February 10, 1951

Respectfully referred for
the attention of Honorable David
K. Miles.

W. D. H.

Ltr of 2/7/51 to the President from Charles K. Sprang, Chairman, Mayor's Council on Human Relations, Minneapolis, Minn., urging action to eliminate segregation in the Army.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1951

Respectfully referred for
the attention of Honorable David
K. Niles.

W. D. H.
February 25, 1951

Dear Mr. Spring:

Many thanks for your special and helpful letter of February 7th. I am sure you are thoroughly familiar with the recent substantial progress that has been made in the Armed Services, following the President’s Executive Order and the report and recommendations of his Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services.

The President is always glad to hear from representatives of groups which are familiar with this basic problem of human rights.

Sincerely,

DAVID K. NILES
Administrative Assistant
To the President

Mr. Charles E. Spring
Chicago
Mayor’s Council on Human Relations
City of Minneapolis
Minnesota
February 7, 1953

The Honorable Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My Dear President Truman:

The Minneapolis Mayor's Council on Human Relations has
alternately noted with pride the splendid record on the
integration of Negro citizens into the United States Air
Force and the United States Navy and with deep concern the
hesitancy on the part of the United States Army to implement
its announced policy of eliminating segregation.

In as much as you, Mr. President, are Commander-in-Chief
of the Armed Forces of the United States and as such are
charged with the responsibility for establishing and developing
the armed forces, we are appealing to you to see to it that
the United States Army develops a straightforward pattern
of non-segregation in its efforts to implement its announced
policy.

It comes to us that the matter of eliminating
segregation from the defense forces of the United States was
one which demanded the immediate and intensive attention of
those who are in charge of our armed forces. We have been
informed that our citizens throughout the length and breadth
of our land consider segregation in the armed forces as a
national disgrace, a force which corrodes the morale of our
troops, as well as the conscience of right-thinking men, and
a fruitful source of propagandistic fodder for our enemies.

In consideration of our own national interest it is well,
we think, to use all of the resources at our command to eliminate
segregation in our armed forces. Just as the military establishment
has numerous scientists responsible as to why only for the
improvement of old weapons and the development of new ones, as into the armed forces available to it an abundance of scientific resources, which can be drawn upon to meet it in the task of moving from a segregated pattern of armed life to an integrated one.

Due to these considerations we respectfully suggest that there are mental scientists of great competence available at the universities throughout the country, whom we feel confident would be willing to make available to the United States Army, in the interest of our national welfare, scientific data, professional insights, and a multitude of skills, which would be helpful to the armed forces in implementing their policy of non-segregation. It may well be that out of these conferences can come material which can be shaped into an effective indoctrination course in human relations.

We are impressed that the type of understanding which may be advanced by your thoughtful attention to this subject will stand our men and our nation in good stead in other lands as well as our own.

Yours very respectfully,

Charles E. Spring
Chairman
Mayor's Council on Human Relations