

Letters to The Times

Surrender Talk Opposed

Replacement Urged of Any Defense Official Harboring This Idea

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

I am an American Negro, an engineering college graduate and former officer in the United States Air Force. As an officer in the military I have been stationed in many parts of this country and have had the chance to see and feel some of the harsh inequalities of our so-called "democratic" way of life. Because I am a Negro (American notwithstanding) I have been spit at in Georgia, cursed in Virginia and given the "royal run-around" in New York City.

This letter is not designed to dwell on the sociological hows and whys in the inconsistencies of what America teaches and what America actually does. However, I think you would agree that being an American Negro and having been subjected to the very worst that the country offers its citizens, I would stand to lose least in any surrender to the Communists.

This being true, allow me to be the first to say that I should rather die in an atomic war fighting for what this country stands for, in spite of all her failures. The thought of surrender could hardly be more remote to anyone else.

I do not have a flag, and if I did I don't know if I would be seen waving it on a Fourth of July. But this country is my country. I love America and have great hopes that she can yet become the democracy which the founding fathers intended.

I feel that any person connected with the defense of this country who even thinks of surrender should be replaced with all haste. There should be no place for any such person in our defense network. I regard death and life under the Communist system as one and the same, the only difference being that life under communism would be a much slower death. CLARENCE FUNNYE.

Brooklyn, Aug. 16, 1958.