



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FEB 13 1950

Dear Mr. Rusk:

You will recall that Under Secretary Webb's letter of 17 October 1949 concerning stationing of individual Negroes or non-segregated troops in certain foreign areas requested informal cooperation between our Departments if Defense staff planning indicated that Negroes or non-segregated troops were to be sent to those areas.

For several years individual Negro personnel have in fact been stationed in some of these areas. The following table, for instance, indicates the total numbers of Negro Naval personnel as compared to the total Naval strength, as of 31 October 1949:

| | Total Naval Personnel | Total Negroes |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Iceland | 0 | 0 |
| Greenland | 228 | 17 |
| Canada, including Newfoundland | 1280 | 52 |
| Bermuda | 772 | 29 |
| British Possessions in the Caribbean (Trinidad) | 1252 | 55 |

Individual Negro personnel in the above areas, as is the practice with military personnel in all areas, are replaced periodically in the course of routine transfers from one assignment to another. The Department of Defense believes that such routine replacements should be continued. In so far as it is within the control of this Government, we feel that the policy of providing equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin should be extended to all foreign countries in which United States military personnel are called upon to serve.

I would appreciate your views as to whether there is any objection from the viewpoint of the Department of State to the continued presence or replacement of Negro or non-segregated units or individual Negro military personnel in these countries, or in any other foreign areas where Negro personnel are now stationed.

Sincerely yours, cc: Personnel Policy Board
 Signed - J. H. Burns Mr. Evans
 J. H. Burns J. H. Burns Sec. Army
 Sec. Navy
 Sec. Air Force

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The Honorable Dean Rusk
Deputy Under Secretary of State

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