



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



8 April 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL MCPEAK

FROM: AF/HO
170 Luke Ave Suite 400
Bolling AFB, DC 20332-5113

SUBJECT: Enola Gay Exhibit

Herewith a brief update on the National Air and Space Museum's Enola Gay exhibit and script: the discussion of this issue has gone public and has reached cacophonous proportions.

There have been recent pieces in the Washington Times and John Correll, editor of Air Force magazine, appeared on WRC Talk Show Radio, on April 8th [tape enclosed, minus the first 60-second introduction]. As you know, Correll wrote two articles on this subject, initially printed as a separate paper, and subsequently published in the April 1994 issue of Air Force Magazine. Correll's presentation on WRC was a tour de force; moreover, as is evident on the tape, the talk show host, Jeff Hayman, became highly energized, deploring the NASM's script and describing it as "garbage."

Also, historians from the Army, Navy, Marines, and JCS are scheduled to present their views on the script -- as Herman Wolk and I did for the Air Force -- to the NASM next week. Talks with these historians indicate that their view, like ours, is highly critical of the script for the exhibit.

Although NASM has made some progress with the script, they presently appear unwilling to repair it, in the following areas:

- The script gives the impression that Truman was more concerned with the atomic bomb as a diplomatic weapon against the USSR than as a route to shorten the war and avoid heavy American casualties.
- President Truman's deep concern with potential American casualties, should an invasion be necessary, does not come out clearly in the script.
- The script never mentions that President Roosevelt was the leading American official advocating the bombing of Japanese cities "heavily and relentlessly." Outraged by Japanese brutality in China, FDR indicated even prior to the Pearl Harbor attack, that he wanted to see Japanese cities bombed.

- In the script, four or five sentences take us from 1931 to 1941. Missing in proportion to other events, are Japanese aggression and their brutality against subject peoples.
- "For most Japanese, it was a war to defend their unique culture against western Imperialism." Who was the aggressor here? The U.S.?

There are additional problems that Dr. Harwit and his curators appear unwilling to address. These include a vastly unbalanced visual presentation, that emphasizes Japanese civilian casualties from bombing as opposed to Japanese brutality and atrocities.

Incredibly, Dr. Harwit has apparently asked Lt. Gen. Kicklighter, heading the DOD World War II Commemorative Committee, to help fund this exhibit with \$250,000. We are hopeful that Gen. Kicklighter will turn this request down.

I shall keep you informed.

Sincerely



RICHARD P. HALLION, SES
Air Force Historian

Attachment:
WRC Tape