

United Kingdom Scientific Representation in the United States

Official United Kingdom scientific representation in the United States at the present time consists of two principal organizations:-

- (1) The United Kingdom Scientific Mission in the British Commonwealth Scientific Office (North America), and
- (2) The British Joint Services Mission (Technical Services) which, as its name implies, is part of the British Joint Services Mission in Washington.

Joint Technical Services are mainly concerned with defense technology developments in United States Military Research Organizations. Sir Alwyn Crow, C.B.E., is Director of the Joint Technical Services, Land and Air, and Sir Charles Wright, K.C.B., is Scientific Advisor to the Admiral, British Joint Services Mission (Navy Staff).

The United Kingdom Scientific Mission in B.C.S.O., of which Dr. F. N. Woodward is Director (shortly to be succeeded by Dr. W. A. Macfarlane), is the successor agency to the British Central Scientific Office which was established in this country during the war by the U.K. War Cabinet as a wartime measure to develop and maintain liaison in defense science matters between the United States and Great Britain. Similar, but smaller, Missions were gradually established by the Governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and these were associated in July 1944 under the new Name of British Commonwealth Scientific Office. The five separate Missions in the Commonwealth Office, i.e.:-

United Kingdom Scientific Mission  
Canadian (N.R.C.) Scientific Liaison Office  
Australian Scientific Research Liaison Office  
New Zealand Scientific Liaison Office  
South African Scientific Liaison Office



collaborate freely in the fields of non-defense science but each retains its full autonomy and independence under the jurisdiction of its parent Government.

The U.K. Scientific Mission is therefore completely independent of the other Missions in B.C.S.O. and neither in principle nor in practice is there any exchange of confidential or other security classified material with other Missions. It is staffed by scientists seconded from United Kingdom Government Departments, all of whom are subject to the provisions of the Official Secrets Act.

The Commonwealth Office was placed on a permanent basis by the U.K. and the four Dominion Governments as a result of the recommendation made by the Royal Society Scientific Conference held in London during the Summer of 1946.

The dividing line between the United Kingdom Scientific Mission in B.C.S.O. and the Technical Services of the British Joint Services Mission is roughly the division of interest between fundamental research and research with military implication, although the United Kingdom Scientific Mission has undertaken, and still does undertake, inquiries relating to certain fundamental scientific investigations for the Service Departments.

The United Kingdom Scientific Mission was for administrative convenience placed on the vote<sup>1</sup> of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research upon the dissolution of the Ministry of Production at the end of the war. The Department, however, neither has, nor has had, responsibility for defining policy. Its sole responsibility is to service the Mission through its Overseas Liaison Division on behalf of all United Kingdom Ministries and Departments concerned with scientific research and development.

Furthermore, the most stringent precautions have always been taken to insure that no information of American or Canadian origin is passed on to the industrial members of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Trade Research Associations or to industry itself without the prior permission of the donating authority. Such permission has only been requested on a very few isolated occasions during the past few years.

Responsibility for defining the mission's policy is assigned to the Committee on Overseas Scientific Relations which is answerable to the Lord President of the Council. The Lord President of the Council at present is the Right Honorable Herbert Morrison M.P., Deputy to the Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee. The permanent membership of the Committee on Overseas Scientific Relations includes the principal Government Departments and semi-official Bodies concerned with scientific research and development, viz:

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research  
Agricultural Research Council  
Medical Research Council  
Ministry of Supply  
Admiralty  
Colonial Office  
Lord President's Office  
Ministry of Fuel and Power  
British Council  
Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux  
Royal Society  
Universities  
Standing Council of Research Associations



Papers of the Committee are sent to the War Office and the Air

<sup>1</sup>Included in the appropriation of

Ministry and to all other Departments concerned with scientific research and development whose representatives attend the meetings of the committee when necessary. The Secretariat is provided by the Overseas Liaison Division of D.S.I.R., which is to be regarded as a common agent organised for convenience only within D.S.I.R.

### Functions

The main functions of the U.K. Scientific Mission at the present time are briefly as follows:

- (1) Maintenance of close liaison with American and Canadian Government, American and Canadian University, and other research institutions in the fields of fundamental science and non-defense technology.
- (2) Stimulation and maintenance of exchange of scientific and technical information between the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom.
- (3) Keeping abreast with new developments and changes in policy and organisation on scientific matters in Canada and the U.S.A.
- (4) Answering questions raised by any home Department or Ministry concerned with scientific research and development.
- (5) Procurement of books and chemicals, scientific apparatus, biological materials, etc., for official use.

In addition it assists and serves as a pied a terre for scientists visiting North America on behalf of U.K. Government Departments. A limited amount of assistance mainly as regards arranging itineraries and the giving of advice and introductions is also afforded properly sponsored non-official scientific visitors.

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November 23, 1948.



