

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WORTHINGTON THOMPSON, OSD

SUBJECT: Racial Policy Statements of the Services

1. Army. The Gillem Board Report is basis for current Army policy on the utilization of Negro manpower. This is promulgated in War Department Circular No. 124, dated 27 April 1946. It is submitted herewith as a supplement included in Army Talk No. 170.

This policy is to be reiterated in a new form, possibly special regulations, soon to issue.

2. Navy. A basic policy statement abolishing segregation in the Navy and bearing the signature of the Secretary of the Navy, is being sought in the Navy Department. In the meantime, copies of promulgations under this sharply revised policy will be found on pages 42-62 of THE INTEGRATION OF THE NEGRO INTO THE UNITED STATES NAVY, 1776-1947, by Lieutenant Dennis D. Nelson. Particular attention is invited to the March 1947 item on page 60.

3. Air Force. The Air Force, having been in the War Department when the Gillem Board Report was promulgated, has continued to operate under its provisions up to the present.

A new policy with regard to Negro personnel has been developed but not promulgated. An outline of this policy will be found on page 693 of the February 12, 1949, issue of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL under the title, "AF Plans Non-Segregation Policy". It is known that the details of this new policy were outlined before the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services on 12 January 1949.

James C. Evans
Advisor to the
Secretary of Defense

Incls:

4 cyps Army Talk 170
4 cyps Nelson report