**WAS THE ATOMIC BOMB ACTUALLY DROPPED TO IMPRESS THE SOVIET**

**UNION RATHER THAN JAPAN?**

Following the surrender of Germany, relations between the United States and the Soviet

Union deteriorated rapidly. Some American leaders felt that the Soviet Union was a greater military threat to the United States than Japan ever had been or ever would be. Some critics of President Truman contend that he decided to drop the atomic bomb because it would demonstrate the military power of the United States to the leaders of the Soviet Union. The critics further argue that Truman wanted Japan to surrender before Russia entered the war in the Pacific so there would be no need for a joint Russo-American occupation of Japan of the kind that was creating so many problems in Germany.

**PATRICK BLACKETT, British scientist and writer:**

…we may conclude that the dropping of the atomic bombs was not so much the last military act of the Second World War, as the first major operation of the cold diplomatic war with Russia now in progress…One can imagine the hurry with which the two bombs-the only two existing- were wisked across the Pacific to be dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki just in time, but only just, to insure that the Japanese Government surrendered to American forces alone…

**LEN GIOVANNITTI AND FRED FREED, NBC reporters and authors:**

It can be argued persuasively that the Soviet Union was, in the final days before Hiroshima, much on the minds of Truman, Byrnes and Stimson. This does not, however, mean that their sole or even primary reason for using the bomb was as a political weapon against the Russians. The political consideration was an additional reason…

**JAMES F. BYRNES, special advisor to President Truman:**

…It was ever present in my mind that it was important that we should have an end to the war before the Russians came in…