

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 7th, 1940.

No. 388

Urgent

Sir,

See - 117

I have the honour to inform you that Messrs. D. C. T. Bennett, R. H. Page and I. G. Ross, senior captains of the British Overseas Airways Corporation, are to be employed by His Majesty's Government in flying from Canada to the United Kingdom a number of military aircraft at present on order in the United States for the Royal Air Force. These gentlemen are now on their way from Canada to Los Angeles and San Diego, California, to discuss with the companies concerned the requirements necessary for flying the aircraft in question from Canada to the United Kingdom.

I have the honour to enquire whether permission might be granted to Messrs. Bennett, Page and Ross on their arrival in California, to make one or two test flights on aircraft of each of the types on production for His Majesty's Government. The companies concerned are the Lockheed, Consolidated and Douglas Aircraft Corporations and permission for the gentlemen to visit these companies has already been applied for in the usual way through the United States War Department. The gentlemen are all experienced pilots with many thousand hours of flying

to/

The Honourable

Sumner Welles,

Acting Secretary of State of the United States,

Washington, D. C.

5

to their credit and have all been in command of British flying boats for some years. All of them have also been captains of aircraft crossing the Atlantic on at least four occasions.

It is desired that they should if possible make the test flights referred to within the next ten days and I should therefore be grateful if the matter might be treated as urgent.

I have the honour to be,  
with the highest consideration,

Sir,

Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

(333) LOTHIAN