May 4, 1945.

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

On March 12th I forwarded to you proposed letters to the Governors of Connecticut and Minnesota on the question of Negroes in the National Guard and at your request I forwarded them to Mr. Clifford for consideration on March 23rd.

On April 19th you forwarded as a follow-up letter from Governor Vandegrift of Minnesota and on that date I sent it to Mr. Clifford for information. Up to this time I have not been authorized to dispatch the letters.

The letters of the 23rd of March are now almost exhausted and I suggest that I be authorized to dispatch promptly letters to the two Governors in accordance with copies attached hereto. I feel it would be desirable that these letters be dispatched tomorrow or next day if possible.

(signed) KNIGHTON C. ROYALL
Kenneth C. Royall
Secretary of the Army.

Reply.
Honorable Lister W. Younglind,
Governor of Minnesota,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Governor Younglind:

I am now authorized to reply to your letter of March
1, 1918, directing the Secretary of Defense, relating to
Negroes in the National Guard of Minnesota.

In accordance with a report of competent and experienced
officers, the War Department on April 27, 1918, issued regula-
tions which among other things required (subject to certain
exceptions) that when Negroes are employed in any units below
the battalion, they shall be in separate organizations.

Since I became Secretary of the Army this matter has
again been carefully considered by the Military Staff of this
Department both in connection with the Regular Army troops
and the Federally recognized civil defense. It is the
opinion of the Staff — with which I agree — that in the
interests of national defense the policy of April 27, 1918,
should be uniformly applied throughout the Federal forces of
the Army.

In the case of New Jersey the people by direct vote
have prohibited in their Constitution any segregation in the
military. It followed that neither legislative nor executive
action in that State could have met existing Federal require-
ments in this matter, and unless an exception had been made,
there could have been a Federally recognized National Guard
in New Jersey. So far as I know this situation does not
arise in any other State.

Because of your interest in this matter, I have referred
your request to the Committee on National Guard Policy under
Section 7 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 con-
sideration.

I expect to receive the recommendations of this Committee
within the next few weeks and, if these recommendations differ
from the views heretofore taken by the Staff and myself, the

May 4, 1918.
Staff and I will again carefully reexamine the matter from the standpoint of national defense. I will advise you further when I have heard from the Committees on National Guard Policy.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth C. Royall
Secretary of the Army

cc: Hon. Robert H. Humphrey,
Mayor,
Minneapolis, Minn.
May 8, 1914.

Honorable James G. Shannon,
Governor of Connecticut,
Hartford, Connecticut.

Dear Governor Shannon:

I am now authorized to reply to Governor McNemar's telegram of February 9, 1914, directed to the President, relating to changes in the National Guard of Connecticut.

(The remainder of this letter is identical with the letter of May 4, 1914, to the Governor of Minnesota.)

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth C. Royall,
Secretary of the Army.