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WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

28 June 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

In the last few days I have had several talks with Ralph Bard about the use of S-1. He has just sent me a memorandum which he explained on the telephone is merely an effort to think out loud and not to make any specific recommendations. In view of the fact, however, that the Interim Committee has previously voted to use the bomb as soon as possible and without notice, I thought it only fair to let you know that Mr. Bard himself is now thinking along the line of the memorandum which is enclosed.

George L. Harrison
GEORGE L. HARRISON

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MEMORANDUM ON THE USE OF S-1 BOMB:

Ever since I have been in touch with this program I have had a feeling that before the bomb is actually used against Japan that Japan should have some preliminary warning for say two or three days in advance of use. The position of the United States as a great humanitarian nation and the fair play attitude of our people generally is responsible in the main for this feeling.

During recent weeks I have also had the feeling very definitely that the Japanese government may be searching for some opportunity which they could use as a medium of surrender. Following the three-power conference emissaries from this country could contact representatives from Japan somewhere on the China Coast and make representations with regard to Russia's position and at the same time give them some information regarding the proposed use of atomic power, together with whatever assurances the President might care to make with regard to the Emperor of Japan and the treatment of the Japanese nation following unconditional surrender. It seems quite possible to me that this presents the opportunity which the Japanese are looking for.

I don't see that we have anything in particular to lose in following such a program. The stakes are so tremendous that it is my opinion very real consideration should be given to some plan of this kind. I do not believe under present circumstances existing that there is anyone in this country whose evaluation of the chances of the success of such a program is worth a great deal. The only way to find out is to try it out.


RALPH A. BARD

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