

Harry S. Truman to Richard Russell, August 9, 1945. Official File,
Truman Papers.

August 9, 1945

197
Misc.

Dear Dick:

I read your telegram of August seventh with a lot of interest.

I know that Japan is a terribly cruel and uncivilized nation in warfare but I can't bring myself to believe that, because they are beasts, we should ourselves act in the same manner.

x197
xPP7185

For myself, I certainly regret the necessity of wiping out whole populations because of the "pigheadedness" of the leaders of a nation and, for your information, I am not going to do it unless it is absolutely necessary. It is my opinion that after the Russians enter into war the Japanese will very shortly fold up.

x220

My object is to save as many American lives as possible but I also have a humane feeling for the women and children in Japan.

x190

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Honorable Richard B. Russell
Winder
Georgia

xPP71072
xGen 1

x190-Misc.