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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Washington 25, D. C.

21 October 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

Mr. Charles Fahy, Chairman of the President's Committee on Equality of Opportunity and Treatment in the Armed Services, has recently written to me in connection with his plans for the work of the Committee. It is his expectation that the Committee will meet for the first time in mid-November, and it is his hope that the bulk of the work of the Committee can be completed in the succeeding two months.

As stated in Mr. Leva's memorandum of 12 October 1948, Mr. Fahy is presently in Paris, and it will not be possible for the Committee to meet in the next few weeks. In the meantime, however, Mr. Fahy has requested that various items of background material, such as the Gillem Board Report, Mr. Evans' report on "The Negro in the Army", the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, and so on, be forwarded to him and to the members of the Committee. This material is being forwarded, as requested.

In addition, Mr. Fahy has suggested that persons be designated, within the National Military Establishment, as points of contact with whom his Committee may deal, once it is organized.

It seems to me that the best course for us to follow in this latter connection is as follows: each Department should designate one of its Assistant Secretaries as the official point of contact for the Department with Mr. Fahy's Committee. I would suggest that Mr. Gordon Gray for the Army, Mr. John Nicholas Brown for the Navy, and Mr. Eugene Zuckert for the Air Force, would be appropriate designees - though any other designation which the Departmental Secretaries might wish to make would of course be satisfactory.

I would further suggest that the Assistant Secretaries who are so designated should call on the National Military Establishment members of the Armed Services Personnel Board for assistance in this connection. These members -- Vice Admiral Fechteler of the Navy, who is Chairman of the Armed Services Personnel Board; Lieutenant General Paul, of the Army; and Major General R. E. Nugent, of the Air Force -- should be in a position to provide material assistance to the respective Assistant Secretaries and to Mr. Fahy's Committee.



In addition, I think it advisable for the Assistant Secretary of each Service to have one ranking Negro officer of his service who can work with him, and with the members of the Armed Services Personnel Board. I have consulted Mr. James Evans on this matter, who, in addition to his services as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, has been officially designated by me as consultant to the Secretary of Defense on inter-racial problems. I suggest that the officers from the three Services should be the following:

Army	Major Steve G. Davis
Navy	Lieutenant Dennis D. Nelson
Air Force	Colonel B. O. Davis, Jr.

I have asked Mr. Leva and Mr. Evans, as representatives of my office, to assist Mr. Fahy and his Committee in connection with the establishment of the Committee, and in connection with its work.

I believe that we might profitably discuss this entire subject briefly at next Tuesday's meeting of the Committee of Four Secretaries.

/s/ Forrestal

James Forrestal

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