

objections and these are not altogether overcome by an expansion of the present arrangements to provide for prior notification of proposals as outlined in Method 2.

21. The United Kingdom delegation is inclined at this stage to favour a trial of Method 3. It is hoped, however, that opportunity will be taken during the Informal Commonwealth Conference on Defence Science to exchange views informally on all four methods. Provided the Conference is able to reach agreement on a possible method of effecting co-operation of effort, a suitable resolution can be framed and put to the respective Governments for approval after the Conference.

VI. INFORMATION REQUIRED AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON PARTICULAR TASKS.

22. Whichever method of co-ordination and periodic review of the defence research programme is agreed upon, it seems to the United Kingdom delegation that Delegates should be prepared to exchange information on the resources and facilities which can be made available for investigation of the particular problems in which different members are prepared to assist. For example, the scientific man-power which can be made available for work on a particular project will be of importance. It might also be helpful to mention any possible means whereby this potential might be supplemented, as, for example, for the manufacture of prototypes. Any special features would also be worth raising for consideration, such as, for example, the existence of any well-developed or specialised industry which might render a particular country specially suited to undertake defence research and development of a related type. Another factor which might be mentioned would be the availability in a particular country of areas which might be specially suitable for investigation of top secret problems.

VII. SUMMARY.

23. The importance of the discussions on the first two items of the Agenda for the Informal Commonwealth Conference on Defence Science is stressed and the tasks to be undertaken in the future programme of work in the field of defence science are broadly reviewed. Four possible methods for co-ordinating and reviewing progress periodically are outlined and the pros and cons of each discussed, to serve as a basis for an informal exchange of opinions by the Delegates to the Commonwealth Conference with a view to arriving at an agreed solution.

24. Mention is made of a number of points on which it is hoped Delegates will be prepared to exchange information at the Conference so as to make the discussions of particular items appearing later on the Agenda (in particular Items 4 and 5) as fruitful as possible.

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Offices of the Cabinet and  
Minister of Defence, S.W.1.  
2nd May, 1946.