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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

8 March 1950

Memo. for COLONEL CASSIDY, PERSONNEL POLICY BOARD  
MR. KENWORTHY, FAHY COMMITTEE  
MR. JAMES C. EVANS

We would very much appreciate your comment upon this first draft of a memorandum to the Services from Secretary Johnson concerning the foreign assignment of Negro personnel.

The final text will be routed through your offices formally before submission to the Secretary.

*BS*  
Philip E. Barringer  
Office of Foreign Military Affairs



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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Foreign Assignment of Negro Personnel

I refer to my memorandum for the Secretaries of Army, Navy and Air Force, dated 27 October 1949, subject as above, and to General Burns' letter to the Deputy Under Secretary of State, dated 13 February 1950, which was forwarded to you for information. A copy of the State Department's reply to the latter communication, dated 1 March 1950, is attached for your information and guidance.

I should like each Department to take full cognizance of the fact that the Department of State interposes no objection, either procedural or substantive, to the continued presence or replacement of Negro personnel, or of Negro or non-segregated units in any areas of the world where Negro personnel are now stationed. In accordance with the Defense policy of providing equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin, I should like each Department to insure that no discriminatory measures are applied in connection with the foreign assignment of Negro or non-segregated personnel to any of these areas.

The Department of State endorses in principle the policy of freely assigning Negro personnel or Negro or non-segregated units to any part of the world to which United States forces are sent; it is prepared to support the desires of the Department of Defense in this respect. Nevertheless, since certain other foreign Governments have indicated from time

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to time that they do not desire the presence of Negro personnel within their territorial boundaries, the procedure set forth in my memorandum of 27 October 1949 should be followed in the event that you contemplate dispatching Negro personnel, Negro or non-segregated units to countries where no U.S. Negro personnel are now in fact stationed. This will permit the Department of State to discuss the matter with the foreign Government concerned, and to seek its approval. As a matter of staff planning, this should be accomplished sufficiently far in advance of the proposed assignment as to obtain such approval before any discriminatory measures are taken against Negro personnel forming part of the proposed transfer.

LOUIS JOHNSON

Attachment

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