

Avro Ottawa Talks Fail--To Try Again

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Ottawa, Feb. 25—Avro president Crawford Gordon today was scheduled to meet again with federal ministers following a round of inconclusive talks Tuesday in an effort to find an alternative program for re-employing thousands of Avro employees thrown out of work by government cancellation of the CF-105.

No time was set for the new meeting following the break-up of discussions last night. Nor has there been any certainty that Mr. Gordon would meet again with Prime Minister Diefenbaker.

Meanwhile, two optimistic notes were sounded in the House of Commons. Defence Minister Pearkes assured Canadian industries that they could get in on the ground floor of missile development and might get a better break in seeking U.S. defence orders.

Labor Minister Starr predicted Avro workers wouldn't have much difficulty getting jobs. The CCF house leader, Hazen Argue, expressed doubt.

An indication that yesterday's series of meetings failed to come up with any solution was provided by the fact that Prime Minister Diefenbaker did not meet last night with the Avro president, Mr. Gordon.

Officials in the prime minister's office explained that Mr. Diefenbaker had gone home for the evening and would only come back to the office for further discussions with Mr. Gordon if talks with his cabinet ministers produced a concrete proposal for him to consider. Apparently such a proposal never emerged.

Last night, Defence Production Minister O'Hurley said he and Defence Minister Pearkes would report to the prime minister on the outcome of their discussions. Labor Minister Starr also sat in on the talks.

In a statement at the weekend, Mr. Gordon said his company had put forward several

alternative proposals for keeping the Avro team together, including a program to replace the Sabre jets and CF-100's now in service with the Canadian air division in Europe, development of the revolutionary jet-propelled flying "jeep" now being underwritten by the U.S. government, expansion of commercial nuclear power research by Orenda engines and the initiation of a Commonwealth space program.