

22 March 1961



Dear Professor Shermer:

I have received your letter of March 15th and read it with deep interest. My records are not immediately available to me and consequently I will reply to your queries in general terms:

Japan realized defeat was inevitable as early as September of 1944 when we initiated the recapture and liberation of the Philippines. This enabled us to interdict by sea and air her essential supplies, from the South, of oil, rubber, nickel, tin and other war materials. This blockade, together with her air vulnerability, made her ultimate destruction a certainty. She was anxious for peace and the Pacific War should have ended several months before it did. In my opinion there was a monumental failure of statescraft on the part of the Allies in not consummating this end.

My own professional views as to the weakness of the enemy were well known. Through my operational and intelligence divisions, colloquially known as G-3 and G-2, I made daily reports to the Army Chief of Staff. I was not consulted about the use of the atom bomb. Had I been I would have expressed the view that it was unnecessary--that Japan was already prepared to surrender.

I trust this gives you the information you requested.

Most sincerely,

DOUGLAS MacARTHUR.

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