**WAS JAPAN ALREADY DEFEATED WHEN THE ATOMIC BOMB WAS DROPPED?**

Many critics of President Truman contend that there was no need to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima because Japan was already defeated in August of 1945. They argue that there would have been no need to invade the Japanese mainland and that the bomb did not significantly shorten the war and did not save enough lives to justify its use.

**ADMIRAL WILLIAM D. LEAHY:**

…The Japanese were already defeated and were ready to surrender because of the effective sea blockade and the successful bombing of conventional weapons…

**Report of The United States Strategic Bombing Survey (1945):**

Based on a detailed investigation of all the facts and supported by the testimony of the surviving Japanese leader involved, it is the Survey’s opinion that certainly prior to 31 December 1945, and in all probability prior to November 1, 1945, Japan would have surrendered even if the atomic bombs had not been dropped, even if Russia had not entered the war, and even if no invasion had been planned or contemplated…

**GENERAL H. H. ARNOLD, Chief of the United States Air Corps:**

…It always appeared to us that, atomic bomb or no atomic bomb, the Japanese were already on the verge of collapse…Nevertheless the abrupt surrender of Japan came more or less as a surprise, for we had figured we would probably have to drop about four atomic bombs…

**CLEMENT ATTLEE, Prime Minister of Great Britain:**

In the light of what we knew at the time, which was that the military were in command in

Japan and that the Japanese would fight to the last man…In the light of that I figure the decision was right…

**COLONEL SABURO HAYASHI, Secretary to the Japanese War Minister:**

We were prepared to stage the decisive battle on the Japanese mainland right before the end of the war. We thought we would be able to beat the Americans on their first landing attempt. But if the Americans launched a second or third attack our food supply would run out. We didn’t have sufficient weapons nor could we have made more…

**KARL COMPTON, atomic scientist and advisor to the President:**

…There was every reason to think that the Japanese would defend their homeland with even greater fanaticism than when they fought to the death on Iwo Jima and Okinawa. No American soldier who survived the bloody struggle on those islands has much sympathy with the view that battle with the Japanese was over as soon as it was clear that their ultimate situation was hopeless. No, there was every reason to expect a terrible struggle long after the point at which some people can now look back and say, “Japan was already beaten.”

.