

692-A

August 11, 1945

My dear Mr. Cavert:

I appreciated very much your telegram of August ninth.

Nobody is more disturbed over the use of Atomic bombs than I am but I was greatly disturbed over the unwarranted attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor and their murder of our prisoners of war. The only language they seem to understand is the one we have been using to bombard them.

x PP7 185  
x 197-Miss  
x 400 Hawaii  
Pearl Harbor  
x 190-8

When you have to deal with a beast you have to treat him as a beast. It is most regrettable but nevertheless true.

x 197

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Mr. Samuel McCrea Cavert  
General Secretary  
Federal Council of  
The Churches of Christ in America  
New York City, New York

x PP7 33  
x 213



x 692-A-Misc.

The White House

Washington

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HONORABLE HARRY S TRUMAN

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE WHITE HOUSE

MANY CHRISTIANS DEEPLY DISTURBED OVER USE OF ATOMIC BOMBS  
AGAINST JAPANESE CITIES BECAUSE OF THEIR NECESSARILY  
INDISCRIMINATE DESTRUCTIVE EFFORTS AND BECAUSE THEIR USE SETS  
EXTREMELY DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE OF MANKIND. BISHOP  
OXNAM PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL AND JOHN FOSTER DULES CHAIRMAN  
OF ITS COMMISSION ON A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE ARE PREPARING  
STATEMENT FOR PROBABLE RELEASE TOMORROW URGING THAT ATOMIC  
BOMBS BE REGARDED AS TRUST FOR HUMANITY AND THAT JAPANESE

XPP7 21



NATION BE GIVEN GENUINE OPPORTUNITY AND TIME TO VERIFY FACTS  
ABOUT NEW BOMB AND TO ACCEPT SURRENDER TERMS. RESPECTFULLY  
URGE THAT AMPLE OPPORTUNITY BE GIVEN JAPAN TO RECONSIDER  
ULTIMATUM BEFORE ANY FURTHER DEVASTATION BY ATOMIC BOMB IS  
VISITED UPON HER PEOPLE

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA

SAMUEL MCCREA CAVERT GENERAL SECRETARY.

