

Canadian Participation

From the time they became usable commercially, aircraft have been of great value in developing the more remote parts of Canada and in bringing the various regions closer together. The size of the country provided unusual opportunities for the development of domestic services. At the same time Canada as a major trading nation has had to be interested in the development of fast international transportation, while her geographical position astride important air routes created considerable responsibilities. In consequence the Canadian Government was much interested in developments leading up to the Chicago Conference and took a significant part in its proceedings. The selection of Montreal as the permanent site for ICAO's Headquarters was partly in recognition of Canada's contribution at Chicago.

Since 1945 Canada has been a member of the Council and there has always been a Canadian member on the Air Navigation Commission. Our interest, as a major trading nation in international air transport has been reinforced by the development within Canada of a large aeronautical engineering industry, and the development of international services by Canadian airlines. Canadian airlines now fly across the Pacific to Japan, Hongkong and Australasia, across the Atlantic to the United Kingdom and points in Europe, and to points in South America. The recent opening of routes from North America to Europe across the Polar regions offers new opportunities for Canadian airlines as well as new responsibilities for the Government.

Canada as host state to ICAO has undertaken a number of responsibilities vis-a-vis the Organization, including the granting of certain legal and fiscal immunities to foreign Council representatives and members of the Secretariat, and subsidizes the rent paid for office accommodation in Montreal so as to bring it into line with that paid by U.N. Specialized Agencies elsewhere. In addition Canada contributes on the same basis as other member states to the regular budget of ICAO which in 1957 will amount for assessment purposes to \$3,066,727; Canada's contribution will be 4.2 per cent of this amount.

RP/C