MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

As you know, the Secretary of Defense issued a statement last Friday approving an Army program to give greater assurance of equality of treatment and opportunity to all Army personnel without regard to race or color.

The proposed program embraces two recommendations made by the Fairy Committee; adds a number of points which the Committee feels are material, but includes a statement with respect to the assignment of Negro personnel to duty, which Fairy strongly disapproves. The reason Fairy feels so strongly is that his Committee reached an agreement with the Army that assignment of qualified personnel to specialist occupations would be on the bases of merit and fitness without regard to race or color. Yet the Army's program is defective on this point, which the Fairy Committee feels is the key to their entire objective.

The Committee feels so strongly about it, that a meeting is being held in New York Tuesday night. In all probability, a report will be submitted to you stating that the Committee regards the Army's program as unsatisfactory, because it fails to deal adequately with the question of assignment to duty, although it does regard the report as indicating that progress has been made. The Committee probably will not regard the progress as final, and will want to continue its negotiations with the Department of Defense and the Army. The Committee will probably ask me to come in to you for instructions as to the manner in which it should proceed.

Secretary Johnson's release, covering this program, is arousing a good deal of controversy, and has resulted in inquiries from a number of reporters, and letters and telegrams from interested organizations.
You will very likely be asked about this matter at Press Conference on Thursday, and I would suggest a reply to the effect that Secretary Johnson's release is a progress report only; that it is not final; and that the Faby Committee is studying the program and will make some recommendations in the near future.

DAVID E. KILGORE