

SECRET

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M.M.(41) 21st Meeting.

COPY NO. 14

BRITISH JOINT STAFF MISSION IN WASHINGTON.

MINUTES of Meeting held at 3055, Whitehaven Street,
on FRIDAY, 29TH AUGUST, 1941, at 11.0 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Lieut.-General Sir Colville Wemyss.
(In the Chair).

Air Marshal A.P. Harris.

Captain G.D. Belben, R.N.

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT:-

Major-General F.G. Beaumont-
Nesbitt.

Air Commodore A.L. Fiddament.

Lieut.-Colonel F.W. Vogel.

Group Captain S.C.
Strafford.

Wing Commander H. Banks.
(For Item 1).

SECRETARIAT:-

Commander R.D. Coleridge, R.N.
Major R.F.G. Jayne.

1. U.S. LEASED BASES - LOCAL DEFENCE QUESTIONS.

(Previous Reference: M.M.(41) 20th Meeting, Min. 1).

(M.M.(41) 133).

THE COMMITTEE had before them a draft Memorandum to the Chiefs of Staff covering the Letter of Transmittal and Agreement on the Leased Bases. (M.M.(41) 133).

THE COMMITTEE:-

- (a) Instructed the Joint Secretaries to prepare, for the signature of the Heads of Missions, a copy of this Memorandum*, as amended in the discussion.
- (b) Instructed the Joint Secretaries, as soon as the signed copies were received from the U.S. authorities, to prepare a GLEAM telegram stating that the Agreement had been signed, and would be taken back to England by Wing Commander Banks.

*Subsequently circulated as M.M.(41) 135.

2.- ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF MISSIONS IN WASHINGTON.

(Previous Reference: M.M.(41) 17th Meeting,
Minute 4.)

LIEUT.-GENERAL WEMYSS reminded the Committee that no report had yet been received from the Committee set up in accordance with M.M.(41) 17th Meeting, Conclusion 4(a). He understood that the Committee had been unable to reach a unanimous decision, and suggested that if this were the case, the Committee should be instructed to forward this report, together, if necessary, with a minority report, in time for it to be considered by the Heads of Missions at their next meeting on TUESDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER, 1941.

AIR MARSHAL HARRIS agreed that the Committee should produce the result of its deliberations before Tuesday, and suggested that, if agreement had not been reached, the members of the Committee might state their case before the Heads of Missions at this meeting. He felt that any rates agreed on for Washington need not be generally applied to other places in North America, as expenses in Washington were known to be higher than in any other city; and this fact had been recognised by the U.S. Committee which had considered living allowances to be paid to American Officers and officials working in Washington.

THE COMMITTEE:-

Instructed the Joint Secretaries to inform the Committee which had been set up to consider the question of allowances, that their report, if necessary containing a minority report, should be available to the Heads of Missions for their meeting on TUESDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER, 1941.

3. RECRUITMENT OF TECHNICIANS IN THE U.S.A.

AIR MARSHAL HARRIS said that General Brett, of the U.S. Army Air Corps, was leaving by air on the following day for the Middle East. After examining the position in the Middle East, he would fly on to England. General Brett's terms of reference were very wide, and it was understood that after examining our requirements in the Middle East, and discussions in London, he would make detailed recommendations to Mr. Hopkins and General Arnold. Air Marshal Harris had suggested to General Arnold that General Brett should not only deal with air requirements, but with the requirements of all three Services.

The existing Civilian Technical Corps was being handled by the R.A.F. Delegation. Air Marshal Harris understood that Mr. Hopkins proposed that the U.S. authorities should raise the new Corps of Technicians, and that they should be financed on Lend-Lease terms. If this were so, it would probably

be necessary for the U.S. authorities to absorb into their new organisation the existing Civilian Technical Corps, in order that the pay and conditions of service of the two organisations should be similar. He proposed to discuss this matter with Mr. Hopkins.

In reply to a question from General Wemyss, AIR MARSHAL HARRIS undertook to find out whether British nationals in the United States would be eligible to join the Civilian Technical Corps.

THE COMMITTEE took note of the above statements.

4. HOURS OF WORK OF BRITISH MISSIONS.

THE COMMITTEE considered the proposal which had been before the Supply Council at their last meeting, that British Missions in Washington should conform more closely to the U.S. hours of work.

THE COMMITTEE:-

Agreed to consider this matter further on receipt of the result of the Supply Council's enquiries on this matter.

Washington, D.C.,

29TH AUGUST, 1941.