

Parade
4570

Film for Sale

Until a few months ago the Department of Defense declined to release from the Government archives the films taken by Japanese cameramen on the spot of the U.S. nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Relatively few people in this country even knew that we had confiscated such films from nine Japanese cameramen, had classified them "secret," had buried them in the archives, had barred them from any public viewing.

Had it not been for a letter written by a Japanese professor to a lecturer at Columbia University, the films might never have come to light. But now they have.

Some weeks ago, almost 25 years after we dropped the atomic bombs on the two Japanese cities, Columbia University asked Washington to declassify and release the film footage. The objective was to impress upon the public the horrors and dangers of nuclear war.

Washington agreed. The Japanese film strips were released. Under the guidance of Erik Barnouw, professor of dramatic arts, they were edited into a 16-minute movie by Columbia University Press, and screened at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

The film is unforgettable in its recording of devastation, fire, and blast, of the sufferings of men, women, and children mutilated and dying of radiation burns, of a Japanese woman giving an eyewitness report of the horrors and the unbearable heat.

Columbia University is interested in giving the film "the widest possible circulation" and is making copies for sale at a price of \$96. Those interested should write Columbia University Press, Center for Mass Communications, 440 W. 110th St., New York, N.Y. 10025.

Most of the atomic bombs now in the U.S. stockpile are 2500 times more powerful than the one first dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. When one sees what havoc that single bomb caused, any nuclear war in the future becomes unthinkable.