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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

22 November 1947

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MATTHEW J. CONNELLY

1285 # Secretary Forrestal has discussed with the President scheduling an appointment at the White House for Mr. Lester B. Granger. Mr. Granger is Executive Secretary of the National Urban League, and the subject to be discussed will be in connection with problems relating to Negroes. *sun


Mr. Forrestal has known Mr. Granger for some time, and has called upon him on numerous occasions for advice and counsel concerning Negro problems in the Navy. Mr. Granger, in fact, served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy while Mr. Forrestal was Secretary, and made a comprehensive survey of Negroes in the service which led to many improvements in both living and working conditions, and a raising of the morale among Negro service personnel in general.

In September and October 1945, Mr. Granger made a tour of the Pacific on behalf of the Secretary to investigate Negro conditions in the Pacific. On this trip he visited nine island bases and forty-seven different naval activities. His report recommended employment of Negroes whose skills were not being used, better recreational facilities and other reforms which later were put into effect.

If the President so desires, Mr. Forrestal will be glad to accompany Mr. Granger to the White House.

Mr. Granger can be here any days except the 25th and 26th, when he will be in Boston.

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R. W. Berry
Assistant to the Secretary

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