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C.P. (55) 207

28th December, 1955

CABINET

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND

The Scottish Position

The demand for technologists and technicians and the numbers of potential recruits leaving the schools in Scotland are likely to show the same trend as those in England and Wales referred to in the memorandum by the Minister of Education (C.P. (55) 205).

2. Scotland already has a well-developed system of regional colleges (the central institutions). Seven of these are devoted to technological work. The most highly developed, the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, has been selected by the Government for special development, along with Glasgow University. At the other colleges also, I have done my utmost to encourage the expansion of buildings and courses. This policy will be continued, so that Scotland may play her full part in meeting the demand for more scientists and technologists.

3. The greatest need in Scotland is, however, to develop facilities for the less advanced students. Restrictions on building investment by education authorities for technical education have never been necessary: my problem has been to encourage authorities to plan ahead to meet expected demands. There are sixty local technical colleges providing full-time courses and part-time day release courses. Many of these are by no means well housed or equipped. I propose that education authorities should be further encouraged to improve and expand the facilities by providing new colleges or additional buildings.

The Programme of Capital Development

4. Appended is a list of eighteen building projects at central institutions and local technical colleges which the governing bodies and education authorities are already planning. This programme is estimated to cost approximately £6 million. With equipment, the cost is estimated to be £7½ million. I have already approved nine of these projects. I propose that we should try to have all eighteen projects started within five years. If within that period any education authorities or central institutions can undertake additional projects, I propose that these should be approved up to a limit of a further £3½ million.

5. This programme will give 4,000 more student places over all. With these places, it will be possible to accommodate 1,500 more full-time students and some 13,000 more day release students. An essential part of this development will be to recruit staff necessary to man the new facilities. This will not be easy, but every effort will be made to secure teachers of the required quantity and quality from the teaching profession and from industry.

Summary

6. I ask my colleagues to endorse for Scotland a similar policy to that proposed for England and Wales by the Minister of Education and to agree that the rate of building for technical education should be encouraged so that Scottish projects may be started to the value of £6 million within the next five years up to a total value of between £6 million and £9½ million. If this is agreed, I would suggest that the proposed White Paper should cover Scotland as well as England and Wales.

J. S.

*Scottish Office, S.W.1,
16th December, 1955.*

APPENDIX

LIST OF PROJECTS

	<i>Estimated Cost</i> £'000
Central Institutions	
Robert Gordon's Technical College, Aberdeen—extension ...	75
Robert Gordon's Technical College, Aberdeen—extension ...	8
Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh—extension	30
Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh—completion of new block ...	20
Dundee Institute of Art and Technology—second instalment of new building	190
Dundee Institute of Art and Technology—third and final instalment of new building	170
Paisley Technical College—extension	150
 Education Authority Local Technical Colleges	
Dundee—New Trades College to replace and supplement existing provision	600
Aberdeen—New Junior Technical College to replace and supplement existing provision	600
Glasgow—Two Colleges—	
(a) New Commercial and Distributive Trades College	
(b) New Stow College of Building and Printing to replace and supplement existing provision	1,200
Ayrshire—New Technical College at Ayr to replace and supplement existing provision	250
Ayrshire—New Technical College at Kilmarnock	250
Inverness—New centre for day release students	30
Stirlingshire—New Falkirk Technical College to replace and supplement existing provision	500
Lanarkshire—New Technical College at Motherwell	1,000
West Lothian—New Technical College at Bathgate	144
Dunbartonshire—New Technical College at Clydebank ...	250
Edinburgh—New Technical College provision	200
Total	5,667
	say, £6 million

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference

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