

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Public Information Division
PRESS SECTION
Tel. RE 6700
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FOR RELEASE 6:00 P.M., EST, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1947

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESS:

In response to queries, Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall has made a copy of his letter to the Honorable Alfred E. Driscoll, the Governor of New Jersey, available for publication. (NOTE FUTURE RELEASE DATE)

Mr. Royall's letter follows:

"7 February 1948

"Honorable Alfred E. Driscoll
Governor of New Jersey
Trenton, New Jersey

"Dear Governor Driscoll:

"On January 8 you addressed to me a telegraphic inquiry concerning the utilization of Negro manpower in the militia of New Jersey. I have had the matter carefully reviewed by the military Staff of this Department and have myself given it full consideration.

"In accordance with a report of competent and experienced officers, the War Department on 27 April 1948 issued regulations which, among other things, required (subject to certain exceptions) that when Negroes are employed in Army units below the battalion, they will be organized into separate units.

"This provision was considered to be in the interest of national defense, and both the Staff and I feel that this is still the case. Therefore, these regulations will be continued in force for the Regular Army and, subject to the exception noted below, will also be effective for the Federally recognized civilian components of the Army.

"I have noted the fact that the people of New Jersey by direct majority vote have provided in their Constitution that 'no person shall. . . be segregated in the militia because of race, color. . . .' While the authority to determine all questions relating to the Federally recognized National Guard must necessarily be exercised by the Department of the Army, yet I recognize the importance to a sovereign state of a constitutional provision such as yours, and I have determined that for the present, Army militia units of New Jersey, if otherwise qualified, will not be denied Federal recognition on the ground of non-segregation.

Sincerely yours,

signed

KENNETH C. ROYALL,
Secretary of the Army"

END

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4:30 P.M.