

THE BATTLE of the WEEK

IS ATOM BOMBING REALLY IMMORAL?

YES

Adm. Arthur Radford, Pacific Fleet Commander: "A war of annihilation might possibly bring . . . victory, but it would be politically and economically senseless. In my opinion the American people, if they were well informed . . . would consider such a war morally reprehensible."

Report to the American Friends (Quaker) Service Committee: "Massive destruction . . . would result [from the A-bomb]. The moral consequences, to attackers and to the attacked . . . would be incalculable."

Rear Adm. Ralph A. Ofstie, Atomic Energy Commission liaison officer: "I am sure that the moral force of the peoples of this country is in strong opposition to military methods so contrary to our fundamental ideals. It is time that strategic bombing be squarely faced in this light."

Norman Thomas, Socialist candidate for President: "Of course use of the atom bomb is grossly immoral, but the method of war . . . is grossly immoral. Assured elimination of atom bombing requires transfer of conflict from the plane of war."

NO

Gen. Leslie R. Groves (Ret.), wartime A-bomb chief: "It is erroneous to consider it immoral to drop a bomb that will kill civilians. We must be prepared to bomb enemy industrial operations, and we can't do that without injuring non-combatants."

Air Sec. W. Stuart Symington: "I can't see the difference between trying to stop a man at a lathe building a bomber to attack us and trying to stop a soldier. . . . If civilians are going to be killed, I had rather have them their civilians than our civilians."

Gen. Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: "It is obvious that workers live near factories, and that if you bomb the factories you may bomb the people. From a military standpoint, any damage you can inflict on the war-making potential of a nation, and . . . on the morale of that nation, contributes to victory."

Maj. John J. Driscoll, American war analyst: "When an opponent kicks us in the groin, can we still afford to adhere to the Marquis of Queensbury rules?"