THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 17, 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN,

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY
OF TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITY IN
THE ARMED SERVICES:

I am sending you herewith, for at-
tention and preparation of an appropriate
reply, the attached letter which the Pres-
ident has received from Mrs. Arthur Forrest
Anderson, President of the National Board
of the Young Women's Christian Association
of the United States of America.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President
November 10, 1948

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

The National Board of the Young Women’s Christian Association reviewed and approved the announcement of the program to initiate increased assurance of equality of treatment and opportunity to Negro personnel in the Army. We believe that all military occupational specialties should be open to all qualified military personnel without regard to race or color, and are pleased to see this principle embodied into policy.

However, it was a disappointment to find that the basic framework for racial segregation of troop units persists. The report of the experience of those units operating on an integrated plan during the wartime experience made us believe all the more firmly that this pattern is one we should hope to see extended throughout the armed services.

May we urge that you use the influence of your office to the end that non-segregation will become the Army pattern - a practical demonstration of the concept of equality inherent in our democracy.

Yours respectfully,

[Signature]

[Stamp]

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