To: J. Robert Oppenheimer

From: Ryan Coblentz

Date: July 20, 1945

Subject: Atomic Bomb

Through countless hours of research and testing, the group of engineers, physicists, and scientists here in Los Alamos have discovered a weapon of extreme proportions. When first conducting the research on atomic power, we were unsure of the results and definitely did not expect what we have now uncovered. On July 17 we detonated a test atomic bomb, which created a blast that was viewable from miles away. It was unlike anything ever seen before. At a time of war, we must proceed with extreme caution and not act too swiftly with the use of this new technology. We must take into consideration both the immediate and future responses from the use of such a deadly weapon.

How to Proceed

With the amount of bloodshed already taking place overseas, it is obvious that we need a solution immediately in order to prevent more American casualties. However, I think it would be extremely irrational for us to proceed immediately with action. Now that we have discovered such an amazing asset for our military, we must strategically analyze targets in order to maximize the affect of the bomb, without killing too many innocent victims. My suggestion would be to use a bomb on a military base. Such places as Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Kokura Arsenal would be great targets for the military since they mainly consist of military arsenals and industries (Derry & Ramsey, 1945).

In a broader sense, we must justify the use of the atomic bomb. We must show other nations that we will only use the means that are absolutely necessary in order to end the war. Using the atomic bomb must be a last resort. We cannot appear reckless and irresponsible with a bomb that can wipe out an entire city. A meeting with the League of Nations may be necessary in order to inform other Allies the magnitude of our situation with Japan. Once we have discussed with our
Allies we can then proceed with the use of the bomb, near the end of August or beginning of September.

In the case that we do bomb a military base in Japan, I would recommend waiting for an unconditional surrender for approximately three weeks. If they refuse to surrender and continue to fight, the military should then use a second bomb on another military base. After the second bombing, we should not allow as much time to pass, waiting for surrender. If they still refuse, we must continue to show that we will not back down and will not allow for more American deaths.

**Resources**

In order for this plan to succeed we must carefully discuss the necessary resources needed for the development and use of the atomic bomb. Plutonium and Uranium U-235 can both be used as the main component for the bomb. There has currently been some development of these resources in plants across the country (Technology of the Atomic Bomb, 1945). This will be a multiple billion dollar project, but it is necessary in order for the United States to be victorious in the war.

**Possible Outcomes**

There are a couple possible results that could occur from the use of the atomic bomb. First of all, we still do not know all of the effects from the bomb. We know that it will destroy large amounts of land, and will take out anything in its way. However, what we do not know is how the use of products such as Plutonium and Uranium U-235 will affect the environment that it is used in. We will continue to conduct more research on the matter in order to understand all of the effects.

Obviously, our primary goal is to end the war. Although this would be a desirable outcome, there may also be some negative results that would accompany the end of the war. Perhaps the largest concern should be the protection of the research done on the atomic bomb. We must not divulge the information learned about nuclear energy to other countries. If other nations get their hands
on this weapon, we could see new foreign powers rise up as enemies of the United States, endangering the lives of all Americans. Letting this information into the wrong hands could lead to a war that would end in the destruction our country as we know it.

**Conclusion**

With the proper course of action, I believe we can end this war by the end of September 1945. This will prevent the deaths of many American lives, as well as display the power of the United States to the rest of the world. However, with this immense power comes even greater responsibility. We are responsible for the protection of our research and the protection of our country. We cannot continue to let Japanese radicals kill our troops without consequences. The United States must show Japan that we will end this war in any way possible. I look forward to hearing your opinion on this matter and we will continue to discuss the proper courses of action.