

Ottawa-Montreal STOL service

A STOL (short-take-off-and-landing service) is expected to be in operation between Ottawa and Montreal next summer for the purpose of demonstrating certain characteristics of this type of aircraft.

Minister of Transport Jean Marchand announced recently that a new subsidiary of Air Canada would use Rockcliffe Airport near Ottawa and the Montreal (Victoria) Expo 67 parking lot to run the service, said to be the first of its type in the world, for two years.

Reasons for project

The objects of the "demonstration service" were outlined by Mr. Marchand as follows:

- To define and develop the technical, operational, and regulatory components of the STOL air-transport system;

- To test the operational feasibility of STOL inter-city passenger systems;

- To test passenger-acceptance of the STOL inter-city passenger transportation conception;

- To test community reaction prior to, and during, implementation of a new transportation system and to determine public acceptance of future permanent STOL facilities;

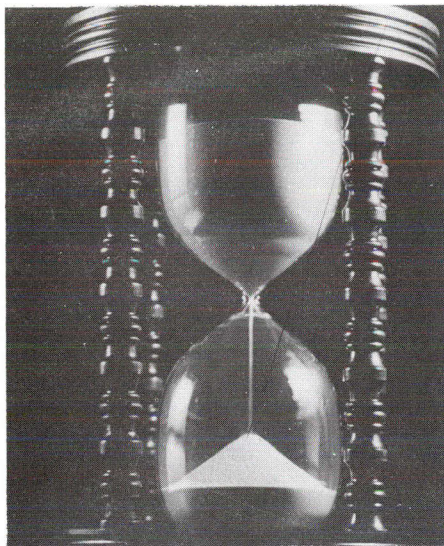
- To test the economic viability of the STOL inter-city passenger transportation conception;

- To stimulate domestic and international STOL markets and to determine how STOL services should be presented and sold to the public in Canada and abroad."

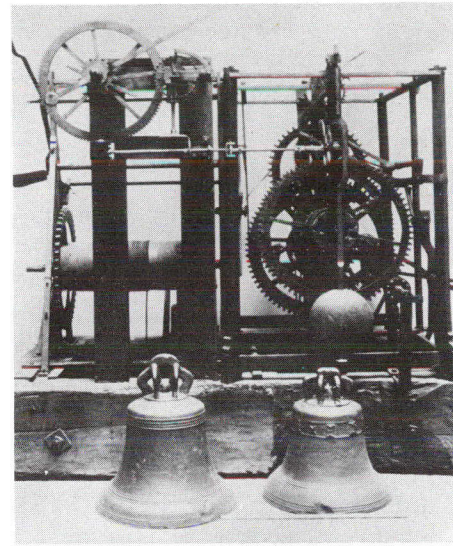
The six aircraft to be used are a variation of the quiet DHC-6 *Twin Otter* which, compared to conventional planes, will land and take-off at steep angles. Tentative approach patterns have been determined for Montreal, while some 600 STOL take-offs and landings have been carried out at the Rockcliffe Airport during the past 18 months.

Including ground transportation, the cost from one city centre to the other is expected to be lower than the cost of the journey by conventional aircraft, owing to shorter distances to and from airports.

The total travelling time is expected to be lessened by over half an hour — a 30 percent reduction.



The "Hour Glass" clock (above) was made by University of Toronto glass-blower Jack Legge for "It's About Time", a show at the McLaughlin Planetarium, Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, which began last month and ends June 24.



Royal Ontario Museum photos

Today's wristwatches, less than an inch-and-a-half in diameter, can measure time more accurately than the large array of gears, weights and escapement seen in this picture of an early timepiece from Wells Cathedral in Somerset, England.

Petroleum mission to China

Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Donald Macdonald, who recently led a petroleum mission to China, spoke with Premier Chou En-Lai on a variety of topics for 45 minutes in the Great Hall of the People in Peking. It was the second meeting for the Premier and Mr. Macdonald; the day before they met briefly during the May Day celebrations.

International boundaries, the development of the Continental Shelf and the 1974 Law of the Sea Conference were among the subjects they discussed. Premier Chou asked Mr. Macdonald to inform Prime Minister Trudeau that he would be "glad to see" any draft document that Canada prepared for the conference.

At the Great Hall meeting, which was also attended by Pai Hsiang-Kuo, Minister of Foreign Trade, Tang Ke, Minister of Fuels and Chemical Industries, Chang Wen-Chin, Assistant Foreign Minister, as well as members of the 34-man Canadian delegation, Chou En-Lai commented on the forthcoming Commonwealth Conference in Ottawa and sent greetings to Mr. Trudeau and Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp, whom he had met last year during the Can-

adian Trade Fair in Peking.

The mission, which wound up its two-week visit to China in the capital, travelled more than 3,000 miles and visited several main Chinese oil fields, refineries and petrochemical plants. The visit to the Taching Oil Field and Refinery in northeast China was the first by any Western delegation since the giant field was discovered in the late 1950s. Delegation members, representing members of the oil industry, held the first individual discussions with Chinese experts.

The Chinese, who sent an oil mission to Canada for a six-week visit in 1972, showed a close interest in Canadian technology, experience and oil industry equipment.

Diplomatic relations established with Saudi Arabia

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp announced this month the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at ambassador level.

Mr. J. Gignac, Canadian Ambassador in Beirut, has been appointed Ambassador in Saudi Arabia on a non-resident basis.