

Report on Pacific Bases

The Angry Black Servicemen

Washington

Pentagon civil rights chief Frank Render warned months ago that some black servicemen in the Pacific area were tongue-tied by pent-up fury and there was "potential for serious racial disorder."

Render's warnings were based on a tour of American installations in the Far East last March and April. Since then, racial flareups have

occurred in South Korea.

His report, completed in late May, became available this week.

FINDINGS

His findings on the Far East were not distributed widely by Pentagon leaders, in contrast with the handling of Render's report last year on U.S. military racial problems in Germany.

After the European study last fall, stiff anti-dis-

crimination orders were issued by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird.

Render wrote after his trip to bases in Korea, Japan, the Philippines and Okinawa that frustrations of some black servicemen were "so great and their pent-up fury so high that many of them have exceeding difficulty expressing themselves."

PARALYSIS

He told of finding some men so overwhelmed that it

was producing a verbal paralysis" and that he met some Marines who "burst out in tears and unashamedly cried" while trying to articulate what was wrong.

As he had following his European trip, Render reported complaints by black servicemen of discrimination in promotions, unfair treatment under military justice, and "that they were given the menial and dirty tasks."

A 35-year-old Republican

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from Syracuse, N.Y., Render was brought into the Pentagon 14 months ago as deputy assistant secretary of defense for civil rights. This makes him one of the highest-ranking black officials in the Defense Department.

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