

Secret

26th June, 1940.

Y.E.

I suggest the attached note as an aide memoire  
for your talk to the President.

G.C. Rose  
A.D.

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seen by hi who was

I as ref to his talk with the  
President on June 1st.

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Air Attaché's Office,  
11th June, 1940.

Y.E.

I was informed in a private letter last week by the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, Air Vice-Marshal Douglas, that our scientists had now succeeded in stabilising our automatic bomb sight and that the results being achieved with it on our bomb ranges were every bit as good as those claimed by the U.S. Army and Navy for their bomb sight. Douglas added however that he was still anxious to have a number of U.S. bomb sights, because he was afraid it would be some time before we could get into production on our new stabilised automatic bomb sight.

With this information I have since then been doing a certain amount of "lobbying" with Senators and Congressmen, taking the line that, as we think our sight is as good as theirs, there really seems no justification for their continuing to withhold their sight from us; that if they don't believe us - which is their first reaction, regarding the proposal as a new ruse to get their sight - we might well be prepared to let the U.S. Air Attachés in London examine this new sight of ours and accept their opinion as to whether or not it is as good as the U.S. sight; if it is agreed that it is, we could then be permitted to order a number, which would be fitted with a self-destroying device which General Arnold has frequently stated is an integral part of the U.S. sight.

I was therefore very much amused to hear on the radio this morning Walter Compton advocating the giving of the U.S. bomb sight to the Allies. His arguments were that it had a self-destroying device incorporated in it and that, even if this failed to work, it would take anyone eighteen months to two years to get it into production. He also

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added in arguing this matter that it was understood the British had as good a sight as the U.S. one.

In view of the above, it might be worth your while to raise this matter once again with the President should a suitable opportunity arise. You will remember that the last time you saw him you proposed that we might be permitted to order a number of those sights, which he would not let us have until the situation, in his opinion, warranted our having them.

*G.C. Pire  
A.A.*

*I will speak to President  
when next - see him*

*L 13/6*

WASHINGTON, D.C.,  
11th June, 1940.