

Notes of Meeting held in The B.H.P.Co.'s Board
Room on Wednesday, 22nd January, 1936, at
3.30 p.m.

Present.

Mr. H.G. Darling (In the Chair)
" W.S. Robinson
Sir Colin Fraser
Mr. L.J. Hartnett
" M.L. Baillieu
" L. Bradford
" F.M. Mitchell.

Mr. Hartnett and Mr. Darling reported the result of conversation, at which Mr. Bradford was also present, with the Minister for Defence and the Secretary for Defence on Monday, 20th January.

The Minister confirmed all that had transpired previously and stated he was just as keen as ever that the project under discussion should be brought into being and developed. It was, however, stated by the Minister that whilst he had talked the matter over with several members of the Cabinet, he was expressing his own views, not those of the Government. The Minister also suggested it might be found better for the three parties to unite in a Syndicate to commence with and leave the formation of the larger Company until a later date.

The Minister had been fully advised of the ground that had been covered by the respective parties concerned, their aims and objects in connection with the new venture and the progress made up to the present.

The Minister indicated that whilst some of the members of Cabinet, with whom he had discussed the matter were on broad lines in accord with the project, some doubt has been raised by at least one member as to the ability of the New Company to satisfactorily carry out its proposals. He asked us now to submit the whole scheme to him by letter setting out the present position and specifically requested us to formulate a plan and make our proposals by the 23rd instant if possible so that he could submit the matter to Cabinet during its present sitting in Melbourne. On receipt of this information from us, he would endeavour to obtain Cabinet's concurrence and wishes in the matter so that the next phase could be entered thus enabling further progress to be made.

Draft letter from Mr. Hartnett had been circulated to the various people present and was fully discussed and quite a number of amendments were suggested. Certain amendments were approved and it was left to Mr. Baillieu and Mr. Robinson to send them down to Mr. Hartnett so that he might draft a fresh letter to the Minister for submission to the parties concerned.

It was eventually decided by the meeting :-

1. That the various interests were prepared to go on with the idea of a Syndicate of £36,000as suggested.

2.

2. That the suggestion that the first action should be to send "a commission" abroad to make a quick study of the latest developments in aviation and submit a composite report, be approved.
3. As to the personnel of the commission, it was decided that it was essential to have Mr. Wackett, and Mr. Harrison be also included. As to the other two - Mr. Hartnett outlined what he had in mind regarding an officer of the Government to accompany the other three, and the fourth man (semi-technical and commercial) had not yet been located.
4. It was also decided that the original idea to form a company should be proceeded with after receipt of the composite report as to the best means of achieving the object of the Company.
5. As to the Tugan Aircraft Co., letter from Sir James Carpenter to Mr. Hartnett was read and it was decided that Mr. Hartnett should continue his negotiations with the Tugan Aircraft Co. with a view to securing that Company and also the services of Mr. Wackett.
6. The general purpose of the alterations suggested at the meeting was that the Company should not be based on the Government first placing definite orders for the supply of aircraft before its formation but rather that it should be on such a scale and foundation that the Government would approach it with a view to manufacture. That at present the only undertaking we wanted from the Government was that of fiscal protection (against dumping) and co-operation.

Mr. Hartnett reported that as arranged he had engaged Mr. Harrison at a remuneration of £15. per week and Mr. Harrison was asked to enter the meeting and his appointment formally confirmed by the meeting.

Mr. Harrison will start his duties right away and report to Mr. Bradford.

.....

MELBOURNE.

22/1/36.

FM'Mn

MINUTES OF CONFERENCE HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE
BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COY. LTD.
on Tuesday, 14th January, 1936, at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. H. G. Darling (in the Chair)
Sir Lennon Raws
Mr. W. S. Robinson
Mr. L. J. Hartnett
Sir Colin Fraser
Mr. M. L. Baillieu
Mr. Essington Lewis
Mr. L. Bradford
Mr. F. M. Mitchell.

- - - - -

Mr. Lewis stated that Sir Lennon Raws was present in the interests of I.C.I., as that Company had expressed a desire to become interested in the project, but so far Sir Lennon was not asked to indicate the extent to which I.C.I. was prepared to become interested.

Mr. Lewis read copy of letter to Mr. Parkhill, dated 7th January, which had been circulated, and reported that no reply had yet been received, but that in the meantime Mr. Shepherd, Secretary for Defence, had advised by telephone that he had discussed the matter with the Minister, and the Minister was pleased with the progress made and expressed the hope that no public announcement would be made until the full scheme had been definitely arranged, the heads of agreement fixed, and Cabinet approval secured.

The first portion of Mr. W. S. Robinson's letter relating to the name and project of the Company was discussed. It was agreed that the word "Australian" be substituted for the word "Australasian" in the title of the Company.

Mr. Lewis advised that he had, as arranged, interviewed both Mr. A. S. Smith of the Defence Department, and Mr. Partridge. It was agreed that it was premature to engage and permanently appoint such highly paid officers in the first instance for the position of Secretary.

Mr. Hartnett reported that he had been in communication with Mr. Wackett regarding his own services and the acquisition of the Tugan Aircraft Co., and that a complete list of assets and particulars of the Company was being prepared, which Mr. Hartnett expected to receive shortly.

It was decided that it was desirable to acquire the Tugan Aircraft Co. either by cash or shares as might appear best, and Mr. Wackett had advised Mr. Hartnett that he would be prepared to come over with the new Company.

Mr. Hartnett also advised that Mr. Harrison, late Wing-Commander, who had had considerable experience in aircraft work, was available. It was agreed to engage Mr. Harrison month by month on the basis of a remuneration of £60/-/- per month.

With regard to offices for Mr. Harrison, B.H.P. agreed to make temporary accommodation available. Mr. Hartnett was to engage Mr. Harrison and ask him to report to Mr. Bradford. Mr. Harrison would attend to correspondence and generally undertake any preliminary work in connection with the Company.

Mr. Bradford was asked to get in touch with the Minister's Secretary and ascertain whether the Minister could fix a time and date any afternoon this week for the purpose of an interview with Sir Colin Fraser, Messrs. Darling and Hartnett.

It was decided that the next Meeting would be held in Melbourne on the 29th January at 2.30 p.m.

- - - - -

MEMO. OF CONFERENCE HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE BROKEN HILL
PROPRIETARY CO. LTD., MELBOURNE, ON TUESDAY, 7TH JANUARY, 1936,
AT 2.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mr. H. G. Darling (In the Chair).
Mr. W. S. Robinson
Mr. Essington Lewis.
Mr. L. J. Hartnett
Sir Colin Fraser,
Mr. M. L. Baillieu
Mr. L. Bradford, and
Mr. F. M. Mitchell.

Letter from the Minister of Defence and the matter of formation of a Company in connection with Aircraft was discussed.

It was eventually decided to form a Company of £1,000,000 of which £300,000 would be subscribed in the first instance.

It was agreed that of this £300,000 -

Associated Smelters will subscribe	£100,000
General Motors Holdens " "	£100,000
B.H.P. Co.Ltd. " "	£100,000

In order to get the matter going a sub-committee was appointed consisting of Mr. Essington Lewis and Mr. L. J. Hartnett, to -

- (1) Appoint a Secretary.
- (2) Interview Mr. Wackett
- (3) Negotiate with the Tugan Aircraft Company for absorption.
- (4) Write a letter to Mr. Parkhill.

Mr. Essington Lewis undertook to take items 1 and 4 in hand and Mr. Hartnett items 2 and 3.

It was suggested that an appropriate name would be the Australasian Aircraft Development Company Limited.

Mr. Essington Lewis advised of an enquiry received from Mr. Brian Lewis representing certain English Companies, and it was agreed that Mr. Brian Lewis be informed that the matter of participation was one for the new company, and if and when this Company was formed any conversations could be carried on with it.

It was also decided that any further enquiries in the same connection can be answered similarly.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 14th instant, at 2.30 p.m.

Melbourne: 7/1/1936: