

Authors of Soviet doctrinal writings, prior to Gorbachev's climb to power, assert that any military action undertaken in the defense of socialism or a liberation movement is by definition a *just war*. Only "imperialist powers" are capable of conducting aggressive wars.<sup>21</sup> Therefore, a war is justified based on its social content and political objectives, not on the basis of morality as in the West. Soviet denunciations of *unjust wars* are a call for disarming the "imperialists," but do not eliminate the Soviet capability to conduct *just wars* of similar scale and using similar weapons.

Participation in such *just wars* will not necessarily limit the Soviets to defensive battles. Their strategy claims (as does ours) that the best defense is a strong offense and their taking the offensive in a *just war* is exactly what we should expect.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>Because of the present upheaval generated by glasnost, perestroika, and democratization throughout every aspect of Soviet society, it is impossible to predict with any certainty how Soviet Military Doctrine will change. As a result, this interpretation will require review when Soviet society has stabilized.

<sup>21</sup>A recent example is Colonel-General G. Sredin, "Marxist-Leninist Doctrine on War and the Army," Strategic Military Review, No. 10 (Oct. 1983), p. 7. Colonel-General Sredin was the Chief of the Lenin Military-Political Academy in October, 1983.

<sup>22</sup>Ye. Rybkin, rev. of Bases of Marxist Leninist Teachings on War and the Army, by Major-General V. Serebryannikov (Moscow: Voenizdat, 1982); translated by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, JPRS 83924, p. 38; N. N. Azovtsev, V.I. Lenin and Soviet Military Science (Moscow, 1981), p. 32; as cited by Mark E. Miller, Soviet Strategy Power and Doctrine: The Quest for Superiority (Bethesda, Maryland: Advanced

Soviet writings since 1986 assert that nuclear weapons have created a new way of thinking which should have as its top priority, the survival of mankind.<sup>23</sup> Clearly, the Soviets do not want or intend to use nuclear weapons to establish the world-wide Communist Utopia described by Marxist-Leninist ideology. An unrestricted nuclear war is a dire last resort and will only occur if it is "forced" upon the Soviets.<sup>24</sup> What then is occurring in the Soviet Union and how will it alter their views on war and war termination?

One view is that there is a social revolution underway which will be as significant to the Soviet Union as the October Revolution.<sup>25</sup> This has occurred because the Soviet leadership experienced the reality that modern war depends heavily upon the industrial base and the Soviet Union's industrial base has fallen behind. This implies that their command economy cannot be sure of winning a war with their class enemies. Because

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International Studies Institute, 1982), p. 210.

<sup>23</sup>Mikhail Gorbachev, Perestroika: New Thinking for Our Country and the World (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1987), pp. 140-149.

<sup>24</sup>Robert L. Arnett, "Soviet Attitudes Towards Nuclear War: Do they really think they can win?," The Journal of Strategic Studies, 2, No. 2 (Sep. 1979), pp. 175-177; Stephen Meyer, "Would the Soviets Start a Nuclear War?," Washington Post, Dec. 4, 1981, p. 15; Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, "Soviets on Nuclear-War-Fighting," Problems of Communism, 35, No. 4 (Jul.-Aug. 1986), pp. 68-79; Stephen J. Cimbala, Nuclear War and Nuclear Strategy p. 67; Raymond L. Garthoff, "Conflict Termination in Soviet Military Thought and Strategy," Conflict Termination and Military Strategy: Coercion, Persuasion, and War, eds. Stephen J. Cimbala and Keith A. Dunn (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1987), pp. 39, 40.

<sup>25</sup>This argument is based heavily on a paper prepared for the Director, Net Assessment, Office of the Secretary of Defense, by Dr. Robert Bathurst, Some Problems in Soviet-American War Termination: Cross/Cultural Asymmetries (Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School, 1988).

this contradicts Marxist-Leninist doctrine, the present military doctrine is not expected to survive.

An opposing view is put forth by Dr. Stephen J. Cimbala in his latest book, Nuclear Endings: Stopping War on Time.<sup>26</sup> He states that the United States has misdiagnosed the problem. American leaders believe that the internal weaknesses of the Soviet system, combined with aggressive U.S. prodding have rolled back Soviet aggression around the world and these forces are now causing the Communist Party to crumble. Dr. Cimbala claims that such beliefs are "folly in pursuit of myth."<sup>27</sup>

He points out several weaknesses in the perspective. First, the Kremlin knows that such aggressive Western policies will only last until the next election. Second, it assumes that the Soviet leadership lacks legitimacy which he argues was established in the 1970s by the conclusion of various East-West accords. Third, Gorbachev is only a figurehead for the collective leadership of the Kremlin and therefore this personality cult has been developed to manipulate the foreign press and public.

He recommends that the United States instead recognize the stability and continuity of the Soviet regime and the implications that this has for the United States and other class enemies.<sup>28</sup> From this perspective the existence of capitalism is objectionable to the Soviets. The implication is that capitalism is the "enemy," although not necessarily a provocative enemy, and also that the Soviets will continue to attempt to defeat

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<sup>26</sup>Stephen J. Cimbala, Nuclear Endings: Stopping War on Time (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1989), pp. 125-131.

<sup>27</sup>Cimbala, Nuclear Endings, p. 129.

<sup>28</sup>Cimbala, Nuclear Endings, p. 130.

capitalism, by means short of war. If for some unknown reason the Soviets cannot avoid a war with the United States, "it is the duty of the Soviet armed forces to prosecute that war...toward victory."<sup>29</sup> This view reaches the conclusion that there is no sweeping change underway in the Soviet military.

Clearly, these two perspectives are in opposition to one another. At present it is difficult to see any significant shift in the Soviet force structure, but at the same time it appears that there is a great deal of political fluctuation. It is possible that once political stability returns, the military will be appropriately restructured. It is equally possible that there will be only minor changes in the Soviet force structure accompanied by a great deal of propaganda. At present the answer is unclear.

### C. LIMITED NUCLEAR WAR

Many Western authors have written about a limited nuclear war, but the Soviets seldom broach the topic. General of the Army, S. Ivanov, made reference to the "theoretical" possibility of the superpowers utilizing selective nuclear strikes for the "purposes of scaring one another."<sup>30</sup> But in order to successfully scare the Soviets, nuclear weapons would have to fall on their homeland, and any strike against the U.S.S.R. is (by Soviet definition) a strategic attack. The announced Soviet response to a strategic attack is very clear: their doctrine calls for a massive retaliation to gain the initiative and victory. The best that can be expected would be an escalation to

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<sup>29</sup>Cimbala, Nuclear Endings, p. 131.

<sup>30</sup>General of the Army, S. Ivanov, "Soviet Military Doctrine and Strategy," Voyennaya mysl', No. 5 (May 1969), p. 49. Ivanov was commandant of the General Staff Academy from 1968 to 1973.

general nuclear war; the worst would be a massive preemptive strike in an attempt to defeat the United States prior to this escalation.

A possible exception would be a limited nuclear war in Europe which excludes nuclear strikes against the U.S.S.R.<sup>31</sup> In response to a Soviet offensive in Europe, NATO doctrine calls for "a flexible and balanced range of appropriate responses, conventional and nuclear, to all levels of aggression or threats of aggression."<sup>32</sup> Since the NATO Alliance does not maintain a conventional force of sufficient size to defend against a full-scale ground attack by the Warsaw Pact, NATO commanders would be required to use tactical nuclear weapons to offset this asymmetry in conventional forces and to defeat a Soviet offensive. As a result of such a war in Europe "between 2 and 20 million Europeans would be killed, with widespread damage to the economy of the affected area and a high risk of 100 million dead if the war escalated to attacks on cities."<sup>33</sup> Because of the NATO Alliance and the grave devastation that would occur, any nuclear war in Europe, could easily escalate into a global war.

The technical capability to conduct a limited nuclear war is clearly available to the Soviet leadership, but it is generally not discussed publicly by them.<sup>34</sup> Two possible reasons for this are: first, that the Kremlin may feel that public acceptance might create a range of "safe" nuclear options for America's leadership; and second,

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<sup>31</sup>Garthoff, p. 45.

<sup>32</sup>Freedman, p. 285.

<sup>33</sup>Alain C. Enthoven and K. Wayne Smith, How Much is Enough?: Shaping the Defense Program, 1961-1969 (New York: Harper & Row, 1971), p. 128.

<sup>34</sup>Desmond Ball, "Can Nuclear War Be Controlled?," Adelphi Papers, No. 169 (London: International Institute for Strategic Studies, 1981), p. 34.

that these "safe" options would undermine deterrence by making their use more acceptable to American political leaders.<sup>35</sup> By publicly maintaining that a limited nuclear war is unacceptable, the Soviets are keeping the nuclear threshold at a level which minimizes the likelihood of deterrence failing. In the event it does fail, the Soviets have a command and control structure adequate to implement limited options, if they so desire.

#### D. MASSIVE PREEMPTION

The success of the massive German surprise attack on June 21, 1941, has not been forgotten by the Politburo and they continue to ensure that it will never happen again.<sup>36</sup> As a result of this deep Soviet commitment to preventing another successful surprise attack, the Soviets plan for a different type of war; a war which is defensive in nature, but which uses offensive tactics to ensure the success of their defensive strategy. Soviet descriptions of nuclear war postulate that all other means of conflict resolution have failed and the indicators they use for strategic warning foretell the inevitability of nuclear detonations on Russian soil. Having reached the undesirable conclusion that an attack by the West is imminent and unavoidable, the Soviets would opt for

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<sup>35</sup>Miller, p. 224.

<sup>36</sup>Nathan Leites, Soviet Style in War (Santa Monica, California: Rand Corporation, 1982), p. 374.



preemption<sup>37</sup> to limit the damage to their homeland and to seize the initiative.<sup>38</sup> Some theoreticians claim that the Soviets no longer accept this as a part of their doctrine, having made in 1982 a public commitment to no first use of nuclear weapons.<sup>39</sup> But those less trusting of the Soviets insist that they have only changed their vocabulary; instead of using the term "preempt," the Soviets now intend to "repel," "abort," "forestall," or "frustrate" a surprise attack.<sup>40</sup>

What has really happened? Has the leadership of the Soviet Union really forgone the option of using nuclear weapons first or have their public pronouncements merely become propaganda? Is this an effort to bring about public pressure in the West for arms reductions? The answers remain undecided, but should be resolved not based on Soviet speeches, but on Soviet actions. One must turn to the Soviet force structure for a clearer picture about whether the new phraseology is merely a disguise for the old doctrine of preemption.

The Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces consist primarily of ICBMs. The remainder of their strategic forces are on SSBNs and long-range bombers, which maintain low alert rates compared to United States strategic forces. The Soviet hard-target kill (HTK) capability resides almost completely in their ICBMs. Since most Soviet ICBMs are

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<sup>37</sup>Until the 27<sup>th</sup> CPSU Congress in 1986, the Party Program included the two following phrases: Should the imperialist aggressors nevertheless venture to start a new world war, the peoples will no longer tolerate a system which drags them into devastating wars. They will sweep imperialism away and bury it. Gorbachev, p. 148.

<sup>38</sup>Garthoff, p. 43; Cimbala, Nuclear War and Nuclear Strategy, p. 87.

<sup>39</sup>L.I. Brezhnev, "Brezhnev's Statement," New York Times, Jun. 16, 1982, p. A20.

<sup>40</sup>Miller, p. 212.

presently in fixed locations, they are more easily targeted than SSBNs or bombers which can be deployed. Therefore, in order to reduce the risk of losing their hard-target "killers" and to gain the initiative during the initial stage of the war, it probably remains the Kremlin's intention to launch their strategic arsenal first.

#### E. DECAPITATION

Would the Soviets aim to destroy the United States National Command Authority (NCA) or its communications links with U.S. strategic forces to prevent retaliation following a Soviet preemptive strike? Several pieces of information have been provided by Soviet leaders. One Soviet source implies that the expertise of personnel in high technology industries is a criteria for the selection or avoidance of that city as a target.

In selecting any specific region as the target and determining the sequence of nuclear strikes against it...it is important to study the relative importance of specific regions (objectives) to the industrial production of the country, especially...the relative importance of the region as a population center of the country, and especially as a source of qualified and scientific-technical personnel....<sup>41</sup>

It is widely supposed that among the principal targets of the Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces are the centers of politico-military administration, command and control.<sup>42</sup> The selection of these two target sets is not so much a strategy of decapitation as a strategy for damage limitation and victory. While these are among the principal targets listed

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<sup>41</sup>Colonel M. Shirokov, "The Question of Geographic Influences on the Military and Economic Potential of Warring States," *Voyennaya mysl'*, No. 4 (Apr. 1968), p. 36.

<sup>42</sup>Lee, p. 57.

by Marshal Krylov, this does not mean Soviet strategy is based upon successfully decapitating the United States.<sup>49</sup> By destroying the NCA and diminishing the effectiveness of the command and control systems, the Soviet intent would be to minimize the U.S. ability to authorize a response and thereby reduce the effectiveness of the retaliation.

It is generally thought by most Western authors that the Soviets have no desire to conduct a nuclear war at any cost; but that if the capitalist forces were to decide to unleash a nuclear war, the Soviets would feel fully justified in preempting with a first strike in their own defense. The question arises: Do the Soviets really believe they can win a nuclear war?

#### F. VICTORY

Soviet writers have both asserted and denied that "victory" could result from a nuclear war. It is necessary to analyze the author, the occasion, and the audience to appraise the authoritative weight of any Soviet statement. A compilation of the context of some Soviet statements on victory would show that those who advocate victory in a nuclear war generally are military leaders, while those who denounce such concepts generally are political leaders. This division is probably best explained as follows:

Soviet military leaders can be cited arguing either side of the question whether victory in nuclear war is possible. It is a contextually dependent answer, however offered. If the writer is explaining the imperatives of Soviet ideology, it is stated deductively that the superior Socialist system must prevail over the decadent capitalist one. If, on the other hand, the writer or speaker is addressing the destructiveness of nuclear weapons and modern war, the analysis is more

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<sup>49</sup>For detailed explanation of decapitation strategy, see Cimbala, Nuclear War and Nuclear Strategy, pp. 84-86.

pessimistic about the outcomes. Soviet theoreticians at one and the same time proclaim the inevitable victory of socialism and the devastation of nuclear war.<sup>44</sup>

Many authors including those in the Department of Defense strongly disagree with this interpretation.<sup>45</sup> The 1988 edition of Soviet Military Power states:

Although recent Soviet statements appear to reject their previously held positions, these cannot be accepted solely at face value, particularly in light of unabated Soviet efforts to develop and deploy the forces necessary to support a nuclear-war-winning strategy.<sup>46</sup>

If the Soviets believe they could win a nuclear war, several more questions must be asked: How is victory defined? What is deterring the Soviets at present? And what fruits of victory can the Soviets really expect to harvest? The Soviet military generally defines victory as the attainment of the assigned political objectives. In the event of a large scale nuclear war, Western authors expect the Soviet objectives to be:

1. Defeat of the enemy forces and potential.
2. Seizure of Strategic Areas.

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<sup>44</sup>Cimbala, Nuclear War and Nuclear Strategy, p. 75. Cimbala's footnote gives credit for the original explanation to Raymond L. Garthoff, Detente and Confrontation: American-Soviet Relations from Nixon to Reagan (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institute, 1985), p. 780.

<sup>45</sup>For additional opposing views see Miller, pp. 186, 188, 195, 200, 201, 204, and 226; Lee, p. 57; Garthoff, pp. 43, 44; Joseph D. Douglass, Jr., and Amoretta M. Hoerber, Soviet Strategy for Nuclear War (Stanford, California: Hoover Institution Press, 1979), pp. 2, 3 and 5; Joseph D. Douglass, Jr., "Nuclear War Termination: Soviet Style," Ending Nuclear War: Are the Superpowers Prepared?, eds. Stephen J. Cimbala and Joseph D. Douglass, Jr. (New York: Pergamon-Brassey's International Defense Publishers, 1988), p. 29; and Benjamin S. Lambeth, "Contemporary Soviet Military Policy," The Soviet Calculus of Nuclear War, eds. Roman Kolkowicz and Ellen Propper Mickiewicz (Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Books, D.C. Heath and Company, 1986), p. 29.

<sup>46</sup>Soviet Military Power (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1988), p. 96.

3. Occupation and Control.
4. Ideological Conversion.<sup>47</sup>

## G. CONCLUSION

The Soviets believe nuclear war with the United States should be avoided if at all possible. They do not desire to go to war against the United States, but they understand that the possibility exists. Even though the likelihood of war is very small, logic tells them that they must be prepared to fight, and that means fighting to win. While the potential for war between the United States and the Soviet Union is small, it does not mean the Soviets have given up their appetite for the fruits of war. Much of their language has changed, but their nuclear arsenal continues to grow. This is a strong indication that there are no sweeping changes underway in the force structure, or at the military-technical level of Soviet military doctrine.

In the event that the Soviets are unable to prevent a nuclear war, their military leaders continue to focus on a nuclear-war-winning strategy which they claim will end with a victory for the Socialist system. This is the only form of war termination the Soviets write about.

With this understanding of the Soviet view of victory and war termination, a Western view of these areas will be discussed next. If a nuclear war erupted, what should be the goals of the United States? What would the goals be once a nuclear war started? What negotiating conditions are completely unacceptable? These are vital questions because the answers will provide a framework which will change the future

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<sup>47</sup>Douglass and Hoerber, pp. 14-31. An alternative set of objectives is provided in Miller, pp. 186, 187.

of the world. It would be the beginning of a new era in history, one which could lead to a much more stable world order if it is properly arranged.

Clausewitz states that the military objective of any war is guided by its political purpose which is to force the enemy to do the victor's will.<sup>48</sup> When all political and diplomatic methods have failed, the only means of accomplishing this political purpose is through combat. In order to reach this goal, Clausewitz lists 3 broad objectives to be accomplished in war:

1. The enemy's forces must be destroyed (put in such a condition that they can no longer carry on the fight),
2. The country must be occupied, and
3. The enemy's will must be broken (the enemy's government and its allies must be driven to ask for peace, or the population must be made to submit).<sup>49</sup>

These objectives are very close to the Soviet's goals in victory, but the United States' goal is very different.

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<sup>48</sup>Clausewitz, p. 90.

<sup>49</sup>Clausewitz, p. 90.

### III. U.S. NATIONAL GOALS IN WAR TIME

#### A. INTRODUCTION

Both Western and Soviet views of war termination have been presented along with the Soviet goals for a general nuclear war. This chapter will deal primarily with the goals of the United States for the same situation. It will begin with what has been the number one National Security Objective since they were first articulated in the fiscal year 1986 Secretary of Defense Report to Congress. This is a broad statement of the current national goal should war occur. The majority of the chapter will discuss what the goals of the nation may become in the event of war. A set of goals is theorized for each of three scenarios: the United States loses the war, the United States wins the war, and finally both nations lose.

##### 1. Contemporary National Security Objective

The primary national security objective is to:

safeguard the United States, its allies, and interests by deterring aggression and coercion; and should deterrence fail, by defeating the armed aggression and ending the conflict on terms favorable to the United States, its allies, and interests at the lowest possible level of hostilities.<sup>30</sup>

The failure of deterrence could lead to the type of global nuclear war referred to in Chapter 2. The essence of our national defense strategy is to persuade potential

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<sup>30</sup> Secretary of Defense Carlucci, Fiscal Year 1989 Annual Report to Congress (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1988), p. 45. This document is primarily a programming strategy, and as such is not a definitive source for war-fighting goals. It is assumed that the goals listed by the Secretary of Defense in this document for procurement are consistent with the national war-fighting goals.

adversaries that the cost of their aggression will outweigh any possible benefit. This is accomplished by deterrence through three methods:

1. Rewarding the aggressor for withholding his attack,
2. Denying the aggressor his objectives, and/or,
3. Punishing the aggressor with a retaliatory attack.

In the event that an enemy is not convinced that a Pyhrric victory is the only possible result and launches a nuclear attack, the United States nuclear "strategy calls for securing all United States and allied interests, denying the aggressor his war aims, and causing or convincing him to stop his aggression."<sup>51</sup>

In order to ensure the success of deterrence, the preplanned nuclear options of the United States are targeted at the assets believed to be most valuable to the Soviet leadership and most useful for waging war. These assets are the Soviets Strategic Rocket Forces, conventional forces, military-industrial complex, and Communist Party leadership and control structures.

## B. CHANGING GOALS

Once a general nuclear war has started, the goals will undoubtedly change to meet the situation. Three possible situations will be discussed: The United States is perceived to be the "loser," the United States is seen as the "winner," and both nations lose.

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<sup>51</sup>Carlucci, p. 57.



## 1. Scenario 1: United States Loses

If the United States is perceived as having lost this war with little or no chance of altering the situation, then it can no longer justify continuation of the war and must ask for a peace settlement. In this event, some aspects of American culture must be preserved.

### a. *Maintaining the Political Tradition: Republican Form of Government*

First among these ideals is the present form of government, a republic. It is best described in the Declaration of Independence, "That to secure these (unalienable) rights (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness), governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...."<sup>52</sup> Those in authority must continue to be subject to dismissal by the people for their decisions, actions or inactions. In order to maintain a responsive government, those in a position of authority must be held accountable to those they govern. This does not mean the bureaucratic structure will not change, quite the contrary, the needs of the nation will most likely have changed drastically. Entire government departments and agencies may have to be eliminated or reorganized to alleviate the new burdens placed on the population. The most flexible and responsive political system capable of accomplishing this task is a republic where those who set the national priorities for recovery can be monitored by the majority. Since the demands on the government are likely to be overwhelming and the resources available to meet those demands scarce,

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<sup>52</sup>Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. Congress, July 4, 1776 and the Preamble of the Constitution which contains the most general and basic objectives of the United States Government.

the leadership will have to remain sensitive to the needs of those they are representing while carefully rationing vital resources to rebuild the nation as rapidly as possible. This will be an extremely delicate balancing act and exceptionally difficult to conduct successfully.

*b. Maintaining the Value System: The Bill of Rights*

Having preserved national independence and a government in the form of a republic, the next important aspect of the society requiring preservation is the Bill of Rights. These rights include, freedom of assembly, speech, press, and religion, and prevent unreasonable searches and seizures, double jeopardy for a single offense, self incrimination and the taking of life, liberty or property without due process of law. The Bill of Rights is not limited to the first ten amendments of the Constitution. It also includes those civil liberties which provide equality to every individual regardless of religion, race, age, or sex. These liberties and rights along with other freedoms are central to the theme of individualism upon which America and the majority of the Free World operates. Therefore, in any peace negotiations, the freedoms which nurture individualism must be protected. A republic which lacks civil and human rights is not a country in which individuals can realistically claim to be free. A republic, which legitimizes (through laws or other means) discrimination, abuses civil rights or eliminates the due process of law, is essentially a totalitarian state run by an elite group. In order to avoid elitist rule and to allow the United States to return to a similar historical path, individualism and its supporting rights, liberties and freedoms must be preserved and allowed to flourish.

c. *Maintaining the Economic System: Free Enterprise*

Following a nuclear war, it has been postulated that a restoration race will occur.<sup>33</sup> In this race, those attacked in the war will begin rebuilding their military as rapidly as possible, in order to minimize their vulnerability following the war. As each nation restores its security forces it can then focus on rebuilding factories, farms and homes.

Rebuilding factories, for both military and civilian sectors, will be most efficiently accomplished by maintaining a free enterprise economy with some start up subsidies for vital industries. Having a national heritage of initiative and persistence and retaining the present "Bill of Rights," the logical system of economics to use for this restoration race would be the free market system. It creates incentives for individuals with imaginative ideas to provide new products or services. It allows individuals and small companies to compete with large corporations and it minimizes the number of unprofitable companies. It will allow individuals to propose different paths for recovering different industries and will provide competition which should eliminate the least efficient companies. These industries should be supported by government subsidies only until the military has refortified and national security is restored, after which subsidies should be ended.

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<sup>33</sup>One such example is Michael Kennedy and Kevin N. Lewis, "On Keeping Them Down; or, Why Do Recovery Models Recover So Fast?" *Strategic Nuclear Targeting*, eds. Desmond Ball and Jeffrey Richelson (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1986), pp. 194-208.

*d. Maintaining the Resource Base*

A full recovery for the United States will also depend on the peace negotiators retaining sufficient elements of national power (geographic territory, raw materials, populations, etc.) to operate the economic system. The United States will need a great many materials to recover including coal, oil, steel, aluminum, lumber and food. Initially it may be impossible to grow sufficient food or operate within certain geographic areas. To compensate for this situation the United States will have to obtain supplies from its allies and depend on the open market. In order to ship large quantities the shipping and rail industries will be of vital importance. Air transport will be necessary for time urgent shipments. Equally important, the United States will require a large labor force to grow food where feasible, and operate and repair functional equipment. The recovery will undoubtedly take decades, but retaining the necessary resources or access to those resources will be of vital importance to the nation.

2. Scenario 2: United States Wins

Discussion up to this point has focused on what must be preserved, as if theoretically, the Soviet Union had won or been perceived as the "winner." What if the theoretical "winner" or the perceived "winner" were the United States? What should the United States' demands be?

The failure of the Treaty of Versailles to maintain peace in Europe, and the success (up to the present) of the lenient terms used at the conclusion of World War II suggest that reasonable concessions would be the most beneficial. A United States insistence on unconditional surrender would remove any reason the Soviets had for

withholding their NRF and could result in unnecessary devastation of the United States. Therefore, a United States victory will most likely be based upon a conditional surrender and lenient peace terms, considering the devastation inflicted by both sides. What terms should the United States insist on?

Establishing the right of the people to elect their government should be the first priority for the United States leader, and the primary concession demanded of the Soviet Union. The Communist Party should be disbanded and outlawed; and its members forbidden from ever holding public office. Those members who committed war crimes should be tried and punished. The people should then be allowed to hold free elections to determine who would lead them and what type of government they desire.<sup>34</sup> They would most likely vote to maintain a Socialist government which could provide some minimum level of health care, income, and housing. While this may not be the type of country we want for them, it leaves them open to our influence and provides for the possibility of change.

One of the primary functions of the Communist Party is believed to be self-preservation; therefore, free elections will be extremely difficult to obtain. If the Soviets have lost (or are perceived to have lost), then it will be necessary for the United States' negotiators to convince them that they can no longer claim to be the legitimate government; and if necessary, the U.S. and its allies should use military force to pressure acceptance of this concession. The peace agreement should include provisions to ensure compliance with this and other provisions.

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<sup>34</sup>To some extent this process is underway today under Gorbachev's policy of democratization. Whether this will lead to western type democracies is still unknown.

A new Constitution should also be drafted in which the new leadership of the Soviet Union will decide for itself which rights it will claim for its people as inalienable. The United States and its allies should only require that individual equality be guaranteed, all other rights should be left to the Soviets to select.

The economic system should also be decided upon by the new Soviet leadership. In the face of so much change (all new leaders and a new constitution) it is unlikely that there will be any desire to change the economic system. One change that should be strongly recommended to the new leadership is land reform. For centuries many of the Soviet people have wanted to own the land that they farm. Returning the land to the Soviet farmers may be one way to restore initiatives to a society that has become dependent on the government for nearly everything. By giving all of the farmers ten to fifteen acres instead of the one or two acres they own today and eliminating unproductive collectives, it may also be possible to increase the productivity of Soviet farmlands and greatly reduce the food shortages within a few years. Since land reform may conflict with the new form of government, the decision should be left to the new Soviet leadership.

Removal of the Communist Party will eliminate the need to dissolve Russia as a nation-state. Several of the regions may secede from Russian control and form new states based on the prevailing ethnic groups within the region. Control of the East European countries should also be an independent choice for the people in those regions. These countries should likewise be allowed to select a new government and leaders, excluding Communist Party members as well as a new economic system. The

Soviet Union will still have sufficient natural resources in the form of oil, ores, farmland, etc., to rebuild once again.

### 3. Scenario 3: Both Nations Lose

A third outcome besides win or lose, is the possibility that both sides will lose. In this case, neither superpower is capable of recovering fully and those nations which rise to prominence will establish a new order in the world. The Peoples Republic of China (PRC) is a possible winner in this scenario. One of the primary reasons the Soviet Union is believed to have an NRF is to prevent this Chinese dominance.

This situation has the potential of being worse than the defeat of the United States. This is because of the possibility of national anarchy. It is possible that the entire fabric of society could disintegrate. In light of that possibility, the first priority would be the maintenance or restoration of a functional social order.

In any effort to restore order to society the elements of national identity (political, military, and economic systems) must be reconstituted. It is likely that remnants of each element will remain which can be built upon, but the remnants would at best provide only a framework.

Politically, a functional government would have to be established which could perform the essential tasks of administering public policy. The ability to conduct international relations would not be immediately essential, but would become very beneficial once physical reconstruction were to begin. The needs of the nation could be phenomenal and its own capability to meet those needs very limited. In addition to organizing international aid, the government would primarily be most needed to

establish internal order. The demands could be so great and the resources so disorganized that the government may initially have to act as a giant clearing house, delegating tasks to be accomplished by organized work battalions, and rationing food as payment.

Enforcement during this era, would most likely be heavily dependent on martial law. The military would be most useful as a police force. The external threats would decrease somewhat because of the reduction of the nation's wealth. There will continue to be some necessity to protect the national boundaries, but maintaining internal control will probably have a higher priority.

Rebuilding a functional economic system will also be essential. It will probably be necessary to revert back to a primarily agricultural society for several years until there is sufficient food and shelter for the population. Development beyond this level will depend on the resources and skills available. It is possible that not much progress will be made beyond this point for many years. It could also turnout that after recovering from this traumatic period, the individualism that built America will be rekindled in some key individuals and they will try building a better nation. In either case a functioning economic system, whether agricultural or industrial, will be necessary for subsistence and improving the quality of life.

### C. CONCLUSION

The United States nuclear strategy is founded on deterrence, preventing aggression through reward, denial of objectives, or punishment through retaliation. In the event that deterrence should fail to prevent a nuclear war, the President may have to enter negotiations which should have as its goals, protection of the following:



1. **The Republican Form of Government--elected officials answerable to the electorate,**
2. **The Value System--human rights which provides equality for all,**
3. **The Free Enterprise Economic System, and**
4. **The Resource Base--national territory and natural resources.**

Since it is theoretically possible to win such a war, the United States should also have a contingent set of goals and demands for the negotiations. The recommended goals are:

1. **Disband the Communist Party and hold free elections,**
2. **Draft a more democratic Constitution, and**
3. **Allow the new government to establish a new economic system.**

While this penalty seems exceptionally lenient in view of the envisioned destruction, it should be remembered that the Russians, like the Japanese and Germans, have the potential to become future allies. An alliance or a balance of power among the present superpowers would provide the opportunity for true stability in international relations.

In the event that both nations are devastated and neither could be considered to have won even a Pyrrhic victory, the United States goals will most likely be to:

1. **Establish a functional government to maintain societal order and to obtain international assistance,**
2. **Reconstitute a military force, primarily to provide law and order, and**
3. **Rebuild a functional economic system to initially meet the minimum requirements of human existence and then possibly improve the standard of living.**

#### IV. THE JAPANESE SURRENDER

This case study will describe some of the events that led to the World War II surrender of Japan. It will mainly cover the period from the Potsdam Proclamation to the Emperor's public announcement of the surrender to the Japanese people.

##### A. INTRODUCTION

The initial call for Japan's surrender came on December 1, 1943, in the Cairo Declaration. This document which was issued by the leaders of the United States, China, and Great Britain, called for the unconditional surrender of Japan. It called for the return of all the territories Japan had stolen from China and the independence of Korea, the islands in the Pacific which Japan had seized following the start of World War I, and all other territories which had been taken by violence. This was the only formal call for Japan to surrender until the Potsdam Proclamation.

By early April, 1945, the island of Okinawa was invaded. This caused the entire Cabinet to resign because of their failure to prevent the enemy from landing on Japanese territory. They were immediately replaced by the Suzuki Cabinet which was instructed by the Emperor "to make every effort to bring the war to a conclusion as quickly as possible."<sup>55</sup> Almost immediately, Suzuki ordered a study of Japan's fighting capabilities. The translation is printed in the United States Strategic Bombing Survey,

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<sup>55</sup>United States Strategic Bombing Survey. "Japan's Struggle to End the War," No. 2 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1946), p. 6.

as the "Survey of National Resources as of 1-10 June 1945," and clearly shows their inability to win the war. The study stated that the food situation had worsened, public morale was deteriorating, shipping space had dropped from 6 million tons at the wars outset to 1 million tons, steel production had been so reduced, that ship construction could not continue past mid-year, the lack of coal would soon cause suspension of operations of various industrial areas, and the oil reserves were nearly exhausted.<sup>56</sup>

The study was so negative that Suzuki asked ex-Premier Hirota to sound out the Russian Ambassador (Malik) for his opinion of the possibility that Russia could act as an intermediary between Japan and her enemies. Hirota was also to attempt to extend the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact, if possible, beyond its expiration date of April, 1946. Suzuki also had the Japanese Ambassador in Moscow (Sato) prepare the way for improved Russo-Japanese relations so that Russia might, at the appropriate time, intercede on Japan's behalf and end the war.<sup>57</sup>

Meanwhile, as a result of Germany's collapse and the deteriorating situation on Okinawa, the Japanese Army was preparing a document entitled, "The Fundamental Policy to Be Followed Henceforth in the Conduct of the War," which was a call for a decisive battle in the homeland, even if it resulted in the self-destruction of the entire Japanese race.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>56</sup>United States Bombing Survey, pp. 16-18.

<sup>57</sup>Robert J.C. Butow, Japan's Decision to Surrender (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1954), pp. 90-91; United States Strategic Bombing Survey, p. 6.

<sup>58</sup>Butow, pp. 92-93; Lester Brooks, Behind Japan's Surrender (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1968), pp. 139-141.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, the Japanese Army suddenly called for a meeting of the Supreme Council for the Direction of the War (the Big Six). The Council was made up of six members: the Premier (Suzuki), the Foreign Minister (Togo), the War Minister (Anami), the Navy Minister (Yonai), and the Chiefs of the Army (Umezu) and Navy (Toyoda) Staffs.<sup>59</sup> The agenda had only one item, "The Fundamental Policy." The argument presented by the military was that the entire nation would rise up and fight to the death in an attempt to repel the enemy from the Japanese home islands. They reasoned that the closer the enemy came to the homeland, the stronger the resolve of the Japanese people would become. The two supporting background documents "Estimate of the World Situation," and "The Present State of the Nation," read very much like the study Suzuki had performed in April and May.

Foreign Minister Togo entered the Big Six meeting, uninformed about the contents of the Fundamental Policy, and was shocked by its fire-and-brimstone call for a fight to the death.<sup>60</sup> After reading the report, he endeavored to counter the Army's arguments, pointing out Japan's weak air defenses and dwindling supplies, but his voice fell on deaf ears. The others were either ardent supporters of the policy or had decided to remain silent. Togo was unable to convince them of the policy's weaknesses and did not prevent the policy's adoption in the face of such overwhelming support.

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<sup>59</sup>Butow, p. 81.

<sup>60</sup>Brooks, pp. 139-142; Butow, pp. 93-97.

One explanation of the support for the Fundamental Policy is that the military did not really expect to win the war, but instead intended to win an operational victory before opening negotiations with the expectation that it would improve their bargaining position and provide a more favorable settlement.<sup>61</sup> In addition, the Fundamental Policy could be used to increase the peoples productivity and improve their morale.

In the end, the Big Six unanimously adopted the Fundamental Policy. The following day, Premier Suzuki presented the Big Six's decision to the Cabinet and explained how the Fundamental Policy would be implemented. The invaders would be defeated with kamikaze tactics. The people of Japan would become human explosives "who would throw themselves beneath the enemy's tanks" as well as the now familiar pilots in training aircraft "which would hurl themselves at the enemies war fleets and transports."<sup>62</sup> In addition, there would also be suicide submarines, crash boats, human torpedoes and human mines. The Cabinet approved all of these measures.<sup>63</sup>

The following day, June 8<sup>th</sup>, an Imperial Conference was held to obtain the imperial sanction, the ultimate seal on the policy. Present at the conference were the Emperor, the Big Six (or their personal representative), the President of the Privy Council (Hiranuma), the Munitions Minister (Teijiro Toyoda - not the same as Soemu Toyoda who was Chief of the Navy General Staff), the Agriculture and Commerce Minister (Ishiguro), and four members of the secretary group. In the presence of the Emperor,

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<sup>61</sup>Butow, p. 95.

<sup>62</sup>Butow, p. 99.

<sup>63</sup>Brooks, p. 143.

the discussions of the previous two days were repeated, while the Emperor listened attentively. The standard procedure was to present the Emperor with a unanimous decision and not to trouble the god-man with the details of the arguments for or against the proposition. In the event the Big Six could not reach a unanimous decision, the Imperial Conference would not be held. The purpose of the Imperial Conference was to record the final decisions on extremely grave matters of state in the presence of the Emperor. The Emperor did not normally speak on such occasions, but merely listened and departed at the conclusion of the presentation.<sup>64</sup>

On this occasion, only Foreign Minister Togo sounded a warning. At the conclusion, Suzuki requested everyone's opinions, but they all remained silent. So he asked if he could assume that everyone was in agreement and again, no one answered. Suzuki then concluded that there were no objections to the Fundamental Policy and the meeting was brought to a close.<sup>65</sup>

## B. THE POTSDAM PROCLAMATION

A month and a half later on July 26, 1945, the governments of the United States, China, and Great Britain issued a new declaration calling for the unconditional surrender of Japan, the Potsdam Proclamation. While this proclamation called for unconditional surrender, there were several terms listed:

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<sup>64</sup>Butow, pp. 99, 100; Brooks, p. 143.

<sup>65</sup>Butow, p. 100.

1. The militarists had to be removed from power,
2. Parts of Japan would be temporarily occupied until the basic objectives of the proclamation were achieved,
3. Japan would retain the four main islands and some as yet undetermined minor islands,
4. The Japanese military must be disarmed and disbanded,
5. War criminals would be tried and punished by the Allies,
6. A democratic government would be established,
7. Japan would be allowed to rebuild its industries, but not those which would enable Japan to militarily rearm, and
8. The occupation forces would be withdrawn once the objectives had been accomplished and there had been established in accordance with "the freely expressed will of the Japanese people a peacefully inclined and responsible government."

The Proclamation also stated that the Allies would not tolerate a delay in Japan's acceptance of these terms and included a warning that prompt and utter destruction could result.<sup>66</sup>

### C. JAPAN'S RESPONSE

The proclamation received considerable debate at the highest levels of Japan's government the following day. Because the proclamation was basically an order to surrender, instead of an invitation to negotiate, it was not well accepted by many of the members of the Big Six or the Cabinet. Foreign Minister Togo realized that the

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<sup>66</sup>Raymond Denet and Robert K. Turner, eds., Documents on American Foreign Relations 1945-1946 (Norwood Massachusetts: Norwood Press, 1948), pp. 105-111.

terms offered were the best Japan could get at that time and that it was worded broadly enough that a favorable interpretation of the terms could be of some benefit to Japan.<sup>67</sup> He therefore argued in the meetings of the Big Six and the Cabinet that efforts to obtain Russian mediation must be more heavily pursued in order to have the terms clarified, preferably in Japan's favor. In light of the divided opinion, Togo also argued that the government should not make any formal statement regarding the Potsdam Proclamation.

Premier Suzuki had a view similar to Togo, but slightly different. Instead of Togo's "wait and see" response, Suzuki used the word "*mokusatsu*," which literally translates as "kill with silence," but is more frequently translated as "treat with silent contempt," or simply "ignore it."<sup>68</sup>

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that a sanitized version of the proclamation would be released to the press without comment. While the proper version was released to the press, the newspapers also stated that the government's attitude toward the proclamation was "*mokusatsu*." All of this appeared in the morning papers on July 28<sup>th</sup>.<sup>69</sup> How this statement reached the press remains unknown.

The possible repercussions of this statement were serious. In light of their attempts at opening negotiations through Russia's good offices, this statement appeared to be a

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<sup>67</sup>Butow, p. 143.

<sup>68</sup>Butow, p. 145; Brooks, p. 160.

<sup>69</sup>Butow, p. 145.



complete contradiction of their actions. The government was achieving the exact opposite of its desired goal.

The morning of Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> was also the regular weekly meeting of the Supreme Command and the press statement was the major topic. The Army and Navy Chiefs of Staff and the War Minister felt that the phrase "*mokusatsu*" was inadequate and called for a government statement which denounced the Potsdam Proclamation. The Navy Minister, Yonai, attempted to calm his colleagues, but to no avail. Foreign Minister Togo had been called away on urgent business leaving Premier Suzuki to pacify the militarists.<sup>70</sup>

Even after considerable discussion, Suzuki refused to disclaim the proclamation completely. At this point the Chief Cabinet Secretary, Sakomizu, suggested a compromise. Since a press conference was scheduled for 4 p.m. that afternoon, it would provide an opportunity for Suzuki to respond to a question regarding the proclamation without the government providing an official statement. The Premier would be provided a statement to give in response to the "planted" question.

The statement was to be drafted by Sakomizu and the Political Affairs Chiefs of the Army and Navy. Sakomizu prepared one statement after another, but every correction came back more forcefully worded. As time became short, a satisfactory statement was agreed to and provided to the Premier. In response to the planted question, Suzuki said,

I think the joint declaration by the three powers is nothing but a repetition of the Cairo Declaration. The government does not see much value in it. All we have

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<sup>70</sup>Butow, pp. 147, 148; Brooks, pp. 160, 161.

to do is *mokusatsu* it. What we should do is devote ourselves to the prosecution of the war.<sup>71</sup>

While the cabinet secretary may have intended for "*mokusatsu*" to be interpreted as "no comment," it was read by the foreign press and governments as a contemptuous rejection of the Allies ultimatum. As a result, the government which found the Potsdam Proclamation to be vague enough to open negotiations and was only waiting on a response from Russia, ended up eliminating any chance of a negotiated success. This linguistic fumble provided the United States with the justification it needed for using the atomic bomb and likewise provided Russia an excuse for invading Manchuria.

During the next week or so, Togo pressed Sato (Japan's Ambassador in Moscow) for a Soviet reply. In turn Sato met with Vice Foreign Commissar Lazovsky on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July. Lazovsky was noncommittal, but promised to inform Molotov upon his return from Potsdam that Sato had come seeking an answer to his government's request. Molotov did not reach Moscow until August 5<sup>th</sup> and Sato was not given an appointment until 5 p.m. on August 8<sup>th</sup> (11 p.m. Tokyo time).

#### D. HIROSHIMA

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, at 8:15 a.m. a single B-29 dropped a 20 kiloton (TNT equivalent) atomic weapon on Hiroshima. The immediate result was a brilliant flash, incinerating heat and extremely high winds which destroyed 90% of the city's buildings and indiscriminately killed 80,000 Japanese.<sup>72</sup> The Emperor was informed approximately

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<sup>71</sup>The preceding two paragraphs as well as the quote were drawn from Brooks, pp. 162, 163.

<sup>72</sup>Brooks, p. 165.

one hour later, by the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, Kido. He was told that a new type of weapon had been used on the city of Hiroshima and that it had wiped out "scores of thousands of men, women, and children and laid waste to the city; the god reacted as a man."<sup>73</sup>

The Emperor had spent much of the previous night in the Imperial air raid shelter discussing affairs of state with his brother and had not slept much. This, combined with the rumor of the obliteration of the innocent people of Hiroshima, brought tears to the Emperor's eyes. Kido later said, "He was overwhelmed with grief for the innocent civilians who were its victims."<sup>74</sup>

The Emperor, heavily disturbed, said, Under these circumstances, we must bow to the inevitable. No matter what happens to my personal safety, we must put an end to this war as speedily as possible, so that this tragedy will not be repeated.<sup>75</sup>

The Emperor's resolve had been solidified, his personal desires would soon become action.

#### E. AUGUST 7<sup>th</sup>

The following day, the enemy was heavily broadcasting the news of its use of the atom bomb. News trickled into Tokyo on the conditions in Hiroshima, but there was

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<sup>73</sup>Brooks, pp. 169, 170.

<sup>74</sup>Leonard Mosley, Hirohito, Emperor of Japan (London, England: Prentice-Hall International, Inc., 1966), p. 312; Brooks, p. 170.

<sup>75</sup>Mosley, p. 312; Brooks, p. 170. None of the quotes attributed to the Emperor are based on a transcript of the Emperor's actual words, but instead on the recollection of the participants in an effort to record the meaning of his speech.

very little solid evidence. Both the Japanese Army and Navy considered the matter still under investigation and the evidence unsubstantiated.

That afternoon the Cabinet met and Foreign Minister Togo took the initiative to review the conditions as he understood them. He then pointed out the implications for continuing the war when the enemy had demonstrated that it had the "ultimate weapon." He urged serious consideration of the Potsdam Proclamation. The other ministers wouldn't hear of it. War Minister Anami said that until the facts could be verified, Japan should proceed with caution.<sup>76</sup> In the face of the gravest circumstances, the Cabinet remained deadlocked and failed to act.

#### F. AUGUST 8<sup>th</sup>

The following day no official meetings occurred. Togo did have an audience with the Emperor in the afternoon at which time he relayed a detailed report of the information contained in the enemy's news broadcasts to Hirohito. He also emphasized the gravity of the situation and recommended an acceptance of the Potsdam Proclamation to end the war.<sup>77</sup> The Emperor was unhappy with the failed efforts towards peace, the increasing misery of his people and the perverted logic of the military extremists that caused the conflict to continue. He wanted only to stop the bombings and end the killing. Hirohito told Togo that:

since the nation can no longer continue the struggle with this weapon opposing it, Japan should not miss the chance for peace by vain efforts to secure better terms. There is little hope of bargaining for more favorable conditions now;

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<sup>76</sup>Brooks, p. 170.

<sup>77</sup>Butow, p. 152.

therefore, all efforts should be concentrated on ending the fighting quickly. Tell the prime minister of my thinking.<sup>78</sup>

After withdrawing from the Imperial presence, the Foreign Minister knew he had the Emperor's full support for a peace initiative and that he must now find a way to bring that omnipotent influence to bear on those who opposed terminating the war.<sup>79</sup>

Foreign Minister Togo visited Privy Seal Kido and informed him of the Emperor's statement prior to stopping to discuss the matter with Premier Suzuki. Having heard Togo's version of the Emperor's statement and thoughts, Suzuki agreed that a meeting of the Big Six was in order. The earliest the Big Six could coordinate a conference would be 10:30 a.m. the following morning.<sup>80</sup>

At 11 p.m. that evening (5 p.m. Moscow time) Ambassador Sato met with Molotov hoping for a favorable response to Japan's request for Soviet mediation. The Emperor had also requested that Prince Konoye be admitted to Russia as a special envoy to deliver a personal message from the Throne. Sato had high hopes for these requests. As Sato and his secretary entered Molotov's office, he began to greet Molotov, but was tersely interrupted by him. Molotov informed him that he had a communiqué from the government of the Soviet Union to the government of Japan. Molotov then proceeded to read to him Russia's Declaration of War upon Japan (less than 1 hour away).

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<sup>78</sup>Brooks, p. 171.

<sup>79</sup>Butow, p. 153.

<sup>80</sup>Brooks, p. 171.

While Molotov said that Sato would be able to cable Japan, Sato's message never arrived. At 1 a.m. (Japan time) the forces of the Soviet Union invaded Manchuria.<sup>81</sup>

The Neutrality Pact had failed to hold off an attack from the Soviet Union. The formal declaration of war was not presented to the Japanese government until August 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### G. AUGUST 9<sup>th</sup>

At approximately 10 a.m. the following morning, the Privy Seal, Kido, arrived at the palace for an audience with the Emperor. The Emperor immediately informed Kido that hostilities had been commenced by the Soviet Union and ordered him to coordinate with Premier Suzuki to reach a rapid end to the war. Coincidentally, Suzuki was arriving at the Palace as Kido was departing from his audience. Kido immediately informed him of the Emperor's expressed desire to end the war and again impressed upon him the urgency of the situation. Suzuki concurred with the Emperor's opinion and stated that he felt that the time for negotiating had passed, and that Japan must now accept the terms of the Potsdam Proclamation with the reservation that the Imperial structure would be retained. Suzuki hastily departed to expedite the upcoming session of the Big Six and a follow-up meeting of the Cabinet.<sup>82</sup> At about this same time the city of Nagasaki was obliterated.

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<sup>81</sup>Butow, pp. 153, 154; Brooks, p. 172; Louis Morton, "The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb," Foreign Affairs, 35 (Jan. 1957), p. 351.

<sup>82</sup>Butow, p. 160; Brooks, p. 58.

## 1. Supreme Council Meeting

The meeting began at about 11 a.m. and with an atmosphere of the utmost urgency, Premier Suzuki recapitulated the events of the past three days and stated that in view of the latest developments, it was no longer possible to continue the war. He also urged acceptance of the terms the enemy had offered at Potsdam. This was followed by a period of silence which was finally interrupted by Navy Minister Yonai. As the Navy Minister saw it the terms could be accepted in one of two ways. First, accept the proclamation with a single reservation, the continuation of the Imperial house; or second, negotiate for more favorable terms, in three additional areas: the disarmament process, the punishment of war criminals, and the occupation of Japan.<sup>83</sup>

Accepting the proclamation with only the one reservation was preferred by Premier Suzuki, Foreign Minister Togo, and Navy Minister Yonai (the commitment of each of them varied). They argued that based on the enemy's attitude, any additional reservations or stipulations would cause the enemy to ignore Japan's proposals and lead to an immediate breakdown in discussions.<sup>84</sup>

War Minister, Anami, Army Chief of Staff, Umezu, and Navy Chief of Staff, Toyoda, all preferred to negotiate additional terms. On the three areas, the militarists each agreed with the desired terms. First, they wanted to completely prevent any occupation of Japan or at least the city of Tokyo. In addition, they wanted to limit the number of occupied locations and occupying forces to the bare minimum. Second,

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<sup>83</sup>Butow, p. 160; Brooks, p. 58.

<sup>84</sup>Butow, pp. 160-163.

it would be unfair for war criminals to be tried, judged, and sentenced by a victorious enemy. That responsibility should be carried out by senior Japanese officers. Finally, these men wanted to disarm and demobilize their own forces, in effect, accepting the surrender of their own men. They wanted it to appear that the military had voluntarily disbanded in order to prevent the world from collapsing into chaos. A successful accomplishment of these three goals would provide an appearance to future generations that the Japanese military had not been defeated.<sup>65</sup>

Each side argued their points vigorously and endlessly. During this meeting, news of the destruction of Nagasaki reached the meeting but had no affect.<sup>66</sup> "It was like a conference of the walking dead."<sup>67</sup> At 1 p.m., with the three to three stalemate unresolved, Premier Suzuki adjourned the meeting and postponed the Cabinet meeting until 2 p.m.<sup>68</sup>

## 2. Cabinet Meeting

Shortly after 2 p.m., Premier Suzuki called the meeting to order and asked Togo to review the situation. He outlined the arguments presented at the Big Six meeting after which the meeting rapidly deteriorated into an intense debate over the same two choices. The discussion which should have been academic at this point and rapidly resolved, instead continued unabated. At 5:30 p.m., a one hour recess was called after which the arguments were again repeated. Shortly before 10 p.m., Premier

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<sup>65</sup>Butow, p. 161; Brooks, pp. 58-61.

<sup>66</sup>Butow, p. 163; Brooks, p. 57.

<sup>67</sup>Mosley, p. 313.

<sup>68</sup>Brooks, p. 63.



Suzuki called for a consensus but it was to no avail, the members remained hopelessly deadlocked. Since a unanimous opinion had again evaded the national leaders, the meeting recessed for the evening.<sup>89</sup> During this meeting, a petition for an Imperial Conference was drafted and signed by the Premier and the two Chiefs of Staff. The latter two signed under the pretense that once a consensus was reached, this would speed along the process of organizing an Imperial Conference. After all, the Emperor had never before been presented with anything other than a unanimous decision and he had rarely spoke at such events even though he might have personally opposed the decisions presented to him. This action by the Chiefs of Staff, taken for their own convenience, would prove to be a mistake.

### 3. The Imperial Conference

Following the Cabinet meeting, Premier Suzuki and Foreign Minister Togo briefed the Emperor on the *fruitless wrangling* and the resulting deadlock. Then Suzuki presented the petition and proposed convening an Imperial Conference that night. His Majesty agreed. All three of them realized the potential significance of this unprecedented event. For the first time in the history of the Imperial system, the Emperor himself could be in a position of deciding national policy. For hundreds of years this situation had resulted in the dissolution of the existing Cabinet and formation of a new Cabinet. Only because of the exceptional circumstances was Suzuki able to

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<sup>89</sup>Butow, pp. 164, 165; Brooks, pp. 66-72; Mosley, pp. 313, 314.

recommend, and the Emperor willing to accept, convening an Imperial Conference with the intention of having the Emperor resolve such a dispute.<sup>90</sup>

Anami, Umezu, and Toyoda were livid when they received their respective conference calls and realized that the signed petition had been used. Regardless of these feelings, they now had to respond to the Imperial summons.

#### H. AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup>

Shortly before midnight, the Emperor entered the underground air raid shelter adjoining the Imperial library as the members of the Imperial Conference stood up and bowed. Premier Suzuki had the Chief Cabinet Secretary read the Potsdam Proclamation and brief the two alternatives. It was also noted that in the earlier cabinet meeting six members had favored accepting the ultimatum with only one reservation, (guaranteed maintenance and security of the Imperial family); three desired additional conditions in the areas of disarmament, punishment of war criminals and the occupation of Japan; and five were neutral, but desired reducing the number of conditions.

At this point, Togo was asked to speak for his point of view. He repeated the necessity of not responding with so many conditions that the enemy would consider the response a rejection and refuse to negotiate further. His position was supported by Yonai.

The War Minister was then provided an opportunity to present his arguments. He pointed out that without the additional conditions, the war should be continued in order to inflict a decisive blow at the enemy on the homeland. This would gravely wound

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<sup>90</sup>Butow, p. 165; Brooks, p. 72; Mosley, p. 314.

the invaders and allow the Japanese to negotiate and obtain all four conditions before the enemy regrouped. If the military proved unable to repel the first assault, Anami argued, then the entire Japanese race would prefer death to the dishonor of surrender. The extinction of 100 million people would be Japan's mark on history. This entire statement was supported by both Umezu and Toyoda.

The majority of the rest of the meeting was spent bringing the President of the Privy Counsel, Hiranuma, up to speed on the current events and answering his questions. He was not a member of either the Cabinet or the Big Six and as a result he repeated and belabored every point all over again. In the end, he agreed with Togo's point of view.<sup>91</sup>

Of those who had spoken, they were evenly split, three to three. Suzuki once again took charge of the meeting, it was nearly 2 a.m. He stated the obvious, that the group was hopelessly deadlocked, but then he did the unexpected. Emphasizing the gravity of the situation and the importance of overcoming this impasse, Suzuki deviated from centuries of tradition and asked the Emperor for his opinion. (He also stated that this opinion should be substituted for the decision that the Cabinet had been unable to reach.) Never before in the previous 2,600 years of the Imperial system had an Emperor been requested to convey his opinion on any issue brought before him. Normally a stalemate of this sort would have been resolved by dissolving the Cabinet and forming a new one. On this occasion, the Emperor must have felt that the crisis

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<sup>91</sup>Butow, pp. 168-174; Brooks, pp. 76-85; Mosley, pp. 314, 315.

was so severe and the penalty for inaction so great, that he must act immediately to end the turmoil, regardless of the cost.

The Emperor rose to his feet, visibly emotional. "For a few moments his Adam's apple gulped so much that it got in the way of his words and what came out at first was high and strained and abrasive. And then, slowly he took courage and calmed down."<sup>92</sup>

I have given serious thought to the situation prevailing at home and abroad and have concluded that continuing the war can only mean destruction for the nation and prolongation of bloodshed and cruelty in the world. I cannot bear to see my people suffer any longer. Ending the war is the only way to restore world peace and to relieve the nation from the dreadful distress with which it is burdened.<sup>93</sup>

Hirohito then pointed to several failings of the military and implied that as a result, Japan was not defensible. Towards the end of his speech, he returned once again to the sorrow he felt as the father of his race.

I cannot help feeling sad when I consider the people who have served me so loyally, the soldiers and sailors who have been killed or wounded in the battlefields overseas, the families who have lost their homes and so often their lives as well in the air raids here. I need not tell you how unbearable I find it to see the brave and loyal fighting men of Japan disarmed. It is equally unbearable that others who have given me devoted service should now be threatened with punishment as the instigators of the war. Nevertheless, the time has come when we must bear the unbearable.<sup>94</sup>

His voice faltered momentarily and then he concluded,

All of you, I think, will worry about me in this situation. But, it does not matter what will become of me. Determined as I have stated, I have decided to bring

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<sup>92</sup>Mosley, p. 316.

<sup>93</sup>Butow, p. 175; Brooks, p. 105; Mosley, p. 316.

<sup>94</sup>Butow, pp. 175, 176; Brooks, p. 107; Mosley, p. 317.

the war to an end immediately. For this reason I agree with the Foreign Minister's proposal.<sup>95</sup>

The descendant of the Sun Goddess had expressed his desire. Between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m., the Cabinet met and unanimously approved the Emperor's wishes, thereby making the Imperial desires into a binding legal action. By the early morning hours of August 10<sup>th</sup>, Japan's acceptance of the Potsdam Proclamation with one clarification were en route to the Allied powers. Later that same morning Soviet Ambassador Malik would deliver Russia's declaration of war to Foreign Minister Togo. This was a mere formality since Japan knew of the war shortly after the invasion of Manchuria began at 1 a.m. on the morning of August 9<sup>th</sup>. At the same meeting he was informed of Japan's acceptance of the Potsdam Proclamation.<sup>96</sup> On the evening of August 10<sup>th</sup>, the first scientific confirmation of an atomic bomb at Hiroshima was received by the Japanese government. The Army had received confirmation earlier, but withheld the information.<sup>97</sup>

Because of the location of Japan and the United States, with respect to the international date line, Japan's telegram of acceptance with the single proviso, arrived in Washington, D.C., at about the same time it had left Tokyo. This was unusual since it was not sent to Washington, D.C. directly, but to the Swiss and then passed on to the Americans.

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<sup>95</sup>Brooks, p. 108; Butow, p. 176; Mosley, p. 317.

<sup>96</sup>Butow, p. 181; Brooks, pp. 175-177.

<sup>97</sup>Brooks, pp. 193, 194.

In the early morning of August 10<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State Byrnes, presented Japan's telegram at a White House conference to the President, the Secretaries of War and Navy, the President's Chief of Staff, military and naval aides, and the Director of the Office of War Mobilization. Byrnes view, which was later adopted by the President, was that the United States should not abandon its insistence for an unconditional surrender, but that if terms were going to be offered, the United States should be making the offer.

The result was that Byrnes drafted a response which implied that the Emperor would be supervised and possibly restricted by the Supreme Commander. It had to be carefully worded because the United States would be speaking for Russia, Great Britain, and China as well. For this reason the response could not be written in such a way that it could be interpreted to alter the terms listed at Potsdam. The response was intended as a clarification, not a commitment. Quoted below is the key portion of the response which was approved by the three Allies as well.<sup>98</sup>

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 ultimate form of government of Japan shall, in accordance with the Potsdam Declaration, be established by the freely expressed will of the Japanese people.<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>98</sup>Butow, pp. 190, 191.

<sup>99</sup>Dennet and Turner, pp. 105-111.

## I. AUGUST 12<sup>th</sup>

The Allies had all responded before midnight on August 10<sup>th</sup> and the United States response was dispatched to the Swiss shortly thereafter. In addition, the text was released to the press and radio. Shortly after midnight on August 12<sup>th</sup>, the Japanese received a San Francisco broadcast containing the complete text of the response of the United States government. After forty-eight hours of rising tension and self-doubt, the Japanese now had the basis for conducting a preliminary discussion and formulating a response.

The reactions to the American response was predictably divided. The Japanese Army and Navy Chiefs of Staff had an audience with the Emperor that morning in which they recommended rejecting the United States' offer for two reasons. First, their interpretation of the Emperor being "subject to" the Supreme Commander meant "subordinate to", not "limited by." Such a condition was unthinkable. Second, the "free will" clause could be used by the Allies to impose what ever controls they desired and then claim it was the people's will. Also if a republic were established by the will of the people, then the Imperial household must fall. The Emperor recommended continued study until the formal reply had arrived. After their departure, Hirohito, felt as if they had not listened to him at all in the Imperial Conference.<sup>100</sup> At about 11 a.m., Foreign Minister Togo also had an audience with Hirohito in which he expressed concern over "the free will of the people" clause since it could be

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<sup>100</sup>Brooks, pp. 217-220.

contradictory to the Imperial system. In spite of this concern, Togo found the response acceptable.<sup>101</sup>

At 3 p.m., the Cabinet met in special session to discuss the Allied response. The members again were divided on accepting the proposal (although it had not yet formally arrived). The cabinet members began to be swayed by the "Death before Dishonor" faction and when Premier Suzuki began to speak in similar terms, Togo realized he could not win an immediate vote. To gain time to talk with Suzuki privately, Togo proposed adjourning the meeting until the formal reply was received. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 5 p.m. To gain some additional time, Togo concurred with a subordinate's recommendation to have the Allies formal reply (expected that evening) held and recorded as being received the following morning.<sup>102</sup>

#### J. AUGUST 13<sup>th</sup>

At 8:45 a.m., a meeting of the Big Six convened, but was shortly thereafter interrupted. An Imperial summons arrived for the two Chiefs of Staff. They arrived at the palace by 9 a.m. and were questioned by the Emperor. He wanted to know what military operations would be conducted while the negotiations were under way. Umezu replied for both of them that, the military would only undertake defensive operations. The Emperor was satisfied with this response and the Chiefs of Staff returned to their original meeting.<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>101</sup>Mosley, p. 321.

<sup>102</sup>Brooks, pp. 225-227.

<sup>103</sup>Brooks, pp. 239, 240.



The Big Six debated the question for hours, and finally at 2 p.m., hopelessly deadlocked, the Premier adjourned the meeting and scheduled a Cabinet meeting for an hour later. When the Cabinet convened at 3 p.m., the Premier had the United States' reply read by the Secretary and followed by an immediate vote. Ten favored acceptance, three were opposed. The cycle began once again, as the three proved to be immovable. All afternoon the discussion continued, each side trying creative new approaches to the same old arguments. Finally, at 7 p.m., having again spent an entire day in a futile stalemate, Suzuki polled the Cabinet. Ten favored accepting the offer, three wanted further negotiations, one couldn't make up his mind, and one gave his proxy to Suzuki. With this Suzuki stated that he would make a report on the meeting to the Emperor and once again ask for his decision. He then adjourned the meeting.<sup>104</sup> Between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m., the two Chiefs of Staff again rehashed all the questions of the day with Togo in a vain attempt to change his views. The Cabinet was scheduled to reconvene at 10 a.m. the following morning to resolve the question.

#### K. AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup>

All the negotiations had been conducted secretly and without the knowledge of the Japanese people. Therefore, when five B-29s dropped leaflets on five major Japanese cities including Tokyo and informed the people of Japan's offer to surrender, the Japanese leadership was gravely disturbed. It was feared that when the leaflets reached the hands of those who had been fighting so intensely, there was the real

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<sup>104</sup>Brooks, pp. 245-251.

potential that the military would completely overthrow the government. In order to prevent this, peace had to be concluded without delay.

Kido hastily arranged to meet with the Emperor at 8:30 a.m. after reading the leaflet. At the royal audience, Kido informed the Emperor of the potential for a military coup and recommended that the Emperor exercise his privilege to call an Imperial Conference. Kido also recommended that the Emperor again tell them of his unshakable desire to end the war immediately. The Emperor understood the situation completely and agreed with Kido's recommendations.

As Kido was departing to arrange the Imperial Conference, Suzuki arrived. Kido showed him a leaflet and informed him of his opinion and the Emperor's response. After a brief discussion the pair arranged to see Hirohito jointly, and were admitted at approximately 8:40 a.m. In view of the urgency, the Emperor ordered that the conference start at 10 a.m.

The Conference started at 10:50 a.m. when the Emperor arrived. Premier Suzuki stated that the conference had been called by the Emperor to consider the Allied reply in his presence. He also outlined the events of the previous meetings and the arguments for each side. After which the Premier called upon the Army Chief of Staff, Umezu, the Navy Chief of Staff, Toyoda, and the War Minister, Anami, to support their case. Again they repeated their well worn arguments about protecting the Imperial structure and a final battle which would, at a minimum, provide the war termination on the conditions they found acceptable. After the three had spoken, Hirohito stood up. He stated that he had listened carefully to each of them, but that they had failed to persuade him to change his opinion. He saw no benefit to

continuing the war. His review of the United States' response found it acceptable and in it evidence of the peaceful and friendly intentions of the enemy. At this point his emotions began to erupt. He choked on the words and had to use the tips of his white gloves to wipe away the tears. He understood the difficulty of the military men who would have to surrender and those who would be tried as war criminals. His voice was strained and he spoke only in phrases, but he continued:

In spite of these feelings, so difficult to bear, I cannot endure the thought of letting my people suffer any longer. A continuation of the war would bring death to tens, perhaps even hundreds, of thousands of persons. The whole nation would be reduced to ashes.<sup>105</sup>

The Emperor paused, collected his thoughts and calmed his emotions. He reminded them that they had borne defeat before (the Triple Intervention when France, Germany and Russia forced Japan to return the Liaotung Peninsula to China after her victory in the Sino-Japanese war in 1894-1895.) He exhorted them to endure the unendurable and suffer the insufferable with him as their ancestors before had done.<sup>106</sup> In conclusion, he ordered an Imperial rescript prepared so that he could speak to his children. This would prevent extremists from claiming that the Emperor had been swayed by "insincere advisors." It would remove the possibility that the military could take over the government in an effort to protect the Emperor. Hirohito's will to end the war would be made known by direct presentation and not by his advisor's interpretations. Hirohito closed by asking for their continued support.

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<sup>105</sup>Butow, pp. 207, 208; Mosley, p. 325.

<sup>106</sup>Brooks, pp. 265-267.

There was no further debate. The war was over. Later that day Japan's acceptance of the Potsdam Proclamation was forwarded to neutral countries for delivery to the United States. Just before midnight Hirohito recorded the rescript that would be played the following day to his subjects. At the Emperor's insistence, a second copy was made for insurance. While there was a small revolt lead by a couple of military extremists, it was not successful and the discs were not harmed. At noon on August 15th, the Emperor's words were broadcast throughout the nation. A segment of that statement, quoted below, clearly reflected the Emperor's personal concerns.

...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 obliteration 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 hollowed 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.<sup>107</sup>

## L. CONCLUSION

Premier Suzuki, who was given a mandate by the Emperor to end the war as rapidly as possible, proved to be a most counter-productive statesman. He shifted from one point of view to another and then back again. After first completing a survey of the nation's resources, and coming to grips with the realization that Japan could not win, and needed to end the war, Suzuki unexpectedly allowed the military to use the Fundamental Policy to direct the nation to fight to the death. A more consistent

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<sup>107</sup>Dennet and Turner, pp. 105-111.

alternative would have been to ally himself with Foreign Minister Togo to oppose such a policy.

Then, following the Potsdam Proclamation, Suzuki, used the ill chosen word, "mokusatsu," at a press conference to describe the government's feeling toward the Proclamation. This provided the United States with the justification it needed to use the atomic bomb.

After the bombing of Hiroshima and hearing about the Emperor's comments, Suzuki shifted back to working to ending the war. At the meetings of the Big Six, the Cabinet, and at the Imperial Conference, Suzuki opposed the military hard-liners and their arguments for a final decisive battle.

Following the United States' response, Suzuki was again swayed by the arguments of the military leaders and lost sight of his mandate as Premier. Only after a discussion with Foreign Minister Togo did Suzuki regain his focus on ending the war.

In contrast to Premier Suzuki's shifting opinions, the military leaders, with the exception of Navy Minister Yonai, endlessly pursued the decisive battle and possibly negotiations afterwards on terms that would be more favorable to Japan than the Potsdam Proclamation.

Foreign Minister Togo consistently opposed any continuation of the war at every opportunity. But, in the final analysis, because of the inability of Togo and the military leaders to reach a consensus, it was the opinion of the Emperor alone that made the final decision to terminate the war.

Hirohito had always opposed the war, but it was not the Emperor's place to contest the policies unanimously presented to him. His efforts to influence Premier Suzuki at

his appointment seem to have missed the target. The Emperor's efforts to send Prince Konoye to Moscow also were checked by Soviet indifference.

It was not until the bombing of Hiroshima that the opportunity was made available to the Emperor to play a more decisive role. On two occasions the Big Six and the Cabinet were unable to resolve the divisions among themselves to either continue or end the war. On both of those occasions, it was the Emperor who broke with centuries of tradition to end the hopeless stalemate. But since he had opposed the war from the outset, what had made it so severe that Hirohito felt compelled to violate the traditions of his ancestral heritage?

The Emperor's own words provide the answer. Following Hiroshima,

...we must put an end to this war as speedily as possible, so that this tragedy will not happen again.

During the Imperial Conference in the early morning hours of August 10<sup>th</sup>,

I cannot bear to see my people suffer any longer. Ending the war is the only way to restore world peace and to relieve the nation from the dreadful distress with which it is burdened.

At the Imperial Conference on August 14<sup>th</sup>,

...I cannot endure the thought of letting my people suffer any longer. A continuation of the war would bring death to tens, perhaps even hundreds, of thousands of persons. The whole nation would be reduced to ashes.

In the Imperial Rescript,

...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 obliteration of the Japanese nation, but also it would lead to the total extinction of human civilization.

From the above quotations and the emotional outbreaks cited with them, one can see a train of thought emerging. The use of the first atomic bomb was so devastating that the Emperor felt compelled to end the war. At the war's outset, he could accept the unanimous decision of his advisors. At its conclusion, he felt obligated to use his considerable influence to override those who held an opposing view.

The atomic bomb was in essence, the tool which not only strengthened the Emperor's personal convictions, but also motivated him to take action. The Emperor was the only individual capable of transforming his personal desires into political actions. Since he was compelled to take this action only after the atomic bomb had been used, it is reasonable to conclude that this weapon was and can be used in the future to achieve political goals. This is not to advocate the use of nuclear weapons for trivial or even major disputes, but when global peace hangs in the balance, the use of nuclear weapons is a possible option which could be considered to resolve military and political conflict of this scale.

Beyond the personalities involved there are several other points worth noting. First, the Soviet Union adhered to the commonly accepted diplomatic formality of providing a formal declaration of war prior to attacking the Japanese Army in Manchuria. Today it is commonly assumed that no such warning would be given prior to an attack, but this case study does not support such a view point.

Second, the news of the second atomic bomb destroying the city of Nagasaki had no noticeable affect on any member of the Big Six when they were informed during their meeting of August 9<sup>th</sup>. The Emperor's response is not available, but the

indifference of the Big Six demonstrates an important point. The first use of the weapon was the most shocking and the most effective. This point is also supported by the three to three vote at the conclusion of the Big Six meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>. The second atomic bomb did not convince even one member to change his vote.

Finally, the leaflets which were dropped on Tokyo and four other cities highlighted the urgency with which the peace had to be concluded. Because of the potential for a coup which would place the military in complete control of Japan, it was necessary for the Emperor to convene an Imperial Conference and reach the final decision to accept the United States' reply. It is also clear from the speeches made by the three military officers at the Imperial Conference that they were not swayed by the leaflets to change their votes from continuing the war to ending it.



## V. CONCLUSIONS

Given the complexity of war termination, this chapter will synthesize the major components of the previous chapters and will also draw on the case study for analogies that may apply to today's nuclear reserve force (NRF).

### A. WESTERN THEORY OF WAR TERMINATION

Nuclear war termination is the cessation (for any reason) of the use of all nuclear weapons. It can be achieved in several ways: both nuclear arsenals are exhausted, the combatants reach a mutual cease-fire agreement, one opponent accepts defeat, or both sides agree to deescalate from a nuclear war to a conventional war.

The objective of nuclear war termination for the United States is to persuade the enemy to end the conflict without achieving his original objectives and on terms which are more favorable to the United States than the Soviet Union.

The only unclassified guidance available on war termination is in the Annual Report of the Secretary of Defense to Congress. While this document is a programming document and does not provide official war-fighting doctrine, for the purposes of this thesis it is considered to be consistent with the actual intention of the guidance on war termination. An analysis of the ten most recent reports yielded two major themes. First, the nuclear reserve force is to provide for a peace settlement which is more favorable to the United States than the Soviet Union. And second, escalation should be limited to the lowest possible level.

In order to obtain this objective western scholarship on this subject has developed eight theoretical requirements. They are:

1. Both nations will require legitimate (recognized) leadership.
2. Pragmatic political leaders must prevail over zealous military leaders.
3. Each side must have a nuclear reserve force.
4. Command centers will be needed by both sides to evaluate data and plan attacks.
5. Communications capabilities will be vital in efforts: to monitor enemy broadcasts, to maintain control of the NRF, to negotiate through intermediaries, and to keep each nations' population advised (to the extent desired) of the progress and conclusion of the war.
6. Each side should retain an adequate warning and assessment capability.
7. Diplomats will be required to authenticate the enemy's leaders and negotiators to prevent negotiations with illegitimate representatives.
8. It will be necessary for diplomats to verify cease-fire measures and surrender terms.<sup>108</sup>

Only two of the theoretical requirements were not supported by the case study. The war was concluded without a NRF on both sides, and the need for a warning and assessment capability was questionable. Otherwise, the significance of the war termination requirements in ending the war with Japan varied. Emperor Hirohito's legitimacy as a national leader and his personal pragmatism played significant roles as did the communications capability of both nations. The command centers, and the

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<sup>108</sup>See footnote number 9.

diplomatic requirements for authentication and verification appear to be of less significance based on the case study.

## B. SOVIET VIEW OF WAR TERMINATION

The Soviet Union of today, like the United States, has no desire to initiate a war. The Soviet Union does continue to pursue the fruits of war (increased access to resources and technology, respect as a world leader, and greater influence in international affairs) by other means. The Soviet Union is not expected to initiate a nuclear war except as a last result when all other methods of conflict resolution have failed. Even at that point the Soviets are not expected to start a nuclear offensive unless they are convinced the United States is preparing for a first strike. Once the Soviet leaders believe a nuclear war is inevitable they are expected to launch a massive preemptive attack in their own defense.

Such a war could only be initiated if it were sanctioned under the Soviet's *just war* doctrine and if it could assure victory. Since the Soviet Union only engages in wars that are fought by the proletariat class in the interest of consolidating and developing socialism, all of their wars are *just wars*.

Victory is not thought of by the Soviets as we think of it in the United States. Americans tend to equate victory with the unconditional surrender policy of World War II. The Soviets on the other hand define victory as meeting the political objectives of the war as established by the Communist Party. Since a global nuclear war would be the most devastating, the most costly, and the most political war ever fought, the postulated set of objectives, which would justify such a war, is expected to be:

1. Defeat of the enemy forces and potential.
2. Seizure of Strategic Areas.

3. Occupation and Control.
4. Ideological Conversion.

As a result, victory is expected to be judged based on the degree to which the goals are accomplished.

### C. UNITED STATES NATIONAL GOALS

The current national security objectives (in peacetime) stress deterring war and should that fail, concluding the war on terms which are favorable to the United States while limiting escalation to the minimum required. Once the war has begun the national objectives are expected to change. Three scenarios have been postulated and the objectives derived for each are listed below.

#### 1. Scenario 1: United States Loses

If the United States loses or is perceived to have lost there are several cultural aspects which must be protected during the negotiations and they are:

1. The Republican Form of Government--elected officials answerable to the electorate,
2. The Value System--human rights which provides equality for all,
3. The Free Enterprise Economic System, and
4. The Resource Base--national territory and natural resources.

#### 2. Scenario 2: United States Wins

In the event that the United States is in a position to make demands on the Soviet Union, the following objectives are recommended:

1. Disband the Communist Party and hold free elections,
2. Draft a more democratic Constitution, and
3. Allow the new government to establish a new economic system.

### 3. Scenario 3: Both Nations Lose

In the event that both nations are devastated and neither could be considered to have won even a Pyrrhic victory, the United States goals will most likely be to:

1. Establish a functional government to maintain societal order and to obtain international assistance,
2. Reconstitute a military force, primarily to provide law and order, and
3. Rebuild a functional economic system to initially meet the minimum requirements of human existence and then possibly improve the standard of living.

### D. CASE STUDY: THE JAPANESE SURRENDER

The Potsdam Proclamation was issued in late July, 1945 to provide the Japanese the opportunity to surrender and save both countries from senselessly continuing the war. Premier Suzuki unwisely made a statement at a press conference to a "planted" question that was interpreted as a contemptuous rejection of the terms offered. This statement provided the United States with the justification it was seeking to use the atomic bomb. The Soviet Union used it to justify declaring war on the Japanese and invade Manchuria to attack the Japanese Army.

On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was decimated with one twenty kiloton atomic bomb. The effects on Emperor Hirohito were overwhelming. The grief he felt for the innocent civilians who were killed or injured was so great that he began to cry. He stated that the war must be ended at all costs, including his personal safety, in order

to prevent this tragedy from ever happening again. It is at this point that the Emperor resolved within himself to take action to bring the war to an end.

On August 9<sup>th</sup> the Soviet Union invaded Manchuria, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, and there were meetings of the Big Six and the Cabinet. All of this resulted in a continuing deadlock as three of the four military leaders argued for a continuation of the war. Since no decision could be made without a unanimous agreement, efforts to end the war were stalled. During the afternoon, the Foreign Minister's staff obtained the necessary petition signatures from the military officers (under a questionable pretense) for an Imperial Conference at an unspecified time in the future. With the national leadership at an impasse, and having previously discussed the problem with the Emperor and finding him so heavily opposed to the continuation of the war, Foreign Minister Togo presented the petition. The alternative for breaking deadlocks throughout Japanese history had been to dissolve the Cabinet and reorganize it with individuals who could resolve the issue. This was not done because of the urgency and gravity of the situation. Instead, an Imperial Conference was held in which the Emperor took the unprecedented step of providing his opinion on a matter of state. His opinion was unanimously adopted and became a state decision.

Having accepted the Emperor's opinion, Japan offered to accept the terms of the Potsdam Proclamation if the Imperial structure were preserved. The United States, in cooperation with the other Allies, responded with a note that fell short of the commitment the Japanese had requested. The talks among the Big Six and the Cabinet members again stalled with the same three military leaders unwilling to trust the enemy

to preserve the ancient dynasty. This time the Emperor exercised his privilege to call an Imperial Conference and after hearing the arguments of the military, he again declared his desire to see the war ended and pointed out that the military had not been keeping its commitments to prepare the homeland for its final and decisive battle. Again his opinion was unanimously adopted and the Japanese government sent a message accepting the terms of the Potsdam Proclamation and hoping the Allies would preserve the Imperial household.

#### E. ANALOGIES

There are several analogies that can be drawn from the way the atomic bomb was used against Japan and the potential for future use of the NRF. It must also be pointed out that there are many differences between what happened in Japan and what would happen in a war with the Soviet Union. There are also many cultural differences between the two nations. Because these analogies are based on the only case study available, the applicability to any particular situation will always be somewhat questionable.

First, the NRF can, if necessary, be used to achieve political results. In Japan, the atomic bomb was the galvanizing force which after a long and punishing war led the Emperor to force Japan to accept surrender. Hirohito considered the bombing of Hiroshima in addition to the previous suffering caused by four agonizing years of war to be intolerable. At two subsequent Imperial Conferences he did what no Japanese Emperor had ever done before. On both occasions he went beyond the ceremonial silence or rare Imperial question and in these two instances gave his opinion. In both cases his opinion was adopted unanimously and became a decision of the state. In the

2,600 years of previous Imperial rule, no Emperor had ever provided his opinion or decided matters of state. As a result of the Emperor's influence, the Japanese ceased hostilities approximately one week after Hiroshima had been bombed. If a future war against the United States were to occur with the same degree of national commitment as the Japanese possessed and were equally threatening to the global security, it might be appropriate to consider using a nuclear weapon to convince such an enemy of his impending defeat.

Second, the atomic bombs were not used in an unrestricted massive strike. While it is true that there were only two bombs available at that time, they were not used together or rapidly. Instead, the bombs were used several days apart. The first bomb had a much greater psychological effect on the Japanese leaders than the second bomb. For the Emperor, who felt so heavily burdened, it was a powerful inducement to end the war. Likewise, a rapid firing of today's NRF should be avoided but at the same time, the first strike should be calculated to have the maximum psychological impact. Additionally, rapid firing of the NRF should be avoided because it would deplete the United States' arsenal. This would eliminate any incentive the Soviet Union had for withholding their remaining arsenal which is aimed at the West.

Third, the atomic bomb was not used until after major damage had been done and it was clear that Japan would lose. The primary reason in this case may have been that the atomic bomb had not been developed until that point, but the intent of using the bomb was to shock the Japanese into realizing that they had lost.<sup>109</sup> Along the

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<sup>109</sup>Morton, p. 336.



same lines of thought then, the NRF should not be used (launched) until victory is in sight in order to shorten the war. If it has become clear that the United States cannot win, then the NRF may be more appropriately used as a political tool in bargaining for acceptable surrender terms.

Fourth, psychological warfare played a key role in Japan's surrender. The leaflets that were dropped on five Japanese cities heightened the urgency with which the peace had to be concluded. In order to prevent a coup which would place the military in complete control of Japan and eliminate any chance for bringing the war to a rapid conclusion, it became necessary for the Emperor to convene an Imperial Conference and to give his own opinion on the termination of the war to the Cabinet members. Effective psychological warfare can also play a key role in war termination.

Finally, the atomic bomb was used only after Japan had been given an opportunity to surrender and (were perceived to have) refused that opportunity. This refusal was combined with a statement which advocated complete national commitment leaving no evidence of a "peace party" within the Japanese government. The analogy that can be drawn, is that nuclear weapons should be used in war termination only in light of the enemy's total commitment to continue the war, when all other means have failed.

The most basic conclusion of any study of war termination is that the new weapons technology has called forth new theories of war. In a simpler long gone age, military planners were content to think in terms of victory and defeat. The post modern era has changed that. While the military planner of today continues to plan for victory, he also realizes that in light of the potential devastation, deterrence of war and its

escalation are now factors that must be considered. He should also realize that war termination should be the goal in any national war plan.

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