

Call R.C.M.P. To Aid Probe of Jet Plane Leak

CALL R.C.M.P. IN PROBE OF JET LEAK IN U.S. R.C.A.F. CHIEF REVEALS

By ROBERT NIELSEN

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Ottawa, Nov. 12—The R.C.M.P. is investigating the leak of information on the R.C.A.F.'s highly secret new jet fighter, XC-100, Air Vice Marshal W. A. Curtis, chief of the air staff, said today.

"If an offence is disclosed under the Official Secrets act the person or persons involved will be prosecuted," the air vice-marshal said.

He said the information on the jet fighter appearing in the New York magazine was "not accurate."

Check on Leakage

For this reason, he said it was not believed the premature disclosure of information would "jeopardize or compromise" the new aircraft, specially designed for R.C.A.F. needs by Avro Canada at Malton.

R.C.A.F. officials are also checking on leakage of information.

A spokesman said the R.C.A.F. had no idea how the New York magazine had obtained details of the design, armament and speed of the new craft.

Says Author Toured Plant

The man who wrote the article is now on his way to England, William Kroger, assistant managing editor of "Aviation Week," said today. He said Charles Cain, former editor of "Aeroplane Spotter," an English magazine, had contributed the story while on a tour of Canadian aircraft factories.

"Mr. Cain was in the U.S. and we asked him to get a story on Canadian aircraft trends," said Mr. Kroger, speaking by telephone from New York. "He reported back to us that he had been shown through the A. V. Roe factory in Toronto. He said he had been accorded full co-operation on the new transport jet model being prepared by the Roe company. But he had had to get confidential information when he questioned about the new jet fighter. "No one here knows where he got that information. Our managing editor is travelling to the west coast today and he might know. Aside from that, the only person who knows is Cain, on his way to England, and the informant himself."

It had been announced previously, an air force official said, that Avro were working on a two-seat jet fighter especially adapted to the needs of the force, but little specific knowledge was in the hands of officials here.

Certain details of the new jet were on the "classified" or secret list, the spokesman said, but officials are collecting all available data and the force may issue a statement later today.

"Outside the Plant"

The leakage "came from outside the company," Murray Willer, assistant sales manager of the A. V. Roe Co., at Malton, said today, adding

that Ottawa officials were "upset" over the leak.

"We are checking all possible sources for the leakage in this top-secret project," he added. "We don't believe anyone in the company is to blame."

The magazine article reported the Canadian jet fighter "nearing completion at Malton." The aircraft was said to be capable of 675 miles per hour.

The low-wing monoplane, says the article, is powered by two Rolls-Royce jet engines of unprecedented power, and will be equipped with four heavy cannon and U.S.-made radar in the nose for interceptor work, making it one of the world's fastest and most heavily armed aircraft.

Checking the article, Mr. Willer said: "Some of it is definitely incorrect."

The magazine, without quoting its authority, said the aircraft was designed by J. C. M. Frost, British expert who worked on the de Havilland DH-108, which broke the sonic barrier.

Full advantage was taken of wartime research by German engineers, the magazine says.

"The British have no all-weather fighter and the combination of speed, range, adaptability and firepower may prove an important factor in the ordering of this airplane for mass production," said the article.