

was a very grave situation as other cities were opening Heliports. New York boasted one or two, Chicago was opening another, Paris had opened one. The example had been set all over the world, but London was closing them. It was to be hoped that the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation would look at this question again.

The official reason for the present policy was that until the twin engined transport helicopter was available there was no point in having a Heliport. The Association disagreed and would like to see steps taken to provide a small, inexpensive heliport, which might take the form of a platform moored on the Thames between Westminster and Battersea. At the Air Show in Paris helicopters were scuttling backwards and forwards between Paris and Le Bourget, but the S B A C in connection with the Farnborough Display this year were not very keen. It was to be hoped that the S B A C would bear this in mind next year.

A significant feature in Paris was the flying of the Atar Volant. This had a very great performance and had been seen by many to be a direct challenge to the helicopter. In the Association's programme for next session it was hoped that a lecture dealing with this and with other forms of direct lift vehicles would be included, so that the strength of both could be appreciated.

For inter-city transport not only had the major airlines to be considered but also the powerful and growing body of independent operators. Dr Hislop hoped that the guest speaker, Mr Eoin Mekie, would say a little of his intentions as a power in the land of the independent operators.

Dr Hislop then said how happy the Association was to have as their guests the ladies, as well as many eminent members of the Services and the Government service and members from industry. He also mentioned the presence of Mr Igor Sikorsky whom the Association were delighted to have with them.

As guest speaker, Mr Eoin Mekie would respond to the toast, "The Guests." He was Chairman of British Aviation Services Ltd, which included two of the most interesting and unusual services—Aquila and Silver City.

In proposing the toast, "The Guests," Dr Hislop coupled with it the name of Mr Eoin Mekie.

Mr Eoin C Mekie, in an amusing reply, thanked the Association warmly for its hospitality. He said that the position of the "poor" operator was not an enviable one but it gave him great pleasure to see the way in which the Association progressed from strength to strength. On behalf of the guests he wished the Association well-being for the future.

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#### ERRATUM

An error occurs on Page 256 of the August Journal, Volume 11, No 4, "Helicopter Operations at Port Said." The fifth paragraph should read

"The decision to use the helicopters to land No 45 *Royal Marine Commando* at Port Said was only made just before the operation."