

5-12-1949

Regarding Abolishment of Negro Air Units

Strom Thurmond

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TELEGRAM FROM J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR
OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO HONORABLE LOUIS JOHNSON,
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, WASHINGTON, D. C., WITH
REGARD TO ABOLISHMENT OF NEGRO AIR UNITS.
MAY 12, 1949.

Honorable Louis Johnson:

As Governor of South Carolina and as a veteran of
the 82nd Airborne Division I protest against your action in
abolishing the Negro Air Units of the Air Service. Experience
has taught, and our military leaders have advised, that it is
unwise to break down the long established policy of our
Armed Services in providing separate units for racial groups.
Our National Defense should be above politics.

J. Strom Thurmond, Governor