

Att: 6208/4/41

MINUTE FROM HEADS OF MISSIONS, BRITISH
JOINT STAFF MISSION IN WASHINGTON TO CHIEFS OF
STAFF.

SECRET

MAN POWER.

1. Our attention has been drawn to the fact that there are in the U.S.A. a considerable number of British subjects whose services would be useful to the British war effort. Precise numbers are not yet known. In view of the serious man-power situation, we believe that steps should be taken to remedy this situation.
2. The British subjects referred to in the preceding paragraph may be divided into the following two classes:-
 - (a) British subjects, many of whom have lived in the U.S.A. for many years, who have volunteered for service or would gladly do so. The British Information Services under Sir Gerald Campbell have started an index of volunteers and are making this index available to all Missions here. ~~As a result of this a certain number~~ may find local employment with British Missions in the U.S.A., and we ourselves propose always to consider the possibility of engaging them ~~before applying to London for staff.~~ There are, however, a great number who have no special qualifications to render them suitable for employment in Missions here, but who might well be suitable for employment either in the Services or in civilian administration or clerical work at home. At present there is no method of sending anyone to England unless he has certain special technical qualifications, and we /

here

suggest that the Consular service ~~in the U.S.A.~~ should be given authority to engage British subjects of a type known to be required in the U.K. and to arrange for their journey home.

(b) British subjects (notably those who have come here from European countries since the war) who are remaining in the U.S.A. with the express purpose of avoiding war service. These present a more difficult problem in that there is at present no means of compelling them to return to the U.K. It may be that by legislation in the U.K. and/or by some form of agreement or understanding with the U.S. Government, this difficulty could be overcome. If so, ~~we~~ feel strongly that the necessary steps should be taken, not only because of the addition to our man power which would result, but also because of the bad effect which is created by the continued presence of these persons in the U.S.A.

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3. In view, ~~however,~~ of the known shortage of man power at home and of its effect on recruitment for the Services, ~~we wish to draw your attention to these considerations.~~ We understand that H.M. Ambassador will probably be raising this matter during his forthcoming visit to the U.K. and know that he would welcome your support in finding a solution.