

HIGH-TECH JET

U.S. feared spying ability of Avro Arrow

TORONTO (CP) — The U.S. may have pressured Canada into cancelling the Avro Arrow project in 1959 because the high-tech jet was capable of intercepting and exposing secret U.S. spy planes, a new book suggests.

The Avro Arrow fighter jet was so technologically advanced that it threatened both the U.S. aerospace industry and the Central Intelligence Agency's covert U-2 spy missions, author Paul Campagna said during a weekend speech to the Aerospace Heritage Foundation.

His book, *Gathering Storms — The Secret Files of the Avro Arrow Revealed*, uncovers details of the controversial decision to kill the supersonic jet interceptor.

The cancellation of the jet, whose technology and performance was considered to be a decade ahead of its time, is regarded by some as a tragic example of Canada's inferiority complex and short-sightedness.

"I'm not sure that (the Canadian government) really realized what they had in the Avro Arrow," Campagna, a Defence Department technical adviser and Arrow enthusiast, said in an interview after his speech.

Campagna's book was released Sunday — the 35th anniversary of Avro's unveiling.

Prime Minister John Diefenbaker cancelled the Avro Arrow project in February 1959. The aircraft plans and 10 prototypes were ordered destroyed for security reasons.

Campagna, 37, based the book on recently declassified documents.