

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Telegrams :

CONSEARCH

D.O.No.

New Delhi 24th Sept. 1947.

AIRMAIL.

My dear Bhabha,

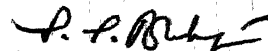
I am enclosing herewith a letter which I have addressed to the Defence Secretary. I spoke to you about it. Very soon we shall have a meeting with the Defence Minister and the Prime Minister to settle this issue.

Meanwhile I am sending you herewith a letter which Mr. Mitter of the Government Mint in Bombay has received from Mr. Irani. Since you were looking for a plant for making thorium nitrate, the opportunity of purchasing the blue prints is rather good. I consider that the figure of one thousand dollars for the floor sheet is somewhat on the higher side but in view of the urgency of the matter particularly with respect to the use of thorium nitrate in our atomic research work, it may be worthwhile to take this plan. The only deterrent feature is that the Travancore Government are in agreement with a British firm for putting up a plant for the manufacture of thorium nitrate. If that happens, our plant will lie idle because they are the possessors of thorium ore and we shall be only sub-lessees for them. I shall be glad if you kindly let me know what your views in the matter are? I have asked Mitter to contact you in Bombay.

When are you coming here? Things are not as rosy or well with the Government because of the Communal situation.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,


(S.S. Bhatnagar)

Prof. H.J. Bhabha, F.R.S.,
Director, Tata Institute of Fundamental
Research, Pedder Road, Bombay.

My dear Bhalja,

Thank you very much for your D.O. letter No. 61/3/47 dated the 2nd September. I am extremely sorry that Professors Lennard-Jones and Heilbron have declined to come to India. If the appointment is merely for organising the research section within a few months or a year, I have no objection to Professor Tyndall, Professor of Physics, University of Bristol, being invited. I must, however, warn you that he is nearly 65 years of age and is not fit for active service in India for any length of time.

2. As regards Professor Finch, he is a very distinguished physicist and physical chemist and has a very good reputation for his work on electron diffraction and lubrication. I do not know what experience he has of organising the defence research. The advantages of having Professors Lennard-Jones and Heilbron were that they were actually connected with active research work on army problems. I should like you to consider the name of Professor W.E. Garner, F.R.S., Professor at the Bristol University. He is an expert on explosives and war research organization.

3. As the matter is now of great national importance I have a feeling that we should approach Dr. H.J. Bhabha, F.R.S., of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research to take up this work. He is as able as any of the two men suggested by you and he is an Indian. He has a lot of interest in problems which are of importance to defence and if he is appointed I could work in collaboration with him and help him in setting up the whole organisation. If this arrangement is approved by you and Dr. Bhabha is appointed as your scientific adviser, you may invite

make only an Indian incharge of defence research and in the national interest Dr. Bhabha should be persuaded to come. Dr. Bhabha has his own commitments in Bombay which may deter him from accepting this responsibility but some of his projects which the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Government of India are going to finance are of such fundamental interest to defence that I feel time is now ripe to approach him to come to the centre. As the Prime Minister's own interests are well known and deep seated, I suggest that a meeting between the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, yourself and myself may take place so that this thing may be thrashed out and a definite line of action may be adopted. Frankly speaking, if an outsider has to be taken, I should like to have a German or American as the British people do not seem to have a large number of men to spare and we do not want their old and retired men who may not be of much use to us as they would not be able to stand the strain of work in our climate or appreciate our gigantic problem. Amongst the Americans, I suggest the name of Professor Roger Adams and Dr. Vannevar Busch.

Yours sincerely,

G.S. Bhalja Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Defence Department.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
September 2, 1947.

AIR MAIL.

Mr. G.C.Mitter, Chief Assayer,
H.M.Mint,
Fort Bombay.

PERSONAL

Dear Mr. Mitter,

I am very pleased to say that we have at last succeeded in locating sources from where we could secure detailed designs of a plant for making Thorium Nitrate from Monazite. For a cost of \$ 1,000. we would submit a flow sheet showing the flow of materials through the plant and the general plan and elevation of the equipment. We would also give the approximate cost of such a plant and the cost of operation under U.S.conditions including the amount of labor, power and raw materials required.

After submitting these preliminary reports we could proceed further and furnish the detailed designs of the plant. Wherever necessary shop drawings of the equipment required for the plant would be given.

Please bring this to the attention of the interested parties in India. I plan to fly to India from New York on the 16th October.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards.

Yours very sincerely,

BOOTH-IRANI ENGINEERS, INC.

By M.C.Irani, Vice President.

MCI:ed

Copy to: Booth-Irani Engrs. Inc.,
Bombay, India.