

# Amenities Veil Memory of A-Bomb

A COLLEGE president who lost his wife, 350 of his students and 18 of his faculty in the holocaust of Hiroshima, and the man who ordered the atom bomb dropped talked yesterday afternoon at the Truman library.

Former President Harry S. Truman walked to the center of the stage in the auditorium of the library and there was Dr. Takuo Matsumoto, now president of Sizuoka Eiwa Women's college near Tokyo, who was president of Hiroshima college on August 6, 1945.

The bomb was never mentioned in the 5-minute exchange but it was there all the same. And sitting in the audience, listening over the drone of the motion picture cameras, were seven hibakusha, "explosion-affected people," all survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

## Congratulations on Birthday

Dr. Matsumoto congratulated Truman on his 80th birthday and then commented that it must have been a heavy responsibility to lead the United States during the war.

"Well, I appreciate that," said Truman. "You know the objective that you're interested in is to end the war in such a way that there would not be half a million people killed on each side . . . that's all there was to it. You know when you're running a war, that the objective is to win."

"Yes, and you did win it," replied Matsumoto.

"It was necessary," said Truman.

"We feel it was the height of folly on our part to have ever challenged such a great country like yours," said Matsumoto a little later.

"Well," said Truman, "I don't think it was the height of folly. It was a situation you couldn't help and it came about in such a way that we became enemies. We didn't have any business being enemies, because we'd always been friends."

## Politeness All the Way

The exchange continued. Truman, a man who has been known to speak his mind directly, matched the oriental politeness of Dr. Matsumoto time and again.

Matsumoto — Yes, America has always been a great friend of ours.

Truman—That's right.

Matsumoto—Sending the missionaries and . . .



ALMOST NINETEEN YEARS have passed since the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Yesterday former President Harry S. Truman met eight of the survivors at the Truman library. The spokesman for the group of Japanese was Dr. Takuo Matsumoto (right), who exchanged views with the former President.

Truman—From the beginning.

Matsumoto—Yes, from the very beginning . . . and it is due to America that Japan became what she has become.

Truman—Well, I'm as happy as I can be that you feel that way.

Matsumoto — Thank you very much indeed.

Truman—You're entirely welcome.

Matsumoto — We certainly hope that anything of this sort will never happen again.

Truman—You don't hope it any more than I do. I don't want to see it happen again because it was absolutely unnecessary in the first place.

## World Hope in U. N.

Dr. Matsumoto asked Truman his ideas about the future of

the world situation. Truman replied that the world must put its hopes in the United Nations. Without the U. N., said the former President, "we'll have to do it all over again. That's my theory, and I set up the United Nations."

At the beginning of their conversation, Dr. Matsumoto said he understood Truman would be 80 on Friday.

Truman—That's right. Matsumoto—Congratulations.

Truman—It's too old for anybody to be.

Matsumoto—Oh no, you look so young and so strong and so hale.

The group of atom bomb survivors are on a world peace tour. They hope to visit Europe, Russia, and, possibly, Red China.



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At 4 o'clock the hibakusha attended a reception in their honor at the Hotel Muchlebach. Mayor Illus W. Davis presented Dr. Matsumoto a golden key to the city. About 175 persons attended.

## Others who spoke briefly:

Rev. Warren R. Ebinger, director of the Council of Churches of Greater Kansas City; Forrest F. McCluney, president of the Greater Kansas City People-to-People council, and William D. Baker, executive secretary of Labor's Educational and Political Club, Independent.