

SECRET

L.R. Campbell

I have not seen

any copy of the Jenkins

tel. to London which has

Li'wa who going to send

1/4 about 4 am 109.

But I think

Boxes 88 makes it clear

that no public statement is

under consideration.

You may like to

have a word with the Joint

Staff Division or find out

how keen they are
to proceed

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Copy sent to
Mr. Foster
29/8/41
LRC

1/10

propose talks with the

Supplies about the

civilian technical man power

schemes stand - see attached file.

to 9 can make

enquiries.

Im
27.8

Perhaps the Joint Staff
Mission could let me have
a short note

Rc 29/8

Having learnt from Mr. Foster
this morning that he was not aware of any
recent developments, I rang up Mr. Cribbett

of/

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of the Air Mission who, since he had a lot to do with the original British Civilian Technical Corps, has been given the job by the Joint Staff Mission of handling the present two questions - i.e. the proposal that the U.S. authorities should undertake certain specific constructional and other works in British territories, and that the U.S. authorities should recruit some kind of American civilian technical corps, the members of which could then be sent to serve in the U.K.

Mr. Cribbett said that as regards the first project General Bretk was very shortly leaving for England and that one of his jobs while there would be to consider the whole of this plan. I gathered from Mr. Cribbett that in these circumstances the Joint Staff Mission thought it unnecessary for them to take any further action here in the matter. This is probably the case, as in paragraph 4 of E.E. Bridges' letter to Balfour of August 1st it is stated that "the details of the various schemes falling under proposal A will I think have to be dealt with over here as only the Departments themselves are in a position to amplify the schemes".

As regards the second plan - that of recruiting American man-power - it was our understanding that immediately on Mr. Hopkins's return the Joint Staff Mission would write him a letter reminding him of the scheme and asking him how he would like it dealt with over here. Mr. Cribbett told me that no progress in this direction had been made and that no approach had yet been made to Hopkins. I told Mr. Cribbett that I was surprised to hear this since the Ambassador, before going away, had talked the whole question over with the Heads of the Joint Staff Mission and had told them that he had had a letter on the subject from Lord Hankey emphasizing the importance which the authorities at home attached to the matter. H.E. had made it clear that in these circumstances he was very anxious that all possible progress should be made with the matter by the Joint Staff Mission and that he was relying on them to lose no time in pursuing it with Mr. Hopkins. I indicated pretty clearly to Mr. Cribbett that I thought poorly of the failure of the Joint Staff Mission (with all their enormous staff) to take any action in the matter during the last fortnight, and suggested that if they did not get on with the job quickly the Embassy might have to take it over. This apparently had the desired effect on Mr. Cribbett, and he promised to take the matter up with Air Marshal Harris at once and endeavour to get the latter to approach Mr. Hopkins without further delay.

I will remind Mr. Cribbett again in a few days time and will do my best to keep the Air Mission up to the mark.

H.M.
August 28th, 1941.

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RC.