The Argus

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ATOMIC BOMB ON JAPAN

MORE POWER THAN 20,000 TONS OF TNT

President Truman Promises Rain of Ruin From Air

THE US ARMY AIR FORCE DROPPED AN ATOMIC BOMB ON JAPAN YESTERDAY, THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SUCH A BOMB HAD EVER BEEN USED.

The bomb contains more power than 20,000 tons of TNT. It produces 2,000 times more blast than the largest bomb ever used before.

The target for the first atomic bomb was Hiroshima, port and supply base on the south coast of Honshu. The city's population is 318,000.

Military observers in Washington consider that the disclosure of the atomic bomb may mean the sudden end of the Japanese war. It is believed possible that within a few weeks new Japanese peace-feelers will be announced from Washington.

Tokyo Radio so far has made no direct reference to the atomic bomb, but announced that a small number of Superfortresses bombed Hiroshima at 8.20am on Monday.

President Truman stated that the ultimatum issued on July 26 from Potsdam was intended to spare the Japanese people from utter destruction, but the Japanese leaders rejected it.

"The atomic bomb is the Allied answer," President Truman added. "The Japanese may now expect a rain of ruin from the air the like of which has never been seen on earth."

President Truman disclosed that the Germans had worked feverishly searching for a way to use atomic energy, but had failed. In the meantime British and American scientists had studied the problem, and developed two principal plants and lesser factories for the production of atomic power.

There were now 65,000 persons working in great secrecy in these plants.

"We spent £2,000 million on the greatest scientific gamble in history and won," the President continued. "The atomic bomb harnesses the basic power of the Universe—the force from which the sun draws its power.

"This has been loosed against those who brought war to the Far East. We are now prepared to obliterate completely and more rapidly every productive enterprise the Japanese have above the ground in any city. We shall completely destroy Japan's power to make war."

President Truman forecast that sea and land forces would follow up the attack in such numbers and power as the Japanese had never witnessed.

This discovery, he said, might open the way for an entirely new concept of force and power.

The actual harnessing of atomic energy might in future supplement the power that now came from coal, oil, and dams.

"Revolutionary Increase In Destruction"

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PLANE AND 4 BODIES FOUND

Victim's Relatives Organised Search

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Australia's Share In World Peace

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