

CF-105 Weapons System

RCA Victor Co. Ltd. of Montreal; Honeywell Controls, Ltd. of Toronto; and Computing Devices of Canada Ltd. of Ottawa have been given subcontracts for engineering services relating to the electronic weapons system under development for Avro's CF-105 Arrow. The subcontracts were revealed in a joint announcement by Radio Corporation of America and Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co.

- The RCA Victor Co. of Canada will undertake engineering studies and provide engineering services in connection with electronic portions of the CF-105 integrated weapons system.

- Computing Devices will work on development of an automatic Dead Reckoning Navigation system.

- The Honeywell Controls sub-contract calls for engineering services on development of automatic flight controls.

Some portions of the sub-contract work will be done in Canada, others will require assignment of Canadian engineers to facilities of the two U. S. firms. RCA was awarded a research and development contract for the CF-105 weapons system last fall. The Honeywell firm is working with RCA on an associate basis with responsibility for developing automatic flight and other system controls.

Viscount Deliveries

Vickers-Armstrongs (Aircraft) Ltd. made delivery of its 100th turbo-prop Viscount in the Americas in mid-March. The aircraft, significantly, went to Trans-Canada Air Lines, the first airline on this side of the Atlantic to put Viscounts into service. It was TCA's 24th Viscount. The airline has 14 more on order. Meanwhile, flight testing has been completed on the 60th Viscount for Capital Airlines. The Capital machine, which will fill the U. S. firm's initial Viscount order, has been equipped with Bendix weather radar, the first aircraft of this type to be so fitted. Capital last year placed a further order for 15 Viscounts.

Norseman Expansion

Noorduyn Norseman Aircraft Ltd. is planning a 20,000 sq. ft. addition to present facilities. New construction will be at the Cartierville Airport if suitable arrangements can be made with Canadair and the DOT. Failing that the present site will be used. The company is setting up to offer a speeded up service on parts and replacements for Norseman users. Operators will be offered trade-in arrangements for their aircraft or parts. The firm hopes to have rebuilt aircraft available for immediate replacement use on Norsemen brought in for repair or overhaul, permitting operators to get work done without losing valuable air time.

All Turbine Bound

Trans-Canada Air Lines has accepted a bid from Lund Aviation (Canada) Ltd. for six of its DC-3s. The move is part of TCA's over-all re-equipment plan which is aiming at an all-turbine powered passenger fleet, possibly the first in the world, by 1960-61. Lund President Ches Newall expects to have five of the Dakotas available in May, with the last to be delivered in June. Trans-Canada has 24 DC-3s in its present fleet.

Iroquois Flight Tests

The flight test program on Orenda's PS-13 Iroquois turbojet should be under way very shortly. At last word the modified B-47 which will carry the future Avro CF-105 power plant in a rear fuselage pod was being thoroughly ground checked by Canadair and Boeing Airplane Co. engineers before making an initial flight at Montreal. The test flying, when it comes, will likely be out of Toronto's Malton Airport where a runway extension was completed a few weeks ago, but as yet there has been no official designation of the test site.

Mid-Canada Helicopters

There's confirmation that the RCAF is easing out of the helicopter transport business along the Mid-Canada Line. First move is the leasing of 10 Air Force Sikorskys which had been in use on the westerly sections for operation by Okanagan Helicopters. Reports are that the military will gradually turn over all its helicopter transport commitments along the line to civilian operators.

Gyron at 25,000 lb.

The Gyron turbojet under development by de Havilland Engine Co. Ltd. is reported to be showing 25,000 lb. static thrust with reheat. Company officials say they believe the output at which the Gyron is presently running "has not been approached by any other jet engine in the world." Designed specifically for optimum operation in aircraft flying at up to three times the speed of sound, the Gyron has successfully completed its first development stage.

Friendship Order

Wheeler Airlines Ltd. of St. Jovite is the second Canadian carrier to place an order for the Fokker-Fairchild F-27 Friendship. Wheeler is understood to have made a deposit on two of the twin turbo-props, moving in just under the price boost deadline announced a few weeks ago by Fairchild. The other Canadian purchaser of the Friendship is Quebecair Inc. of Rimouski, which has also ordered two F-27s.