

*Seg. Sec.*

May 12, 1948.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE CLARK M. CLIFFORD:

Attached is a draft of a memorandum for the Secretary of Defense as discussed at the meeting on Tuesday.

DAVID K. NILES  
Administrative Assistant  
to the President

Attachment.



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May 13, 1948.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

The proposal I had in mind in our discussion on Tuesday was to create a Committee which would begin to put into operation the President's request contained in his Message to Congress on February 2nd.

I think we are all fully aware of the difficulties and the fact that the world is not going to be changed overnight, but I also think the time has come when we must make a start and that the movement must be in the direction of the goals laid down in the President's message.

I would suggest, therefore, the creation of a Board on Troop Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. I would think this Board should meet regularly and often, should report directly to the Secretary, should have a small permanent secretariat, and should be composed of both service personnel and outside civilian personnel. I think it should have some Negro representation, and I feel very strongly that it should be concerned as much with implementation as with policy, and that it should be more than advisory, that it should develop procedures.

I believe that by picking the members of this Board carefully it will be possible to find both Negro and white members who will be mainly concerned with setting the course in the right direction and taking some steps along it, and will be little concerned with proving that their position is more liberal than the next fellow's.

As we carried on our discussion on Tuesday, I sensed that there were a number of small steps which could be taken rather quickly. I would like to see this Board explore the possibility of finding other similar types of action and announce them as the decision is made to carry them out.



We have heard a good deal here lately about the Negro ROTC units. I was especially pleased to hear that that could readily be straightened out, and I hope we can move very quickly on that. If the report of the Grey Board is going to be subject to much delay, I would be very eager to see an announcement made without waiting on that Board.

CLARK M. CLIFFORD  
Special Counsel to the President

