

New U.S. Jet May Be Built, Based Here

OTTAWA — (CP) — The United States apparently plans to ask Canada for the use of bases in this country for a new U.S. jet interceptor now under development.

U.S. Air Secretary James H. Douglas and Gen. Thomas White, chief of the U.S. Air

Force, have said in testimony before the U.S. Senate armed services committee that the new 2,000-miles-per-hour interceptor, the F-108, will "police" the Distant Early Warning radar line in the Canadian Arctic.

As well as being able to detect hostile bombers, the DEW line can control the operations of interceptors. However, at present, there are no interceptor squadrons based in the Canadian Arctic or sub-Arctic.

MAY BE BUILT HERE

U.S. determination to proceed with development of a new interceptor which would operate largely over Canada has led to speculation here that the plane may be built in Canada under license, with the U.S. paying the major part of the cost.

The Government is expected

to announce next month whether it will offer production of the 1,500-miles-an-hour Avro Arrow jet interceptor, a Canadian development.

At a Jan. 22 press conference, U.S. defense Secretary Neil McElroy said the U.S. believes that Russia has under development a new supersonic bomber.

Mr. McElroy also said the manned interceptor is the first line of defense and the Bomarc the second line.

It is possible that U.S. interceptors could be stationed at four Canadian bases where runways now are being extended to accommodate American aerial tankers which refuel bombers in flight.

These bases are Frobisher on Baffin Island, Fort Churchill, Man., Cold Lake, Alta. and Namao, Alta.

Douglas and White also said — a transcript of their testimony has just become available here — that the F-108 will be able "to go out and obtain intelli-

gence on an enemy attack and to begin destruction of attacking aircraft long before they reach our borders or the population centres of Canada."

The secretary and chief of staff said there is a "clear and pressing military requirement" for the twin-engine, two-man F-108.

The F-108 and the Bomarc anti-aircraft missile would "complement each other."

"Manned interceptors are re-

quired for the function of long-range attack upon the enemy.

"Manned interceptors are also necessary for identification and airspace policing.

"In this function, nothing has yet been developed to replace the judgment, flexibility and

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