

# HELICOPTER MEETING

in the

## HOUSE of COMMONS

An informal meeting for the benefit of Members of Parliament was arranged by the Association on Wednesday the 29th January at the invitation of Sir Basil Neven Spence M P. Three of his colleagues Major Duncan McCallum, M P, Major J Macleod, M P, and Mr Malcolm MacMillan, M P, also sponsored the meeting, which was instigated after a visit to Heston where they witnessed a brief demonstration of the possibilities of rotary wing flight.

The meeting was held in the Grand Committee Room, Westminster Hall, House of Commons, and the Association was represented by the following Council Members—H A Marsh (Chairman), R A C Brie, H M Yeatman and N J G Hill. The Honorary Secretary also attended. The main interest in the discussion was centred around the possibilities of using the helicopter as a means of transportation in the Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney, although many questions of a more general nature were dealt with.

The film, "The Story of the Helicopter" was shown to the meeting and was viewed with great interest. This film, as the majority of members will no doubt recall, outlines briefly the background of the helicopter from Leonardo da Vinci, and, passing through some of the earlier helicopter attempts to the

success of Juan de la Cierva with the Autogiro, it leads up to the experiments of Igor Sikorsky. The main body of the film deals with the flying characteristics of the Sikorsky types, the V S 300, and the YR 4, taking the story up to about the beginning of the year 1944.

The Chairman explained to the meeting after the showing of the film that considerable further success had been achieved since that date, but that the film records depicting these recent developments were not yet available.

There followed a general discussion lasting about 30 minutes, during which time questions by various Members of Parliament covering such subjects as payload, engine failure, jet propulsion, bad weather flying and operation costs, were answered by Wing Commander Brie and the other Council Members present.

Finally, the meeting was closed with a motion of thanks from Major Duncan McCallum to the Association for the arrangements made and for the information which had been forthcoming.

He was assured by the Chairman in reply, that the Association would be pleased to be of further assistance if so requested in pursuance of its main object of furthering the development of rotating wing aircraft.