

Man Power from U.S.

Copy to: Mr. Hayter
The British Embassy
for information

SECRET

September 29th, 1941



SECRET

C.P. Snow, Esq.,
Central Registry,
Queen Anne's Mansions,
Westminster, London.

Dear Snow:

-1/2
I am writing to you informally about various matters which have come to our attention recently, namely - the memorandum from the Hankey Committee on your requirements in the United Kingdom for various types of scientists, and ~~the~~ what is called here an Ordway Scheme for recruiting numbers of young Americans for semi-skilled work.

I have discussed both these matters with Conant over the telephone, and I have had earlier contacts with Dr. Carroll Wilson and Dr. Joe Morris on similar problems.

The net result, as far as I can see, is that the Americans are unlikely to be very helpful on the basis of a civilian organization. Dr. Conant points out that this type of administrative problem is not really the affair of NDRC or of OSRD, and in view of its broad implications to the U.S.A., he feels it is unlikely that there will be any possibility of arranging the matter suitably on a civilian basis.

As opposed to this opinion, however, Hayter of the Embassy assured me that there are some schemes now which have been brought to the attention of Mr. Stettinius and it may be that effective action may result therefrom.

Conant suggests that it should be possible to bring both the Ordway semi-skilled and the Hankey scientist recruitment problem under a modified civilian technical corps.

8

but our informal information here is to the effect that the civilian technical corps is slowly disintegrating and that ideas have been put forward to transfer it to the Americans for operation on a civilian basis but otherwise on the same lines as the Military scheme for sending to the United Kingdom technical radio people. Our real difficulty here is that we can find no satisfactory evidence that this is going forward.

I have been in touch with Mr. Hayter this morning, and he informs me that Cribbette, of the British Air Delegation, who has the radio scheme very much under his wing, has returned to England for a short period for consultations, and we have agreed not to press the matter further until Cribbette's return to this country with the latest British views on the subject.

I am writing informally to you simply to keep you in touch with the movement of opinion as it reaches us, but there may be other movements in this country with which we have no contact, so if this letter does not square with other information which you may have, please do not take it too seriously.

Yours sincerely,

W. L. Webster

W. L. WEBSTER
Secretary
British Central Scientific Office

CC to Mr. Hayter