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***America's New Birth of Freedom:  
Documents from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library***

**DOCUMENT TRANSCRIPT**

**Abraham Lincoln to General John Dix, January 14, 1863**

Private and confidential.

Executive Mansion, Washington, January 14, 1863

Major-General Dix.

My dear Sir: The proclamation has been issued. We were not succeeding--at best were progressing too slowly--without it. Now that we have it, and bear all of the disadvantages of it (as we do bear some in certain quarters), we must also take some benefit from it, if practicable. I therefore will thank you for your well-considered opinion whether Fortress Monroe and Yorktown, one or both, could not, in whole or in part, be garrisoned by colored troops, leaving the white forces now necessary at those places to be employed elsewhere.

Yours very truly, A. Lincoln

Source: *Abraham Lincoln: Complete Works, Comprising His Speeches, Letters, State Papers, and Miscellaneous Writings* by Abraham Lincoln, John George Nicolay, John Hay, 1984.