

**MORE POWER FOR SABRES:** Recognized as a leading fighter formation in Europe, Canada's air division overseas is to be given a substantial increase in its combat capabilities, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton announced on February 9.

"For some time Canadair Limited's plant at Cartierville, P.Q., has been producing F-86E Sabre fighters with Canadian-made Orenda engines," he said. "These engines have been entirely designed, developed and produced in Canada at the Malton, Ontario plant of A.V. Roe (Canada) Ltd.

"Until recently, Sabres manufactured at Canadair were equipped with General Electric J-47 jet engines. The Orendas now going into the Sabres have about 1,500 pounds more thrust than the engines formerly used to power them.

"In this way Canada's fighting Sabres overseas will have a power increase of about 20 to 25 per cent, placing them in the front rank of operational aircraft in fighting formations anywhere in the world today. This extra power will shorten the run on take-off, give a faster rate of climb, a higher ceiling and increased speed.

#### TO RCAF SQUADRONS

"The first Orenda-equipped Sabres are being assembled at Cartierville and at RCAF Station St. Hubert, P.Q., from where they will be flown across the Atlantic for posting to the 12 RCAF squadrons overseas.

"The J-47 powered Sabres now flown by the Air Division squadrons, and which are to be replaced by the newer, more powerful Orenda-powered Sabres, will be transferred to other NATO countries as part of Canada's Mutual Air programme for NATO. In addition, a considerable number of J-47 jet engines will be transferred to other NATO countries, as mutual aid. This will be a combined operation, with the United States supplying spares, in order that each engine will be transferred with a year's supply of spares.

"A combined Canadian-U.S. Mutual Aid programme has already resulted in 370 Canadian-built Sabres being provided to the United Kingdom, for use by the RAF. These Sabres, made in Canada, had about 30 per cent U.S. components.

"In all, about 600 Canadian-made Sabres have been flown across the Atlantic. This total includes the Sabres flown over by the RCAF Fighter Wings as they moved across to their NATO bases in Europe, and the Sabres provided to the RAF, which were flown over by RAF pilots.

"The Mark 5 Sabres will follow the path blazed by the Leapfrog Operations, the trans-Atlantic flights of the RCAF Fighter Wings. This involves "hops" through Goose Bay, Greenland, and Iceland."

**TRADE WITH WEST INDIES:** The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, made the following announcement in the House of Commons on February 9 respecting trade with the West Indies:

"I am glad to be able to announce that confirmation has been received from London that the West Indies token import plan is being continued for 1954. I also have word that a number of commodities of importance to Canadian trade are being added to those on open general licence in the West Indian colonies.

"The list of commodities on open general licence will include: newsprint; kraft paper; dried, smoke, pickled and salted fish; onions; potatoes; cheese; powdered and canned milk; split peas; meats; canned fish. Animal feeds are also on the list except in British Guiana.

"Several of these items were previously traded under token import plan vouchers in the colonies. They will now be unrestricted and vouchers will not be needed for them.

"The West Indies token import plan is playing a valuable part in keeping Canadian brand names before the public in the colonies, and in holding a place in those markets for Canadian goods until the trade need no longer be restricted. The transfer of commodities from the plan to open general licence is an encouraging sign for the future.

"Full details of these changes are being given to the trades concerned by my departmental officers."

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**CIVIL DEFENCE TALKS WITH U.S.:** The federal Minister responsible for civil defence in Canada, Mr. Martin, and officials of his Department of National Health and Welfare, conferred with U.S. civil defence authorities in Washington on February 11. The consultations took place at a regular meeting of the Joint United States-Canada Civil Defence Committee which was set up under the terms of the Civil Defence Mutual Aid Agreement signed by the two countries in March 1951.

Accompanying Mr. Martin were the federal civil defence co-ordinator Major-General F.F. Worthington, the Deputy Minister of National Welfare, Dr. G.F. Davidson, and other senior officials of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

The co-operative arrangements that have been worked out between Canada and the United States for joint planning in civil defence matters of mutual interest were reviewed at the meeting. Discussions took place on such problems as advance warning, transportation and communication arrangements, health and welfare planning, training methods, public information, operational planning and the interchange of civil defence equipment and supplies.