



14 December 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Your Committee held a meeting on Saturday, December 10, to consider a proposed revision of War Department Circular 124, which had been the official expression of the Army's racial policy until September 30 when Secretary Gray announced a supplemental policy.

The policy statement which the Committee reviewed on December 10 incorporated the changes proposed by Secretary Gray on September 30 and was intended to supplant WD Circular 124. Upon the request of the White House, the Army had held up the issuance of this new policy until it had received the consideration and comments of the President's Committee.

I enclose (1) a copy of the said proposed revision of WD Circular 124, entitled "Utilization of Negro Manpower in the Army," and (2) recommendations by the President's Committee on this proposed revision of WD Circular 124.

Your Committee had recommended to the Army a four point program toward achieving equality of treatment and opportunity:

1. Open up all Army school courses without regard to race or color.
2. Open up all Army military occupational specialties without regard to race or color.
3. Assign school-trained individuals to duty on the basis of qualification without regard to race or color.
4. Abolish the racial quota system for enlistment.

With respect to the opening of all school courses and military occupational specialties without regard to race or color, the Army has met the recommendations of your Committee. However, the restriction of Negro assignment -- except for a few specialists -- to Negro units and



overhead installations would limit the effectiveness of the steps taken to open up Army jobs and schools.

It is the recommendation of the Committee that the Army should assign qualified Negroes in school-trained specialties to any unit which requires those specialties, without regard to race or color.

With respect to the question of the 10 per cent Negro quota, the Army and the Committee are continuing discussions.

The Committee hopes that its recommendations on the Army's proposed revision of WD Circular 124 will be approved, particularly with respect to Paragraphs 10,11,12,13,14.

Charles Fahy  
Chairman  
For the Committee