

The computer system is now running simultaneously with traffic-control operations but is not yet being used to control aircraft. It has already been checked in the Ottawa Laboratory of the Department of Transport and is expected to be in operation soon.

The new system will increase capacity through better scheduling and extension of the quality of air-traffic service through fewer reroutings of aircraft.

CANADA'S ECONOMY IN 1967

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...Canada, with other trading nations, is examining likely avenues for further improvement of access to international markets, including ways of bringing developing countries to fuller participation in the international trading system. Only through

international specialization and closer commercial ties can the nations of the world reap the full benefits made possible by our advancing technology and growing productive capabilities. International trading arrangements must provide scope for the realization of these growing potentialities. At a ministerial meeting of the GATT in November, Canada along with the world's other trading nations endorsed the objective of further trade liberalization. The member countries established a programme of work on outstanding trade issues designed to identify remaining barriers to trade and to put in hand the necessary preparation for further advance.

As Canada moves into its second century, the basic determinants of our economic environment are evolving with ever-increasing rapidity. Prospects for the year ahead and for ensuing years will depend more than ever upon our efficiency and our powers of adaptation in these ever-changing world conditions.

Transport Minister Paul Hellyer has announced the installation of Canada's first electronic computer for use in air-traffic control at Gander International Airport for first operational testing. The new system will augment the present facilities and methods, which are approaching the limit of their capacity as air traffic continues to increase. Flights over the North Atlantic served by Gander totaled 82,718 in 1966 and it is estimated that by 1976 the annual total will reach 167,000. While the present manual system provides for a safe flow of air traffic, the rapid increase in flights is imposing an increasingly heavy workload on the controller, resulting in a reduction in time available to the controller to resolve complicated traffic situations, which are also increasing. An electronic data processor will be used to perform many of the controller's routine tasks, which will allow the controller more time for making decisions. The automatic system, in which air-traffic controllers work without the aid of computers, will continue in use until the controller's workload has been properly reduced to a safe level. The new system will be installed in Gander without interruption of service.

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