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The President and Fog of War Scenario

Times are grim, in fact desperate, and they require immediate actions. President Henry S. Truman has asked for me to come up with comprehensive plan and, to appear before his cabinet alongside him. Cabinet will be comprising of; General Leslie Groves who is overlooking Manhattan Project, General George Marshal who is the Chief of Staff, Henry L. Stimpson who belongs to Republican Party and is called for his valuable foreign policy insights and suggestions, General Curtis LeMay who is a general in United States Air Force, and also Secretary of State Edward Stettinius will be present too, as the names and situation suggest this will strictly be behind the doors and confidential. As the Pacific War has almost dragged on now for three and a half year since December, 1941 and showing no signs of ending as neither side is backing down. Allies back then were caught by surprised when Japan attacked unannounced, which eventually forced America to retaliate but to the dismay of American Forces, Japanese have proven committed and not given up on their end, but frustration for Allies and specially America is somewhat different; Pacific as a lone and distant war frontier, and another expanding frontier in terms of lives and cost, in fact.

Pre-briefing

Since the situation demands firsthand knowledge of facts and possible scenarios, so, I must be well prepared and concise. The matter which is hotcake is the strong demand for firebombing of Japan to reach the conclusive and immediate end. The biggest advocate for fire bombing of Japan is Robert S. McNamara who is offering to run statistical analysis of firebombing, whether I would endorse or not is a matter of time, but first I have to equip myself with some facts as Battle of Iwo Jima which ended at the end of March, 1945 on the island of Iwo Jima between American Marine Corps and Japanese navy which resulted in Americas favor not only 18000 Japanese troops died but 3000 also surrendered. Similarly, another positive news from Pacific is of Battle of Okinawa between Japanese forces and Allied Forces along side American Forces concluded on June 22, 1945 has resulted in the victory of American and Allied Forces, as more than 7000 Japanese troops have been captured. Also, not to forget Operation Downfall which is being proposed by Allies and the proposition is to invade the Japanese home islands as soon as Allies clear other frontiers and this plan is, if implemented, to be joint venture of Allies Forces. The committed troops so far are 350,000 and expectation is the numbers will grow. Estimation of casualties are of different nature; meagre numbers and exaggerating numbers as Admiral Leahy estimated casualties will be around 268,000, while Navy Department estimations vary between 400,000 to 800,000. Secretary of War Henry Stimson's staff by William Shockley estimates the Japanese fatalities to be staggering 5 million.

The Problem and Recommendation

As the cabinet and president are pondering over what should be the next strategy, whether to go for Manhattan Gadget, as it suggests an implosive Plutonium device, whose use as a priority is being supported by McNamara, while President somehow also seems to be interested in his take. Whereas for Operation Downfall Edward Stettinius and Henry L. Stimson appear to be more rationale and think it would be a better idea, and suddenly President points at me and asks for my opinion, when I put my pen besides the file which I prepared and I offer that Manhattan Gadget wouldn't be a good idea as although it might seem a conclusive and decisive abrupt end but it poses a more grave threat; casualties of unarmed civilians. Whereas, Operation Downfall is different in this respect that civilian casualties could be avoided, or their number can be lessened, and a greater number of Japanese soldiers could be killed and captured when America will be joined by Allies. President Truman listened to my suggestion attentively and agreed that more debate is required, while adjourned the meeting.

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