

16 January
1950



MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The Committee met on Saturday, January 14, 1950. A number of discussions had been held with the Department of the Army regarding the text of the proposed revision of WD Circular 124 as to which your Committee commented in its memorandum to you of December 14, 1949. The Department of the Army has now accepted entirely the recommendations of the Committee set forth in that memorandum regarding Paragraphs 1 to 9, inclusive, and has also accepted the recommendations of your Committee for the deletion of Paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of the proposed revision commented upon in our memorandum of December 14, 1949. Paragraph 10 covered the most important part of the revision, because it dealt with the question of the assignment of Negro personnel. The Department of the Army, in a personal conference of the Committee with the Secretary of the Army on Saturday, January 14, 1950, approved a text substantially in the form recommended by the Committee. The text approved by the Secretary is as follows:

10. Utilization and Assignment.

- a. In furtherance of the policy of the President as expressed in Executive Order 9981, dated July 26, 1948, that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin, it is the objective of the Department of the Army that Negro manpower possessing appropriate skills and qualifications will be utilized in accordance with such skills and qualifications, and will be assigned to any T/D or T/O&E unit without regard to race or color.

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b. In consonance with the foregoing, and as additional steps towards its attainment:

- (1) The Department of the Army will publish periodically to major commanders a list of the critical specialties in which vacancies exist within the Army. The first such list is being published concurrently herewith in _____, dated _____. Major commanders concerned will assign Negro personnel who possess any of such critical specialties to any T/D or T/OSE unit in their areas having such critical specialist vacancies, without regard to race or color.
- (2) In addition to the provisions of Sub-paragraph (1) above, to fill other vacancies requiring special skills, qualified Negro specialists may be assigned to any appropriate unit by order of the major commander concerned.

The Committee believes that the proposed revision of WD Circular 124 with the above text on assignment is consistent with your policy as set forth in Executive Order 9981, and is a significant step towards the attainment of that policy.

The Department of the Army has now accepted three of the four specific recommendations thus far made by the Committee, namely, (1) the opening of all military occupational specialties without regard to race or color; (2) the opening of all Army school courses without regard to race or color; (3) the assignment of Negro personnel on the basis of qualification without regard to race or color. There still remains a fourth recommendation of the Committee, namely, the elimination of the racial quotas upon enlistment. This subject is still under discussion between the Army and the Committee, and we remain confident of a successful solution.

There is enclosed the full text of the revised statement of policy pertaining to the utilization of Negro manpower in the Army.

Charles Fahy
Chairman
For the Committee