

HERE AND THERE . . .

October, most of the French air attacks on the rebels were being made with Junkers 52 transports.

All-weather Defence

TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR watch over New York and other east coast cities is now being maintained by Lockheed F-94 all-weather fighters of the 52nd Fighter Wing, U.S.A.F., stationed at Fort Dix, New Jersey. The F-94 is a two-seat, radar-equipped version of the F-80 Shooting Star, and is equipped with an afterburner for increased speed on take-off and climb or in combat.

Helicopter Forecast

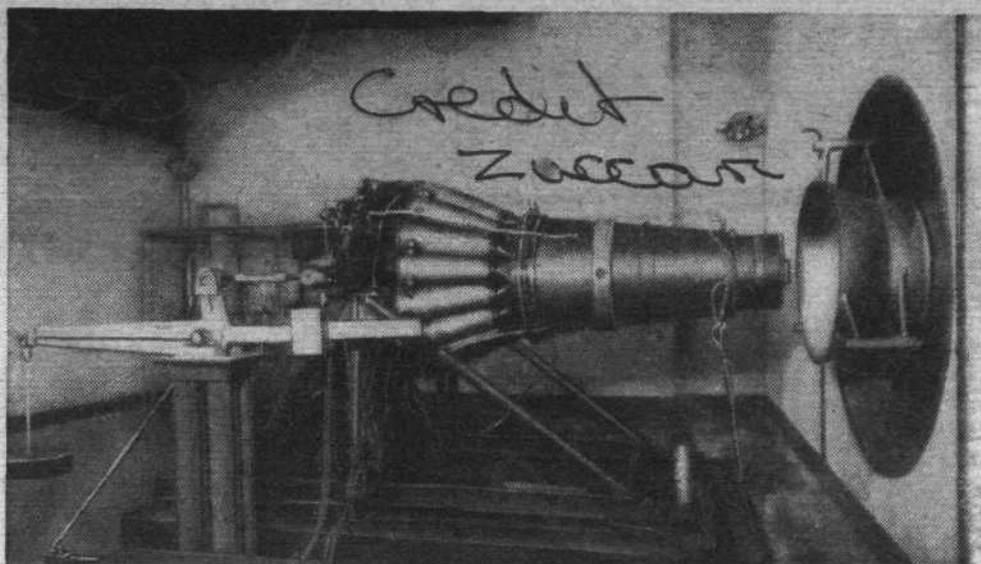
SPEAKING before the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences recently, Mr. Igor Sikorsky forecast the eventual predominance of single-rotor helicopters. He likened their greater aerodynamic efficiency to that of the monoplane, compared with the biplane and triplane. There was no limit in sight to helicopter-size: machines of 50-100,000lb could be constructed in the near future.

Lowering the Curtain

FOLLOWING the recent recriminations over airline operations, Czechoslovakia is now reported to have banned the use of Service or diplomatic aircraft by members of the British, Canadian and American Embassies in Prague. Mr. Ellis Briggs, U.S. Ambassador, was recently refused permission to enter Czechoslovakia in a U.S.A.F. aircraft placed at his disposal, and British and Canadian diplomats were told that it would be better if they did not ask for permission to use military aircraft.

Sabres in the News

NO official statement has been made on recent suggestions that the R.A.F. would receive several hundred North American F-86 Sabres, but the possibility is reported to be "under active consideration." As forecast in *Flight* recently, the Sabre has gone into service with the U.S.A.F. in Korea. December 22nd saw a major clash between Sabres and Mig-15s, when eight of the American fighters met 15-25 Migs. The Sabres were stated to have shot down six of the enemy without suffering loss or damage.



ITALY RE-ARMS : A de Havilland Goblin turbojet on test at the new Fiat experimental establishment at Sangone, Turin. The Fiat concern is to build both Goblines and Ghosts under licence ; Vampires are in production in Italy and, as announced recently, the Venom is also to be built there.

Cause for Concern

ITALY, with a slightly smaller population than the United Kingdom, has more than twice as many private pilots—according to recent statistics compiled by the F.A.I. Switzerland provides an even more striking example of the numerically unhealthy state of private flying in Britain: its private pilots number 6,498, compared with 3,300 here—although

our population is ten times greater. The F.A.I. has compiled the following list of numbers of people practising private flying in six countries for which figures were available (the approximate population of each has been added in brackets): United States, 24,000 (148,000,000); Italy, 7,000 (46,000,000); Switzerland, 6,498 (4,600,000); Denmark, 5,875 (4,200,000); the Netherlands, 3,751 (10,000,000); Britain, 3,300 (48,600,000).

NEWS IN BRIEF

A LECTURE on "The Sensory Basis of Bird Navigation" is being delivered at 5 p.m. to-morrow, January 5th, by Mr. G. V. T. Matthews before the Institute of Navigation, at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7.

For "eminent service to the progress of aeronautical science and to the cause of Franco-American friendship," Mr. Donald W. Douglas, president of the Douglas Aircraft Company, was recently made a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honour. The award was made in Santa Monica by Gen. Murtin, French air attaché in Washington.

Construction of a 25,000 sq ft extension has been started at the Alperton, London, factory of the Glacier Metal Co., Ltd.

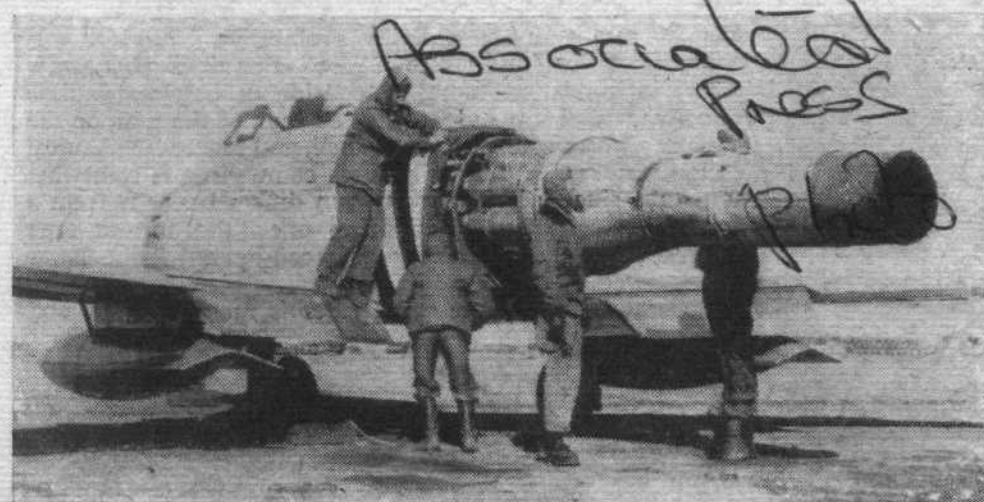
Flight regrets to record the death, which occurred on December 21st, of Mr. M. B. U. Dewar, chairman of British Timken, Ltd.

Col. L. C. Bingham, general sales manager of Verner Time Switches, Ltd., leaves England on January 16th for a high-speed business tour of India and West and South Africa.

A booklet entitled *A Comparison of the Flame-Retardant Properties of Plastic-Insulated and Rubber-Insulated Electric Cable* is now available, price 2s 6d, from the British Plastics Federation, 47-48, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

Bendix Aviation Corporation has appointed Ancillary Developments, Ltd. (managing director, Mr. A. E. Fenn), sole United Kingdom distributors of Pioneer aircraft instruments and spares. A service depot has been opened at Blackbushe under the control of Mr. L. J. Beaumont, production manager of Ancillary Developments' repair organization there.

A 750-ton British Clearing press recently installed at the Bagington, Coventry, works of Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, is the largest press of its kind to be used in a British aircraft factory. Of American design, the press has been built under licence by Vickers-Armstrongs at Newcastle. It has already turned out large batches of pressings for Gloster Meteor fuel tanks



AXIALS IN ACTION : America's axial-flow turbojets are being tested in combat for the first time now that the F-84 (Allison J-35) and F-86 (General Electric J-47) are in action over Korea. Shown receiving attention is one of the Korea-based F-86 Sabres which, as reported above, recently scored a success against Mig-15s. The power-unit is remarkably accessible.