

Jet Interceptors Will Be Dropped

By DAVE McINTOSH
Canadian Press Staff Writer
OTTAWA (CP)—The CF-100 jet interceptor, Canada's main air defence weapon for the last five years, will vanish from Canadian skies in the next two to three years and will not likely be replaced, informants said Thursday.

The consensus here is that the chief threat to North America a few years from now will be the long-range rocket, against which an interceptor is helpless. The government therefore feels, informants said, that the two Bomarc anti-aircraft missile bases to be built at North Bay, Ont., and Mont Laurier, Que., will be a sufficient insurance against the manned bomber.

No formal government decision to dismantle the nine CF-100 squadrons in Canada has yet been taken but this course of action is considered the likely one.

SOME RETAINED
A few CF-100s may be retained for reconnaissance purposes. This now is the chief role of the four CF-100 squadrons based with the RCAF air division in Europe.

There now are approximately 100 of the CF-100s in service in Canada. The squadrons are manned by some 8,000 ground and air crew.

The air force will get out of the interceptor business altogether in Europe during the next three to four years as the air division converts from the Sabre fighter to the American Lockheed Starfighter strike-attack plane.

The RCAF has been hoping right along that the Starfighter or a similar plane might replace the CF-100 in Canada but there now appears little chance of this.

Some airmen contend that if the interceptor squadrons in Can-

ada are junked and air defence left to two Bomarc bases this country's position in the joint Canada - U.S. North American Air Defence Command will be severely weakened. They argue that Canada must continue to patrol its own air space.

JUST OBTAINED
On the other hand, defence planners say space-age technology is overtaking the manned interceptor and that there is no more joint in deploring the passing of the interceptor than there was in mourning the loss of the cavalry in the First World War.

It is suggested in some quarters here that the RCAF may switch its main endeavor in Canada to counter-missiles. It has a large nucleus of engineers and electronics experts.

Bagotville, Que., St. Hubert, Que., Ottawa and North Bay, Ont., each is the base for two CF-100 squadrons and the ninth is at Comox, B.C.

HIGH ANTARCTIC

Average elevation of the Antarctic continent is more than a mile above sea level, the highest in the world.

Duke Helped Biographer

PARIS (AP)—The Duke of Windsor Thursday revealed he himself gave to Queen Mary's biographer a letter from his mother in which the Queen criticized him for giving up the throne.

Windsor, however, would not comment on the letter or on the biography of his mother published Thursday in London.

The letter—kept secret for 21 years—revealed that the Queen was bitterly disappointed by Edward VIII's abdication to marry the American divorcee, Wallis Warfield Simpson, and had implored him not to do so "for our sake and for the sake of the country."



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