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The alphabet of destruction, 1954.

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THE ALPHABET OF DESTRUCTION

April 25, 1954

...(machine defect) when panic strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind." I did not grasp the full meaning of that phrase until recently, when on March first the Hydrogen Bomb was exploded. It sent the kind of terror to the hearts of men everywhere and struck them as a panic strikes, like a storm, and they saw their calamity coming like a whirlwind. We had hardly recovered from the earlier H-bomb explosion back in November '52, concerning which we had been given but scanty information. More detailed information was given about the second test explosion. And mankind was suddenly confronted with the possibility of its own total destruction at its own hands. Out of the physicist's test-tube, the Aladdin Lamp of the laboratory, there had come forth a genie of fury, of devastation and of death which the wildest and the wierdest imagination of man could not have conjured up as recently as ten years ago.

Mankind has had reason in the past to fear incidents of mass destruction - plagues, floods, earthquakes, drought and famine, invasion and slaughter - but never anything like this! Not this whirlwind of fiery radiation, which is capable of leaving whole cities and provinces and their populations just charred ashes and debris. We used to imagine when we were children of "death-rays." It was part of the wild fantasy of the inflamed imagination of people. Well, the "death-rays" are here.

Ten years ago in New Mexico the first atomic bomb was exploded. Man had discovered the secret of splitting apart atoms of heavy matter to set free vast amounts of energy. And it used it first and foremost in the making of a bomb. And that atomic bomb which was dropped ten years ago in New Mexico had the explosive power 20 million times that of TNT. It was a bomb of that category which was dropped upon Hiroshima, you will recall, and wiped it out, with some 60,000 people, in a second. We were horrified when that Hiroshima event took place and with the

appalling destruction which was wrought there and the even more appalling potentials which that event revealed. Suddenly a curtain was lifted upon a new type of warfare, a warfare of total annihilation. Some people came to have great fright as a result of it and some came to have a deep sense of guilt and sin. And foremost among them who had a deep sense of guilt and sin about this bomb was the creator of the bomb itself. Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, who is now charged with not creating the H-bomb quick enough, said, "In some crude sense which no vulgarity, no humor, no overstatement can quite extinguish, the physicists have known sin (ever since that bomb was dropped in 1945), and this is a knowledge which they cannot lose." For the work of their hands and their brains was put to frightful uses, altogether unimagined by them when they first set out to wrest this terrible secret from the heart of the elements.

Other people comforted themselves with the thought that after all this bomb which was dropped on Hiroshima did hasten the end of the war. To that extent they thought it was justified. Others comforted themselves with the thought the United States, being then in sole possession of that terrible weapon of war, that the Soviet will not dare to challenge the military might of the free nations of the world and that the world would now have peace. The world did not have peace. Korea followed, and tensions mounted. And then it was discovered that the Soviet itself had developed an A-bomb of its own. And the great comfort vanished from the hearts of men.

Seven years later, in November of 1952, another alphabet-bomb of destruction made its debut on Marshall Islands - the Hydrogen Bomb. This, we are informed, is no longer a fission bomb, but is called a fusion bomb, that is, atoms of extremely light elements of hydrogen are fused together and in the process vast amounts of energy are released, far greater than is released by fission. In fact this H-bomb which was dropped in the Marshall Islands in 1952 was 250 times as powerful as the atomic bomb. The H-bomb which was exploded that year was equal to five million tons of TNT.

It appears, from what the scientists tell us, that the A-bomb is now what we call the trigger for the new hydrogen bomb. The A-bomb produces the necessary temperature to make this fusion bomb of hydrogen possible. It appears too that the H-bomb can be manufactured much more cheaply than the A-bomb, which required costly minerals, rare minerals. So when the second H-bomb was exploded in March of this year, it really shook the world, and voices were raised everywhere, in high circles and in low, demanding an end of this experimentation with wholesale death. The Pope called for the outlawing of the A-bomb and the H-bomb. Other religious leaders spoke up in indignation, in wrath, and in despair, and voices were heard in the Parliaments of the world. And the man in the street began to mutter against these plans of wholesale slaughter which were being prepared for him.

If by the explosion last March it was intended to impress the world and to frighten the potential aggressor, it did not achieve its objective because it now turns out that Russia too has the H-bomb. The H-bomb did not stop war in Indo-China. It has not made the North Koreans more amenable. It has not strengthened our position in any visible degree in the forthcoming conference in Geneva.

And now men talk of a C-bomb - a Cobalt Bomb. The Cobalt Bomb is an H-bomb with a jacket of cobalt instead of steel. And the scientists tell us "The cobalt has the quality of absorbing radioactive particles, creating a radioactive cloud equal in lethal power (that is in killing power) to more radium than exists on the entire earth. The cobalt bomb does not need an airplane. It could be exploded on a tramp steamer 1500 miles out in the Pacific, say, from San Francisco. The explosion itself would be wasted byt the radioactive cloud would be carried on the winds in the space of a day and destroy all life over the entire North American continent.

So here you have it. Three letters of the alphabet, the Alphabet of Destruction - A-, H-, and C. And others may be added. Others may be added to insure that the race of man will be wholly extinguished when the next world war breaks out.

Now, of course, plans are being made to meet the attack or the threat of an

H-bomb attack and to persuade people not to be frightened about the possibility of an H-bomb attack. And so I have been reading articles in the last few weeks on the question "Can the H-Bomb be stopped?" And our military tell us that great plans are being made to stop a possible H-bomb attack, first by locating enemy bombers long before they reach U. S. borders through radar stations which will pick up approaching planes and sound the alarm; secondly, to intercept and attack these planes which will be en route to targets in the United States through jet fighters and so forth; thirdly, to knock down with missiles any bombers that get near major cities. Well, that may all well be, but I remember in the Second World War that General Goering told the German people that the city of Berlin would never be attacked from the air; so complete was its anti-aircraft system of guns that not a single airplane would get through to drop a single bomb on Berlin. And when the war was over, Berlin was a heap of rubbish.

And so men today have begun to look about for shelters, for underground places of refuge, for caves, for places away from the cities when the cities will be evacuated, places of shelter behind walls which will be, they believe, they hope, impenetrable to the deadly radiation of the man-made ...(Hebrew).

Back to the cave. To this sorry, tragic pass has civilized man come in the twentieth century. To this pass the brilliance of science, and the unfettered and creative mind of man, and the cleverness of the statesmen of the world - crawl back to the cave for shelter and security, just like primitive man, afraid of the lurking beasts of prey, like the Stone Age Man.

You know, the more you read the Bible, the more you are amazed at the far vision and the penetrating insight which these men of nearly 3,000 years ago had of what man can do to himself when he gets going. Turn to the prophet Isaiah,

Chapter 2, and read, and relate what he said to what is happening in our world in 1954. "For the Lord of hosts has a day
Against all that is proud and lofty

Against all that is lifted up and high
And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled,
and the pride of men shall be brought low;
And the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.
And men shall enter the caves of the rocks
And the holes of the ground
From before the terror of the Lord,
And from the glory of his majesty.

Well, what now? Now that man has it within his power to destroy himself completely and the means are at hand already stock-piled, they're there. What now? What is he going to do about it? What are we going to do about it? Because we, we too, are involved in this overhanging cloud of death - not they only, we! Cleveland is as good a target for an H-bomb as Hiroshima was for an A-bomb. And when the death-laden dust clouds of the C-bomb begin to ride through the air, they may not by-pass Ohio. It all sounds so fantastic, doesn't it. And even though you know that it is all true and real, you don't credit it. It simply can't happen, we keep on saying to ourselves. Why can't it happen? It happened to Hiroshima when we had, we, the United States, the exclusive use of the A-bomb, and we used it!

Is the fact that our potential enemy today also is in possession of the A- and the H-bomb, is that a sure guarantee that neither side will use it? We hope that it is so. But this may all be wishful thinking. What if Malenkov loses his head or his nerve, and being hard-pressed he resorts to the use of the bomb, bringing immediately retaliatory bomb action on our part? Is that beyond the range of possibility? Have we a right to rule this thing out of our thinking?

What if some hot-heads get control of our foreign policy here at home, and because we are involved and may become involved in what we call "little wars" in this or that part of the world, they may decide for us to use one of these alphabets of destruction, bring it into play so that in some quick way they could end this "little war", relying upon our superiority in the number of bombs in our possession, the number of bases which we may have close to the target. Have we a right to rule this out?

We all feel that this simply must not happen, and I am sure that the people

behind the iron curtain also feel the same way about it. They don't want to be destroyed either. But how can we guarantee ourselves against this thing ever happening. There are those who say let's outlaw the A-bomb and the H-bomb. In 1928 under the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact all war was outlawed and the nations agreed never to resort to war as an instrument of national policy. It wasn't very long before the Second World War was upon us. I for one, I'm not an expert at these matters, certainly no military expert of any sort, but I cannot see any way out of this impasse except by taking the control of the bomb away from the individual nations which now possess it and placing it where it belongs, where all armament control really belongs - in that organization which the nations of the world have set up just for that purpose after the horrible experiences of the Second World War when we were still in a chastened mood and a realistic mood. There is an agency set up called the United Nations, also an alphabet - a U.N., an alphabet of construction, of healing, of reconciliation instead of destruction. But we have consistently refused to implement that organization and to enable it to work. When I say "we" I mean the great powers of the world. We have had little to say about it. It is clear now that the nations of the world have gone as far as they could with regional organizations and regional arrangements for defense as a way to ensure peace, and the result of that relies upon NATO and other regional arrangements and the Soviet relies upon their commonwealth of peoples. The result of all that has been a Cold War of mounting intensity, of frightful and dangerous competition in the race to build more and deadlier alphabets of destruction. It seems to me, and I may be very naive in this matter, but the great solutions of mankind are always very simple though they are terribly difficult. It seems to me that the nations of the world who met in San Francisco nearly ten years ago to set up machinery for averting war must retrace their steps of their detour into dangerous territory in the last few years - away from the highway of reason which they carved out for themselves in the Charter of the United Nations. The United Nations, when it was established, did

not contemplate two worlds, west and east, regionally organized with maximum military equipment to preserve the peace of the world. The U.N. was built on the proposition of One World, with one central organization representing all the nations of the world implemented to ensure peace in the world. And from this simple, and in my judgment inevitable arrangement to which the great nations subscribed ten years ago they have drifted dangerously away. And the competition between the East and the West is slowly destroying the United Nations, just as a similar competition between the big powers destroyed the League of Nations. The United Nations, to all intents and purposes as far as preserving peace is concerned, is a dead institution today. The United Nations has done and is doing good work and important work in the field of economics and social activities and cultural activities between people - necessary work, but after all is said and done, the primary purpose of the United Nations had to do (and this is Article I of Chapter I of the Charter of the U.N.) "To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace." And it was contemplated, as part of this basic purpose of the U.N. that two things would be done: (a) "In order to promote (Article 26) the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee ..., plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments." Reduction of armaments. That was contemplated at San Francisco. Nothing has been done in this regard except data which has been accumulated, information, reports, voluminous - nothing has been done, and

the world in the last ten years has been pouring out its vast resources which could be used to build up the economy of the backward peoples of the world, bring abundance and prosperity to mankind - pour them into this , this never-satisfied... of the military machine of the world. Nothing has been done on that score. Very little has been done on the second score because that charter of the U.N. contemplated that if a nation threatens aggression it shall be curbed by a definite procedure. Attempts at adjustment, compromise, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration - and failing in all this, force shall be used by the U.N. upon that recalcitrant aggressor.

Article 41: "The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations." That's the first step.

Article 42: "Should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations."

Article 43: "All Members of the United Nations, in order to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, undertake to make available to the Security Council, on its call and in accordance with a special agreement or agreements, armed forces, assistance, and facilities, including rights of passage, necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security." In other words what was merely contemplated in San Francisco was the United Nations would become the military power to ensure peace in the world. That it and it alone would come if necessary to be that police force to the world to keep peace. That has not been done to any appreciable degree. It seems to me that world opinion should now

force the big powers to implement their own decisions which they made after the second world war and to enable the U. N. to become an enforceable power for world peace. And in that connection I believe that a general conference of the members of the organization should review the present charter. It is now urgent. A periodic review of the Charter is contemplated in the Charter itself. I think it is high time for these nations to have another meeting such as they had in San Francisco to take stock - take stock of the world - take stock of the weakness of the United Nations which they brought about - where it can be strengthened - make a new start, especially if the Geneva Conference which is about to begin will end as it may well end in a stalemate. We shall then indeed be facing a blank wall in diplomacy and the danger of an eruption of war.

It is now five minutes to twelve, my friends. Mankind has not too much time before this avalanche of death sweeps over us. I do not speak or never have spoken I hope, as an alarmist, but one ought to be a realist in these matters. Most of us have lived through two World Wars, and we know how quick on the trigger certain hands are, and once that finger moves the whole chain of reactions, of disasters follows inevitably. The sad part about it all is that this new power that was discovered by the mind of man, this nuclear energy, is perhaps the greatest gift that could have been made to mankind, one of the greatest blessings if used for peaceful purposes. It could help to increase the wealth of mankind, thousandfold, to create abundance for all. President Eisenhower had that in mind when he addressed himself to the assembly of the United Nations not long ago and urged the nations to get together for a cooperative effort in using and exploiting this new reservoir of energy for pacific purposes, economic purposes, for health purposes, for a blessing instead of a curse. So far that has not been done.

If I were to speak as Isaiah spoke or Jeremiah I would conclude what I am saying this morning as they would have concluded. There is need for a return, a repentance, a change of heart. There is no other solution that I can see on the part of the statesmen of the world and on the part of mankind generally. (Hebrew) - "Cast off from you

all your sins," said the Prophet Jeremiah. "And get ye a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, O Children of Israel." A new heart and a new mood. We have to think differently and begin to speak differently and begin to concern ourselves more with different things than we have been concerning ourselves heretofore. A new world has been created by these A and H and C bombs - a totally new world and we've got to become new people living in that new world with a new vision and a new outlook - parochialism, isolationism, false patriotism, unbridled hatred of ideologies of which we do not approve belong to the old world - they won't help us in the new world. We have to think in larger terms and view things with a larger perspective because everything has been speeded up in power and in tempo and what is at stake is the world; mankind is at stake; everything is at stake.

This is how I read the story of the new alphabet of destruction.



1) Bible - "When panic strikes you like a storm
And your calamity comes like a whirlwind"

Did not grasp full meaning of it. Had not fully received -
The ^{2nd} order of flight - Mar 1-52 -
Marshall Island -

March 1 - H. Bomb test - Sent terror -

Man had confronted with the possibility of its own total destruction
at its own hands.

Out of the physicists test-tubes ^{the gladiolus lamp, the laboratory} had come a genie of fury,
the devastation & death which the wildest & wisest imagination
could not have conjured up as recently as 10 yrs
ago

Man had reason on the part to fear ^{incidents &} mass destruction - flashes,
flashes, flashes & flashes - flashes & flashes - flashes & flashes -

But never anything like this - nor this whirlwind of fire & death
from the air flashes & flashes - flashes & flashes - flashes & flashes -
choked debris and ashes. - "Death-rays"

2. 10 yrs. ago - New Mexico - atomic bomb - Man had discovered
the secret of splitting apart atoms, heavy matter to
set free vast amounts of energy. That atomic bomb
had the explosive power 20,000 times that of TNT.

It was a bomb, that catastrophe which wiped out Hiroshima
- we were horrified then - The appalling destruction wrought at
Hiroshima - and its even more appalling potentials -

Same came to have deep sense of his guilt

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer (note)

Curran
left
for a new
kind of
work

- Some comforted Eas - ended Jap. war by 20 many days (2)
- ~~How~~ Berg in SRJ possession - Soviet will not dare.
- will have peace.
- (Korea) Tennois mounted - Soviet developed an A bomb 2nd war.

3/. 7 yr. later - in Nov. 1952 - Another alphabet bomb of Destruction made its debut - on Marshall Islands

The H. Bomb - no longer a fission bomb but a fusion bomb - atoms, extremely light element of Hydrogen are fused together - releasing vast amounts of energy - far greater than ~~fission bomb~~ is released by fission - 250 times the power, the atomic bomb - Hiroshima

The H. bomb exploded in 1952 - 250 times 5 m. tons TNT.

It appears that the A bomb is the proper bomb for the H. bomb - produces the necessary temperature to make the fusion bomb possible.

It appears too that the H. bomb can be manufactured much more cheaply than the A. bomb. - rare & costly materials

The explosion last March - really shocked the world. - voices - demanding an end to this experiment with wholesale death.

Pope - Rel. leaders - Parliaments - Man in the Street. (3)

- If it was intended to impress the world - & frighten it would be a disaster. - Russia, too, has the H. bomb.
- It has not stopped the war in Indo-China.
- It has not made the North Kor. more amenable.
- It has not changed our position - Geneva.

4). And now we talk of C bomb = Cobalt bomb = Cobalt
bomb is an H. bomb with a jacket of cobalt instead
of steel.

I read (write)

5). So here you have the 3 letters, the alphabet - the alph.
Destruction - A - H - C. - Others may soon be
added - to insure that the whole race ^{may} man will
be wholly extinguished - when the next war breaks out.

5A) Plans to meet H. bomb attack

6). Men have begun to look around for shelter under -
ruined in ruins, ^{away from cities} behind walls impenetrable to the
deadly radiations of the man-made radio.

(a) Back to the Cave - To this very, tragic pass has advanced man
came. - The brilliance of science, the unfettered mind, man,
the waterworks, the age! - Crawled back to the cave
for shelter & security - like the primitive man, afraid,
the flaming hearts, prey - like flame by man!

(b) Crash - "For the Lord of hosts has a day
against all that is proud and lofty

Against all that is lifted up and high -
And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled,
And the pride of man shall be brought low;
And the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.
And men shall enter the caves of the rocks
And the holes of the ground,
From before the terror of the Lord,
And from the glory of his majesty.

7/. What now? Now that man has it ^{with in his power}
to destroy himself completely - ^{the means are at hand} What now? What is he going to do about it?

What are WE going to do about it?
For us, too, we are involved in this overhanging cloud
of death - not they, only, but WE!

Cleveland + those are as good a target for an H. bomb
as Hiroshima was for an H. bomb.

And when the death-laden dust clouds, the C. bomb
begins to ride thru the air - it may not be far
off!

It all sounds so fantastic - that even tho we know
it to be true + possible - we do not credit it!

~~we~~ It simply can't happen we keep on saying to
ourselves - But why can't it happen? It happened
to Hiroshima - when we had excluded us, the A

book — and we used it!

Is the fact that an ~~so~~ potential enemy today believes
has the book a ^{sure} guarantee that neither side will use it?
What if Malenkov loses his head or his nerves — + hard-

pressed — ~~It~~ resorts to the use of the book?

What if some hot-heads get control of our foreign policy
here at home — and bec. of involvement in a war in this
or that part of the world — decide that a ^{guilt} the applied
destruction should be brought into play? — as a good way
ending the war? — relying upon our superiority in the number
of books in our possession —

8/ We all feel that this simply must not happen.

People here & in Soviet —

But how can we guarantee ourselves against its ever
happening? — Outlawing? 1928 - Killing - Soviet Pact
by taking the control of the books H. H. TC. away from
individual nations — & having it — when it belongs — in
when all armament control should ultimately
body — in U.N. ^{+ arrangements}

We have gone as far as we can with regional orgs.
for defense — as a way to win peace —

Permit — Cold War — competition race in alph.

Destruction —

We must reverse our steps — U.N. controlled
not two Wald-Pumpers — but no ball —

Competition bet. world powers - slowly destroying U.N. as home of Nations

U.N. has been doing good work - econ. - social - cultural

Chief purpose - prevent war - (Article 1)

(a) Disarmament - (Article 26)

(b) way of settling peace - Security Council
41 - 42 - 43 - 45

9) U.N. - only alphabet - consistent members of A.H.C.
World powers must face by Powers to implement
their own decisions - after end world war -

A Gen. Conf. of members of U.N. to review the present
Charter is now urgent - esp. if General Conf.
ends in another state-mate.

10) It is 5 m. to 12.1. ~~Standard~~ ~~standard~~ ~~war~~ has
not too much time - before the avalanche, do it
we can see it.

11) The sad part - Nuclear energy on (great blessing)
if put to peaceful purposes -
Material wealth - create abundance for all - (Pres. Eisenhower)

12) Repentance - Return -
2/10/61. 1/11/61. 2/11/61. 3/11/61. 4/11/61. 5/11/61. 6/11/61. 7/11/61. 8/11/61. 9/11/61. 10/11/61. 11/11/61. 12/11/61.