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December 1, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

Subject: Report of Judge William H. Hastie,  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War,  
dated September 22, 1941.

A solution of many of the issues presented by Judge Hastie in his memorandum to you on "The Integration of the Negro Soldier into the Army," dated September 22, would be tantamount to solving a social problem which has perplexed the American people throughout the history of this nation. The Army cannot accomplish such a solution, and should not be charged with the undertaking. The settlement of vexing racial problems cannot be permitted to complicate the tremendous task of the War Department and thereby jeopardize discipline and morale.

I have considered carefully Judge Hastie's memorandum. Many of the recommendations contained therein are sound. Corrective measures have been taken regarding certain issues, and similar measures will be taken in others. There remain issues in which it is believed that the possible consequences of the action recommended would be detrimental.

*Good Statement*

The problems presented with reference to utilizing negro personnel in the Army should be faced squarely. In doing so, the following facts must be recognized: first, that the War Department cannot ignore the social relationship between negroes and whites which has been established by the American people through custom and habit; second, that either through lack of educational opportunities or other causes the level of intelligence and occupational skill of the negro population is considerably below that of the white; third, that the Army will attain its maximum strength only if its personnel is properly placed in accordance with the capabilities of individuals; and fourth, that experiments within the Army in the solution of social problems are fraught with danger to efficiency, discipline, and morale.

On October 16, 1940, the War Department policy in regard to negroes was published to the service. This policy had the approval of the President prior to its publication. It is my sincere belief that the Department has whole-heartedly carried it out. I can see no reason why it should be changed in any respect.

General Brydon is discussing the report in detail with the Undersecretary.

/s/ G. C. Marshall  
Chief of Staff.

C O P Y