

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVIATION SYNDICATE

held at
422 Little Collins Street, Melbourne,
on
Monday, 28th September, 1936.

Present: Mr. E. Lewis (In the Chair)
Sir Colin Fraser
Mr. M. L. Baillieu
Sir Lennon Raws
Mr. L. J. Hartnett
Mr. L. Bradford
Mr. F. M. Mitchell

MINUTES: Notes of Meeting of the Syndicate held on 10th September, which had been circulated, were confirmed.

FORMATION OF COMPANY: Memorandum and Articles of Association were discussed, and certain alterations decided upon, which would be circulated to the members of the Syndicate.

NAME OF COMPANY: It was announced that the Attorney General has approved of the use of the word "Commonwealth" in the name of the Company, and this would therefore be Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd.

DRAFT AGREEMENT: Agreement which the solicitors had drafted to allow for fully paid shares being issued against the Syndicate's expenses - it was decided that this should be re-drafted to allow the moneys paid into the Syndicate by the members to be credited against the amount due on their application and allotment moneys so that there should be only one class of share in the Company.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT: The Meeting was advised that Cabinet had cabled on 25th September to the British Government that they intended placing an order for aeroplanes and engines with the Australian Company, and explaining reasons for departure from British design for this order and asking for their comments. Noted.

NOTES: Fishermen's Bend: Letter dated 23rd September from the Premier of Victoria, which had been circulated, advising that portions of the site suggested by the Syndicate for the factory and landing ground were under the control of three different authorities, and asking if there were any other areas which might be suitable.

Mr. Mitchell reported that Wing Commander Wackett advised that with a slight alteration in the boundaries of the landing ground, the complication of three different authorities referred to by the Premier could be avoided and the whole of the land brought within the area controlled by the Harbour Trust. He was therefore submitting a new sketch to the Premier.

The only site which was entirely under the control of the Government of Victoria would appear to be site "B", nearer the mouth of the Yarra, but it would require a great deal more cost for the preparation of the aerodrome, was situated in the narrowest part of the Yarra, and would entail the cutting of a dock for the mooring of seaplanes.

It was agreed that the position should be placed before the Premier and that it could be made clear to him

that the site on which the Company would establish its factory would require to have landing facilities available without cost to the Company.

South Australia: It was reported that the South Australian Auditor General and the Engineer in Chief had visited Melbourne on the 25th inst. and submitted a memorandum concerning a suitable factory site at Birkenhead (or some other locality) in South Australia. This memorandum had been circulated to the members of the Syndicate and the position was noted.

LICENCES:

Memorandum by Wing Commander Wackett and letter dated 21st September from Mr. Murray Jones of the De Havilland Coy., concerning various matters arising out of the proposed licence agreement, were read. The position was further amplified by Wing Commander Wackett. There are various points to be considered in this connection, but the main one is the question of competition between imported and locally manufactured De Havilland engines and parts.

As Mr. Murray Jones has communicated with the parent Company in England on the matters raised, it was agreed that further discussion be postponed until hearing further from the De Havilland Coy.

TUGAN
AIRCRAFT
COMPANY:

Memorandum by Wing Commander Wackett was read, advising that owing to a shortage of working capital the Tugan Aircraft Coy. desired to know how soon they will be taken over by the new Company or whether steps be taken to increase their capital.

It was decided that Tugan Aircraft Coy. would be taken over when the new Company is formed.

MR. W. S.
ROBINSON:

Letter dated 27th August from Mr. W. S. Robinson to Sir Colin Fraser commenting on the report of the Aviation Commission, and which had been circulated to the members of the Syndicate, was submitted. Wing Commander Wackett has prepared answers to the points raised by Mr. Robinson, and Sir Colin Fraser was asked to write Mr. Robinson in accordance therewith.

Arising out of this letter, Mr. Hartnett stated that the policy of the Australian Government with regard to subsidies for civil aviation would to a great extent govern the design of planes to be manufactured by the Company, and suggested that we approach the Government for an indication of what their policy will be. After some discussion it was agreed that Mr. Hartnett might draft a letter to the Government for the approval of the members of the Syndicate.

LONDON
REPRESENTATION:

Letter dated 28th August from Mr. W. S. Robinson to Sir Colin Fraser, which had been circulated advising that he is of the opinion that the services of Austral Development Ltd. in England would prove very beneficial to the Company.

It was agreed to reply to Mr. Robinson that when the Company is in being we shall be pleased to have the opportunity of availing ourselves of these services, but in the meantime should be glad to know on what basis they will be prepared to act for the Company.

SQ. LDR.
A.W.MURPHY:

It was reported that Squadron Leader A. W. Murphy returned to the service of the Royal Australian Air Force on 12th September.

FACTORY
LAYOUT:

Wing Commander Wackett advised that a complete list of the machinery and tools required had been prepared, and submitted layout for the factory covering the manufacture of Wasp and De Havilland engines and of the N.A.16 type aeroplane for military purposes and the Gannet for civil purposes.

In connection with the ordering of machine tools, etc., it was agreed that the most suitable tools for the work required would have to be obtained, irrespective of the country of origin, as the deliveries quoted would to a great extent determine the source of supply.

ANNIVERSARY BOARD
MADE IN BRITAIN

NOTES OF MEETING OF AVIATION SYNDICATE

held at

422 Little Collins Street, Melbourne,

o n

Thursday, 10th September, 1936.

Present: Mr. E. Lewis (in the Chair)
Sir Lennon Raws
Mr. L. J. Hartnett
Mr. L. Bradford
Mr. F. M. Mitchell

MINUTES:

Notes of meeting of Syndicate held on 31st August, which had been circulated, were confirmed.

GENERAL MOTORS-
HOLDEN'S LTD.

Mr. Hartnett reported that General Motors-Holden's Ltd. would subscribe for 60,000 shares in the new Company.

ORIENT COY.

The Chairman mentioned that nothing definite had yet been heard from the Orient Coy. but there would still be shares available for them to take up if they so desired. That he had seen Mr. Dowdell on the 9th inst. who advised he was expecting to hear from Sir Allan Anderson by next mail. Mr. Dowdell understood that Sir Allan had seen Mr. Darling in London but so far he has not heard the result of the conversation. The Chairman further advised that full information concerning the position to date, together with reports, etc., had been sent to Mr. Dowdell in Sydney, who will again communicate with Sir Allan Anderson. That the Orient Coy. had not been pressed for a decision one way or the other as it was not considered opportune for us to do so yet.

The question of the participation of Holymans and Amalgamated Wireless was also discussed, the position being that apart from the initial tentative approach by these firms to Mr. W. S. Robinson nothing further has transpired.

NAME OF COMPANY:

It was reported that the use of the word "Commonwealth" in the name of the Company could only be obtained by permission of the Governor-in-Council. Application had been made and advice had come to hand this morning that it had been passed by the Governor-in-Council; the name of the new Company would therefore be Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd.

MEMORANDUM &
ARTICLES OF
ASSOCIATION:

Draft Memorandum and Articles of Association had been prepared by the solicitors and circulated to the members of the Syndicate. So far the only reply received had been from Sir Lennon Raws, and arising out of his suggestions it was tentatively agreed:

1. To add to Clause 27 of the Memorandum provision to purchase and run vessels and construct floating or other docks, and that the powers of the Company be extended as far as possible including the running of hotels, cafes, etc. Whilst it was not thought we would be likely to use these powers, it was considered wise to have them inserted.

2. Sir Lennon Raws' suggestion was accepted that the borrowing powers of the Company should be limited to the amount of the issued capital of the Company.

Mr. Hartnett advised that he

the Directors to be elected by the shareholders. This provision to be effective only so long as the original participating Companies retain their original holding.

It was decided to submit the foregoing suggestions to the other members of the Syndicate for their approval or otherwise, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association be agreed to subject to further replies being received.

The Chairman referred to the question which had been previously discussed, namely, that for the "long present" at any rate no Directors' fees would be paid by the Company, which was agreed.

THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION THEN ATTENDED.

FISHERMEN'S BEND
LAND:

Minute of Mr. Mitchell's and Mr. Hartnett's interview with the Premier of Victoria on the 2nd inst. was read and copies circulated to the members present. (Copy since handed to Mr. M. L. Baillieu.)

It was decided that a letter be sent to the Premier giving him particulars of what we require and asking him for the best offer he could give.

Mr. Hartnett stated that General Motors-Holdens had particulars of several sites around Melbourne which it might be advisable to consider, and it was agreed that this information be forwarded to the Commission, who would investigate the sites listed.

DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT:

Letter from the Defence Department dated 3rd September and reply of same date which had been circulated were noted, and the reply approved.

PROGRAMME OF
DEVELOPMENT:

Memorandum prepared by the Commission in connection with programme of development for the Aircraft Manufacturing Company was read and copies circulated to the members present. (Copy since handed to Mr. M. L. Baillieu.)

Mr. Hartnett suggested that in the organisation chart submitted the financial and costing side of the business should come under the control of the Manager.

After some discussion the Chairman said that on general lines he thought the course of procedure should be somewhat as follows:-

1. That Wing Commander Wackett be sent abroad to finalise the licence agreements and select the aircraft and engine superintendents.
2. As soon as this is done Wing Commander Wackett should cable to Australia and the various officers selected for training, etc., be then sent abroad.
3. That he could give the two Superintendents whom he selected an outline of the factory proposed, and after discussion and consultation with them he could report fully to us by letter and the buildings could then be commenced.
4. In the meantime Squadron Leaders Harrison & Murphy could

In connection with the employment of Squadron Leaders Harrison and Murphy, it was agreed as follows:-

SQUADRON LEADER H. C. HARRISON be appointed Supply Manager in the first instance as suggested, at a salary of £1,000 per annum, without any commitment as to the term of his engagement.

SQUADRON LEADER A. W. MURPHY could be offered the position of Factory Manager at a salary of £750 per annum, but without any commitment as to the term of his engagement.

It was decided that the organisation programme and charts be adopted as tentative proposals with the right to review at any time and the matter to be brought up again when the other members of the Syndicate are present.

MEETINGS OF
THE SYNDICATE:

It was decided that future meetings of the Syndicate would be held on Tuesdays, and that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 22nd September.

NOTES OF MEETING OF AVIATION SYNDICATE
held at
422 LITTLE COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE
o n
Monday, 31st August, 1936.

*Completed
10/9/36*

Present: Mr. E. Lewis (in the Chair)
Mr. M. L. Baillieu
Mr. Alex. Stewart (rep. Sir Colin Fraser)
Mr. Norman Taylor (rep. Sir Lennon Raws)
Mr. L. J. Hartnett
Mr. J. Storey
Mr. L. Bradford
Mr. F. M. Mitchell

COSTS, ETC:

It was reported that Mr. Storey and Mr. F. Affleck had conferred with the members of the Commission with regard to the estimates contained in their report and that revised estimates had been prepared and circulated to members of the Syndicate.

FORMATION OF COMPANY:

It was decided :-

1. That a Company with a nominal capital of £1,000,000, divided into 1,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each be formed.

Mr. Lewis advised that the Broken Hill Proprietary Coy. Ltd. is willing to subscribe for 200,000 shares.

Mr. M. L. Baillieu advised that Broken Hill Associated Smelters are willing to subscribe for 200,000 shares either for themselves or on behalf of their constituent companies.

Mr. Norman Taylor advised that I.C.I. of Australia and New Zealand is willing to subscribe for 100,000 shares.

Mr. Hartnett advised that he could not yet speak for General Motors-Holdens and that their Finance Committee Meeting would be held on Thursday morning next, after which he would be in a position to advise the Syndicate whether they were willing to subscribe for 60,000 shares.

It was reported that the Tugan Aircraft Company had advised that they felt as they would be such a small proportion of the New Company it would avoid embarrassment if they received a straight out payment of £20,000 rather than subscribe to the New Company, which was agreed.

2. That the issue in the first instance should be 600,000 shares with 1/- payable on application and allotment. Mr. Lewis advised that if necessary the Broken Hill Pty. Coy. Ltd. would, in the meantime, underwrite the extra 40,000 shares.

3. Seeing that the conditions relating to the Tugan Aircraft Coy. would now lapse, it was decided that the Company would be registered as a Proprietary Company in the first instance.

DIRECTORS: 4. That there would be a minimum of three and a maximum of nine Directors.

H. G. Darling)
E. Lewis) Representing B.H.P. Co.
Sir Colin Fraser)
M. L. Baillieu) " B.H.A.S.
Sir Lennon Raws " I. C. I.
Mr. L. J. Hartnett " General Motors

with provision to be made in the Articles of Association for the appointment of alternate Directors as necessary.

NAME OF COMPANY:

5. As none of the names submitted to the last meeting of the Syndicate were available, two further names were discussed -

Southern Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd.
Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd.

It was decided that the latter name was the more desirable, but if not acceptable by the Registrar General's Department, the former will be the name of the Company.

6. That the manufacture of all classes of aircraft would appear in the Articles of Association as the primary object of the Company.

RESTRICTION ON TRANSFER OF SHARES:

7. That restriction on the transfer of shares and provision for British control along the lines suggested by the solicitors be adopted in the Articles of Association.

QUORUM:

8. That a quorum for a meeting of the Board of Directors will be two Directors.
9. Qualification Shares for Directors: That no qualification shares need be held by Directors.
10. Articles of Association: That a copy of the draft Articles of Association be circulated to the members of the Syndicate when prepared.

- - - - -

PERSONNEL & MANAGEMENT:

It was decided that Wing Commander Wackett be appointed Manager of the Company at a salary to be determined by the Board of Directors; that he be asked to submit recommendations regarding the personnel of the organisation, and in this connection it was agreed that approval would be given to retaining the services of Sq. Ldrs. Harrison & Murphy.

SECRETARY:

It was decided to appoint Mr. A. G. Brown to the position of Acting Secretary at a salary of £700 per annum.

Mr. Stewart raised the question of a Superannuation Scheme for the employees of the Company and thought this should be instituted from the inception of the Company.

- - - - -

FINANCIAL:

A Cash Statement was submitted, showing a credit balance of £2,943/8/9.

It was decided that a Cash Statement be circulated to the members of the Syndicate when all outstanding

It was decided that the payments by the Syndicate should be borne by the New Company and credited to the members of the Syndicate.

THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION THEN ATTENDED THE MEETING.

Mr. Hartnett, who had just returned from Abroad, with the permission of the Chairman, asked the Commission a number of questions for further amplification of some portions of their report, to which the members of the Commission replied at length. It was eventually arranged that Mr. Hartnett might talk over any further points he might have with the members of the Commission.

SITES:

The sites considered suitable by the Commission were discussed. It was mentioned that in the early negotiations with the Government a preference for a site in Victoria or South Australia as against the coast line of New South Wales was stressed by some of the officials, but Wing Commander Wackett advised that Mascot was now considered quite suitable from a defence point of view.

In connection with the Fishermen's Bend site, it was decided that Mr. Mitchell should interview the Premier of Victoria, advising him of the position generally and informing him that we would prefer the Fishermen's Bend site if his Government is prepared to make available the necessary facilities. This interview is to be followed by a letter to the Premier.

PLANES FOR
DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT:

It was reported that no reply had yet been received to the Syndicate's letter to the Minister for Defence of 30th July setting out the types of planes recommended for manufacture and asking whether orders will be given for the types and numbers outlined. Wing Commander Wackett reported that he understood the Air Board had agreed to the proposals but the matter had yet to be passed by Cabinet.

NEXT MEETING:

It was decided that the next meeting of the members of the Syndicate will be held on Thursday 10th September at 11.0 a.m.

NOTES OF MEETING OF THE AVIATION SYNDICATE
held at 422 Little Collins Street, Melbourne
on Thursday, 6th August, 1936.

Present: Mr. E. Lewis (in the Chair)
Sir Lennon Raws
Mr. M. L. Baillieu
Mr. J. Storey
Mr. F. M. Mitchell

Later: Wing Commander Wackett
Sq. Leaders Harrison & Murphy.

FORMATION OF
COMPANY:

The formation of the Company was discussed and two suggestions were put forward with regard to the allotment of shares to the various companies concerned.

Mr. Lewis suggested that if a company were formed with a nominal capital of £1,000,000, and an initial issue of £600,000, it could be split as follows -

B.H.P.	£200,000-
B.H.A.S.	200,000.
Gen. Motors-Holdens	60,000-
leaving	140,000-

He did not know what quantity I.C.I. desired to take up, but the Company was committed for 20,250 shares under the option of acquisition of Tugan Aircraft Ltd., together with a further option to that Company of 40,500 shares at par. There were other companies who had earlier expressed their wish to become interested, such as the Orient Coy., Holymans, Amalgamated Wireless, etc. If I.C.I. did not wish to take up the full 140,000 shares, and took up, say, 100,000, the balance would be available for meeting the Tugan Aircraft Ltd.'s shares and further shares required could be arranged from the £400,000 authorised capital.

It was stated that if eventually found necessary it would be satisfactory to B.H.P. and B.H.A.S. if they hold at least 51% of the capital.

Mr. Lewis mentioned that Mr. D. L. Dowdell of the Orient Coy. had advised him that his Company was contemplating, if they decided to join the new Company, the contribution of about £50,000, and asked whether there was any objection to giving Mr. Dowdell, confidentially, a copy of the Commission's report.

Approved.

The question of when the Company should be incorporated was discussed in various aspects, and it was eventually decided that as some members of the Syndicate had not yet obtained authority from their respective Boards a decision on this point should be postponed to a meeting to be held at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 20th August.

It was further decided that consideration of the appointment and number of Directors and subscribers to the Memorandum of Association be deferred until the meeting on 20th inst.

NAME OF
COMPANY:

The following names in order of preference were suggested:-

1. Australian Aircraft Ltd.
2. Aircraft of Australia Ltd.
3. Aircraft Manufactures of Australia Ltd.

This matter was deferred for decision to the next meeting. In the meantime the Registrar General to be approached to ascertain which, if any, of these names would be available.

DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT:

Letter dated 30th July to the Minister for Defence setting out the types of planes recommended for manufacture for defence purposes and asking whether orders will be given for the types and numbers outlined, was read. No reply had yet been received.

It was decided to circulate this letter to the members of the Syndicate.

COMMISSION'S
REPORT:

In connection with the further information desired from the Commission at the last meeting of the Syndicate, which had been circulated to members, it was arranged that the question of the basis of cost figures would be discussed with the Commission.

Wing Commander Wackett and Sq. Leaders Harrison & Murphy then attended.

SITES:

South Australia: The Commission submitted their report on their inspection of the site offered by the South Australian Government.

Fishermen's Bend: Mr. Mitchell read a confidential report to the Premier of Victoria prepared by Sir Frank Clarke and the Lord Mayor on the Fishermen's Bend site, which report the Premier arranged to circulate to members of the Cabinet and bring the matter up to Cabinet on Monday next after which we shall be further advised.

New South Wales: It was reported that the Commission will visit Sydney, arriving on Monday next, 10th inst., to inspect sites offered by the New South Wales Government.

LETTERS FROM
MR. W. S.
ROBINSON:

Letters to Mr. Lewis dated 21st July and to Mr. Mitchell dated 16th July were circulated.

ESTIMATES
OF COST:

Mr. Storey raised the question as to whether certain estimated costs contained in the Commission's report were sufficiently well founded, and it was arranged that he, together with Mr. F. Affleck of the B.H.P. Coy., would discuss with members of the Commission the basis of the various figures.

Mr. Storey agreed to prepare a questionnaire on the various points which required elucidation, which the Commission would answer for submission to the next meeting of the Syndicate. It was felt that special consideration

NOTES OF MEETING OF THE AVIATION SYNDICATE

held at
422 Little Collins Street, Melbourne,
on Tuesday, 28th July, 1936.

Present: Mr. E. Lewis
Sir Colin Fraser
Mr. M. L. Baillieu
Sir Lennon Raws
Mr. J. Storey
Mr. F. M. Mitchell

Wing Commander Wackett and Sq. Leaders
Harrison and Murphy were also present.

FORMATION OF
COMPANY:

The Report of the Commission on the result of their trip abroad which had been circulated to members of the Syndicate was discussed and it was decided that it was now desirable to take steps toward the formation of the Company. The various members of the Syndicate will now recommend the adoption of this course to their respective Boards.

A further meeting of the Syndicate will be held on Thursday, 6th August.

SITES:

In the meantime it was decided that the only sites in which the Syndicate was at present interested were those discussed with the Victorian, South Australian and New South Wales Governments, and that the members of the Commission, who had already made a cursory inspection of the Fishermen's Bend and Coode Island sites in Victoria, proceed to South Australia and New South Wales to inspect the sites offered there and report on same.

(It has subsequently been arranged that the officers will leave for Adelaide on Sunday next, 2nd inst., returning to Melbourne on Wednesday, 5th.)

The following matters arising out of the report of the Commission were discussed:-

LAND FOR
FACILITIES:

Although the area required for the factories is comparatively small, it was decided it was desirable to obtain 40/50 acres for this purpose.

PROTECTION:

The question of an application for a protective duty on planes for civil purposes was raised and it was felt there should be no difficulty in obtaining this by representation to the Tariff Board when the appropriate time arrives.

RAW MATERIALS:

The extent to which raw materials and accessories should be imported was discussed and it was felt that there would be no difficulty in laying down stocks of such materials as could not be procured from local sources, and in this connection it was decided that the facilities which the Austral Bronze Co. could offer should be further explored. Further, Sir Colin Fraser stated that the point from which the aluminium supplies should be drawn, whether from England or Canada, should be discussed later.

TYPES OF
PLANES:

Wing Commander Wackett stated that the Commission had already had a conference with the Air Board and the Air Board had stated they were favorably inclined to the types of planes and engines it is proposed to manufacture.

orders for the quantities mentioned in the Commission's report. When this advice is obtained, it would be possible to draw up a proposed programme of manufacture, anticipated delivery periods, the equipment that will be manufactured in Australia and what will be imported, etc.

The Commission was asked to prepare for circulation to the members of the Syndicate the following information:-

1. A comparison of the estimated cost of manufacture of army and civil aeroplanes, with the cost of importation of same into Australia.
2. A description of the type of buildings proposed to be erected for the factories under the estimate of cost submitted.
3. A report on the trained labour required, either by sending man abroad for training or bringing trained men out here.
4. A flow sheet setting out the time schedule for the establishment of manufacture step by step.
5. Copies of the particular licences which it is recommended by the Commission that we accept.
6. Report on the sites inspected.

SOLICITORS,
ARTICLES OF
ASSOCIATION

It was decided that Messrs. Blake & Riggall be appointed Solicitors to the Company and that the preparation of Articles of Association be proceeded with.

NOTES OF MEETING OF THE AVIATION SYNDICATE HELD AT
422 LIT. COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE, on 30TH JUNE
1936.

Present: Mr. E. Lewis (In the Chair)
Sir Colin Fraser
Mr. M. L. Baillieu
Sir Lennon Raws
Mr. J. Storey
Mr. L. Bradford
Mr. F. M. Mitchell

MINUTES: The notes of meeting of the Syndicate held on 13th May, which have been circulated, were taken as read.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: Letter from the Minister for Defence, dated 18th June, inviting the Syndicate to form a company for the purpose of manufacture within the Commonwealth of aircraft and aero-engines, and setting out broadly the Government's view of the matter.

Mr. Storey was pleased to note the G.M.H.'s expressed desire to participate to the extent of 10% in the new venture had been taken care of, and said that this was satisfactory to them.

The other members of the Syndicate noted with pleasure that a satisfactory basis of participation of General Motors-Holdens in the proposed company had been agreed to.

All members were agreeable to the general terms of allocation stated in the Minister's letter, it being assumed that if in view of the Syndicate's commitments to the Tugan Aircraft Co. and other companies who were desirous of joining in it should prove necessary to allot different percentages, the allocation of percentages could be adjusted later.

* Rough draft of reply to be sent to the Commonwealth Government was approved.

Clause C, paragraph 4, namely -

"The Management will be purely British and not subject in any way, whether directly or indirectly, to foreign influence, and that no representative of a foreign interest will hold the higher executive positions."

was agreed to, it being usual in matters of this nature.

SITES:

* Letter received from the S. A. Government and acknowledgments from the Victorian and N.S.W. Governments, together with letters from various other sources have been circulated and noted.

COMMISSION'S MOVEMENTS:

Cable dated 24th June advising the departure of the Commission from America on 24th June by the "Monterey" which is due in Sydney on 13th July.

It was decided to write to Wing Commander Wackett at Auckland, with a confirmatory letter to Sydney, advising the officers that a few days after their arrival the Syndicate desires them to proceed with the preparation of their Report in Melbourne.

MR. W. S. ROBINSON'S AMERICAN TRIP:

Letter dated 11th June addressed to Mr. Lewis by Mr. W. S. Robinson in connection with his visit to America was read and circulated. It was decided to advise Mr. Robinson that the Syndicate looks forward to his further advices on English conditions.

NOTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE OFFICE OF
THE BROKEN HILL PTY. COY. LTD. on 13/5/36.

Present: Mr. Essington Lewis
Sir Lennon Raws
Mr. M. L. Baillieu
Mr. J. Storey
Mr. L. Bradford
Mr. F. M. Mitchell

Subject: MANUFACTURE OF AIRCRAFT IN AUSTRALIA.

It was reported that the following cable, dated 12th May, had been received from Wing Commander Wackett -

"COMPLETED TOUR INSPECTION ENGLAND ALSO
VISITED AMSTERDAM PARIS PRAGUE BERLIN STOP
SAIL FOR AMERICA 13TH MAY STOP HAVE KEPT
CLOSE TO SCHEDULE AND VERY SATISFIED
EVERYTHING."

Mr. Lewis explained that the Minister for Defence, Mr. Parkhill, had advised that the Prime Minister wished to interview him, and had intended writing him a letter on the points on which he required clarification. He advised that he had since been informed that the Prime Minister would not be writing this letter, but the two points on which he required clarification were as follows :

1. Whether the Group would be prepared to exclude General Motors-Holden's or American interests and bring in the Hawker-Siddeley Group in its place.
2. Why the Syndicate particularly desired to include Mr. Hartnett.

It was decided that Mr. Lewis be authorised by the Syndicate to advise the Prime Minister at the impending interview (which had not yet been definitely arranged) as follows :

1. The Company will be all British except General Motors- Holden's 10%. It was not a matter of bringing in anybody from outside. The Group wants to be perfectly free to get expert and technical advice and assistance from what they consider the best quarters to manufacture planes for Australia's requirements and does not want to be confined or committed to a particular manufacture to the exclusion of others.
2. With regard to Mr. Hartnett, there seems to be some misunderstanding on this point. Mr. Hartnett's position in the Syndicate has been as nominee of General Motors- Holden's.

The Syndicate is not prepared to agree to any stipulation in regard to personnel.

ML