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MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Participation of Negro Troops in the Post-War Military Establishment

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that

a. The policy on training negro troops in the Army Air Forces be

- (1) That negro personnel and units be trained on the same basis and standards as white personnel and units.
- (2) That qualified negroes be obtained for pilot training and technical specialists by the application of careful screening and selection.

b. The policy on utilization of negroes be

- (1) That negroes be utilized and assigned to jobs and units consistent with their qualifications and their ability to meet established training standards in the following manner:
  - (a) In separate combat flying units to the [maximum] extent to which these units can be manned by qualified negro personnel.
  - (b) In separate service units to the extent necessary to support the negro combat units.
  - (c) In other separate established T/O units in which negroes performed most satisfactorily in World War II (Avn. Squadron, QM Tank Company, Ordnance Co(Avn), Chemical Maintenance Company, Chemical Depot Company, Air Cargo Resupply Squadron, Engineer Units where the mission does not require a high degree of professional skill), and in such other units as their capabilities warrant.
  - (d) In base units on jobs requiring the maximum utilization of their individual abilities.
  - (e) To the maximum extent of their capability and availability as instructors for negro units and for on-  
[redacted] training.

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(f) To command and administer negro units to the maximum extent possible. Where there are not sufficient qualified negro officers, white officers, who are thoroughly qualified by training or experience to handle negro troops should be utilized until such time as they can be replaced with qualified negro officers.

(g) As to location

1. Equal opportunity should be given negro troops for overseas service in all locations except extremely cold climates.

2. Negro units be assigned to localities where large civilian negro population are located to afford adequate off-post recreation. It is desirable, where military requirements permit, to avoid subjecting negro soldiers to civil laws not compatible with those they are accustomed. ~~///~~ <sup>To WHICH</sup>

(h) As to size of units

1. Combat and combat service support units should not exceed that of a group.

2. Combat support units should not exceed that of a battalion.

(i) War Department regulations be applicable to negro personnel in the same manner as to white personnel and where disciplinary action is required, no favoritism or discrimination should be shown. It is essential that negroes be treated and considered as individuals and not as a group.

(j) That care be exercised not only in selection but also in training of non-commissioned and officer personnel assigned to negro units. Alert, intelligent leadership whether negro, white, or negro and white, is one of the most important factors in maintaining the balance, proficiency and morale of negro units as well as individuals.

c. Policies with regard to segregation be

(1) That segregation of negroes into administrative units is desirable.

(2) Segregation for recreation, messing, and social activities, on the post as well as off, be established in accordance with the customs prevailing within the surrounding civilian communities

- d. That negroes in the Army as a whole be prorated among the three major forces in proportion to their respective sizes and in no case shall the number of negroes in the Air Forces exceed 10 per cent of the over-all strength of the Air Forces.