**The issue of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

The devastating atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 marked a watershed moment in history, raising urgent concerns about the humanitarian consequences and ethical considerations of nuclear weapons. This briefing paper aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the events surrounding the bombings and encourages international cooperation to address the issue.

**The Manhattan Project:**

The Manhattan project was the beginning of a new phase for scientists in this era. When President Roosevelt on December 28, 1942, authorized various projects to create a nuclear weapon to defeat Germany. Facilities were set up in remote locations in New Mexico, Tennessee and Washington, to start testing these new nuclear weapons. Under the Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico, Robert Oppenheimer’s team created two bombs, one uranium and one plutonium.

**The Potsdam Conference:**

Leading up to the days of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, President Truman, Stalin, Churchill, and Chairman of China Chiang Kai-shek all agreed on a document to force Japan to surrender. The ultimatum stated, "We call upon the government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction." However, Japan refused to surrender.

**The Bombings:**

In the closing days of World War II, staying true to their word, the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. The bombings resulted in unprecedented destruction, loss of life, and long-term health consequences for the survivors, highlighting the need for a global response to prevent future use of such weapons.

**The Hiroshima Bombing (August 6, 1945):**

The bomb, nicknamed "Little Boy," instantly killed an estimated 140,000 people, causing widespread destruction and leaving survivors grappling with the effects of radiation.

**The Nagasaki Bombing (August 9, 1945):**

The bomb, named "Fat Man," led to the deaths of approximately 74,000 people. Nagasaki faced similar devastation, and the survivors are facing prolonged health issues due to radiation exposure.

**Health:**

The health affects of these nuclear bombs are devastating to say the least. From cancers and radiation sickness to a considerable amount of deaths, it is vital we do something to stop the mass destruction of nuclear weapons. The number of deaths is unknown but it is estimated that 200,000 people were killed across two cities. The scale of destruction in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is still being assessed, but preliminary reports suggest a significant loss of life and widespread devastation. With 90% of Hiroshima’s doctors and nurses being wiped or injured, the blasts have further wiped 42 out of 45 hospitals. In addition to this, two large army hospitals are left non-functional, thus leaving emergency services overwhelmed.

**Potential causes:**

The incident clearly suggests that the explosions were deliberate acts from the USA, thus raising questions about the responsibility of state or non-state actors. The world watched in horror as this event occurred and further raises the simple question of whether another world war could happen. If so, nations now have the ability to use nuclear weapons on other countries, potentially wiping the whole world if this was the case. Furthermore, there are concerns about terrorist organizations obtaining and using nuclear weapons, which could have a profound effect on innocent civilians.

This is the first time nuclear weapons have been used as a way to end a war, but the devastating effects are surreal. It is now your job to find a solution that could potentially save thousands of more lives in the future. This issue has shown the world how evil man can be and in the words of the creator of Fat man and Little Boy, ‘Now I am become death, destroyer of both worlds.’

Questions to consider:

* How can we stop the use of nuclear weapons in times of war?
* Is it possible for nuclear weapons to act as a deterrent instead of practical use?
* How can aid be distributed to help these cities and civilians?
* Is world peace attainable with such destructible weapons?

Useful links:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-atomic-bombs-that-ended-the-second-world-war>

<https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/hiroshima-nagasaki-75>

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/education/presidential-inquiries/decision-drop-atomic-bomb>

<https://www.armscontrol.org/pressroom/2020-07/reality-check-atomic-bombings-hiroshima-nagasaki>