

BREVITIES

It was disclosed at a recent meeting of the Scottish Aerodromes Board in Glasgow that, following a recommendation from the M.C.A., plans for the proposed new terminal buildings at Renfrew Airport are to be prepared forthwith by an Edinburgh architect.

At the opening of a new airport at Devonport, Tasmania, the Australian Minister for Air, the Hon. T. W. White, M.P., revealed that more than 180,000 people, or three-fifths of Tasmania's population, fly across the Bass Strait every year. At a cost of £A1,500,000 a further airport is soon to be built at Cambridge, near Hobart.

It is reported from Greece that a committee of senior Air Force officers is to co-operate with American technicians in evolving new plans for the improvement of Athens airport. A consultant is also at work on a study of the possible reorganization of Greece's airline system.

A S.A.S. DC-4, *Olav Viking*, which is used on special transatlantic freight services, recently flew non-stop from New York to Copenhagen in 17 hr 14 min. Incidentally, Miss Margaret Gudmundsdottir, who was elected "Miss Airways of 1950," at London Airport last summer, has now resigned from Iceland Airways, Ltd., and is serving as a stewardess on S.A.S.'s New York flights.

International Aeradio, Ltd., has secured a new contract by which the company will be responsible for the installation and maintenance of all ground radio equipment in East African territories. A team of technicians has now been assembled for the project, which involves a total of some 28 airfields, including the international airport at Eastleigh. Administration will be handled by the newly created International Aeradio (East Africa), Ltd.

M.C.A. Information Circular No. 122/1950 draws attention to the range of emergency conditions under which use may be made of the V.H.F. channel on 121.5 Mc/s. In addition to its normal distress functions it may also be used to provide a V.H.F. link between aircraft and civil or military surface services engaged in search and rescue operations; to provide air-to-ground communications when the failure of airborne equipment prevents the use of the usual channels; and to provide an R/T link between aircraft and ocean-station vessels when no other channel is available.

Announcing the fact that United Air Lines—America's major internal operators—carried over 2,500,000 passengers last year, Mr. W. A. Patterson, the company's president, forecast that U.S. scheduled operators will achieve further substantial traffic increases this year. Pointing out that air fares are still at approximately pre-war levels while prices of virtually all other products and services have undergone considerable increases, Mr. Patterson emphasized that the continued stability of passenger rates would be one of the principal factors in bringing about further improvements on the considerable progress made in the past year. "Military contract activities, however," he said, "can radically alter this traffic forecast." In December U.A.L. declared their first dividend since 1946.

AFRICA MODERNIZES:

In these pages last week we gave news of the delivery of Convairliners to Ethiopian Airlines, Inc. One of these machines, already sporting the company's gay markings, is seen during a recent demonstration of single-engined take-offs with JATO (fitted as standard equipment) at San Diego, California. Each of the aircraft will make a 9,000-mile delivery flight.

About one thousand orphans of from six months to eleven years in age have been flown from the mainland to an island sanctuary off South Korea in fifteen twin-engined American transports.

Newly elected vice-president and comptroller of Panagra (Pan American-Grace Airways) is Mr. Kenneth A. Lawder. The president, Mr. Andrew B. Shea, made this announcement before the Christmas holiday.

Bharat Airways, Ltd., recently extended their Far Eastern service from Bangkok to Singapore. Initial frequency entails a weekly Skymaster flight; aircraft leave Calcutta just before midnight on Fridays and return on Sundays.

P.A.W.A. have concluded a contract with the U.S. Air Force to give training to flying personnel of the Military Air Transport Service on the Dehmel flight-simulator. Since this device was put into operation in November, 1948, it has been used in the training of 102 complete crews.

With the recent addition of four newly purchased DC-4s to their trans-Pacific fleet, C.P.A. are now using a total of five four-engined machines on international routes between Vancouver and the Antipodes, Tokyo and Hongkong. Since early September C.P.A. have had to provide two services weekly carrying capacity loads of United Nations personnel to the Korean theatre of war.

In spite of the fact that events in Korea are said to have had an adverse effect on traffic, particularly that originating in America, Swissair reports considerably improved results for the first nine months of 1950. The total of passengers carried was 150,482, as compared with 119,428 in the corresponding period of the previous year, while the amount of freight lifted rose from 1,003,720kg to 1,490,379kg. The increase in mail traffic was in similar proportion.

S.A.S. has announced a new system of "group fares" by which each passenger travelling in a party of 15 or more adults by the same routing to the same destination may obtain a 10 per cent discount on his ticket. The scheme, which is effective from tomorrow, January 5th, is applicable when passengers are travelling between most European countries and is conditional on the organized party having a common interest in travelling together other than that of qualifying for the discount offered.

The General Electric Co., Ltd., has received an order from B.E.A. to supply 525 electrically heated food- and liquid-containers, which will be fitted as standard equipment in all the Corporation's aircraft. The containers are insulated metal boxes, approximately 16in high x 8in square; achievement of high thermal efficiency has enabled the power consumption of the heating elements to be kept down to only 200 watts. Each

