

Following progress has been made with the co-ordinated statement of requirements of technical officers for the fighting Services and Supply Departments:

1. Recruitment for Defence Forces. Prospects of securing officers of the calibre required for the Services are slender, especially for the R.A.F. and Army who are not prepared to offer rank on entry equivalent to that of Lieutenant Navy.

Clayton Knight Committee (Canadian Aviation Bureau) however is being asked to pursue possibilities.

Discussions have taken place with Dr. Conant and we understand that no objection will be raised to the employment of officers provided under his scheme in useful constructive capacity. He confirms the limit of eight months service in the U.K. but personally considers that before officers are due for withdrawal the position of the U.S. in relation to the war will enable solution to be reached without difficulty. He therefore advises that we should not take official action at this stage to seeking the removal of the time limit. With regard to prospects of securing additional numbers and classes of technical officers, he considers that we should be unlikely to secure the numbers we sought in view of the increasing demands on the same sources by the U.S. Forces. He is prepared, however, to assist us in approaching the U.S. authorities for additional officers but strongly advocates that the basis of approach should be two cables from you, one dealing with the question of expansion of the existing scheme which is exclusively associated with the Signal Corps and the other seeking assistance in the new field covered by other requirements. He suggests that the first should embody following points:-

- (a) reference to the excellent quality of the officers already sent to the U.K.
- (b) a statement that they were proving of the utmost assistance to the British Government and, by reason of the experience they were gaining, would acquire greater value to the U.S. Government.
- (c) *we are grateful for the steps already taken to increase the rate of flow, but*
in view of the urgency of our need in the immediate future a request to explore the possibility of accelerating the provision of these officers so as to double the numbers available within the next few months.
- (d) a more precise statement of the actual nature of the duties on which the officers would be employed with the various Forces.

The second cable should consist of a request for assistance in meeting deficiencies in the remaining categories giving particulars of numbers required for the three Services and a brief but adequate description of the specific duties for which their services were required. The request should conclude with an instruction to pursue the possibility of establishing an organisation on lines parallel to that of the

existing/

existing Electronics Battalion in order to meet the need for officers which could not be met through the medium of the U.S. Signal Corps.

Dr. Conant thought that we should be unlikely to secure many of the highly trained types we sought for the Supply Departments. Exhaustive endeavours already made to obtain the research scientists notified in Foreign Office letter of the 15th August, 1941, had so far not yielded a single candidate. Conant agreed, however, that if the proposed American Civilian Technical Corps materialised we might well approach the U.S. authorities with the suggestion that an Officers Section should be formed to deal with these requirements.

6th November, 1941.