

May 4, 1948.

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

On March 15th I forwarded to you proposed letters to the Governors of Connecticut and Minnesota on the question of Negroes in the National Guard and at your request I forwarded them to Mr. Clifford for consideration on March 22nd.

On April 19th you forwarded me a follow-up letter from Governor Youngdahl of Minnesota and on that date I sent it to Mr. Clifford for information. Up to this time I have not been authorized to dispatch the letters.

The letters of the 22nd of March are now somewhat outmoded and I suggest that I be authorized to dispatch promptly letters to the two Governors in accordance with copies attached hereto. I feel it would be desirable that these letters be dispatched tomorrow or next day if possible.



(signed) KENNETH G. ROYALL

Kenneth G. Royall
Secretary of the Army.

Encls.

May 4, 1948.

Honorable Luther W. Youngdahl,
Governor of Minnesota,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Governor Youngdahl:

I am now authorized to reply to your letter of March 6, 1948, directed to the Secretary of Defense, relating to Negroes in the National Guard of Minnesota.

In accordance with a report of competent and experienced officers, the War Department on April 27, 1946, issued regulations which among other things required (subject to certain exceptions) that when Negroes are employed in Army units below the battalion, they will be in separate organizations.

Since I became Secretary of the Army this matter has again been carefully considered by the Military Staff of this Department both in connection with the Regular Army troops and the Federally recognized civilian components. It is the opinion of the Staff -- with which I concur -- that in the interest of national defense the policy of April 27, 1946, should be uniformly applied throughout the Federal force of the Army.

In the case of New Jersey the people by direct vote had prohibited in their Constitution any segregation in the militia. It followed that neither legislative nor executive action in that State could have met existing Federal requirements in this matter, and unless an exception had been made, there could have been no Federally recognized National Guard in New Jersey. So far as I know this situation does not arise in any other State.

Because of your interest in this matter, I have referred your request to the Committee on National Guard Policy under Section V of the National Defense Act, which Act provides that policies affecting the organization, distribution and training of the National Guard be referred to such Committee for consideration.

I expect to receive the recommendations of this Committee within the next few weeks and, if these recommendations differ from the views heretofore taken by the Staff and myself, the



Staff and I will again carefully restudy the matter from the standpoint of national defense. I will advise you further when I have heard from the Committee on National Guard Policy.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth C. Royall
Secretary of the Army



cc Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey,
Mayor,
Minneapolis, Minn.

May 4, 1948.

Honorable James C. Shannon,
Governor of Connecticut,
Hartford, Connecticut.

Dear Governor Shannon:

I am now authorized to reply to Governor McCannagh's telegram of February 9, 1948, directed to the President, relating to Negroes in the National Guard of Connecticut.

(The remainder of this letter is identical with the letter of May 4, 1948, to the Governor of Minnesota.)



Sincerely yours,

Kenneth C. Royall
Secretary of the Army

