

aviation intelligence

RCAF Changes

Easing of the Royal Canadian Air Force Training Command commitments is expected to bring about some establishment changes. Shifts said to be in the wind include movement of Training Command Headquarters from Trenton, Ont., to Winnipeg, Man., with the Trenton Station becoming headquarters for Transport Command which will move out of its present establishment at RCAF Station Rockcliffe, near Ottawa. With the RCAF NATO program shrinking, cutbacks on the number of active training establishments is inevitable. Closing of the Flying Training School at Claresholm, Alta., within the next year has already been announced, and there are rumors that one of the remaining two FTS stations, at Penhold, Alta., and Moose Jaw, Sask., will also go. There is certainty that one of the three Advanced Flying (Jet) Schools at Gimli, Portage and MacDonald, Man., will be shut down, with Gimli the most likely candidate. Shift of Training Command Headquarters with its Instructors' School, to Winnipeg will concentrate command flying activities in Western Canada with the exception of Primary Flying Training (Chipmunk) School and Pre-Flight School at Centralia, Ont. The change will also see the RCAF's London, Ont., establishment, which housed the language school for NATO trainees and the RCAF's Personnel Selection Unit placed on a "care and maintenance basis," with the PSU moving over to Centralia.

De Havilland Offer

De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. has made an offer for purchase of the Fort Erie, Ont., plant and certain facilities of Fleet Manufacturing Ltd. Details have not been released, but it appears de Havilland's interest in expanding its own capacity is based on plans for quantity production of the twin-engined Caribou now under development. Fleet's decision on the offer will be based on the wishes of shareholders. Meanwhile, work on the Caribou progresses satisfactorily with the first aircraft scheduled to come off next June.

British Offer

A British firm, Close Brothers, believed to be associated with Airwork, are said to have made a number of purchase offers to Canadian transport firms including Maritime Central Airways, TransAir Ltd. and Pacific Western Airlines. No takers.

Arrow Progress

Pre-flight preparations on the Avro Aircraft CF-105 Arrow are being pressed hard in an effort to meet the proposed "end of the year" first flight schedule. Meanwhile, industry talk is that a further production order for the supersonic, all-weather interceptor is in the works. Initial contract called for six of the aircraft to be turned out with construction on a production tooling basis to eliminate prototype to production model delays. Reports that the government now plans to place another order, for about 30 aircraft, are strengthened by the words of reassurance from Defense Minister Hon. George Pearkes, VC, in a recent address at Milton, Ont. (See News Digest).

Industry Evaluation

Canadian delegates to the meeting of top level NATO officials in Europe this month will have at their disposal a comprehensive, up-to-the-minute survey of Canada's facilities and capabilities for aircraft and missile development and production. The evaluation, aimed at accurately establishing Canada's potential in the proposed "NATO research and production pool," is being prepared by the Industrial Council of the Air Industries Transport Association as a result of a recommendation made by the retiring council at Quebec City.

TCA Cable Facility

Trans-Canada Air Lines has a stake in the new trans-Atlantic cable being laid between Montreal and London. The airline has leased a private channel in the cable, will use the facility for operation of the electronic reservations system developed by Ferranti Electric Ltd. of Toronto as well as for normal communications. The cable is scheduled to be ready for use before the end of the year.

Iroquois Lit Up

Orenda's new Iroquois turbojet received its first live air trial during November. The brief word from Orenda Engines Ltd. is that first running of the 20,000 lbs. plus turbojet in its modified B-47 test bed was "entirely satisfactory." The air "light up" was preceded by extensive ground testing of the system.