30 August 1949

Dear General Edmunds:

Thank you very much for your letter of August 25, which I have received, noting for any additional information which you may have on the status of the Army's policy on equality of treatment and opportunity. Discussions are still going forward between the President's Committee and the Office of the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff, on the policy and program for the Army. Therefore, I have not anything very definite to give you at the present time, and it isn't likely I will have for a few weeks yet.

For your information only, I might tell you that the President's Committee has not recommended to the Army that it break up immediately its segregated units. Rather, the Committee has concentrated its attention on getting the best utilization out of more highly qualified Negroes in the Army. To this end, the Committee has recommended:

1. That all MOS be opened to all qualified men;
2. That all Army schools be opened to qualified personnel;
3. That qualified men upon completion of Army courses be utilized as they are needed without regard to race;
4. That the present racial quota be abandoned in favor of a quota based on GCT.

At present, there are over 70 MOS for which there are no Negro authorizations. Furthermore, only 19 percent of the Army school courses are open to Negroes. The recommendation for a substitution of GCT for a racial quota is intended to implement the original proposal of the
Gilles Board that the "professional private" should not be allowed to re-enlist indefinitely. As you may know, there have been no Negro enrollees for five months because the quota is presently filled. The effect of this policy is to foresee the enrollment of qualified Negroes while permitting the re-enlistment of less capable men. These are the essential recommendations of the President's Committee and discussions are progressing on the basis of these recommendations.

In reply to your question about recreational facilities, the committee has made no recommendations on that as yet because it is, so far, satisfied with the policy of the Gillee Board which stipulates that recreational facilities would be open to all personnel regardless of race. As a matter of practice, however, individual units of sufficient size usually have their own recreational facilities.

You may be interested to know the Army now has a policy of complete integration in its general ratings and that enlisted men now serve, mess and bunk without any segregation. The Army has also recently agreed, in response to recommendations of the President's Committee, that chief stovers shall have the rating of chief petty officer; that segregated Marine Negro units will be disbanding and integrated with white units; that some Negro Reserve officers will be recalled for service with the recruiting program.

As you may also know, the Air Force is currently dissolving its Negro fighter wing stationed at Langshar Field and almost all Negroes are being reclassified and reassigned. The flying personnel in the 335th Fighter Wing are being sent to various Air Bases for further training and schooling.

I am enclosing a list of the 16 conferences with the organizations they represented, who met with Secretary Forrestal in April 1946.

I was in Ohio two weeks ago to see President Abraham of Oberlin, a member of the Committee and regret that I did not have the time to make the journey to Cincinnati to see you. I appreciate your continuing interest in the work of the President's Committee and I hope that you will freely call upon the Committee staff at any time for material you may need.

Inasmuch as discussions are still going on with the Army, I ask you to keep confidential the recommendations which have been made to the Secretary of the Army by the Committee.

I assure you that as soon as a new policy and program are adopted by the Army I will inform you of its details.

Sincerely yours,

E. V. Lamberton
Executive Secretary
NATIONAL DEFENSE CONFERENCE ON NEGRO AFFAIRS
Washington, D.C. - April 26, 1948

Attendance -
Mr. Ira F. Lewis, President, The Pittsburgh Courier, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia
Mr. Loren Miller, Attorney at Law, 1505 E. Vernon Avenue, Los Angeles, California
Dr. Chauncey D. Tabb, Jr., Director, Phalae-Stokes Foundation, New York, N.Y.
Mr. George L. P. Weaver, United Transport Service Employees, Chicago, Ill.
Mr. Roy Wilkins, Assistant Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York, N.Y.

Defense Staff
Hon. James Forrestal, Secretary of Defense
Hon. Robert P. Patterson, Former Secretary of War
Mr. Harry Lowe, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
Capt. Robert S. Neville, USA, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
Mr. James C. Evans, Adviser to the Secretary of Defense
Col. J. L. Chambers, USA, Army Liaison Officer, Office of Secretary of Defense
Cdr. F. John Long, USA, Navy Liaison Officer, Office of Secretary of Defense
Col. Joseph C. Beddoes, USAF, Air Force Liaison Officer, Office of Secretary of Defense

Consultants and Official Observers
Brig. Gen. R. C. Davis, USA, Special Assistant to Secretary of the Army
Col. Campbell C. Johnson, USA, Executive Assistant to Director of Selective Service
Maj. Harriet West, USA, Adjunct General's Department
Lt. Col. E. H. Hope, USA, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
Lt. Col. George E. Roberts, USA, AIR BOME, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

Department of the Army
Hon. Kenneth C. Royall, Secretary of the Army
Col. Robert A. Glenn, USA, Executive Assistant to Secretary of the Army

Department of the Navy
Hon. John H. Immer, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Air)
Capt. Fred Stickney, USA, Bureau of Naval Personnel
Department of the Air Force

Hon. Stuart R. Symington, Secretary of the Air Force
Lt. Gen. Idael R. Edwards, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel and Administration
Col. H. E. McFerry, USAF

Conference Aides

Lt. John T. Smith, USA
Lt. Dennis D. Nielsen, USA
Lt. Willard W. Savoy, USAFR

Conferees

Mr. Lester S. Granger, Executive Secretary, National Urban League, New York, N. Y.
Dr. S. E. M. Alexander, Attorney at Law, Philadelphia, Pa.
Dr. John W. Davis, President, West Virginia State College Institute, West Virginia
Mr. Thomas L. Elliott, Attorney at Law, Chicago, Ill.
Rev. Bishop E. V. Gregg, Kansas City, Kansas
Mr. Charles Person, Attorney at Law, Washington, D. C.
Rev. John H. Johnson, St. Martin's Church, New York, N.Y.
Dr. Norwood Johnson, President, Howard University, Washington, D. C.
Mr. F. D. Young, Jr., Norfolk Journal and Guide, Norfolk, Va.
MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Please return to me for my mailing list file.

ap
To
Mr. Edwin V. Learned,
Executive Secretary,
Committee on Equal Rights in Employment
in the Armed Services,

The Pentagon,
WASHINGTON 25,

Dear Mr. Learned:

Mr. Roberts, of the OPM, writes me that he has discussed with you his search
for information on the status of the activity in which you are engaged. He asks me material
of considerable volume. It stops short, however, of giving me the fully proposed program for the Army. How much of
the Sillim Board's plan remains in the "complete integration" in work? Are camp and post recreational facilities
for enlisted men to be effectively segregated as hitherto has been the case?

I will appreciate being given the answers to those questions. I would also like to be
provided the names of the sixteen conferences with
Secretary Forrestal et. al., in April of '45, and the organizations they spoke for.

And of course I'd like to be on your mailing list for further material which develops, and
for the complete reports of the hearings...

Thank you.

[Signature]

To Mr. James E. LaFaworth,
Executive Secretary,
Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services,
The NDTA,
Washington 25
DC.