

Document 52

Papers of Harry S. Truman: White House Central Files—Official File

93-13

July 7, 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: HONORABLE JAMES B. FORRESTAL
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

I would appreciate it if you would acknowledge direct the attached letter to the President from Grant Reynolds and A. Philip Randolph, stating it was referred to you by this office.

Thank you.

MATTHEW J. CONNELLY
Secretary to the President

smg

lettr June 29 from these two men, 217 West 125th Street, New York City. Request conference with the President to discuss issuance of an executive order abolishing all segregation and discrimination from the armed forces. #

X161

X1285-miscel

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 6, 1948.

MEMO FOR HONORABLE MATT CONNELLY:

Dear Matt:

I suggest that this letter be
referred to Mr. Forrestal.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D.K.N.", written in dark ink.

D.K.N.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 1, 1948

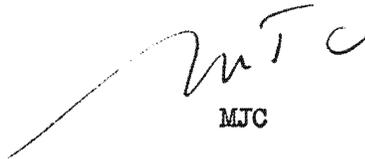
MEMORANDUM FOR

MR. NILES

Dear Dave:

Will you be good enough to look over the attached letter, addressed to the President by Grant Reynolds and A. Philip Randolph, and let us have your suggestions as to how it should be handled.

Thank you.


MJC

COMMITTEE AGAINST JIMCROW IN MILITARY SERVICE AND TRAINING

SUITE 301

217 WEST 125th STREET

NEW YORK 27, NEW YORK

Telephone: WAdsworth 6-4949

OFFICERS

Grant Reynolds
Chairman

A. Philip Randolph
Treasurer

Charles J. Patterson
Executive Secretary

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June 29, 1948

President Harry S. Truman
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Because Congress enacted, and you have now signed, a Selective Service bill devoid of any safeguards for Negro youth, we should like to request, at your very earliest convenience, a conference with you to discuss the issuance of an executive order abolishing all segregation and discrimination from the armed forces.

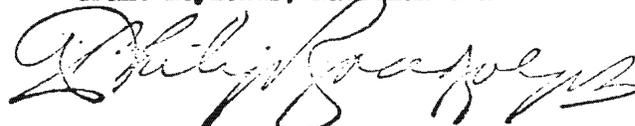
In the light of past official civil rights pronouncements, it is our belief that the President, as Commander-in-Chief, is morally obligated to issue such an order now. Unless this is done, Negro youth will have no alternative but to resist a law, the inevitable consequence of which would be to expose them to the un-American brutality so familiar during the last war.

America must not subject one-tenth of its population to such treatment again. Knowing that you have it in your power to prevent this, we are seeking an opportunity to confer with you on implementing this essential part of your civil rights program.

Sincerely yours,



Grant Reynolds, National Chairman



A. Philip Randolph, National Treasurer

apr/t