

aviation intelligence

DH Missile Program

Indications are for some lifting shortly of the security wraps which have surrounded work being carried on by de Havilland Aircraft of Canada guided missiles section. Existence of an effective missile facility at DH's Downsview establishment has been common knowledge throughout the industry for some time, but there has been little evidence and no announcement concerning projects which may be under development. Best bet is that concentration has been on an air-to-air missile, probably a refinement of the basic concepts which went into the highly successful Firestreak which is now being produced by de Havilland Propellers Ltd. in England for the Royal Air Force.

Britannia Performance

Bristol Aircraft's giant Britannia turbo-props continue to set up new records along commercial routes. Among the latest is the eight hour and three minute mark for the New York-London run established by an El Al Israel Airlines Britannia 310. The new record bests the old time by 23 minutes. Other route records established recently by the Britannia include Mexico City-New York, five hours, 34 minutes; London-New York 10 hours, five minutes; New York-Rome, 12 hours, four minutes. The El Al Britannia record, set up on a route trial flight following official opening of Idlewild's new international terminal, gives British Overseas Airways Corp. something to shoot at now that it has its Britannia 312s in regular service on the North Atlantic route.

Comets for Pacific Western?

Pacific Western Airlines officials have indicated they might be interested in purchase of de Havilland Comet 4 aircraft if they are successful in present applications for route extensions which would take them well out of their present route area. The runs in question include a service from the West Coast to Windsor, Ont., and another application for an international route from Vancouver to the West Indies with a refueling stop in the United States. The West Indies run has been before the Air Transport Board for some time now but has been dormant. The application for a service to Windsor is a new application representing renewal of PWA's earlier efforts to get in on domestic east-west traffic.

Friendship Support

Fairchild's Aircraft Division is consolidating plans for servicing support on the Rolls-Royce Dart powered F-27 turbo-props which it will start delivering to North American operators next year. At a meeting held at the Fairchild plant last month customers and servicing firms were hosted by the manufacturer for a full discussion of plans and requirements. Friendships have been ordered by Quebecair Inc. and Wheeler Airlines in Canada.

Anniversary Plans

Plans for a co-ordinated program to mark the 50th anniversary of flight in Canada have become a reality with formation of a National Co-ordinating Council for the Golden Anniversary of Flight in Canada. Representation on the council includes the Air Cadet League, Air Industries and Transport Association and member companies, Canadian Army, Aviation Writers Association, Canadian Aeronautical Institute, Canadian Owners and Pilots Association, Department of Transport, Royal Canadian Air Force, Royal Canadian Navy, RCAF Association, Royal Canadian Flying Clubs Association, National Research Council. President of the Council is Gordon J. Stringer, of Canadair Ltd., Montreal. Headquarters for the Council has been established in Ottawa. Committees will be established in major centres across the nation to arrange for local activities commemorating the historic flight made off the ice at Baddeck, Nova Scotia, by Hon. J. A. D. McCurdy on Feb. 23, 1909. It was the first successful powered flight in Canada and is also widely recognized as the first flight by a British subject in the British Commonwealth.

Canadian Design for B-58

The advanced design Mach indicator developed by the Canadian Aeronautical Division of Honeywell Controls Ltd. for Avro Aircraft's CF-105 Arrow has been accepted as part of the flight instrument system of Convair's B-58 Hustler, the USAF's supersonic bomber, on which a full-scale production run now appears to be assured. The Mach indicator is one of five units developed by Honeywell's Canadian design team specifically for the supersonic, all-weather Arrow.

CPA Sets for Britannias

Canadian Pacific Airlines has begun its pilot training program preparatory to taking delivery of the first of its long range Bristol Britannia 314 turboprops in February. Ten of the airline's senior pilots have begun an intensive six-weeks' ground training program at Vancouver under direction of a three-man pilot-training team headed by Capt. B. A. Rawson. CPA's Britannias will see their first regular service on the Vancouver-Amsterdam polar route, with the inaugural likely to be flown in late March or early April on the basis of the present delivery schedule. In all, CPA will check out some 60 pilots on the Britannia.

CF-105 Progress

Avro's CF-105 Arrow supersonic interceptor was still on its pre-flight program at press time with first flight before the end of the year remaining a possibility. A delay in the start of taxiing trials set the program back slightly, but the Avro team was reported still pushing hard for the New Year's deadline.