

PRESS RELEASE

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“RAIN OF RUIN: THE BOMBING OF NAGASAKI” EXAMINES FATAL BLOW THAT ENDED WORLD WAR II

PORTLAND, Ore. – June 22, 2005 – Marking the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, PBS airs **RAIN OF RUIN: THE BOMBING OF NAGASAKI** Monday, August 1, 2005, 10:00 p.m. ET (check local listings). The one-hour program, produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting in association with Nagasaki Broadcasting Company, offers a richly textured account of contradictions, inter-relationships and ambiguities of politics and military strategy in times of war.

RAIN OF RUIN: THE BOMBING OF NAGASAKI presents eyewitness testimonies from the crew who dropped the atomic bomb and from Nagasaki residents who, as children, survived the blast on August 9, 1945. It also looks at the views of scholars who have sifted through the theories, evidence and consequences of the Nagasaki bombing.

In demanding the surrender of Japan in World War II, President Truman threatened to unleash a “rain of ruin.” Germany was already defeated. Japan was blockaded by sea and at the mercy of American air power. They faced hopeless odds, but would not surrender. “Release when ready,” Truman wrote – the only authorization in history to use nuclear weapons.

The program asks: Did Japan finally surrender because of the atomic bombs or were there other reasons? Was the bomb’s true aim to make an impression on Stalin? And, why did the Soviet Union enter the Pacific War on the very date Nagasaki was bombed?

RAIN OF RUIN: THE BOMBING OF NAGASAKI is supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Japan Foundation. Executive producer: John Lindsay. Producer/director/writer: Stephan Segaller. Associate producer: Jenny McGuire. Assistant producer: Mark Dorgan. Editor/director of photography: John Booth. Photos are available online at www.promotion.opb.org.

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