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NUMBER, 19/1 WITH

Mr. John Foster J Foster
22/11/41
British Embassy

With the Compliments of

Mr. W. C. G. Cribbett
Royal Air Force Delegation

Miss Whatley
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NOTES OF A MEETING ON 19th NOVEMBER, 1941 WITH

MR. McCLOY, U.S. FOR WAR FOR AIR.

Also Present: Mr. Murray Mitchell,
Mr. Raugh,
Mr. Kauffman,
2 U.S. War Department Officers.

Mr. McCloy explained that, in conjunction with the Defence Aid Division, he had been asked to investigate the possibilities of rendering some assistance to the British in securing the technical personnel they were at present trying to recruit into the C.T.C.

Mr. Murray Mitchell and I stated the general objectives of our policy, gave a general description of the status of the Corps, the recruitment machinery and the results to date of the recruiting campaign. We emphasised the urgency of the problem and Mr. Murray Mitchell expressed the view that only the intervention of U.S. Government Agencies could deal with the problem satisfactorily in relation to the time factor.

Asked by Mr. McCloy for our views of the reasons for the comparatively poor response we had obtained, it was explained that it was probably a combination of two factors:-

- (1) that the relatively unattractive wage we were able to offer (this problem was explained) and
- (2) that there was probably not such a wide field of recruitment of the versatile type of skilled craftsman as might at first seem possible.

Mr. McCloy suggested, with regard to the wage difficulty, that an immediate examination should be made of the feasibility of supplementing the wage offered by the British in the form of an additional \$ payment frozen in the U.S. but at the disposal of the member for any purpose he desired.

Mr. Raugh indicated that it might be possible to make Lease/Lend funds available for this purpose.

With regard to the problem of securing the greatest response in the immediate future two alternatives were considered to be worth exploring:

- (a) the possibility of securing personnel from the Defence Forces of the United States and
- (b) the judicious calling up under the Selective Service Act of qualified men from less essential industries and, after a short period of Army Service, offering them the opportunity to serve in the C.T.C.

Mr. McCloy asked that Mr. Murray Mitchell should circularise our recruiting agencies in the U.S. with the object of ascertaining their view of the appropriate wage for the various grades in order to decide the amount of supplement which the U.S. Government should offer. Concurrently he proposed to have independent enquiries made in Washington of the rates of wages appropriate in present circumstances in the skilled trades concerned.

The terms of the non-effective charges (widows and disability pensions) were considered to be not ungenerous.

The opportunity was also taken to mention the need for technical officers of the University and College graduate type for service with the Defence Forces and the Supply Departments. Mr. McCloy thought that it should be feasible to extend the Conant Observer scheme to other classes and also to deal with the needs of the Supply Departments from the same source.

19th November, 1941.