

Document 22  
President's Committee on Civil Rights

April 14, 1947.

The Honorable  
James Forrestal  
Secretary of the Navy  
Navy Department Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The President's Committee on Civil Rights, whose organization and functions are described in the attached Executive Order, is in need of your assistance. We believe that our report to the President should contain the experience of the Navy Department and its recommendations in this important area.

The Committee feels that it should have basic memorandum on the policies and practices of the Navy Department, as they are related to civil rights.

The Committee is working to meet imminent deadlines and is anxious to consider the problem of civil rights in the Navy field on the 23rd of April. We would appreciate it very much, therefore, if the information and supporting materials could reach us on the 21st.

When the Committee has examined the memorandum we are asking you to prepare, it is our hope that we may arrange for a consultation with you and appropriate members of your staff.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert K. Carr.

Enclosures (2)

April 14, 1947.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NAVY DEPARTMENT

We should like information on the following subjects, covering all Naval Bureaus and The Marine Corps (male and female personnel, including Nurses):

1. The civil rights of all Navy personnel; statements of policy including report of the investigation of the court-martial system.
2. A statement of the experience of the Navy Department in connection with the protection against violence of men while in uniform. Please include legislative proposals in this field.
3. Official statements of policy (including those of pre-war, war-time and post-war dates to indicate changes):
  - a. Recruitment of Negro personnel
  - b. Training of Negro troops
  - c. Rank of Negro men
  - d. Service and assignment of Negroes
  - e. Use of facilities
4. Administrative and educational efforts by these agencies to create tolerance and acceptance of minority troops, etc.:
  - a. Efforts to indoctrinate officers
  - b. Efforts to indoctrinate enlisted men
  - c. Special efforts to handle integrated or closely-working unit with pre-briefings or orientations
  - d. Crisis situations in the forces
  - e. Civilians
5. Practical implementation of policies data:
  - a. Recruitment of Negro personnel
  - b. Training of Negro troops
  - c. Rank of Negro men
  - d. Service and assignment of Negroes
  - e. Use of facilities
6. Legislative proposals bearing on civil rights in the Naval forces, and court cases growing out of Navy policies on civil rights.
7. The possible and probable effect of the unification of the armed forces on existing policies in the area.
8. The role of the Navy in controlling civil disturbances growing out of race riots and similar outbreaks of violence which may pass out of the control of local and state law enforcement agencies. (Constitutional procedure, war-time and peace-time plans which the Navy had or has, measures taken in specific instances, if any.)
9. Where pertinent (Especially Points 3,4,5 and 6) please include information on other minority groups, particularly Japanese Americans, Mexican Americans, Indians and Chinese Americans.