

airliners to Eland power, with civil and military applications of helicopter gas turbines, with rocket engines and the Napier "Spraymat" system of aircraft de-icing.

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DRB's Rocket Firing

With the successful static firing last month of a 17-inch rocket engine containing almost a ton of solid propellant, the Defence Research Board's CARDE passed a notable milestone in its rocket development program. Primary object of the rocket propulsion investigations is to test the performance of improved solid propellants for powering research rockets.

During the past year, CARDE scientists have statically fired about 50 eight-inch rockets to measure pressures and to obtain other relative information. Last month's firing was the first of a rocket that size. The engine was 17 feet long and provided a thrust of

about 20,000 lbs. for a period of 20 seconds.

The CARDE scientists are striving to develop materials which will withstand the unusually high temperatures experienced within rocket engines following firing.

Counter ICBM System

Canada will share with the U.S. control of a system designed to detect and destroy in-flight ICBM's, it is learned in Ottawa. A start has already been made on construction of this system. The beginning is erection of three huge radars—in Alaska, Greenland and Scotland—for the ballistic missile early warning system.

The display centre for all information by these powerful radars—their range will be some 3,000 miles—will be located at NORAD headquarters.

Gen. Charles Foulkes, chairman of the Canadian chiefs of staff committee, said in Ottawa on February 18 that NORAD will be "able to deal in the near future with attacks by ICBM's."

Devising a defence against the ICBM has top priority in the Defence Research Board, and Mines Minister Comtois revealed a few weeks ago that his department is trying to improve present alloys and develop new ones which could be used in construction of a counter-missile.

Canadian scientists plan to fire this year, all-Canadian rockets from Fort Churchill to test instruments and solid fuels. It is conceivable that the American Nike-Zeus, the projected counter-missile, will carry Canadian-developed and Canadian-made guidance instruments and solid fuel.

More Airport Funds

The DoT will pour another \$64,000,000 into airport construction in the 1959-60 fiscal year. The figure is given in the estimates of Government Spending presented to Parliament February 5. The new appropriation is \$9,000,000 more than the latest estimate of \$54,000,000 for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1959.

A lot of the construction will be continuing work of jobs started in previous years. New work will start at several places, however, including North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Baie Comeau, Que., and Frobisher Bay.

Officials say spending at the present rate on airport construction will continue for about another decade. "We're only getting started," one authority said.

Municipal Airports Urged

The B.C. Aviation Council has sent letters to 125 towns and villages urging construction in 1959 of airports or landing strips.

Encouragement of new airport or airstrip construction is the council's project to commemorate Canada's golden anniversary of powered flight.

Provincial government and DoT representatives have agreed to advise and assist municipalities "wishing to join the air age," said council president Jim Meagher.

Caribou Changes

After six months of intensive flight testing with the first two aircraft, the de Havilland Aircraft of Canada has announced changes in the dimensions and weight of the DHC-4 Caribou.

The cabin has been lengthened by

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