

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 13, 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NILES:

Here are the letters Mr. Clifford and I spoke to you about yesterday, which Secretary Royall proposed to send to the governors of Minnesota and Connecticut.




George M. Elsey
GEORGE M. ELSEY

July 8, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO MR. CLARK CLIFFORD
The White House

I am attaching the originals of letters which I propose sending to the Governors of Minnesota and Connecticut.

If these letters are satisfactory, please have them dated and mailed, and advise me when it has been done.


Kenneth C. Royall
Secretary of the Army



KCR/g

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

Honorable James C. Shannon
Governor of Connecticut
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Governor Shannon:

I have received your letter of June 29 with reference to the integration of Negroes into the National Guard of Connecticut.

After an unexpectedly long delay, I have finally received from every member of the Committee on National Guard and Reserve Policy an opinion on the best utilization of Negro manpower in the National Guard. As you know, this Committee is created under Section V of the National Defense Act and consists of six National Guard members, six Reserve members and five Regular Army members. The National Guard and Reserve members are from various parts of the country.

All seventeen of the members expressed themselves in favor of continuing the application to the National Guard of the 1946 Army policy on segregation in Company and smaller units. Thirteen of the seventeen members suggest no departure from this policy under any circumstances. Four of the seventeen favor departure from the rule in the event of a State's constitutional or statutory provisions. None of the seventeen suggest any departure from the rule in the event of an Executive order of a State.

Under these circumstances the Staff and I feel it necessary for the Army to continue to apply its present policy to National Guard units in the absence of a State constitutional or statutory provision to the contrary.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Kenneth C. Royall".

Kenneth C. Royall
Secretary of the Army

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

Honorable Luther W. Youngdahl
Governor of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Governor Youngdahl:


After an unexpectedly long delay, I have finally received from every member of the Committee on National Guard and Reserve Policy an opinion on the best utilization of Negro manpower in the National Guard. As you know, this Committee is created under Section V of the National Defense Act and consists of six National Guard members, six Reserve members and five Regular Army members. The National Guard and Reserve members are from various parts of the country.

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Under these circumstances the Staff and I feel it necessary for the Army to continue to apply its present policy to National Guard units in the absence of a State constitutional or statutory provision to the contrary.

Sincerely,




Kenneth C. Royall
Secretary of the Army