Dear Senator Lehman and Senator Humphrey:

I have delayed replying to your joint letter in order that I might be able to furnish you in some detail the present status of Army plans for the integration of Negro personnel.

For the past several months the Department of the Army has been conducting an intensive study in Korea directed toward improved employment of Negro manpower, particularly in combat units. Comments and recommendations were obtained from commanders concerned and the opinions of several hundred personnel, both white and Negro, were compiled from written questionnaires and personal interviews. The following planned action is based upon the findings of this study.

Far East Command has been directed to inactivate the Negro 24th Infantry Regiment and to replace it with an integrated infantry regiment. Further, general integration has been ordered in the Eighth Army in Korea and in units in Japan of both combat and service type, excepting only the 40th and 45th Infantry Divisions. This integration will be phased over a three-month period with a target date of 30 September for completion. Integration within the 40th and 45th Infantry Divisions will follow at a later date and will be accomplished through the normal flow of replacements.

Secretary Pace, General Collins and General Ridgway are giving the above plan their full support. They ask that you consider this information confidential until a public statement is released on the subject by Far East Command about August 1st. They propose to give equally careful consideration to other areas. The Department of the Army is hopeful that it will be able to carry forward the principle of integration in a planned and orderly manner.

Faithfully yours,

The Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
United States Senate