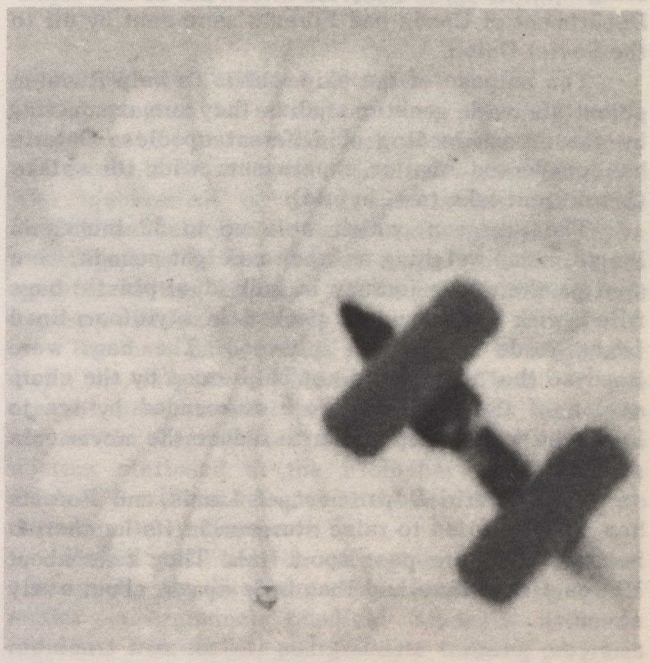
DEMONSTRATION OF "DRONE" SYSTEM

A number of European countries interested in the Airborne Surveillance *Drone* system sent military observers to Canada recently to see a demonstration of how it works. The demonstration, which took place at Camp Shilo, Manitoba, on October 29, was attended by representatives from Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

Development of the *Drone* was started by Canadair Limited in Montreal in 1961 on a shared-cost basis with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In 1962, Britain asked to join Canada in supporting this development and, in 1965, the Federal Republic of Germany also took part in the project, which has been developed by the three countries on a shared-cost basis. Policy direction is provided by a senior tri-partite policy committee. The United States also contributed to the success of the project by making range facilities available for the early evaluation trials.

The *Drone*, which looks more like a missile than an aircraft, is only eight feet long and just over a foot in diameter. Launched by rocket, it flies over a pre-selected path and then returns to a chosen point, where the final phase of its flight is controlled by a homing beacon. On reaching the recovery area, the engine cuts off and a parachute floats the *Drone* to the ground. Photographs taken from the *Drone* during flight can be rapidly developed while the aircraft is sent off on another mission.



A two-stage parachute recovery method is used to return the system to a pre-programmed landing site.

Because of its small size and high subsonic velocity, it is almost impossible to detect and will have, therefore, a high probability of survival in battlefield environment. The development of the system throughout the last three years has been under the management of the Project Management Branch of the Department of Supply and Services (formerly the Department of Defence Production).

The launcher is raised to proper position, umbilicals drop away, and the aircraft is launched on its programmed flight.