

McCloy COMMITTEE

8 August 1949

Dear Mr. Fahy:

During the war, you will recall, John McCloy headed a committee called the Advisory Committee on Special Troop Policies which dealt only with problems arising from Army policy and practice with regard to Negro troops.

I have spent the weekend combing through those files of the Assistant Secretary of War which deal with this committee. It is a history of unrelieved headaches. After reading in this file, I cannot understand how the Army can defend its racial policy by appealing to experience. I was never more certain that we are on the right track. If our recommendations had been in effect in the 20 years between wars, I feel certain that the Army would have had more efficient Negro troops.

The situation was so bad that the Army was extremely reluctant to commit Negro troops to battle. Searching for a way to get better use out of them, Army Ground Forces proposed, and G-3 worked out, a plan for forming Negro combat units on a GCT basis. Arguing that white combat units had no more than 9% in GCT Grade V and that efficiency could not be expected out of Negro units with 48% in Grade V, G-3 proposed limiting the distribution of Grade IV and V in Negro combat units to the normal distribution for these grades in white units. The excess of Negroes in Grades IV and V would be trained as service troops. The plan was to reform completely the 92nd Division on this basis. It came to nothing because Army Ground Forces and Army Service Forces could not agree.

Here, you will note, is the Committee's plan for a quota by GCT. I am enclosing two memoranda on this subject, signed by General Idwal H. Edwards. I have written to General Edwards who is now in charge of Air Force personnel, to ask for a meeting with him. I think he may have some ideas on this.

I also enclose parts of two filed reports, submitted to McCloy by G-3, detailing the difficulties of making artillerymen out of low score men.

Sincerely,

E. W. Kenworthy  
Executive Secretary

Mr. Charles Faby  
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Enclosures