

Japanese Surrender Overtures -

CLIPPINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE, K45, 1949, 1953

Walter Trohan Papers

Name and Subject File Series

31-wt-b34-f10

SEARCHED

FROM

JOHN T. FLYNN

8/10/52



Walter:

See enclosed correspondence. Do you feel free to enlighten Mr. Hoover any further on this - even in confidence? Of course, I think I know who your informant was, but being a female I know how to keep my mouth shut!

Anyhow, would you write Kemp or Hoover directly? Thanks.

Otherwise, how are you?

Rosalie

August 10, 1953

Mr. Arthur Kemp
Assistant to Mr. Hoover
Waldord-Astoria Towers
New York, New York



Dear Mr. Kemp:

In reply to your note of August 4th, our statement on Page 31 of **THE LATTIMORE STORY** was based on a dispatch to the Chicago Tribune by Walter Trohan, at that time its chief Washington correspondent. The Tribune printed the story on August 19, 1945, and I am enclosing herewith a typewritten copy of the entire story. As you will note, Mr. Trohan had the facts soon after the event described took place, but did not break the story until after V-J Day, when he felt he was released from the war-time voluntary censorship code.

I am taking the liberty of sending your letter, together with a copy of this one, to Mr. Trohan. It may be that after the passage of so many years, he will feel free to give Mr. Hoover any additional facts not contained in his story, plus perhaps the name of his informant.

Yours very sincerely

Rosalie M. Gordon
Asst. to Mr. Flynn

(Encl.)

cc. Mr. Walter Trohan
Chicago Tribune
Albee Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

HERBERT HOOVER

The Waldorf-Astoria Towers
New York 22, New York
August 4, 1953

Mr. John T. Flynn
35-11 222nd Street
Bayside, Long Island, New York

Dear Mr. Flynn:

In your recent, excellent book entitled The Lattimore Story, at p. 31, you mention a memorandum sent to Mr. Roosevelt by General MacArthur containing an "authoritative offer of peace from the Japanese on precisely the terms on which we finally settled the Pacific War."

Can you provide me with the documents and source of this item?

Yours truly,



Arthur Kemp
Assistant to Mr. Hoover

have been able to make the progress they have while we have been marking time.

a question now that the British will be on our heels next two or three years with a jet commercial cross the Atlantic in a matter of five or six hours. that the Russians, who are going in for jets in the air with the new type as soon as the

er declared a bill introduced by him and now before the Foreign Commerce Committee would authorize to contract for the construction of a prototype es.

tion has the support of the Congressional Advisory

it the best qualified men in the country.

"It has the support of Thomas K. Finletter, chairman of the President's Air Policy Board.

"It has the support of Delos Rentsel, director of the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

"Rentsel has only recently returned from Great Britain and testified before the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee in executive session.

Bill Lost in Last Session's Confusion

"What he told us was such an alarming picture of British progress in the field of jet commercial planes that I decided to introduce new legislation and press for action at once.

Congress but it was lost in the confusion of the last few days of the session."

Sen. Brewster declared opposition to the development of the jet transport had come from industrial and official groups, which fear the jet will outmode existing types of commercial planes and long-range bombers. He asserted:

"The fact of the matter is that the British and other foreign jets will outmode our modern planes unless we act quickly.

"The planes will, of course, have a great commercial value, but as transport and cargo planes in the event of war they would enable us to get troops and materiel where we wanted to as fast or faster than an enemy."

Brewster said he would make every effort to get his bill favorably reported and passed before Congress adjourned.

Reveals MacArthur Urged FDR To Keep Soviets Out of Jap War

In a broadcast over WOR, as substitute for Fulton Lewis, who is on vacation, **Walter Trohan**, head of the Chicago Tribune's Washington Bureau, revealed that Gen. MacArthur urged President Roosevelt to bar the Russians from taking part in the war against the Japs.

In urging that the United States resort to psychological warfare against Stalin, Trohan said:

"Our military leaders have experiences in conducting psychological warfare. It is recognized as one of the most important factors in our victory over Japan. Japan was no easy target for psychological warfare. The task seemed to be impossible when it began. Yet it was successful.

DEVOTED TO HIROHITO.

"Japan, as you know, was the oldest empire in the world. Its Emperor had the status of a god. The ruling class formed a despotism. The Japs were blindly devoted to Emperor Hirohito not only as the symbol of national destiny, but as a diety.

"They felt sure they were destined to rule the world. Yet psychological warfare wore the Japs down. Japan was ripe for surrender even before the atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima.

"I can tell you that Gen. MacArthur advised President Roosevelt of this surrender consciousness before Mr. Roosevelt went to Yalta in Jan. 1945.

"Gen. MacArthur, in a long telegram which has never been made public, called on Mr. Roosevelt not to let Soviet Russia into the war against Japan, holding that the consequences would be disastrous.

'POOREST DIPLOMAT.'

"Mr. Roosevelt brushed the telegram aside, saying of Gen. MacArthur: 'Our most brilliant general and our poorest diplomat.'

"Mr. Roosevelt, as you know, went to Yalta and made secret deals extending Soviet influence in return for the Soviet declaration of war against Japan.

"Today, Soviets are claiming they won the Pacific war in three days. They say they won a war in hours that we couldn't win in almost four years.

"The thought war against Japan was directed by Gen. MacArthur. The chief weapons were radio broadcasts and leaflets. I am authorized to tell you an unknown incident of this campaign.

"Intelligence units under Gen. MacArthur gathered much

material from captured Jap officers. In order to get these prisoners to talk more freely, they were told what American bombers were doing to Japan.

'JAPS RISKED DEATH.'

"When these officers realized the destruction, they asked to be permitted to drop by parachute on Japan to urge surrender.

"These Jap prisoners knew they would be killed, but said they could spread the message and help save their country and its people from total destruction. They were convinced surrender was the only course and wanted a chance to convince their people.

"Gen MacArthur and his men did not know how successful this psychological warfare was until the end of the war. When intelligence officers penetrated Japan, they learned their ideas had taken root in the Jap mind.

'WEAKENED JAPS' WILL.'

"Emperor Hirohito himself said American leaflets dropped from the sky had convinced his subjects long before the atomic bombs were dropped that the war was lost.

"Gen. Tojo, Jap war lord, told American interviewers of the power of American propa-

ganda. He said 'sinkings and bombings had their effect, but there was no doubt that the Allied leaflets weakened the people's will to fight and thus shortened the war.'

"Military leaders believe we can accomplish in Russia what was accomplished in Japan. They recognize that we were at war with Japan then and are ostensibly at peace with Russia now. Techniques, therefore, will be different."

Read "Curtiz Spoken Here," Louis Sobol's amusing story about the fabulous Hollywood director and the special language he uses, in the Home Magazine, with Saturday's Journal-American.

Pork Price Drop Seen in 10 Days

CHICAGO, Aug. 18 (UP).—Pork prices probably will drop in about 10 days and the cost of beef may go along, the American Meat Institute said today.

The lower retail prices will result from a bumper Spring pig crop, 15 percent larger than in 1948, the institute said.

Yesterday, farmers reduced their shipments of hogs in an attempt to halt the price decline. As result, market prices varied.

The day before, prices dropped to as low as \$20 a hundred pounds, more than \$10 under the all-time high set last year about this time.

Marvelous Foot Relief!

Dr. Scholl's FOOT-EAZER

- Really Comfortable
- Light Weight
- Flexible



Aviatrix Admits

—It Says Here:—
No Hope In 30 Days

Aug. 19, 1945

BARE PEACE BID U. S. REBUFFED 7 MONTHS AGO

AUG 19 1945
BY WALTER TROHAN

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Washington, D. C., Aug. 18.—Release of censorship restrictions in the United States makes it possible to announce that Japan's first peace bid was relayed to the White House seven months ago.

Two days before the late President Roosevelt left for the Yalta conference with Prime Minister Churchill and Dictator Stalin, he received a Japanese offer identical with the terms subsequently concluded by his successor, President Truman.

The Jap offer, based on five separate peace overtures, was relayed to the White House by Gen. MacArthur in a 40 page communication. The American commander, who had just returned triumphantly to Bataan, urged negotiations on the basis of the Jap overtures.

All Acting for Emperor

Two of the five Jap overtures were made thru American channels and three thru British channels. All came from responsible Japanese, acting for Emperor Hirohito.

President Roosevelt dismissed the general's communication, which was studded with solemn references to the Deity, after a casual reading with the remark, "MacArthur is our greatest general and our poorest politician."

The MacArthur report was not taken to Yalta. It was preserved in the files of the high command, however, and subsequently became the basis of the Truman-Attlee Potsdam declaration calling for surrender of Japan.

News Kept Secret

This Jap peace bid was known to THE TRIBUNE soon after the MacArthur communication reached here. It was not published, however, because of THE TRIBUNE's established policy of complete coöperation with the voluntary censorship code.

Now that peace has been concluded on the basis of the terms MacArthur reported, high administration officials prepared to meet expected congressional demands for explanation of the delay. It was considered certain that charges would be hurled from various quarters of congress that the delay cost thousands of American lives and casualties, particularly in such costly offensives as Iwo and Okinawa.

It was explained in high official circles that the bid relayed by Mac-

Arthur did not constitute an official offer in the same sense as the final offer, which was presented thru Japanese diplomatic channels in Bern and Stockholm for relay to the four major allied powers.

War Lords Feared

No negotiations were begun on the basis of the bid, it was said, because it was feared that if any were undertaken the Jap war lords, who were presumed to be ignorant of the feelers, would visit swift punishment on those making the offer.

It was held possible that the war lords might assassinate the emperor. Officials said Mr. Roosevelt felt that the Japs were not ripe for peace, except for a small group, who were powerless to cope with the war lords, and that peace could not come until the Japs had suffered more.

The offer, as relayed by MacArthur, contemplated surrender of everything but the person of the emperor. Japanese quarters making the offer suggested that the emperor become a puppet in the hands of American forces.

Full Surrender Offered

Jap proposals in the MacArthur communication contemplated:

1. Full surrender of Jap forces on sea, in the air, at home, on island possessions, and in occupied countries.

2. Surrender of all arms and munitions.

3. Occupation of the Jap homeland and island possessions by allied troops under American direction.

4. Jap relinquishment of Manchuria, Korea, and Formosa, as well as all territory seized during the war.

5. Regulation of Jap industry to halt present and future production of implements of war.

6. Turning over of Japanese the United States might designate war criminals.

7. Release of all prisoners of war and internees in Japan proper and in areas under Japanese control.