

White Saw

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO MR. CLARK CLIFFORD  
The White House

The two proposed letters (copies attached) were submitted to the Secretary of Defense on March 15 and he has now asked me to discuss them with you.

I will be glad to do so at any time.



*Kenneth C. Royall*  
Kenneth C. Royall  
Secretary of the Army

~~Statistics use of grain~~  
~~Effect of...~~  
~~Reorganization Bill~~  
~~Read...~~

KCR/g

Enc.

16 March 1943

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

Dear Governor Youngdahl:

Secretary of Defense Forrester forwarded me your letter of March 6, 1943, relating to Negroes in the National Guard of Minnesota. The matter has been carefully considered by the military staff of this Department and I myself have given it full consideration.

In accordance with a report of competent and experienced officers, the War Department on April 27, 1943, issued regulations which, among other things required (subject to certain exceptions) that when Negroes are employed in Army units below the battalion, they will be organized in separate units. We feel that this policy should be continued and should be uniformly applied to all Regular Army troops and Federally recognized civilian components.

In the case of New Jersey the people by direct vote had prohibited in their Constitution any segregation in the militia. It followed that neither legislative nor executive action in that State could have met existing Federal requirements in this matter, and unless an exception had been made, there could have been no Federally recognized National Guard in New Jersey. So far as I know this situation does not arise in any other State.

I am referring your request to the Committee on National Guard Policy under Section V of the National Defense Act, which Act provides that policies affecting the organization, distribution and training of the National Guard be referred to such Committee for consideration. This Committee will meet in April, and when I receive its recommendations I will consider them carefully from the standpoint of national defense, and will promptly advise you the action taken thereon.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth C. Royall  
Secretary of the Army

ECH:ARG:HOB

16 March 1948

Honorable James C. Shannon  
Governor of Connecticut  
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Governor Shannon:

The President forwarded to me Governor McConaughy's telegram of February 9, 1948, relating to the negroes in the National Guard of Connecticut, and the matter has been under careful consideration by the Staff of the Army and by myself.

In our opinion it is in the interests of national defense that the 1946 War Department policy, established in accordance with the Gillem Board report, should be continued and should be uniformly applied to all Regular Army troops and Federally recognized civilian components. In the case of New Jersey the people by direct vote had prohibited in their Constitution any segregation in the militia. It followed that neither legislative nor executive action in that State could have met existing Federal requirements in this matter, and unless an exception had been made, there could have been no Federally recognized National Guard in New Jersey. So far as I know this situation does not arise in any other State.

Although at present I am definitely inclined to the view that despite this New Jersey exception, the Federally recognized National Guard of all other States should continue on a uniform basis as to unit organization as well as in other matters, yet I am referring your request to the Committee on National Guard Policy under Section V of the National Defense Act, which Act provides that policies affecting the organization, distribution and training of the National Guard be referred to such Committee for consideration. This Committee will meet in April, and when I receive its recommendations I will consider them carefully from the standpoint of national defense, and will promptly advise you the action taken thereon.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth C. Royall  
Secretary of the Army

RCR:ARG:MOB

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Public Information Division  
PRESS SECTION  
Tel. RE 6700  
Brs. 2528 and 4860

FOR RELEASE 6:00 P.M., EST, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1947

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESS:

In response to queries, Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall has made a copy of his letter to the Honorable Alfred E. Driscoll, the Governor of New Jersey, available for publication. (NOTE FUTURE RELEASE DATE)

Mr. Royall's letter follows:

"7 February 1948

"Honorable Alfred E. Driscoll  
Governor of New Jersey  
Trenton, New Jersey



"Dear Governor Driscoll:

"On January 8 you addressed to me a telegraphic inquiry concerning the utilization of Negro manpower in the militia of New Jersey. I have had the matter carefully reviewed by the military Staff of this Department and have myself given it full consideration.

"In accordance with a report of competent and experienced officers, the War Department on 27 April 1946 issued regulations which, among other things, required (subject to certain exceptions) that when Negroes are employed in Army units below the battalion, they will be organized into separate units.

"This provision was considered to be in the interest of national defense, and both the Staff and I feel that this is still the case. Therefore, these regulations will be continued in force for the Regular Army and, subject to the exception noted below, will also be effective for the Federally recognized civilian components of the Army.

"I have noted the fact that the people of New Jersey by direct majority vote have provided in their Constitution that 'no person shall. . . be segregated in the militia because of race, color. . . .' While the authority to determine all questions relating to the Federally recognized National Guard must necessarily be exercised by the Department of the Army, yet I recognize the importance to a sovereign state of a constitutional provision such as yours, and I have determined that for the present, Army militia units of New Jersey, if otherwise qualified, will not be denied Federal recognition on the ground of non-segregation.

Sincerely yours,

signed

KENNETH C. ROYALL,  
Secretary of the Army"

END

DISTRIBUTION: Aa, Af, B, Da, Dd, Dm, N.  
2-7-48  
4:30 P.M.