



SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

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Our reference: SN/9/06

Your reference:

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The Director,
Rutherford High Energy Laboratory,
Chilton,
Didcot,
Berks.

Dear Comy

British Tenders

I was talking recently to fellow electrical engineers about the failure of British firms to obtain a fair share of orders from CERN, and I said also that British industry did not show up well in bidding for work from the Rutherford and Daresbury Laboratories. When challenged about the quality of British products offered to the laboratories I said that there were technical inadequacies as well as a variety of commercial failings. I specifically mentioned the apparent inability of British firms to impregnate coils satisfactorily

I would be grateful if you could provide me with some facts to support what I have said because I hope there is a chance that the industry may take some action. In particular, could you let me have details of the ways in which British practice (e.g. impregnating and insulating) falls short of that adopted in other countries and presumably fails to meet desirable specifications.

I might add that I have just seen the Daresbury tender adjudication CPC/P24 for the spark chamber magnet W.75, which seems to bear out what I have said.

Yours,

J. Clemow