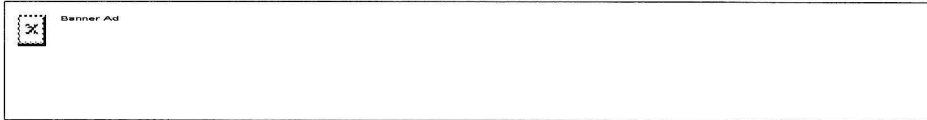




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CF-100: the end of a dream

Saturday, December 20, 1980

The purchase of the CF-18 as Canada's fighter for the eighties reaffirms our Government's policy of purchasing major military equipment abroad, forgoing the benefits of indigenous development. The loss is of great importance to Canada. Research and development produces technology, which in turn develops into industry and jobs. All the money invested in an indigenous product, be it airplanes or toothpaste, remains in Canada, whereas licence building always ends with money leaving the country and no real gain in advancing technology.

The development of the **CF-100** goes back more than three decades. Once the initial development work was started, the project developed into a major industrial effort that employed large numbers of Canadians. It also gave Canada and NATO a capable force of all-weather fighters, the best in the world at the time.

The work force, working on the project in the middle fifties, is conservatively estimated to have numbered 20,000 people directly involved with the manufacture of the **CF-100**, and another 100,000 involved through secondary and support industries.

When one considers the financial aspect of the project, the figures become quite large. Each **CF-100** cost approximately \$600,000 (the price varied as aircraft were produced). Multiply that by 692 for the number of aircraft manufactured, add in research and development cost of each model, then multiply again by 30 years of inflation and you have a sum that won't fit on my computer. However, a very large portion of these funds remained in Canada.





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The **CF-100** represents the end of a Canadian dream. We are now users of equipment built under foreign licence, not only in the air but on the land and on the sea (although most of the Royal Canadian Navy's ship hulls are Canadian-built, the armament and equipment is not).

The retirement of the **CF-100** ends an era that saw Canada as a world leader in the design and manufacture of military aircraft, an era in which the RCAF was a force to be reckoned with in NATO and in North American air defence. I don't think it's too late to change.

B.N. Drury **CF-100** Retirement Association

North Bay, Ont.

Chapter 1TM
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