

93-B

Date of Communication: 1/2/51.
Name of Correspondent: X STREET, Stewart A.

Address: 2543 13th St., N. W.,
Washington 9, D. C.

Subject: Writer, due to enter the military service for the second time soon, requests that all segregation of any type against any member of the armed forces in the United States and in foreign continents be abolished.

Enclosures:

Department or Agency: Dept. of Defense.

Suggested action: Charge out.
 Further attention.

FINAL DISPOSITION:

Respectfully referred to the Mr. Miles

Date: 1-5-51

Wording of referral: Merely referred. ROE
For consideration.
For consideration and acknowledgment.
For consideration and appropriate handling.
For your information.

Letter has not been acknowledged.

File
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2543 15th Street, NW,
Washington 9, D.C.
January 2, 1951

President of the United States
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Truman;

My entry into military service for the second time is drawing near. During my enlistment in the last war, I encountered a great deal of segregation, both on military bases and on liberty. It is my understanding that segregation in the armed forces has been abolished, but nothing has been done to assure service men that they will not be segregated while on leave.

Perhaps the men (including yourself) who run this government do not realize the significance of the present conflict in Korea. It is not a mere communistic effort to combat democracy, but it is a racial war to push the whites out of Asia. The problem of racial conflict probably does not enter your mind, except at such time when you are immediately presented with a civil rights situation. But it does enter my mind, not only in brief moments, but twenty-four hours a day. You see Mr. Truman, I am a Negro.

I have been living in this capital of democracy for three and a half years while attending Howard University. In June I am scheduled to graduate and to seek my professional ambitions. But my ambitions will have to be cut short because of your mobilization plans. Yes, I am one of the thousands of Negroes who constitute part of your reserve forces.

While dwelling in this capital of democracy, I have been confronted with every type of segregation that it is possible to conceive of. Your democracy

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has failed and has done so in the shadows of its own essence. It is not my desire to serve in the armed forces, giving my life if necessary, and to be subjected to the most depriving segregational policies existing in any capital in the world.

As a veteran, as a citizen, as a Negro, and as an American I urge you to use your resources to abolish segregation of any type against any member of the armed forces in the United States and in foreign continents as will.

Sincerely,

Stewart A. Street

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