

aviation intelligence

SAGE Operational

First direction centre of the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment System for North American Air Defence has been put into operational service. Located in the New York Air Defense Sector, the SAGE direction centre is the first of 29 such air surveillance and weapons employment headquarters which will make up an intercontinental network providing for automatic processing of all surveillance information as well as control and direction of interceptor aircraft.

Canadair in Brazil

Canadair Ltd. of Montreal is reported near final arrangements involving sale of upwards of \$100,000,000 in transport aircraft (Canadair 540s and possibly CL-44 Canadair Liners) in South America. The sale apparently hinges on establishment of a Canadair plant in Brazil for construction on the bulk of the order, although the initial aircraft would be built in Montreal.

DECCA Decision?

A Department of Transport decision regarding desirability of continuing and expanding the three-chain Bendix-Decca air and sea navigation system covering a 1,000,000 square mile area from Newfoundland to Eastern Quebec may be forthcoming this month. The system was set up and operated on a trial basis as a joint project of Bendix Pacific Division of Bendix Aviation Corp., Decca Navigator (Canada) Ltd. and Computing Devices of Canada Ltd. Extensive air and sea navigation trials which have been held since the third (Quebec) chain was opened last November have been reported as highly successful. There are indications that the participating firms may not be prepared to continue operating the over-all system beyond about mid-August unless DOT officials give some assurance that the system will be accepted and taken over by the government for operation. If the Nova Scotia and Quebec chains are shut down it is likely the Newfoundland chain, which is part of the North Atlantic Dectra air navigation system, would be continued independently.

Advanced Magnetometer

Spartan Air Services Ltd. of Ottawa has introduced the Varian nuclear precession magnetometer for use in aerial prospecting for oil and mining exploration in Canada. Based on a new principle for magnetometers, the Varian unit records its results on punched tape instead of continuous strip chart, a system which makes for fast ground processing by feeding the tape into a digital computer. The Varian instrument has been used in the Vanguard Earth Satellite and Aerobee Rocket programs being carried out as part of the International Geophysical Year.

International Air Show

Near-firmed plans for Canada's International Air Show next month portend as cosmopolitan an air display as may be seen in North America during 1958. Among aircraft which would be making their Canadian Show debuts are the Avro CF-105 Arrow supersonic interceptor, now undergoing extensive flight trials at Malton Airport, which would head up the large Royal Canadian Air Force contingent; the Convair B-58 Hustler supersonic bomber now in production for the United States Air Force; and the delta-winged British Avro Vulcan of the Royal Air Force's Bomber Command, which might make a speed run from Britain to Toronto to participate in the display. Full details of the show, scheduled for Sept. 5 and 6 over the waterfront at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds, will be carried in the next issue of CANADIAN AVIATION.

TCA Viscounts' Weather Eye

Trans-Canada Air Lines' 51-aircraft Viscount fleet is to be equipped with Bendix RDR-1 weather radar. The contract for the equipment has been made between the airline and Computing Devices of Canada Ltd., Canadian representative of the Radio-Division of Bendix Aviation Corporation. The units, known as "X-Band" radar, gives a display up to 120 degrees on each side of the aircraft heading at a range out to 150 nautical miles. TCA now has 47 Viscounts in service, with four more scheduled for delivery next spring. Installation of the new radar equipment is to begin this month.

SAC Re-fueling Bases

There has been confirmation of earlier CANADIAN AVIATION reports forecasting establishment of bases for USAF Strategic Air Command air-to-air re-fueling aircraft in Canada. Ottawa has announced an estimated \$50,000,000 USAF program in which airfields at Churchill, Man.; Frobisher on Baffin Island in the Northwest Territories; and Namoo and Cold Lake in Western Canada will be provided with facilities for SAC's jet and propeller-driven Boeing KC-97 and KC-135 aerial tankers.

Bristol Services Division

An Aviation Services Division has been established by Bristol Aero Engines Ltd. at Montreal's Dorval Airport. Headed up by Aviation Services Manager K. L. Marshall, the new group is offering aircraft maintenance, overhaul and ramp facilities as well as passenger and baggage handling services to carriers operating into Dorval. First major contract for the division is handling Canadian Pacific Air Lines flights into Montreal. The division is presently located at Dorval's Hangar No. 6. For the present Mr. Marshall is also continuing in his capacity as Director of Public Relations for Bristol Aeroplane Co. of Canada Ltd.