

SECRET

29th September 1941.

SECRET

My dear John,

I think you will be interested to see the enclosed letter from Coit at the Passport Control Office and of my reply. You will see that I have suggested that he get in touch with you with a view to seeing your list of volunteers.

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In this connection I see we have just had a letter from the Consulate-General in New York enclosing a copy of the report of their Volunteer Department for the month of August. At the end of this report it is said "Several applicants have been placed during the month and, if the State Department could be persuaded to allow American contractors to hire British subjects, we could place considerably more, and Defence Bases would get some really first-rate men". We could quite easily take this point up with the State Department though I doubt if we should get much change, but it seems a great pity that if these men are British subjects they should not go to the United Kingdom where expert constructional labourers are badly wanted. Of course it may be that the men would not be willing to go home. Perhaps however you might have a word with the Consulate-General to find out some more details on the subject. While you are at it, it might be no bad thing if you have a look at their Volunteer Department and see how it works. To judge by their reports they seem to have set up a pretty efficient machine.

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(sgd) F. R. HOYER MILLAR

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