

Man Power of U.S. 6/20/41**SECRET**SECRET.Paymaster General's Office,  
55, Whitehall, S.W.

31st July, 1941.

Dear Edward,

*Acknowledged*

Bridges is sending over by this bag a copy of a War Cabinet Paper, 19/10/125/1, Paper No. 3, of the 30th July, 1941, headed "Technical Assistance from the United States of America." This will be sent at the same time as War Cabinet Paper, 19/10/125/1, Paper No. 2, of the 30th July, 1941, dealing with a different aspect of the same question.

My document, Paper No. 3, is the result of conversations I had, with the assent of the Minister of Labour and National Service and other Ministers concerned, with Mr. Harry Hopkins and Mr. Harriman about a plan favoured by Mr. Hopkins, which envisages the formation by the United States Government of something corresponding to our Civilian Technical Corps and which, we gather, has been a failure. I myself am concerned in this matter mainly from the point of view of skilled personnel for radio, night fighting and so forth. The demands for Radio Mechanics are increasing and our own resources of the right kind of personnel are drying up.

Consequently the failure of the plan for the Civilian Technical Corps is a very severe blow, and if the scheme favoured by Mr. Hopkins were successful, it would be an immensely important contribution to the solution of our difficulties.

I had a talk with Mr. Harriman just before he left, and Paper No. 3 includes a summary. Notwithstanding Mr. Harriman's observation recorded at the end of the summary, it is clear that, whereas Paper No. 2, so far as it is to be implemented, will have to be followed up in detail in London, negotiations resulting from my paper, No. 3, will have to be pursued in Washington. It is evident that the formation of an American Civilian Technical Corps, possibly as a branch of the existing American Civilian Conservation Corps, is a matter entirely for the initiative of the United States Government. Our people in Washington however, who have been

working

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Halifax, K.G.

working on our own Civilian Technical Corps, could render a great deal of assistance. For example, part of the regulations drawn up for our Civilian Technical Corps could probably be adapted mutatis mutandis to the American plan.

Mr. Harriman suggested to me that we should at once inform the Embassy of what had happened, and that you, or your representatives, should get into touch with Mr. Hopkins and himself on their arrival, and, in the case of Paper No.3 at any rate, continue the conversations begun in London.

I ought to mention that we arranged that the Air Ministry should undertake responsibility for the British end of the negotiations over the new proposal, and that communications should pass through the same channels as before.

With best wishes,

Yours ever  
Hankey