

January 16, 1951

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

W. D. H.

elb

Tele of 1/14/51 to the President from Michael Straight,
National Chairman, American Veterans Committee, Minneapolis,
Minn.; copy in file. 21142.

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M. Straight



American Veterans Committee (AVC)

INCORPORATED

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Mr. David K. Niles
Administrative Assistant
to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dave:

Thank you very much for your kind and
prompt reply to my telegram to President Truman.
I hope to call you in the near future to discuss
this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike

Michael Straight
National Chairman

M. STRAIGHT

January 19, 1951

Respectfully referred to the
Honorable Frank Pace, Jr., for
appropriate handling.

DAVID K. NILES
Administrative Assistant
to the President

dkn

January 18, 1950¹

Dear Mike:

I am forwarding your telegram of January 14, which you sent the President from Minneapolis, to the Secretary of the Army.

I am calling his attention to several items in your telegram which refer directly and immediately to current practices in the Army.

Perhaps we can discuss your proposals for action by the President after you have returned to Washington.

Cordially,

DAVID K. NILES
Administrative Assistant
to the President

Mr. Michael Straight
National Chairman
American Veterans Committee
Washington, D. C.

dkn

The White House
Washington

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THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

ARMY INDUCTION ORDERS IN MINNESOTA DISTINGUISH RECRUITS ON
BASIS OF RACE CONTRARY TO YOUR EXECUTIVE ORDER OF SEPT 30,
1949. OTHER FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS PROMPTED AMERICAN VETERANS
COMMITTEE TO PASS THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION WHICH WE URGE YOU
TO ACT ON PROMPTLY.

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Miscel.

ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1940, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES IN HIS CAPACITY AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ORDERED

INTEGRATION OF ALL WHITE AND NON-WHITE TROOPS IN THE ARMED FORCES. THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE APPEAR TO HAVE CARRIED OUT THE ORDER OF THEIR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. THE ARMY, HOWEVER, HAS FAILED TO DO SO.

ALTHOUGH BASIC TRAINING IN THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES IS APPARENTLY CONDUCTED ON BOTH A SEGREGATED AND NON-SEGREGATED BASIS, UNIT ACTIVATION ^{is} FOLLOWS THE CUSTOMARY JIM CROW POLICY WHICH WAS THE SOURCE OF DIFFICULTY, CONFUSION AND DISGRACE IN WORLD WAR II.

RECENT REPORTS OF RACIAL SEGREGATION OF INDUCTEES FROM

STATES LIKE MINNESOTA, WHICH HAVE PROHIBITED RACIAL
SEGREGATION IN THEIR STATE NATIONAL GUARD UNITS,
DEMONSTRATES THAT THE ARMY IS IN FACT SPREADING AND
EXTENDING THE RACIAL DOCTRINES WHICH FURNISH PROPAGANDA FUEL
FOR OUR ENEMIES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE ARMY'S PRACTICES PERMIT ONLY THE CONCLUSION THAT THE
CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY HAS EITHER WILFULLY
OR NEGLIGENTLY FAILED TO CARRY OUT THE DIRECTIVE OF THE
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

NEGRO TROOPS IN KOREA HAVE BEEN COURT-MARTIALED AND

SENTENCED TO LONG TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT, ONE OFFICER WAS EVEN SENTENCED TO DEATH, FOR ALLEGED FAILURES TO OBEY THE ORDERS OF THEIR SUPERIORS.

AS VETERANS WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF THE ARMY'S PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES WHEN DISCIPLINE IS NOT MAINTAINED. MOREOVER WE KNOW THE ARTICLES OF WAR ARE CALCULATED TO PROVIDE THE STANDARDS AND MACHINERY FOR SECURING THE NECESSARY DISCIPLINE. IT IS ELEMENTARY THAT UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, THE ARTICLES OF WAR, LIKE ALL OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES, ARE TO BE ENFORCED WITHOUT REGARD

TO CONSIDERATIONS OF RANK, GRADE, RACE, OR CREED.

THE AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE, THEREFORE, STRONGLY
URGES THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO:

1. ORDER THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO
DIRECT THE ATTENTION OF COMMANDERS OF ALL ECHELONS, BOTH AT
HOME AND ABROAD, TO THE DIRECTIVE OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1949,
ANNOUNCING THE POLICY OF INTEGRATION OF TROOPS OF ALL RACES.
2. ORDER THE CARRYING-OUT OF THIS POLICY FORTHWITH.
3. ORDER THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO REPORT TO THE

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 1951, THE
STEPS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO CARRY OUT THESE DIRECTIVE,
INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: (A) THE ELIMINATION OF ALL
RACIAL DESIGNATIONS ON SERVICE RECORDS AND ORDERS OF
INDIVIDUALS AND UNITS; (B) INACTIVATION OF ANY UNITS
HITHERTO ESTABLISHED ON A SEGREGATED BASIS AND
RE-DISTRIBUTION OF THE PERSONNEL WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE
OR COLOR; (C) CREATION OF AN ARMY GENERAL STAFF

G-1 SECTION WITH THE AUTHORITY NECESSARY TO CARRY
OUT THIS PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE.

IN THE EVENT THAT THE ARMY FAILS TO CARRY OUT THIS
DIRECTIVE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, WE RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST
TO THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF THAT ALL RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS
INCLUDING THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, BE
COURT-MARTIALED FOR VIOLATION OF THE ARTICLES OF WAR,
AS HAVE BEEN OTHER OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN WHERE THEIR
DERELICTIONS WERE NEITHER SO GROSS NOR SO DAMAGING TO
THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE ACTIONS WHICH WE HAVE SUGGESTED WOULD SERVE
EFFECTIVELY, WE BELIEVE, TO WELD THE NATIONAL UNITY WITHOUT

WHICH WE CANNOT HOPE TO MEET THE PRESENT CRISIS

RESPECTFULLY

MICHAEL STRAIGHT NATIONAL CHAIRMAN AVC..