

STOL AIRCRAFT PUSH

DeHavilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd will begin work immediately on two prototypes of the company's DHC-7 "Quiet STOL Airliner", according to Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The DHC-7 is a 48-passenger short take-off and landing (STOL) aircraft, designed to make short-haul trips between cities and to operate quietly by means of four PT6A-50 engines from airports located close to urban areas.

"The DHC-7 will, in fact, be the quietest transport airplane ever offered on the market," says deHavilland's President B.B. Bundesman. In addition, the latest technology embodied in the engines will result in pollution-emission characteristics well below any known acceptance limits.

The total development costs for both aircraft and engine programs could reach about \$80 million, which will be shared by deHavilland, the engine-maker, United Aircraft of Canada Ltd, and the Federal Government. Concurrently with the development contract, the Government concluded an option agreement, in force until June 30, 1974, with Hawker Siddeley Limited, the parent company of deHavilland, for the possible acquisition of the Canadian company.

The manufacture of the two pre-production aircraft will be followed by civil certification of the STOL airliner expected by early 1975. The first of the two aircraft should be carrying out test flights within two years. The object of the program is to complete all engineering, design and development work, including flight-testing, giving deHavilland the capability to respond rapidly to market demands and enter into a full production program.

Mr. Pepin stated that the latest market analyses indicated a conservative sales estimate of 150 DHC-7s between 1975 and 1980, with good prospects for sales of 450 to 500. The largest proportion of such sales would come from the export market.

EXPORT POTENTIAL

In addition to filling an urgent need for a quiet, short-haul transportation network in areas with high-traffic density, the DHC-7 should be important also in regional development. As plans for Canada's northern development move ahead, the aircraft could provide efficient air services between communities that cannot be economically served by large jet aircraft requiring heavy expenditures for airport facilities.

Many similar applications should also be found in developing countries, providing Canada with a much-needed position in the increasingly competitive aircraft export market. Such DHC-7 international sales could extend well into the 1980s.

MARKETING PACT WITH U.S.

DeHavilland has entered into an agreement with the Boeing Company of the United States for a joint marketing program for the aircraft. Initial contact with potential airline customers round the world has been completed and the two companies intend to initiate immediately a comprehensive and active marketing program.

The whole project could, it is estimated, lead to about 1,500 jobs for Canadians in the 1973-74 period; over the life of a successful production run 3,000 Canadian workers could be employed for ten years.

RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in Canada from August to September increased from 6.7 per cent to 7.1 per cent, reports Statistics Canada.

Between August and September, there were declines in both employment and unemployment. In percent terms, the decrease in employment was more than usual, while the decrease in unemployment was less than usual.

The actual size of the labour force dropped from 9,274,000 in August to 8,840,000 in September, a decline that is larger than usual for this time of the year.

The number of employed persons decreased from 8,771,000 in August to 8,381,000 in September. All industries showed declines between these months, with the largest decreases in manufacturing (-85,000) and in services (-84,000). The drop in the service industry was larger than usual.

There were 459,000 unemployed persons in September, compared to 503,000 in August. The

unadjusted unemployment rate, representing the actual number of unemployed as a percent of the labour force, was 5.2 in September, a decrease from 5.4 in the month of August.

Compared to that of a year ago, the labour force was up 218,000 (2.5 per cent); employment was up 193,000 (2.4 per cent); and unemployment had increased by 25,000.

ALMOST ROAST BEAR

An unwanted bruin in Rushing River Provincial Park, Kenora District, Ontario, had a particularly warm reception recently, when he walked up to a dining tent, neatly tore open the back wall and picked up a food-cooler. In backing out of the tent with the cooler clasped in his front paws, he backed into the campfire and sat on the fire-gate. The cooler went flying as the bear jumped into the air high enough to set a record and he charged off into the bush in search of the nearest stream.