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This trial installation of an Alvis Leonides engine in a Rockwell Thrush Commander, above left, was shown during the agricultural aviation convention ot Las Vegas. The three Trislanders delivered to East Africa were seen at Nairobi, Wilson, Airport, above. The Sunbird Wing Safari aircraft was in for maintenance at Wilken Aviation, an associated company of CMC Aviation, Britten-Norman distributors in the region

Air New England buys SD3-30s The largest single order for the SD3-30 was announced by Shorts on December 19. Air New England, the Boston-based local-service carrier, requires six for delivery during 1976 and has placed options on two more; the value of the order is over £4 million.

Shorts regard the selection of the SD3-30 by Air New England as particularly significant since the carrier is certificated and is therefore not bound by the restrictive criteria of Part 298. It was revision of this rule, to allow aircraft of up to 30-seat capacity to be operated by un-certificated carriers, which led to the development of the SD3-30.

Reviewing the company's programmes, Shorts' chairman Air Marshal Sir Edouard Grundy said that the financial year ended August 31, 1974, had shown "a small but respectable profit after all deductions." He said that the development of the SD3-30 was going well; it was "on cost and on time." Commenting on the likelihood of nationalisa-tion, he remarked that nearly 70 per cent of Shorts' shares were already owned by the British Government. Nationalisation, which Sir . douard did not think was likely to be rushed, would make little difference to the trading and commercial position of the company.
The SD3-30 is scheduled to make its first visit to the United States during the early summer when noise measurements for FAR Part 36 certification will be made at Fresno; hot and high airfield trials will follow.

Air-taxi operators busy By the end of 1974 the Air Taxi Operators' Association, Atoa, included 42 full member companies which carried approximately 400,000 passengers during the year. The member companies' 150 aircraft flew 65,000hr and the cargo uplift was nearly two million kg. Commenting on the figures, Mr Eric Thurston, Atoa chair-man, said that the figures illustrated how essential were the services provided by air taxis to the industry and commerce of the United Kingdom. "The performance of established air-taxi companies during the rigorous con-ditions of 1974, when industrialists have been paring every item of expenditure to a minimum, demonstrates the continuing need for, and value of, executive air taxi services."

Canadian local service restored Routes in Manitoba and Saskatchewan which were abandoned throughout 1974 by the original operator, Transair, are to be restored by Prairie Air Services which has ordered two Saunders ST27Bs for the purpose. The service is expected to be subsidised! by the twoi Governments.

First Learjet 35 delivered Mesa Petroleum of Amarillo, Texas, has taken delivery of the first production Learjet
35. The company has previously operated a Model 25B. Utilisation is expected to be 50hr per month.

A Sikorsky S-6IN of Bristow Helicopters seen during a recent woter-landing training exercise near its Aberdeen base