

END KOREA AIRLIFT: "The trans-Pacific airlift operation that the RCAF has been carrying out for almost four years in support of the United Nations effort in Korea is to finish shortly," the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton announced this week.

"A decision to end RCAF participation in the airlift has been made and it is expected that the final RCAF round trip to Japan will be made by a North Star leaving its home base at Dorval, outside Montreal, on Saturday, May 29.

"Requirement for air transport support of the UN operations in Korea has decreased and there has been a lessening of the overall airlift operations over the northern route," he proceeded. "In consequence, the United States Air Force is reducing its facilities at Shemya Air Force Base, in the Aleutians, which the RCAF North Stars have been using as a refueling point. Unavailability of Shemya would make economic operation of the RCAF North Stars unfeasible over this run. Because of this, and the decreased requirement, the RCAF operation is being brought to an end.

"Canadian Pacific Airlines will continue, for the time being at least, to operate its scheduled airlift flights to Korea, under charter to the Canadian Government, as part of the Canadian contribution towards the UN effort in Korea. . . ."

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FREIGHT MOVEMENT DOWN: Canada's railways moved 10,151,582 tons of revenue freight during January, 16% less than the 12,129,942 tons hauled in the first month last year. Loadings were off 1,574,572 tons or 17% to 7,679,308, while receipts from foreign connections were reduced to 1,267,771 from 1,515,915 tons for freight destined for delivery in Canada and to 1,204,503 from 1,360,147 tons for intransit freight,

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Gross factory value of products manufactured by Canada's synthetic textiles and silk industry in 1952 totalled \$157,629,000, a 5% decline from the preceding year's \$166,550,000. There were 48 establishments in the industry - two more than in 1951 - with 15,700 employees as compared with 18,000 in 1951, and salary and wage payments aggregating \$42,709,000 compared with \$44,694,000.

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RHINE RADIO LINK: Another link in the network of the R.C.A.F.'s overseas radio stations was established recently when Air Marshal C.R. Slemon, Chief of Air Staff, inaugurated the use of the base radio station at the R.C.A.F.'s No. 4 Fighter Wing at Baden-Sollingen at the edge of the Rhine River in Germany. Air Marshal Slemon recently completed a tour of overseas R.C.A.F. bases.

Air Marshal Slemon made the opening transmission on the airmen's closed circuit radio station, marking the beginning of regular programmes for the airmen and their dependents. The radio station is housed in one end of an unused barrack block on the camp, and has been so painted and polished by the airmen that it would be the envy of almost any modern commercial radio station across Canada.

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GEN. GRUENTHER'S VISIT: General Alfred M. Gruenther, Supreme Commander Allied Powers in Europe, will visit Ottawa on June 10 and 11 at the invitation of the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton.

He is to meet the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet Defence Committee and on June 11 will speak to Senators and Members of Parliament.

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U.S. INDUSTRIAL VISITORS: Wood preservation experts from more than a dozen leading industries and Public Utilities Companies in the United States spent Monday, May 31, at the Forest Products Laboratories of Canada, Ottawa. The Laboratories form a part of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT: There was a further recession in industrial employment at the beginning of April. The Bureau's advance industrial composite index, on the 1949 base, stood at 105.5 as compared with 106.6 a month earlier, and 110.0 at April 1, 1953.

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Inventory investment of Canadian manufacturers at the end of March aggregated \$3,599,800,000, 1% below December last but 3% higher than a year earlier, according to advance figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.