Memorandum for: David K. Niles
Administrative Assistant to the President

From: The President

Attached is a memorandum left with me by the Negro Committee which was in to see me yesterday. I am sending it to you so you will be familiar with the conversation between us.

Encl.
In your message to Congress on March 17, 1962, your appeal for enactment of
Universal Military Training and for revival of Selective Service contained no
reference to military segregation and discrimination on the basis of race, des- 
pite the recommendations of the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

Your Committee specifically recommended that there be no segregation or dis-
crimination in any selective draft and in the already existing military establish-
ment. It recommended legislation by Congress to that end.

While the Committee's comprehensive report was the basis for renewal of Ex- 
cutive Order 9981 at the time it was issued, we are now deeply disturbed by the recent
decision of Secretary of the Army Kenneth D. Secor to maintain a Negro in the
National Guard, assigning an officer of the Forces only because of its firm con-
stitutional prohibition. A further cause of distress is the exclusion of Negroes
from the experimental U.S. camp at Fort Benning, Ga., which appears to fall into
the pattern of segregated state and Negro battalions planned by the War Depart-
ment if Congress should enact a permanent draft. The authority for this informa-
tion comes from Chairman Walter F. George of the House Armed Services
Committee and is substantiated by the multiple reports that the Army received an
anti-discrimination ruling from the U.S. Civil Rights Commission before the
bill reached Congress.

In regard particularly to a revival of Selective Service, some veterans are
well qualified to insist upon broad, comprehensive anti-segregation and civil rights
safeguards for prospective service. The anti-discrimination section 4b of
the 1960 Selective Service and Training Act was deliberately violated by Selective
Service and the Army, and the violations were upheld by the courts.

Therefore urge upon you, as Commander-in-Chief, the following steps:

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MEMORANDUM TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN

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March 22, 1948

1. Insist, in a supplementary message to Congress, upon anti-segregation amendments and civil rights safeguards -- pertaining to travel by men in uniform on public carriers, to use of public facilities, to attacks by police, mob and vigilante groups as well as to the military training program itself -- in any WMT and Selective Service legislation.

2. End immediately, by Executive Order, all racial discrimination and segregation in the already existing armed services.

3. Direct the Department of the Army to assign Negro enlistees, on an unsegregated basis, to the experimental WMT camp at Fort Knox, Ky.

4. Direct Secretary of the Army Royall to inform the governors of all states that the policy of discrimination in the National Guard will no longer be dictated by the federal government.

5. Use your administrative diligence to prevent a repetition of the wartime abuses, indignities and humiliations suffered by Negro soldiers, in the event that Congress should enact WMT legislation or revive Selective Service.

Grant Reynolds, National Chairman

A. Philip Randolph, National Treasurer

Albert Black, Washington Chairman

Norma E. Boyd, Director, Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Joseph H. Evans, Former Executive Secretary, 15th Street Branch, NAACP, Washington

Charles E. Houston, Special Counsel, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Herman C. Pollard, National Bar Association

William Worthy, Jr., Action Director, Congress of Racial Equality