

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY
OF TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITY
IN THE ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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SECOND DRAFT
COMPLETED
SUNDAY 9 OCT
AND SENT TO
COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

6 October
1949
SPECIAL
DELIVERY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Attached is a rather brief Further Interim Report from your Committee of our thoughts on the recent Army announcement of its new racial program. It is true that the new program is a step forward, but its effectiveness is seriously impaired by the omission to provide that, after the men have acquired their Military Occupational Specialties and have completed their school courses, they shall be assigned according to their qualifications and without regard to race or color. The Committee therefore has come to the conclusion, as a result of its studies, that the Army should supplement its new program to cover adequately this question of assignment. This means the beginning of integration by a slow process, but that should not be a deterrent to the adoption of the assignment policy which we have urged. This is especially so because it means a better Army as well as a sounder racial policy.

The question remains, assuming the President approves the Committee position, how the matter should now be handled. We suggest, for the President's consideration, several alternatives:

1. Secretary Johnson and Secretary Gray might be asked by the President to straighten the matter out by a supplementary statement, which statement, however, should have White House approval, or Committee consideration, before being issued.



2. The President might wish his Committee to resume discussions with the Army with the view of seeking a better solution of the assignment problem. If this last course is adopted, it would perhaps not be fruitful unless the Army were advised that the President felt the program needed to be supplemented by Army acceptance of Committee recommendations on assignments.
3. If the President wished, the Committee might release to the press a statement of its recommendations to the Army in substance as set forth in the accompanying memorandum.

Charles Fahy
Charles Fahy
Chairman
For the Committee

