

U.S. a factor in scrapping jet? =

TORONTO (CP) — U.S. pressure may have contributed to the cancellation of Canada's Avro Arrow jet fighter nearly 30 years ago, a recently-discovered document suggests.

In a story published today, Toronto's *Globe and Mail* says a 1960 U.S. Defence Department memo suggests the cancellation of the CF-105 Arrow was a condition for the signing of the 1959 Defence Production Sharing Agreement between Canada and the U.S.

The Arrow was cancelled by former prime minister John Diefenbaker in February 1959.

The delta-winged jet interceptor was one of the most advanced fighter aircraft in the world at the time.

Cost overruns and obsolescence were cited as reasons for the cancellation.

The unsigned memo was recently obtained from the personal library of former U.S. president Dwight Eisenhower in Washington by researcher Paul Campagna.

The memo says that after Eisenhower visited Canada in July 1958, Canada cancelled the CF-105 and decided to make maximum use of U.S.-developed weapons.

Two months later, Diefenbaker announced the Arrow

would not be put into production.

He cancelled it outright five months later, throwing 14,000 Avro employees out of work.

The Defence Production Sharing Agreement was signed that year, allowing firms from either country to bid on defence contracts from both governments.

From 1959 to 1986, Canada sold \$12.2-billion in products to the United States under the agreement while the U.S. sold \$14.6-billion worth of goods to Canada.

Campagna, an electronics engineer, said the U.S. may have feared competition from the Arrow.