An appeal to President Truman to immediately discontinue production of the atomic bomb and to press for "commitments by all nations outlawing the atomic bomb and also war, which has developed the technology of mass destruction", was issued today by thirty-four religious and educational leaders. In a joint statement, signed by George A. Buttrick, Paul E. Scherer, John Haynes Holmes, E. McNeill Poteat, E. Stanley Jones, Robert L. Calhoun, Ernest Fremont Tittle, Abraham Cronbach, and twenty-six others, the signatories condemn America's use of the atomic bomb against Japan which they call "an atrocity of a new magnitude". The unleashing of this "cosmic disturbance" over Hiroshima and then Nagasaki, is said to mark "a new low of inhumanity". The new missile "was not used to save ourselves in an extremity of desperation. We cannot believe it was even essential to the defeat of Japan", say those leaders, and they continue by saying: "It's reckless and irresponsible employment against an already virtually beaten foe will have to receive judgment before God and the conscience of humankind. It has our unmitigated condemnation."

The statement points out that "our own future fate is involved in the wartime use of the atomic bomb," that if it clinched victory in the Pacific it "sowed the whirlwind", which we may have to reap. Doubt is cast upon the President's power to keep "the new demon" under control. If it is thought, "that no one else will ever obtain the formula or another effective one, or will ever obtain a specimen bomb, or will ever be able to visit our shores with one in some future conflict, we must disagree", say the signers.
Expressing gratitude "for the scientific achievement that lies behind this weapon", the signers of the statement assert their wish "to see the new power reserved for constructive civilian uses".

Following are the text of the statement and list of signatories, all of whom have signed as individuals and not representing organizations.

**THE USE OF THE ATOMIC BOMB**

We have at last achieved the Atomic Bomb. In the lethal race against Germany, we got there first. It was too late to try out our bomb on the Germans but there was still time to test it in the centers of two Japanese cities. It did its work thoroughly and the heart of each city is atomized and the "dead are too numerous to count".

Our nations' leaders announced this with satisfaction. We do not share this sentiment. We believe we have committed an atrocity of a new magnitude; and though technically it may not contravene the recognized rules of "civilized" warfare, in essence it violates every instinct of humanity. If it is covered by no accepted regulation that is because it is outside the entire code of human relationships.

We have repeatedly voiced our condemnation of obliteration aerial bombing. Japan was universally and rightly condemned for the bombing of Chinese cities with their civilian populations. We have descended step by step to an equally low level of moral culpability by the systematic wiping out of half a hundred Japanese cities, most of which have offered no serious defense.

But this new weapon opens new areas for our moral judgment. While we were ostentatiously announcing in advance the doom of one after another of the smaller enemy cities, and calling it mercy, we suddenly unleashed by
parachute over the large city of Hiroshima, and then of Nagasaki, this "cosmic disturbance" which has dragged the war and all of us with it, to a new low of inhumanity. This new missile of two thousand times the magnitude of our attacks hitherto, was not used to save ourselves in an extremity of desperation. We cannot believe it was even essential to the defeat of Japan. Its reckless and irresponsible employment against an already virtually beaten foe will have to receive judgment before God and the conscience of humankind. It has our unmitigated condemnation.

Our own future fate is involved in this wartime use of the atomic bomb. We agree with Hanson Baldwin's comment, that "we clinched victory in the Pacific, but we sowed the whirlwind". We may have to reap not only the whirlwind of revenge and retaliation at so colossal a crime as we have committed against other human beings by its indiscriminate use; this very missile may be the instrument of our own destruction as a nation. Our President gravely assures us that the new demon will be carefully kept in control. If this means that no one else will ever obtain the formula or another effective one, or will ever obtain a specimen bomb, or will ever be able to visit our shores with one in some future conflict, we must disagree. We have now brought forth the new weapon that the world has been seeking and yet dreading. Now we shall have to take the consequences. We are grateful for the scientific achievement that lies behind this weapon, and we wish to see the new power reserved for constructive, civilian uses. The spiritual nature of man is challenged to achieve this. But, if once we legitimize use of the Atomic Bomb for enemy destruction, no power can again bring this new death-energy within bounds.

We, therefore, with a sense of the utmost urgency protest against all further use of the atomic bomb and we respectfully ask the President to take
immediate steps to discontinue its production; and, to press for commitments by all nations outlawing the atomic bomb and a lso war which has developed the technology of mass destruction.
LIST OF SIGNERS

STATEMENT ON THE ATOMIC DOOM
(Signing as individuals only; organizations named only for identification)

Prof. Roland H. Dainton
Rev. A. D. Bettel, D.D.
Rev. George A. Buttrick, D.D.
Prof. Robert F. Calhoun, D.D.
Rev. J. Henry Carpenter, D.D.
Franklin D. Cogswell
Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, D.D.
Prof. Walter P. Davison
Rev. Phillips P. Elliott, D.D.
Mary Farquharson
Rev. John Haynes Holmes, D.D.
Prof. Charles Iglesheart
Rev. E. Stanley Jones, D.D.
Rev. John Paul Jones
Prof. Rufus H. Jones
Rev. Samuel H. Marble, D.D.
Alfred D. Moore
Rev. A. J. Ruste
Rev. James Myers
Kirby Page
Mrs. Henry Hill Pierce
Clarence Pickett
Yale Divinity School
President, Talladega College, Ala.
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
Yale Divinity School
Brooklyn Church and Mission Federation
Secretary, Missionary Education Movement
Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio
Union Theological Seminary, New York
First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Former member, Washington State Senate
Community Church, New York
Union Theological Seminary, New York
Missionary and evangelist
Union Church of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Quaker author and leader
Church of Our Savior, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Trinity Methodist Church, Denver, Colorado
Foreign Missions Conference of North America
Co-secretary, Fellowship of Reconciliation
Federal Council of Churches Industrial Dept.
Author and lecturer, La Habra, California
Secretary, Episcopal Pacifist fellowship
Executive Secretary, American Friends Serv. Com.
Rev. Edwin Hosieill Potent, D.D.
Dorothy M. Roberts
Rev. John Kevin Sayre
Rev. Paul E. Scherer, D.D.
Prof. Walter Y. Sikes
Prof. Arthur La Swift, Jr., D.D.
Rev. Linburn T. Thomas, D.D.
Rev. Ernest Fremont Tittle, D.D.
Osvald Garrison Villard
Rev. Theodore D. Walser, D.D.
E. Raymond Wilson

President, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School
Formerly missionary in China
Co-secretary, Fellowship of Reconciliation
Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, N.Y.
Taraa College, Kentucky
Union Theological Seminary, New York
Student Volunteer Movement, New York
First Methodist Church, Evanston, Illinois
Author and journalist
Secretary, Y. Fellowship of Reconciliation
Friends Committee on National Legislation