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aviation intelligence

Orenda Altitude Chamber

System checkout runs have begun on Orenda Engines Ltd. new 6½ million dollar high altitude test chamber. An Orenda engine is being run initially in the cell which is capable of simulating conditions up to Mach 2.9 at 100,000 feet. Following the system checkout the chamber will be used for test and development work on Orenda's supersonic Iroquois engine.

Engineers Farmed Out

Canadair Ltd. has been successful in placing 150 engineers from its guided missile division with the Boeing Airplane Co. to work with the U. S. company's teams at Seattle and elsewhere in production and development engineering on the Bomarc ground-to-air missile. The Canadians will be with Boeing a minimum of six months subject to recall when their services are required by the Montreal firm. Canadair negotiated the arrangement with Boeing, and suggested similar plans to other U. S. firms (a group has been sent to Convair) in an effort to keep its missile team active and available on short notice.

Ground Handling Solution

Consolidated Diesel Electric Corp. is arranging another full-scale demonstration of the latest modified version of its combination wheel mover and mobile power unit which is billed as the answer to ground handling problems associated with introduction of the big jet transports on the world's air routes. CDEC has a development contract from the USAF for the units, which permit movement and control from the cockpit with aircraft power off. Canadian operators, Department of Transport and RCAF have indicated interest in the units, will be represented in the group of international observers scheduled to see a demonstration of the latest mark of the equipment at Loring Air Force Base in Maine sometime in January or February.

Decca Demonstrations

The Decca and Dectra air navigation systems are to be extensively demonstrated in North America shortly using a de Havilland Comet jet airliner for evaluation flights. Arrangements for the program have been made through the British Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation. Prime targets are the international representatives who will be attending the special meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal in February to deal with selection of a future short-range navigation aid. Main competition is shaping up between the Decca-Dectra systems and the American sponsored VORTAC system, a combination of the civil VOR and military TACAN systems. The Decca equipped Comet will first fly demonstrations in Europe this month before coming to North America for the ICAO session.

Exports Soar

Canadian export of aircraft and parts for the first 10 months of the past year were valued at \$94,966,000, over four times as much as for the same period in the previous year. The October total, at \$8,296,000, was more than twice as much as during October, 1957. The figures are in the main a reflection of the export of Avro CF-100 aircraft to Belgium and Canadair Sabre VIs to the West German Republic. Both of these programs have now been completed.

Extend Britannia Service

Canadian Pacific Air Lines has added the Vancouver-Honolulu run to the routes now served by turboprop Bristol Britannias. Introduction of Britannia on the service will provide the fastest flight between North America and the Hawaiian Islands, with an air time of eight hours, 45 minutes.