

Harry S. Truman to Mrs. Haydon Klein, Jr., August 4, 1964. Post-Presidential File, Truman Papers.

HARRY S TRUMAN  
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

August 4, 1964

Dear Mrs. Klein:

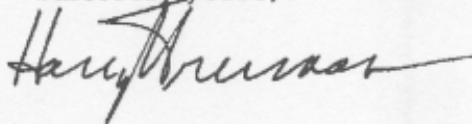
In reply to yours of the 28th of July, the matter about which you wrote me - the atomic bomb - is one that is of interest to most people. The only reason the atomic bomb was used was because it was a weapon of war.

While I was on the way home from Potsdam I sent a message to the Japanese Government asking them to surrender unconditionally and I hoped that would end the war. They refused and then I ordered the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, just as I would have used the long gun as the Germans did in the first World War.

The dropping of those bombs ended the war and that was the objective. There is nothing to take home with you to sleep with - it was a means to end the war and save 250,000 men from being killed on our side and that many on the Japanese side, plus twice that many being injured for life. You will find this information in my Memoirs and in any other documents.

I have never worried about the dropping of the bomb. It was just a means to end the war and that is what was accomplished.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Haydon Klein, Jr.  
Route 2, Box 100-A  
Attalla, Alabama

