I am glad to have the opportunity of discussing with you the report of the Dillon Board, since I wish, as the Secretary has said, to be largely concerned with its implementation. In this connection, I fully support the position taken by the Board that a strong policy of racial segregation should be adopted. In my view, the primary objective should be agreed upon and the initial steps should constitute a firm foundation for further progress.

I think that the Secretary has overestimated the role of the Board in remedying the racial problems. The problem must be viewed as a whole and not as one that can be solved by a single or isolated action. The Board's recommendations are intended to guide the Army in its future policies, but it is up to the Army to implement them.

The Board's recommendations, which advocate broader utilization of Negro personnel in the post-war Army, with increased emphasis on assignment of Negro officers and men on the basis of ability and not race, are based on the premise that the Army's policies and practices should be changed to reflect this value.

I agree with the objectives stated in the report of the Board and I believe that it constitutes a sound basis for future planning. To carry these policies into effect, the Army will need the support of Congress, including the Negro press, and I will welcome the opportunity of discussing with you in the future the specific policies that are now under review.