

# **Stimson Sees War Shortened**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6 (AP) — Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson predicted today that the atomic bomb will “prove a tremendous aid” in shortening the war with Japan.

Mr. Stimson made his statement as the Army reported that an “impenetrable cloud of dust and smoke” cloaked Hiroshima after it was hit by the new weapon from the air.

An accurate assessment of the damage inflicted by the bomb is not yet available, however, the War Department said. As soon as details of its effectiveness are learned, the Department added, they will be released.

Mr. Stimson said in his statement that the explosive power of the bomb is such as to “stagger the imagination.” He added that natural scientists are confident of developing even more powerful atomic bombs.

## **Uranium Used**

Mr. Stimson said that security requirements do not permit disclosure of the exact methods of producing the bomb or the nature of its action. He did say, however, that uranium ore is essential to the production of the bomb.

Development of the bomb culminated three years of work by Allied natural scientists, industry, labor, and military forces, Mr. Stimson said, adding that he was convinced Japan will not be in a position to use a similar weapon. While Germany worked “feverishly” to develop an atomic bomb, Mr. Stimson said, the Nazi defeat now has erased danger from that source.

Mr. Stimson promised that further statements will be released in the future to give additional

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details concerning natural scientific and production aspects.

He disclosed that development of the bomb was carried out by thousands of persons "with the greatest secrecy." The work has been so divided, he said, that no one has been given more information concerning the bomb than was absolutely necessary to his particular job.

## Expansion in 1942

The possibility of using atomic energy in the manufacture of weapons, Mr. Stimson said, was brought to President Roosevelt's attention late in 1939. Mr. Roosevelt named a committee to investigate and by June, 1942, Mr. Stimson said, sufficient progress had been made to warrant a big expansion of the project.

Three plants to produce the bombs were started in December, 1942. Two of these are located at the Clinton Engineer Works in Tennessee and a third at the Hanford Engineer Works in Washington State. The Clinton Engineer

Works is located on a Government reservation 13 miles west of Knoxville, Tenn. The Hanford Engineer Works is located on a 430,000-acre reservation 15 miles northwest of Pasco, Wash.

In addition, a special laboratory to deal with technical problems has been established near Santa Fe, N. M. The laboratory is directed by Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, whose "genius and inspiration," Mr. Stimson said, has been largely responsible for development of the bomb.

## Uses in Peacetime

Mr. Stimson said that the fact that atomic energy now can be released on a large scale in an atomic bomb raises the prospect that such energy may have a big place in peacetime industrial purposes. He added:

"Already in the course of producing one of the elements much energy is being released, not explosively but in regulated amounts.

"This energy, however, is in the form of heat at a temperature too low to make practicable the operation of a conventional power plant. It will be a matter of much further research and development to design machines for the conversion of atomic energy into useful power."

## Britain-Canada Help

Mr. Stimson said the atomic bomb had been developed with the full knowledge and co-operation of Britain and Canada and substantial patent controls on the weapon had been obtained in those countries. Mr. Roosevelt and former Prime Minister Winston Churchill many months ago decided that all work on the bomb should be concentrated in the United States in order to bring about quicker development of the weapon and eliminate duplication.

As a result of that decision, a group of British natural scientists who had been working on the problem were transferred to the United States late in 1943 and since that time have participated in the development of the project in this country.

In addition, Mr. Stimson disclosed that one of Denmark's great natural scientists—Dr. Niels Bohr—was whisked from the grasp of the Nazis in Denmark and later helped in development of the bomb.

## Began Under OSRD

Initially, Mr. Stimson said the project was placed under the direction of the Office of Scientific Research and Development with Dr. Vannevar Bush, Director of OSRD, in charge. At the same time, the President named a general policy group composed of former Vice-President Henry A. Wallace, Mr. Stimson, Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff; Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard University, and Dr. Bush.

This group in 1942 recommended a great expansion in the project and at its suggestion supervision of the work was assumed by the War Department. Maj. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, an Army construction engineer, was placed in complete control.

Mr. Stimson said that General

Groves' performance in developing the weapon in such a short period of time "has been truly outstanding and merits the highest commendation."

In 1943, a combined policy committee was established for the project. This group, at the outset, included Mr. Stimson, Dr. Bush and Dr. Conant for the United States; Field Marshal Sir John Dill and Col. J. J. Llewellyn for the United Kingdom, and G. D. Howe for Canada. Colonel Llewellyn later was replaced by Sir Ronald I. Campbell, who in turn was succeeded by the Earl of Halifax. Marshal Dill was succeeded by Sir Henry Maitland Wilson. Natural scientific advisers to the group included Dr. Richard C. Tolman for the United States members; Sir James Chadwick for the British, and Dean C. J. Mackenzie for the Canadian members.

To handle the problems arising from the control of the weapon and its implications for the peace of the world, Mr. Stimson said, he has named a committee on which he will serve as chairman.

Other members of the committee are Secretary of State James F. Byrnes; Ralph A. Bard, former Undersecretary of the Navy; Assistant Secretary of State Will L. Clayton; Dr. Bush; Dr. Conant; Dr. Karl T. Compton, Chief of the Office of Field Service in the Office of Scientific Research and Development, and George L. Harrison, President of the New York Life Insurance Company and special consultant to Mr. Stimson.

Assisting the interim committee as a natural scientific panel are Dr. Oppenheimer, Dr. E. O. Lawrence, Dr. A. H. Compton, and Dr. Enrico Fermi.