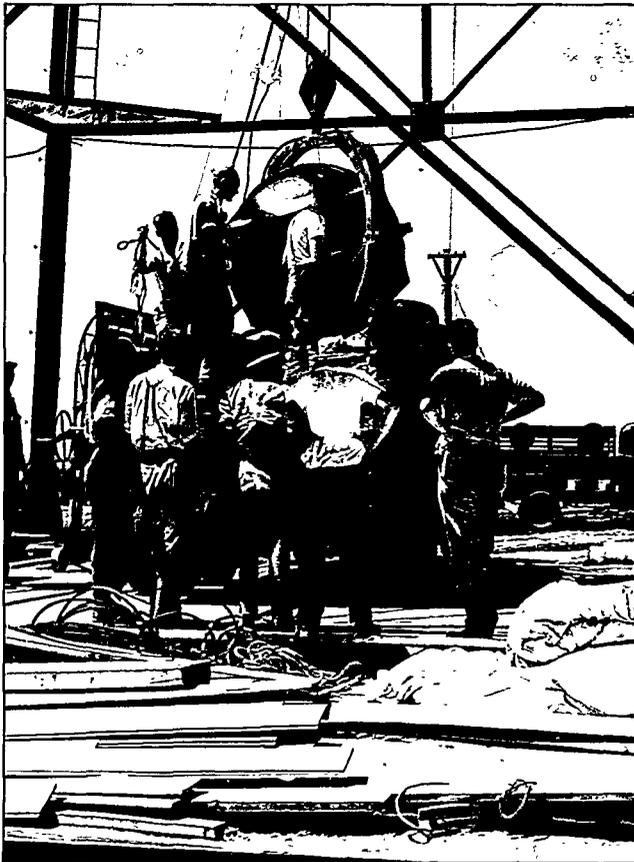


At base camp, Bush, Conant, and Groves shook hands. Oppenheimer reported later that the experience called to his mind the legend of Prometheus, punished by Zeus for giving man fire. He also thought fleetingly of Alfred Nobel's vain hope that dynamite would end wars. The terrifying destructive power of atomic weapons and the uses to which they might be put were to haunt many of the Manhattan Project scientists for the remainder of their lives.<sup>50</sup>

The success of the Trinity test meant that a second type of atomic bomb could be readied for use against Japan. In addition to the uranium gun model, which was not tested prior to being used in combat, the plutonium implosion device detonated at Trinity now figured in American Far Eastern strategy. In the end Little Boy, the untested uranium bomb, was dropped first at Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, while the plutonium weapon Fat Man followed three days later at Nagasaki on August 9.



Trinity Device Being Readied. Reprinted from Richard G. Hewlett and Oscar E. Anderson, Jr., *The New World, 1939-1946*, Volume I of *A History of the United States Atomic Energy Commission* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1962).



Remains of Trinity Test Tower Footings. Oppenheimer and Groves at Center. *Department of Energy*.

### Potsdam

The American contingent to the Big Three conference, headed by Truman, Byrnes, and Stimson, arrived in Berlin on July 15 and spent most of the next two days grappling with the interrelated issues of Russian participation in the Far Eastern conflict and the wording of an early surrender offer that might be presented to the Japanese. This draft surrender document received considerable attention, the sticking point being the term "unconditional." It was clear that the Japanese would fight on rather than accept terms that would eliminate the Imperial House or demean the warrior tradition, but American policy makers feared that anything less than a more democratic political system and total demilitarization might lead to Japanese aggression in the future. Much effort went into finding the precise formula that would satisfy American war aims in the Pacific without requiring a costly invasion of the Japanese mainland. In an attempt to achieve surrender with honor, the emperor had instructed his ministers to open negotiations with Russia. The United States intercepted and decoded messages between Tokyo and Moscow that made it unmistakably clear that the Japanese were searching for an alternative to unconditional surrender.

### Reports on Trinity

Stalin arrived in Berlin a day late, leaving Stimson July 16 to mull over questions of postwar German administration and the Far Eastern situation. After sending Truman and Byrnes a memorandum ad-