

21.9.43 - No. 17.

CONFERENCE OF AIRCRAFT WORKERS

A secret conference of aircraft workers took place in London this morning. One representative each from the workers and the managements attended from each of some 500 aircraft factories. The conference was addressed by the Minister of Aircraft Production, Sir Stafford Cripps.

During the course of the proceedings the following message was received from the Prime Minister, and was read by Sir Stafford Cripps to the conference:-

"To the Minister of Aircraft Production.

"I understand that you are having a meeting of representatives of the aircraft industry, and I should be glad if you would tell them from me what a supremely important part they are called upon to play in the coming months of our offensive against the German and the Japanese.

"It is impossible to over-emphasise the need for the most efficient and up to date aircraft in the greatest possible numbers.

"The contribution of the aircraft industry to our war effort has already been very great, but we are expecting even better results from them in the months ahead.

"The high quality of our production, due to the ingenuity of our designers and the skill of managements and workers alike, has given us superiority over the enemy in many theatres of war. This superiority we must maintain at all costs, and at the same time we must increase the weight of our offensive against Germany and the occupied territories.

"I am sure that the Government and the people of our country can rely upon the aircraft industry to put their backs into it to the utmost and so shorten the agony of the war.

"WINSTON CHURCHILL"

The conference was attended by officials of the Ministry of Aircraft Production, and by representatives of the Fleet Air Arm, Royal Air Force, and the T.U.C. At the end of the conference the following resolution was proposed by Mr. J. Lyne, General Secretary, Woodcutting Machinists, and seconded by Miss Dorothy Elliott, National organiser, General Municipal Workers:

"That this meeting of representatives of the aircraft industries from all parts of the country pledges the industry to devote its untiring efforts to provide the Royal Air Force and the Fleet Air Arm with the greatest output of aircraft within its power".

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Admiral Boyd, the Fifth Sea Lord, replied on behalf of the Fleet Air Arm and the Royal Air Force.

MINISTRY OF AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION