

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

13 April 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GEROGE A. ELSEY:

Attached is a copy of the letter which I mentioned to you in the course of our telephone conversation. Also attached is a list of the persons to whom Secretary Forrestal sent identical letters.



Marx Leva

Marx Leva
Special Assistant to the Secretary

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

10 April 1948

Dear Mr. Gibson:

During the war, when I was at the Navy Department, I had many occasions to call on Lester Granger for advice and assistance. Shortly after I took over my present job last September, I again asked his advice, with a view to ascertaining the best way to proceed in setting up a meeting to discuss some of the problems facing the Armed Forces in the inter-racial field.

It had been my hope to have a meeting for this purpose last fall -- but the very heavy work of getting started with the task of unifying the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force has delayed such a meeting up until the present time.

Last week I had another opportunity to discuss this subject with Mr. Granger, and we agreed to call such a meeting for April 26. The meeting is to be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of my office in the Pentagon Building.

A list of the persons invited to attend is attached, for your information. I hope that you will be able to be with us, for I know that you will have much to offer to what will be, I trust, a highly constructive meeting.

I have asked Mr. Granger to serve as Chairman of the meeting. Our present plans call for a series of discussions throughout the day, in which I will participate, along with the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force.

More detailed arrangements will be outlined in a later letter. In the meantime, I would appreciate your letting me know whether or not you will be able to attend.

Sincerely,

JAMES FORRESTAL

James Forrestal

Mr. Truman Gibson
3507 South Parkway
Chicago, Illinois



Mr. Truman Gibson
3507 South Parkway
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Channing H. Tobias
Director, Phelps-Stokes Foundation
101 Park Avenue
New York, New York

Dr. Sadie T. M. Alexander
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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
Bethune-Cookman College
Daytona Beach, Florida

Dr. John W. Davis
President, West Virginia State College
Institute, West Virginia

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays
President, Morehouse College
Atlanta, Georgia

Dr. Mordecai Johnson
President, Howard University
Washington, D. C.

Mr. P. B. Young, Jr.
Norfolk Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Willard Townsend
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The Reverend John H. Johnson
St. Martins Church
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