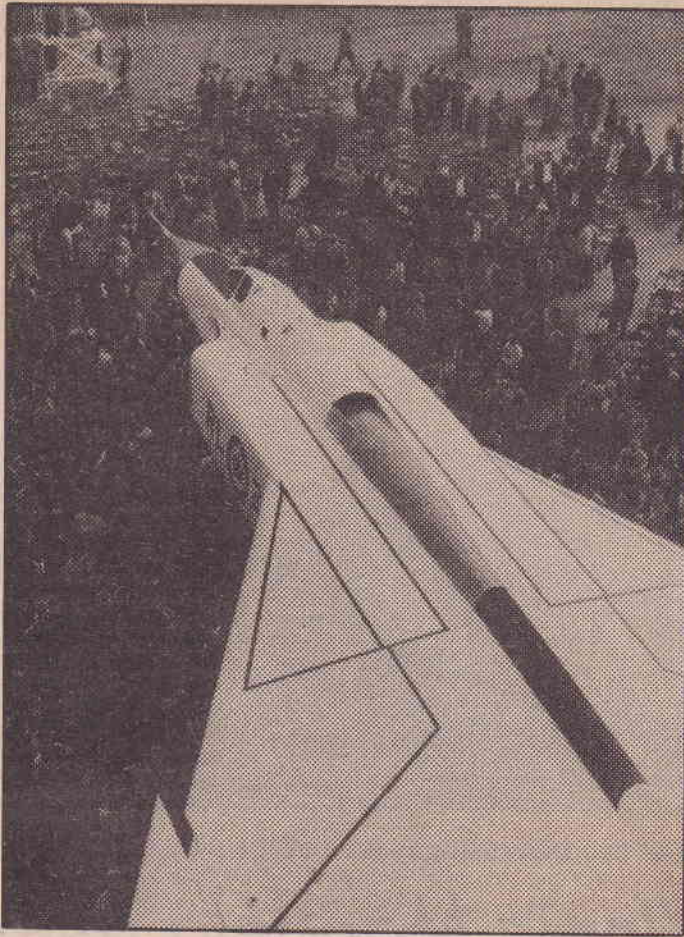


# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Arrow gets once-over on first public appearance.

## Bang-on view

Although it has nothing to do with Christmas, I feel compelled to bestow much praise on and compliment George Gain for his article concerning the Arrow and Boeing-de Havilland affair (Dec. 16). To me, at least, he was right on target.

My credentials for expressing what many will immediately label heinous sentiments and what follows are quite simple. I was at various periods between 1953 and 1962 Chief of Staff at Air Defence Command, the Air Division Europe and Northern NORAD Region.

I did not know at the time that the Arrow program gave C. D. Howe the shudders. However, I vividly recall being similarly afflicted when contemplating the problems associated with operating such a novel and complex machine in our harsh climate and inadequate electronic environment. No doubt my apprehension was based in part on experience with the CF-100, which was certainly not a world-class aircraft. Heretic or not, I had a strong premonition that the Arrow was destined for a similar classification. Giving due consideration to the threat at the time, the British Canberra would have done the job quite nicely and at a fraction of the cost of a supersonic aircraft.

John Diefenbaker deserves a plaque on his homestead shack for "killing the Arrow" and thereby saving Canada a considerable fortune and, by the same stroke of genius, saving the Air Force from an awesome burden.

Good luck to Boeing and long live de Havilland.

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