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HIGH PRIORITY PRODUCTION PROGRAMME

The attached paper is submitted by the Working Group
for the consideration of Deputies.

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T.A.G. CHARLTON
SECRETARY

New York

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DRAFT REPORT BY THE WORKING GROUP
ON THE HIGH PRIORITY PRODUCTION PROGRAM

1. The oral reports by the Deputies concerning the initiation of high priority production programs in their countries were not, for obvious reasons, in comparable form or equally complete. In general, however, they, and the preliminary written reports also submitted, indicated intentions on the part of most countries to proceed with country tasks. Certain Delegates indicated that some contracts were already being placed. Some Deputies indicated that, because of the haste with which the initial submissions were prepared, revisions were in process in the programs of their countries. For these several reasons, the extent to which the total production proposed in the MPSB report may be met cannot yet be seen.

2. The preliminary reports did not indicate in full the problems to be worked out in order to get substantial production under way. However, in the reports of various Deputies, mention was made of the following:

(1) need for early approval of proposed types by the Standing Group;

(2) possible difficulties in the use of EPU to settle transfers;

(3) problem of finding adequate means for initial financing;

(4) necessity for "receiving" nations to make firm commitments in order that producing countries may initiate production for transfer;

(5) need for concrete proposals regarding U.S. aid.

3. Copies of the preliminary reports so far as received are being sent to the Working Group staff in London for study and such action as may be possible. Meanwhile, the Working Group suggests that it would be helpful if:

(1) Those countries which were unable to report in much detail on September 13 could make a further interim report to the Working Group as soon as the general scope of the high priority program they are willing to undertake is clear;

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(2) In cases where reports on individual projects within the program could be transmitted separately and before the full program is reported on or before 30 September 1950, it would be useful if this were done.

(3) In order to obtain timely action approval by the Standing Group of types to be produced, action be taken as soon as possible by all countries to report to the MPSB in accordance with paragraph 9 of PWS (50) 115, the types of items proposed for production.

4. The Working Group suggests that the Deputies may wish to report something along the following lines to the Ministers in regard to the High Priority Production Program:

"Deputies reported, on 13 September, concerning the progress made by that date in the initiation of the High Priority Production Program. In nearly all cases these reports indicated the intention of governments to make substantial progress towards completion of the program. However, revisions in quantities and types to be produced are, in some cases, under way and many of the specific arrangements and related problems need further working out. The initial reports have been turned over to the Deputies' Working Group for such further action as is possible at this time."

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