

aviation intelligence

Avro Production

The Belgian decision to equip with CF-100s is seen extending production of the Mark V version of the aircraft at Avro Aircraft of Canada's Malton plant. The first of the 53 aircraft, earmarked to fill the \$43 million joint Canadian-United States Mutual Air Program assistance to Belgium under NATO commitments, is understood to have already come off the production line, with delivery scheduled for early September.

The prospect is now for steady work on the rocket-armed Mark V line until the missile-carrying Mark VI, still in the experimental stage, is ready to go into production. The Mark VI, which will go to RCAF squadrons as the interim missile weapons system preceding the CF-105 Arrow, is regarded as the final version of the CF-100.

The Arrow line meanwhile is reported accelerating, with moderate hiring as the production work force is built up.

Decca Opening

The Hon. George Hees, Minister of Transport in the new Progressive Conservative cabinet, will officially open the "Caribou East" and "Caribou West" Decca Navigator chains in ceremonies at Halifax on August 19. Completion of these two chains, in the Halifax and Quebec City vicinities, extends Decca coverage through Nova Scotia and the St. Lawrence River area, adding another approximately 400,000 square miles to the coverage of the "Moose West" and "Moose East" chains which went into operation in Newfoundland earlier this year. The four chain system is to be used for extensive air and sea navigation trials with the Decca method.

Specify Canadian Funds

Air Transport Board has issued an order requiring that all airline fares and tariffs paid or payable later in Canada shall be in Canadian funds or the equivalent of Canadian funds in other currency. The order is aimed specifically at the previous practice of quoting identical amounts in Canadian or U. S. currency. Carriers operating in Canada were evidently taking somewhat of a beating by accepting the lower value American dollar at par.

New Jet Proposal

Boeing Airplane Co. of Seattle has rounded out its stable of commercial jets with a proposal for the Boeing 717, a short-to-medium range airliner designed for operation on legs from 200 to 1,700 miles. Specifications include 550 to 600 mph cruise at 25,000 to 40,000 feet; payload 32,500 pounds to accommodate 88 to 130 passengers; power from four Pratt & Whitney advanced JT3 engines. Delivery is promised for 1960.

New Toronto Airport

Persistent authoritative reports indicate a concerted effort for establishment of a new commercial airport in the Toronto area to replace Malton. Airlines and other operators are anxious to get away from the military and development flying generated by manufacturers using the Malton facility. In its broadest version, the move would see all military and development operations concentrated at Malton with a shutdown of the Downsview field. De Havilland of Canada and RCAF units would set up shop at Malton.

The Maple area north of Toronto is the most consistently mentioned prospective site for the new commercial facilities. Supporters of the plan stress that separation of the two types of traffic is an eventual must, contend the most logical time is now before extensive improvements planned for Malton's commercial facilities are undertaken. That the proposal is receiving serious consideration is evident from the lack of any major work on projects planned for Malton.

CPAL to Rome?

Canadian Pacific Air Lines is understood pushing hard for early authority to extend its present Toronto-Montreal-Lisbon service through to Rome. Authority to go on to Madrid should come soon, but it is the prospective Rome extension which CPAL looks to for bolstering traffic on the run. At the present time, load factors on the Montreal-Toronto-Lisbon leg of the route, which is set up as a portion of the over-all Mexico and South American service out of Toronto, have not been impressive. The traffic south remains firm and bullish, but Lisbon is not drawing well as a European terminal.

Ferranti System

Ferranti Electric Ltd. of Toronto will shortly unveil highly versatile new access equipment developed for Trans-Canada Air Lines for initial use in a demonstration reservations system. Known as the Ferranti Transactor, the desk type unit provides combined input and output facilities in electronic digital data processing systems. The transactor reads pencil marked cards statically and records output with punch marks on the input card. A complete input and output record of each transaction is kept on the input card. The static reading process is said to permit exceptional flexibility in card layout.

Gyro Facility

Department of Defense Production is said to be interested in the possibility of establishing a Canadian manufacturing source for airborne gyros for aircraft and guided missiles. The requirement on the units is reported to encompass an order which could go as high as \$3 million.