

Harry S. Truman to Richard Russell, August 9, 1945. Official File, Truman Papers.

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August 9, 1945

Dear Dick:

I read your telegram of August seventh with a lot of interest.

I know that Japan is a terribly cruel and uncivilized nation in warfare but I can't bring myself to believe that, because they are beasts, we should ourselves act in the same manner.

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For myself, I certainly regret the necessity of wiping out whole populations because of the "pigheadedness" of the leaders of a nation and, for your information, I am not going to do it unless it is absolutely necessary. It is my opinion that after the Russians enter into war the Japanese will very shortly fold up.

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My object is to save as many American lives as possible but I also have a humane feeling for the women and children in Japan.

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Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Honorable Richard B. Russell
Winder
Georgia

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