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THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS
1712 G Street, NW., Room 208, Washington 25, D. C.

April 14, 1947

The Honorable
Robert P. Patterson,
Secretary of War,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The President's Committee on Civil Rights, whose organization and functions are described in the attached Executive Order, is in need of your assistance. We believe that our report to the President should contain the experience of the War Department and its recommendations in this important area.

The Committee feels that it should have a basic memorandum on the policies and practices of the War Department, as they are related to civil rights.

The Committee is working to meet imminent deadlines and is anxious to consider the problem of civil rights in the military field on the 23rd of April. We would appreciate very much, therefore, if the information and supporting materials could reach us on the 21st.

When the Committee has examined the memorandum we are asking you to prepare, it is our hope that we may arrange for a consultation with you and appropriate members of your staff.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert K. Carr

Robert K. Carr,
Executive Secretary

Enclosure (2)

(1 encl removed)

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TAB. A

TAB-A

April 14, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT

We should like information on the following subjects, covering the Army Ground Forces, the Army Air Forces, the Army Service Forces (male and female personnel, including Nurses), and the National Guard:

1. The civil rights of all Army personnel: statements of policy including report of the investigation of court-martial system.
2. A statement of the experience of the War Department in connection with the protection against violence of men while in uniform. Please include legislative proposals in this field.
3. Official statements of policy (including those of pre-war, war-time and post-war dates to indicate changes):
 - a. Recruitment of Negro personnel
 - b. Training of Negro troops
 - c. Rank of Negro men
 - d. Service and assignment of Negroes
 - e. Use of facilities
4. Administrative and educational efforts by these agencies to create tolerance and acceptance of minority troops, etc.:
 - a. Efforts to indoctrinate officers
 - b. Efforts to indoctrinate enlisted men
 - c. Special efforts to handle integrated or closely-working unit with pre-briefings or orientations
 - d. Crisis situations in the forces
 - e. Civilians
5. Practical implementation of policies data:
 - a. Recruitment of Negro personnel
 - b. Training of Negro troops
 - c. Rank of Negro men
 - d. Service and Assignment of Negroes
 - e. Use of facilities
6. Legislative proposals bearing on civil rights in the armed forces, and court cases growing out of Army policies on civil rights.
7. The possible and probable effect of the unification of the armed forces on existing policies in the area.
8. The role of the Army in controlling civil disturbances growing out of race riots and similar outbreaks of violence which may pass out of the control of local and state law enforcement agencies. (Constitutional procedure, war-time and peace-time plans which the Army had or has, measures taken in specific instances if any.)
9. Where pertinent (especially Points 3, 4, 5 and 6) please include information on other minority groups, particularly Japanese Americans, Mexican Americans, Indians and Chinese Americans.