

*Final*

April 19, 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CLIFFORD:

Marx Leva informs me that Mr. Forrestal has no present intention of giving advance publicity to his meeting with negro leaders on April 26. It was his experience in the past, when he held similar meetings while Secretary of the Navy, that advance publicity for a meeting of this kind meant that pressure was brought to bear upon the ~~persons~~ invited, to "bring home the bacon" from the meeting.

Advance publicity gave an opportunity for interested pressure groups to demand that their representatives obtain specific commitments from Mr. Forrestal, with the result that the meetings turned into bargaining sessions rather than bull sessions. Forrestal's present intention is that the April 26 meeting should be a bull session, with no attempt made to reach precise agreement on specific negro issues.



GEORGE M. ELSBY

*Copy to Philles Nash*

*20th - enc to talk to Pns & Ross,*