



Harry S. Truman Library

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Independence, Missouri 64050

HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY

INTRODUCTION

The attached memorandum, signed by C. B. (Charles Burton) Marshall, relating to Generals Thomas Jefferson Davis and Douglas MacArthur, and dated January 29, 1983, was given by Dr. Marshall to Dr. Niel Johnson, a Truman Library archivist, during an oral history interview Dr. Johnson conducted with Dr. Marshall on June 21, 1989, in Washington, D.C. A biographical statement on Dr. Marshall, from Who's Who, is attached.

During the interview on June 21, 1989, Marshall informed Dr. Johnson that General Davis was his colleague on the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. Prior to that, Davis had been General Douglas MacArthur's aide for 14 years. Marshall's comments to Dr. Johnson about Davis include the following statements: "He filled me in on Douglas MacArthur;" "from Davis I picked up the idea of MacArthur as the insecure man with a compensatory personality to hide his insecurities;" and "it was out of that long acquaintance with Thomas Jefferson Davis in the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees that I picked up this index to MacArthur's character."

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The big thing in MacArthur's favor was a certain generosity and grace that often showed up in conduct. Davis admired him for the way he conducted the expulsion of the Bonus Army in 1932. MacArthur explained to his

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immediate staff at the time: "This is going to be a disagreeable job. A lot can go wrong if there is serious resistance. Some people may get killed. There is a big potential for discredit and even disgrace on the person responsible. I will put on my uniform and all my ribbons and make it unmistakable that the burden of responsibility is on me. I will not put the burden on a military subordinate and I want to shield the President, and I hope my obvious presence will help discourage any serious resistance."