

LESSON 8: THE ATOMIC BOMB

Student Handout 1

DECISION 1 (U.S.)

JULY 23, 1945

Leader background:

You are President Harry Truman. The war in Europe has ended, but the war with Japan continues. You have been in office for only about three months, so you learned only recently of key information about the war, such as the existence of the atomic bomb program and the ability of the U.S. to intercept secret Japanese messages. James Byrnes, your primary advisor, has been Secretary of State for only 20 days. For the last week, you have been in Potsdam, Germany, negotiating with Russia's Joseph Stalin and Britain's Winston Churchill. The three of you have two significant matters to discuss: what the postwar world will look like, and how to end the war with Japan.



President Truman soon after taking office in 1945

War background:

Japanese conduct has been brutal throughout the war. The Japanese have slaughtered civilians, bombed cities, and tortured prisoners—often working them to death. Some American experts believe the Japanese have caused more deaths during the war than the Nazis: according to one estimate, the Japanese may have killed over 17 million people. Also, the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese killed thousands of Americans and forced the U.S. entry into the war. Many battles against the Japanese have resulted in horrendous casualties on both sides: the Japanese have demonstrated time and time again their willingness to fight to the death. Out of a Japanese force of 22,000 on Iwo Jima, only about 1000 survived. At Okinawa, 100,000 Japanese soldiers died (along with about 150,000 civilians), but only 7000 surrendered; American forces had 12,500 killed and 60,000 wounded. The fanatical devotion of Japanese soldiers foreshadows huge U.S. casualties in a possible invasion of Japan.

Military situation:

The war has drastically weakened Japan, particularly in terms of weapons and supplies. The Japanese navy has essentially been destroyed, and most of their harbors are so riddled with mines that ships cannot pass through to deliver supplies. American bombing has destroyed many cities, railroads, and factories. The Japanese cannot get some of the most basic supplies—such as oil, aluminum, and iron—necessary for a modern economy.

Japanese coal imports stand at only 18% of what they were just a few months ago. Now, American ships have started to bombard Japanese-controlled islands around Japan. The sight of enemy ships sitting off their own shores must be making the Japanese realize that the war is lost.

For many months, the American military has worked on planning an invasion of Kyushu, the southernmost island of Japan. The invasion plan, known as “Operation Olympic,” is scheduled for November 1st. Military leaders are divided on whether to proceed with the invasion. Some advise you instead to blockade the islands and continue bombing until the Japanese surrender. They fear unprecedented American casualties if the U.S. invades: intelligence shows a huge buildup of Japanese forces around the planned site of the invasion, and many think the Japanese have planned a “last stand.”

The U.S. bombs Japanese cities on a regular basis, with attacks hitting almost every major Japanese city. The firebombing of Tokyo in March killed over 100,000 people.

Diplomacy—unconditional surrender:

The U.S. has secretly intercepted messages between Japan and Russia which show that the Japanese want to surrender and have sought Russia’s help in negotiating with the U.S. (Countries at war commonly will ask a neutral country for help to end the fighting.) The Japanese probably hope that by using the Russians as mediators, they can achieve better surrender terms.

Here are some of the messages that have gone back and forth between the Japanese ambassador in Moscow and the Japanese government:

July 11: Togo (Foreign Minister in Tokyo) to Sato (Japanese Ambassador in Moscow):

“We are now secretly giving consideration to termination of the war because of the pressing situation which confronts Japan both at home and abroad. Therefore, when you have your interview with [Soviet Foreign Minister] Molotov...you should...sound him out on the extent to which it is possible to make use of Russia in ending the war...”

July 12: Togo “very urgent” cable to Sato:

“His Majesty the Emperor, mindful of the fact that the present war daily brings greater evil and sacrifice upon the peoples of all the belligerent powers, desires from his heart that it may be quickly terminated. But so long as England and the United States insist upon unconditional surrender, the Japanese Empire has no alternative but to fight on with all its strength for the honor and existence of the Motherland...”

July 14: Sato’s reply to Togo’s cables:

“If the Japanese Empire is really faced with the necessity of terminating the war, we must first of all make up our own minds to terminate the war. Unless we make up our own minds, there is absolutely no point in sounding out the views of the Soviet government.”

July 21: Togo to Sato:

“With regard to unconditional surrender, we are unable to consent to it under any circumstances whatever. Even if the war drags on and it becomes clear that it will take much more bloodshed, the whole country as one man will pit itself against the enemy in accordance with the Imperial Will so long as the enemy demands unconditional surrender. It is in order to avoid such a state of affairs that we are seeking a peace, which is not so-called unconditional surrender, through the good offices of Russia...”

Since 1943, the U.S. has consistently pursued a policy of requiring countries to surrender unconditionally. If the Japanese wanted to surrender unconditionally, they could just send a message to the U.S.—clearly, they want conditions. A few days ago, Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Grew stated:

We have received no peace offer from the Japanese government, either through official or unofficial channels... The nature of the purported “peace feelers” must be clear to everyone. They are the usual moves in the conduct of psychological warfare by a defeated enemy. No thinking American, recalling Pearl Harbor, Wake [Island], Manila, Japanese ruthless aggression elsewhere, will give them credence. Japanese militarism must and will be crushed... The policy of this government has been, is, and will be unconditional surrender.

The Japanese still believe the Russians are neutral, since the two countries signed a neutrality pact in 1941. They don’t realize that the Russians have promised the U.S. that they will attack Japan on August 15th. The Russians don’t seem interested in brokering a peace agreement between Japan and the U.S.; in fact, they have made it difficult for the Japanese to even talk to the Russian diplomats. It looks as if the Russians have an ulterior motive: they want to delay the end of the war so they can attack the Japanese as planned and take over Manchuria, Korea, and other regions in the area.

It’s not clear what surrender conditions the Japanese want, partly because debate about this exists right now within Japan itself. From the messages, the ambassador to Russia appears to want the Japanese to agree to an unconditional surrender. However, the responses make it clear that the Supreme War Council, Japan’s decision-making body, hopes to achieve one last major victory before it begins negotiating seriously with the U.S. The council (which consists of six members, plus the emperor and a diplomatic advisor) is itself split: the three military leaders want to fight to the end, while the three non-military leaders are willing to start negotiations. However, all of them (including the emperor) hope for one more victory. Their military plan, called *Ketsugo*, calls for the Japanese to use every ounce of their remaining strength to defend their islands and inflict such heavy casualties upon the Americans that the U.S. will have to agree to give them better surrender terms in order to end the war.

Stalin has said that he favors Japan’s unconditional surrender; he wants to crush Japan so completely that it will never again be able to rise up militarily. Stalin also expects the

victorious nations to partition and oversee Japan after the war; if Russia joins the war against Japan, this partition would then include a Russian zone of occupation.

Public opinion:

American public opinion favors continually bombing Japan in order to bring about unconditional surrender. An opinion poll last month showed that 90% of Americans want the government to insist on Japan's unconditional surrender—even if it means an island invasion with heavy casualties.

A public opinion poll on May 29th showed that one-third of Americans favor executing the emperor, and almost all other Americans want him removed from power after the war. Some American leaders also favor abolishing the position of emperor. They feel only a democratic government can prevent a resurgence of Japanese militarism.

Atomic bomb:

Two days ago, you received a report describing a successful test of an atomic bomb in the New Mexico desert. In about three weeks, the military will have such a bomb ready to drop on Japan; a second bomb will be ready about a week later. A single atomic bomb can destroy a whole city, so its use should shock the Japanese into surrendering. About seven bombs should be ready by November 1st, the date set for the invasion of Japan.

Potsdam Declaration:

Everyone in the government agrees that the U.S. should issue another warning to the Japanese to surrender or be destroyed. The statement would read something like this: "We call on the Japanese government to surrender unconditionally. The alternative is prompt and utter destruction." However, some advisors (including the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the leading expert on Japan, Assistant Secretary of State Grew) want the statement to say that the United States will allow the emperor to remain as Japan's head of state following the war. For some Japanese leaders, this seems to be the only condition necessary for surrender. If the U.S. reassures Japan that the emperor can remain in place after the war, it may strengthen the forces within Japan lobbying for peace and bring about a quick end to the fighting. Former President Hoover, Winston Churchill, and other leaders have asked you to assure the Japanese that the emperor can stay.

Supporters of unconditional surrender disagree. They feel that a conditional surrender would hurt American morale and allow the Japanese to reemerge later to fight another war. Secretary of State Byrnes opposes any change to the unconditional surrender policy. He thinks if the U.S. modifies its demands, Japanese hardliners (those who want to fight to the end) will perceive it as weakness and be emboldened to keep fighting. Byrnes compares the idea of the U.S. allowing Japan to keep its emperor



Secretary of State James F. Byrnes

to the disastrous pre-war policy of appeasement, in which British and French allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland in 1938.

DECISION 1

Will you issue the warning as it is currently written, or will you modify it so as to reassure the Japanese that the emperor will remain their leader after the war? Will you negotiate at all with the Japanese?

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Student Handout 2

DECISION 2 (U.S.)

AUGUST 3, 1945

You are President Harry Truman. On July 26th, you issued the Potsdam Declaration, in which the U.S. threatened the Japanese with utter destruction. You did not add an assurance that the Japanese could retain their emperor. Japanese newspapers shrugged off the warning, calling it a “laughable matter.” Prime Minister Suzuki stated, “The government does not regard [the Potsdam Declaration] as a thing of any value; the government will just ignore [*mokusatsu*: “kill with silence”] it. We will press forward resolutely to carry the war to a successful conclusion.”

Now, you have to make a decision about another question: do you use the atomic bomb on a Japanese city, as a demonstration on an uninhabited island, or not at all? All of your top advisors advocate using atomic bombs on military targets, such as factories surrounded by workers’ houses. All such targets are located in cities. Your advisors believe that destroying an entire city with just one bomb will shock the Japanese into a quick surrender. On the other hand, some scientists propose that you invite the Japanese to witness a demonstration of the bomb. The U.S. would drop an atomic bomb on an uninhabited island in order to show its destructive power without inflicting any civilian casualties.

You have set up the Interim Committee to study this question. The committee made its recommendation on June 1st: “Mr. [Secretary of State James] Byrnes recommended and the Committee agreed...the bomb should be used against Japan as soon as possible; that it be used against a war plant surrounded by workers’ homes, and that it be used without prior warning.” However, a panel of scientists advising the Interim Committee reexamined the idea of demonstrating the bomb to the Japanese and reported, “The opinions of our scientific colleagues on the initial use of these weapons are not unanimous...We can propose no technical demonstration likely to bring an end to the war; we see no acceptable alternative to direct military use.”

Now it is early August. The military has intercepted more messages indicating that debate over the question of surrender continues to rage within the Japanese government. The Japanese diplomat in Moscow is still attempting to approach the Russians about discussing surrender. At the same time, the Russian army has made preparations to attack the Japanese in Manchuria. When the Russians attack, the Japanese will likely recognize that the situation has become hopeless and may surrender unconditionally. On the other hand, Stalin’s regime has become a problem in Europe and has forced communism on countries there under its control. If the Russians attack in Asia, they will probably end up controlling part of China, part of Korea, and maybe part of Japan—and will then most

likely force communist governments on those countries. You can avoid this if you find a way to end the war before Russia can attack Japan on August 15th. Secretary of War Henry Stimson has pointed out that “with our new weapon [the atomic bomb] we would not need the assistance of the Russians to conquer Japan.”



Intelligence services report that the Japanese have gathered an even greater force on the island of Kyushu, where the U.S. plans to invade. Japan has almost four times as many soldiers (about 545,000) on Kyushu as it did six months ago, and the Japanese government has called up all civilians on Kyushu from ages 15 to 60 to fight (about 3 million people). U.S. soldiers will have to kill hundreds of thousands of civilians in order to take the island. In addition, the Japanese may have as many as 10,000 planes available for *kamikaze* (suicide) attacks in the area. Some military leaders now predict 175,000 Americans

casualties if the U.S. invades Kyushu. Admiral Nimitz and other senior staff officers in the Joint Chiefs of Staff feel an invasion of Kyushu would be unwise.

You have two other military strategies available: blockades and bombings. A blockade already in place has become extremely effective: Japan desperately needs supplies, but it can import almost nothing. The bombing campaign has further weakened Japan. A few days ago, one air attack completely destroyed the city of Toyama—no buildings in the city remain standing. The U.S. also drops leaflets on cities that are going to be bombed. The leaflets try to influence the Japanese public by telling them that Americans are not fighting the Japanese government—and not Japanese citizens—and by giving reasons for the incipient bombings. You hope that the Japanese will read these leaflets and support the factions in their country that want to put an end to the war.

Meanwhile, a report on the effectiveness of bombing (conventional, not atomic) has suggested a new strategy, which the military plans to implement next week. The U.S. will concentrate all of its bombing on railroads, bridges, and ferries, bringing a halt to all transportation within Japan. This will prevent almost all forms of production, and will effectively make the distribution of food all but impossible. Starvation will become widespread throughout the country, and Japanese society will likely break down.

DECISION 2

Will you use the atomic bomb to end the war? If so, will you order the military to drop the bomb on a Japanese city or to merely conduct a demonstration on an uninhabited island?

LESSON 8: THE ATOMIC BOMB

Student Handout 3

DECISION 3 (U.S.)

AUGUST 8, 1945

You are President Truman. Two days ago, the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima. The bomb killed as many as 100,000 Japanese—many of whom worked in war industries. So far, the Japanese government has not responded. Meanwhile, the Russians are about to declare war and attack Japanese forces in Manchuria.

The U.S. military plans to drop a second atomic bomb on another Japanese city. You can either allow the bombing to proceed as scheduled, or order a halt to it.



Hiroshima after the bombing

DECISION 3

Will you allow an atomic bomb to be dropped on a second Japanese city?

LESSON 8: THE ATOMIC BOMB

Student Handout 4

DECISIONS 4–6 (RUSSIA)

JULY 25, 1945

Leader background:

You are Joseph Stalin, the leader of Russia. As a dictator, you rule your country with an iron fist. Russia has another decision-making body called the *Politburo*, but you control it as well. You have the other so-called “leaders” in the Russian government firmly under your control: they exist only to confirm the decisions you make.



Joseph Stalin

War background:

When the war broke out in Europe, you tried to prevent Germany and Japan from attacking Russia. You made a non-aggression pact with Germany, which Germany then broke by attacking Russia in 1941. You also signed a neutrality pact with Japan, which allowed you to move Russian troops out of Asia to fight the Germans. In May, Germany surrendered, so Russia is no longer at war with any nation.

Military situation:

The Russian military remains strong. You have millions of soldiers and thousands of tanks and planes at your disposal. You have built up forces around Manchuria and Korea in anticipation of a possible Russian attack on those areas. The famous Japanese Kwantung army defends Manchuria, but the war has depleted its strength immensely, and your soldiers will outnumber Japan’s by a ratio of more than three to one. Your soldiers

also have better equipment and higher morale. Your commander reports that his troops will be ready to attack around August 15th.



Meanwhile, Japan continues to fight the United States, China, and Britain. Japan is in desperate shape militarily. U.S. bombers have destroyed most of its cities and placed mines in its harbors, stopping trade. The Japanese have no navy left and can’t get the resources they need to keep making weapons or even to keep their

economy going.

Public opinion:

You are a dictator; by definition, you can make decisions on your own without much regard for public opinion. Nevertheless, there are some limits to what you can do. Soldiers, for example, have to believe your policies will benefit Russia, or else they may not fight for you. There is also always a threat, however small, that other government leaders might stage a coup to overthrow you if they deem your decisions too unreasonable.

Diplomacy—unconditional surrender:

The U.S. has insisted that Japan surrender unconditionally. This has extended the war by making it much more difficult for Japan to surrender. In February, you told the Americans you would declare war on and attack the Japanese three months after the end of the war in Europe, which would occur around August 9th. In exchange for entering the war against Japan, the U.S. promised you control of Manchuria, half of Korea, and part of the island of Sakhalin. Therefore, it lies in your interest for the war to continue: if it ends before you attack, you won't be able to claim those lands.



Stalin and Truman at Potsdam

The new American president, Harry Truman, does not seem supportive of your cause. He acted very hostile to your diplomat in Washington at a meeting in April. At the Potsdam Conference, you found him overbearing. He has demanded that you make changes in eastern Europe, even though Russia was promised control of that area at the Yalta Conference last February.

The Japanese have been trying desperately to talk with your diplomats in Moscow and Tokyo. Your diplomat in Tokyo says this indicates the degree of Japan's desperation; you have the power to prolong the war by continuing to delay these talks. The Japanese may suspect that you plan to attack them, since you have already warned them you will not renew the neutrality pact. If Japan finds out about your plan to declare war, it may then choose to surrender immediately to the United States: the Japanese would prefer to submit to the Americans than to you. Such a move would prevent you from attacking and taking over Japanese-controlled land.

Intelligence (information gathering about other countries):

Your intelligence officers in Japan report that the faction advocating peace has grown stronger. The Japanese ambassador to Moscow has indicated that the emperor wants to send a special envoy, which demonstrates that the emperor himself wants to negotiate an end to the war. However, you also know that the military leadership will be hard to convince: three out of six members on the Japan's Supreme War Council want to fight to the bitter end.

Your spies in the United States, David Greenglass and Klaus Fuchs, have sent you information about the atomic bomb project there. The U.S. tested the bomb earlier this month, and will soon have it ready for use against Japan. This is not good news: if the U.S. drops an atomic bomb on a Japanese city, it will likely shock the Japanese into immediate surrender. Again, if Japan falls too quickly you won't be able to declare war and attack Manchuria, Korea, and Sakhalin. You will also lose the opportunity to capture the Kurile Islands or to attack Japan itself and take part in the occupation of Japan. The Americans have no idea that you know about their atomic bomb.

Warning—Potsdam Declaration:

President Truman wants to issue the Japanese a warning before the final assault on Japan (whether that assault takes the form of invasion or an atomic bomb). He wants to issue the warning from Potsdam, Germany, where you are currently meeting with him and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

DECISION 4

Should he ask, what advice will you give President Truman about the warning?

- A. Don't compromise on the policy of unconditional surrender.
- B. Tell the Japanese they must surrender, but let them keep their emperor.

DECISION 5

Will you ask to be included in the warning so that it will officially come from the U.S., Britain, and Russia?

DECISION 6

Will you allow a meeting between your diplomats and the Japanese ambassador to hear Japan's proposal for surrender? If so, will you pass along the proposal to the United States?

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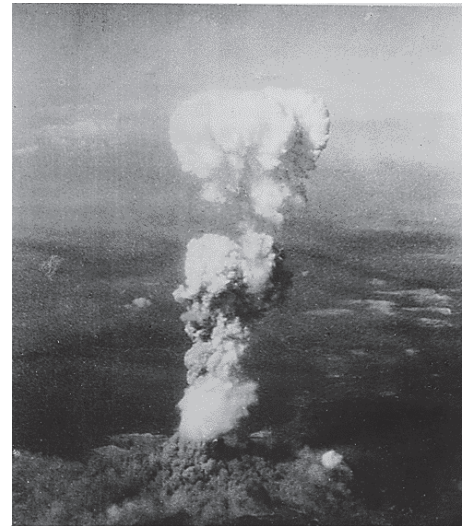
Student Handout 5

DECISION 7 (RUSSIA)

AUGUST 7, 1945

You are Joseph Stalin, the leader of Russia. At the Potsdam Conference, President Truman issued a warning to Japan in which he decided not to include a reassurance that the Japanese emperor could remain in power following the war. The U.S. and Britain both signed the warning, but President Truman did not let Russia sign it as well. You consider this a grave insult.

The Japanese announced that they would ignore the warning. The U.S. then dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, killing about 100,000 people. Your diplomats in Tokyo have reported several meetings of the Supreme War Council. The Japanese diplomat in Moscow has requested a meeting with your government. Japan may be on the verge of surrender, and may do so before August 15th.



Plume of smoke from the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima

DECISION 7

Will you command your forces to attack Manchuria in the next few days, instead of waiting until the original date of August 15th?

LESSON 8: ATOMIC BOMB

Student Handout 6

DECISION 8 (JAPAN)

JULY 26, 1945

Leader background:

You are Emperor Hirohito of Japan. As emperor, you are the living symbol of the nation and the Japanese people revere you as a god. The emperor does not normally get involved with government decisions: the Supreme War Council, made up of six members, makes these decisions. However, the council is divided: three of the members favor negotiating an end to the war, while the other three want to fight to the very end. You may need to step in and make a decision in this time of unprecedented crisis.



Emperor Hirohito

War background:

Japan started the war in the Pacific, and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor drew the U.S into the war. However, the Japanese believe that U.S. economic policies (especially the embargos on oil and scrap-metal imports) forced Japan to take aggressive action. Gradually, the Allies gained the upper hand and defeated your European allies, Germany and Italy. Since the end of the war in Europe in May, the United States and Britain have concentrated their forces on defeating Japan, and the war is now going in their favor. Fortunately for you, Japan has a neutrality pact with Russia, so you do not have to fight that country as well.

Military situation:

The Japanese military is in terrible shape. The navy has been decimated, and American planes have bombed most of Japan's major cities. More than 100,000 civilians died in the recent firebombing of Tokyo, and the Japanese military has no effective way to defend against the American bombers. Production has declined greatly, and the disruptions in transportation have made it very difficult for Japan to obtain needed supplies. The Americans have dropped naval mines, effectively closing all of Japan's harbors: it's now almost impossible to move anything into the country, including troops from the mainland.

Last month, your Chief of Staff, General Umezu, reported that the Japanese army in Manchuria is a mere shadow of its former self and also has little ammunition left. A second report in June, delivered by Admiral Hasegawa, raised the possibility that the military would not be able to defend against a U.S. assault on the home islands.

Nevertheless, you hope to defend the home islands and win at least one major victory. If you defeat the invading Americans or at least inflict very high casualties, the U.S. may

have no choice but to grant Japan better terms of surrender. This plan is called *Ketsugo*. Instead of repelling an attack at the beaches, Japan will allow American soldiers to land and then launch an all-out attack to kill as many of the invaders as possible. Your military leaders believe the Americans plan to land on the island of Kyushu, and you now have enough troops stationed there to mount an effective counterattack. Moreover, you have passed a law requiring all civilians aged 15 to 50 to also fight the invaders: your forces now vastly outnumber the Americans. Also, thousands of kamikaze warplanes stand ready to bomb American troop transports. In the hard-fought battle of Okinawa in the spring, U.S. forces eventually won, despite losing around 12,500 soldiers. From this example, you do not know if Japan can prevail over the U.S. in an assault on the islands. However, you are certain that Japan can inflict heavy casualties on the Americans, which will likely cause the U.S. to agree to more favorable terms when you do surrender.

Public opinion:

The military situation is so desperate that many factions within your government have considered the possibility of negotiating an end to the war. One option is to surrender unconditionally to the U.S. However, Japanese culture does not look favorably on surrender: it is considered virtuous to fight to the death. You feel the humiliation of an unconditional surrender would outrage the public. Within the military, some leaders still cling to the hope that Japan can win and thus will never agree to an unconditional surrender. Surrender raises the possibility of civil unrest in Japan: the people (or more likely hard-line factions within the military) might rise up to overthrow the government or to resist the surrender. Government leaders also fear that fanatical nationalist civilians or members of the military may try to assassinate them: several who suggested surrender have already been assassinated. The military leaders on the Supreme War Council who oppose unconditional surrender give two reasons: (1) the fear of what may happen to the government if Japan surrenders, and (2) the hope that Japan can win one more major battle.

Diplomacy—unconditional surrender:

The U.S. has called on Japan to surrender unconditionally—that is, with no negotiations. Doing this would subject Japan to whatever terms the U.S. chooses to impose. These will likely include removing you from power, putting Japanese leaders on trial for war crimes, a foreign occupation of Japan, totally disbanding the Japanese military, and the humiliating requirement that soldiers surrender directly to the U.S. military. Removing you, the emperor, from power would be the most difficult condition for Japanese to accept. The Japanese view the emperor as a god and as the symbol of the nation. In the eyes of many Japanese, the nation would not exist without the emperor.

The U.S. and Britain have issued the Potsdam Declaration, which has reaffirmed their call for Japan to surrender unconditionally. However, the exact wording of the declaration hints at a possible softening of these countries' stance on unconditional surrender.

You hold some hope that Japan can negotiate a peace settlement through Russia (since Russia has a neutrality agreement with Japan), but this hope is fading. The Russian

ambassador informed Japan last April that the Russians would not renew the pact. Therefore, it is not certain that Russia will remain neutral. The Supreme War Council agreed to have the Japanese ambassador to Moscow ask the Russians for help in negotiating with the United States, but he hasn't informed the Russians of any specific conditions. The three military leaders on the council consented to having the ambassador approach Russia, but they warn that they will not accept any surrender terms that include an occupation of Japan, war crimes trials, or dismantling the military.

On the other hand, some Japanese intellectuals have recommended surrendering soon—no matter what the conditions. If this doesn't happen, they warn, Japan will end up like Germany—totally defeated, occupied, divided, and with a government controlled by the enemy. They argue that the greatest chance Japan has of retaining any of its traditions and national pride is to surrender immediately.

Intelligence (information gathering about other countries):

You recently found out that a diplomat traveling on a train through Russia saw thousands of railroad cars filled with soldiers, tanks, planes, and other military equipment moving east toward Manchuria. He believes that Russia intends to attack Japanese troops in Manchuria and Korea, probably by the middle of August.

Your information on the United States is sketchy. Your military advisors believe the U.S. plans to invade Kyushu in the spring of 1946, but this attack could occur as soon as November. The Americans are also working on a new type of bomb, but you have no further information on this. Your advisors read American newspapers and report that the American public seems to want to see Japan entirely crushed. Some newspaper editorials argue that the U.S. should negotiate a peace agreement with Japan, but the American public seems committed to the policy of unconditional surrender.

Both American and Russian leaders are currently meeting in Germany at the Potsdam Conference, so it seems likely that Stalin has told Truman about the Japanese ambassador's request that Russia mediate a peace settlement.

DECISION 8

How will you respond to the Potsdam Declaration warning Japan to surrender?

1. Send a message telling the U.S. that Japan will accept an unconditional surrender.
2. Send a message telling the U.S. that Japan would like to negotiate terms of surrender.
3. Send a message telling the U.S. that Japan will surrender with one condition: that the emperor remains the leader and symbol of Japan.
4. Send a message telling the U.S. that Japan will surrender under four conditions: that the emperor remains the leader and symbol of Japan, that Japanese troops surrender to their own leaders, that Allied forces do not occupy Tokyo, and that no Japanese are prosecuted for war crimes.
5. Ignore the warning and continue to ask the Russians to help negotiate a surrender.
6. Denounce the warning and continue to fight to the bitter end.