



**Super Staggered** This home-built monoplane (biplane?), designed and constructed by Jo Desprez, of Morlaix in Brittany, is reported to "incorporate novel devices for low-speed control"

## WORLD NEWS...

### BEA/Okanagan Link for Oil Search

A new operating company, with the proposed name of International Helicopters, has been formed by BEA Helicopters and Okanagan Helicopters of Vancouver. It will charter aircraft from the two holding companies and its first work will be to operate S-61Ns in the North Sea area for Shell UK Exploration and Production—which will be working in concession areas held jointly by Shell and Esso—and for other companies.

The contract is for two years and two S-61s will be used initially. BEA has a third on order for delivery in March, 1965, and Okanagan is also expected to order. BEA's new S-61N will have special long-range tanks to give the endurance necessary to operate to and from the oil rigs, which are some distance offshore.

Chairman of the new company—which will probably be owned fifty-fifty by BEA and Okanagan—is to be Lord Balfour of Inchrye, chairman of BEA Helicopters; vice-chairman will be Mr Glen McPherson, president of Okanagan, whose vice-president of operations, Mr Fred Snell, will be general manager of the North Sea operations.



### Photographic Interpreter

Mr Charles Brown, doyen of air-to-air photographers, who has been photographing aeronautical subjects with consummate skill for over 50 years, received the C. P. Robertson Memorial Trophy for his achievements in interpreting the RAF to the public. Making the presentation at the RAF Club is seen the CAS, Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Elworthy

### Royal Medal for Prof Lighthill

A Royal Medal of the Royal Society has been awarded for 1964 to Prof M. J. Lighthill, FRS, until recently Director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment and now a Royal Society research professor at Imperial College. In an address to the Society on November 30, Sir Howard Florey, its president, said: "It is rare to find someone so thoroughly at home both in the applied world where engineers need guidance in the design of important apparatus, and in the pure mathematical world. His ability to bring these two worlds together shows him to be one of the outstanding mathematicians of our day."

### EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

A vacancy exists on the staff of *Flight* for an editorial trainee aged between 18 and 22. Preference will be given to applicants with practical or academic experience of the aviation industry, manufacturing or operating, and also to those with piloting experience. Candidates should have an exceptional all-round interest in aviation, and also a flair for clear, expressive writing. Starting salary £550 to £900, depending on age and qualifications. Applications, addressed to the Editor, should list experience and qualifications.

### Macchi Denies South African Sales

A spokesman for Aer Macchi denied last week persistent unofficial reports in South Africa that his company would sell MB 326 jet trainers to that country. There had been no negotiations with South Africa, he said.

Although the statement is ambiguous in that it does not rule out the sale of a production licence, it lends further weight to the prediction, made in these pages recently that the French Fouga Magister will prove to be the type selected to be built by the newly formed Atlas Aircraft Company in South Africa.

### Third Biggin Hill Air Fair

The third international Air Travel Fair will be held at Biggin Hill during May 13-16, 1965. Fifteen aircraft and helicopters will give pleasure flights, and the exhibition and flying programme will generally follow the same lines as at the previous two fairs. Announcing the event, the organizing committee comments: "Only 16 per cent of the population of this country have flown. The fair was started to tell the other 84 per cent that flying is safe and that they can afford it."



Capt. V. N. Shirodkar, Air-India's divisional operations manager, who commanded the Boeing 707 in which Pope Paul VI flew from Rome to Bombay on December 2. He has logged more than 18,750hr since joining Air-India in 1942

### Russian Crop Spraying Figures

In the first three-quarters of the year Soviet agricultural aircraft sprayed nearly 120m acres of crops.

Announcing this in Moscow, Mr Ivan Bakhatin, deputy head of the agricultural aviation division of the Soviet Ministry of Civil Aviation, said that before the year was over another 5m-8m acres would be sprayed. Next year about 125m acres would be sprayed, 160m acres in 1966 and 370m acres in 1970.

### "Comet" Revised

The famous Comet Hotel at Hatfield, Herts, near the works of Hawker Siddeley's de Havilland Division, has re-opened after a £60,000 modernization by the owners, Ind Coope; and a further £50,000 extension is planned for next year. A new model of the original DH 88 Comet was recently unveiled in the courtyard by Gp Capt John Cunningham, director and chief test pilot of the Division.