MEMORANDUM FOR: HONORABLE JAMES R. FORDSTAD
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

July 7, 1948

I would appreciate it if you would acknowledge direct the attached letter to the President from Grant Reynolds and A. Philip Randolph, stating it was referred to you by this office.

Thank you.

MATTHEW J. CONNOLLY
Secretary to the President

Letter June 29 from these two men, 217 West 125th Street, New York City. Request conference with the President to discuss issuance of an executive order abolishing all segregation and discrimination from the armed forces.
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 6, 1948.

MEMO FOR HONORABLE MATT CONNELLY:

Dear Matt:

I suggest that this letter be referred to Mr. Forrestal.

[Signature]

D.K.N.
MEMORANDUM FOR

MR. NILES

Dear Dave:

Will you be good enough to look over the attached letter, addressed to the President by Grant Reynolds and A. Philip Randolph, and let us have your suggestions as to how it should be handled.

Thank you.

[Signature]

MJC
July 4, 1943

DEPARTMENT OF

DR. DELMar

Dear Sir:

Will you be good enough to look
over the attached letter, addressed to the
President by Grant Reynolds and A. Philip
Randolph, and let us have your suggestions
as to how it should be handled.

Thank you.

RCA

Rex

Let's see, from Grant Reynolds, Nat. Comm. and A. Philip Randolph,
Nat. Pres., Committee against Picketing in Military Service & Training,
107 W. 135th St., N.Y.C., wrote us that President signed
Selective Service bill they would like to request conference with
President re abolishing segregation and discrimination in armed forces.
June 29, 1948

President Harry S. Truman
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Because Congress enacted, and you have now signed, a Selective Service bill void of any safeguards for Negro youth, we should like to request, at your very earliest convenience, a conference with you to discuss the issuance of an executive order abolishing all segregation and discrimination from the armed forces.

In the light of past official civil rights pronouncements, it is our belief that the President, as Commander-in-Chief, is morally obligated to issue such an order now. Unless this is done, Negro youth will have no alternative but to resist a law, the inevitable consequences of which would be to expose them to the un-American brutality so familiar during the last war.

America must not subject one-tenth of its population to such treatment again. Knowing that you have it in your power to prevent this, we are seeking an opportunity to confer with you on implementing this essential part of your civil rights program.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Grant Reynolds, National Chairman

[Signature]

A. Philip Randolph, National Treasurer