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Jugoslavs overturn Zagreb judgement
A COURT order issued in Jugoslavia has quashed the conviction of Gradi-mir Tasic, the controller imprisoned after the September 1976 Trident/ DC-9 collision over Zagreb.
The full accident report has never been published by the Jugoslav Government, but Tasic was blamed for negligence and served 27 months of a seven-year sentence. Claims on the Jugoslavian Government arising from the deaths of all 162 passengers and 14 crew have always been defer-red, and now the blame is being shifted to the British Airways Trident crew for being off course.
On the original judgement, which blamed Tasic and also found deficien-cies in the ATC system, the Jugo-slav Government's liability would have amounted to much more than the airlines' Warsaw Convention limits of about £4 million.
The British authorities have been advised of the overturned judgement, but are unlikely to recognise it.

MX basing
breaks Salt II

THE USA plans to violate the spirit of Salt II by basing 100 MX ballistic mis-siles on silos only 1,800ft apart. The arms limitation agreement, never rati-fied by the USA, but adhered to by both sides, forbids the construction of new silos.

The closely spaced basing system, with all 100 missiles contained within 12 square miles, relies on a phenom-enon known as nuclear fratricide— within the confined space, the first explosion neutralises, blows up, or blows off course incoming missile war-heads. The MX missiles, in silos super-hardened to withstand a S.OOOlb/in* blast overpressure, would survive.

Another KC-10

delivered

Long Beach The US Air Force has taken delivery of its seventh KC-10 A at a ceremony given by McDonnell Douglas, reports Alison Chambers. The aircraft is the first of six to be delivered to the USAF this year.
The aircraft was presented to chief of the USAF Reserve Maj General Richard Bodycombe by Robert John-son, corporate vice-president of McDonnell Douglas, and will be flown to Barksdale Air Force Base in Los Angeles.
McDonnell Douglas plans to hand over an additional four KC-lOAs in 1983. The USAF has announced plans to order 60 aircraft.

fpP

Cosmonauts Anatoli Berezovoi and Valentin Lebedev were launched by Soyuz T-5 from Baikonur last month. Later this month they should be joined in Salyut 7 by the Franco-Soviet mission

Date fixed for

Franco-Soviet

mission
JUNE 24 has been fixed as the launch date for the Franco-Soviet space mis-sion. French cosmonaut Jean-Loup Chretien will be launched in a Soyuz T capsule with Vladimir Djanibekov and Alexander Ivanchenkov, after which the three men will join Cdr Anatoli Berezovoy and flight engineer Valentin Lebedov on board the Salyut 7 space station. This will be the first East-West space mission since the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz link-up.

Preparations aboard Salyut 7 con-tinued on May 25 with the docking of the Progress 13 cargo craft. This contained more than two tonnes of cargo, including fuel, water, food, research equipment, and mail. Pro-gress 13 has several improvements over previous examples, including spherical water - containing vessels placed on the ship's outer surface.

Canada wants to

build helicopter
A CANADIAN government working party is examining the technical and market possibilities of building heli-copters. Canada is looking at both the domestic and worldwide market to see if there is room for another helicopter manufacturer. The home market is estimated to be worth $3,000 million over the next ten years, and Aerospatiale is said to have been in touch with existing Canadian airframe and component manufacturers, look-

ing for possible joint ventures. This would present th e French manufac-turer with an opportunity to replace Canada's fleet of military helicopters, which totals more than 190.
About 1,500 (mainly US) helicop-ters are operated commercially in Canada, and Edward Owen of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, says that the replacement market could be worth $60 million a year. But even this market size is not considered large enough for Canada to enter unaided, unless specialised machines are built which do not face so much international competition. The working party is expected to report in September.

Fokker tests

quieter F.27
FOKKER has been flight-testing an F.27 in Spain to obtain certification for the addition of hush-kits to the type's Rolls-Royce Dart 7 engines. The testing has been carried out at Granada Airport, which satisfies the stringent wind, temperature, and humidity conditions specified by the certification flight-test procedures. The hush-kits are fitted to the en-gines' air intakes, and Fokker says that earlier flight-testing revealed that they bring about a noise reduction during approach and taxiing of at least 6 EPNdB without affecting engine performance. The F.27's Darts already comply with existing Icao and FAA noise regulations, but in-stallation of the hush-kits should allow the type to meet the most stringent regulations being applied to the latest turboprop aircraft designs.

Nicaragua joins
USSR's Sputnik
AS part of a $200 million aid package recently signed between Nicaragua and the USSR, the South American state is to be linked to the Russian Satellite International Telecommuni-cations Systems Sputnik. Marne Ser-rano, the director of Nicaragua's state-run telecommunications com-pany (Telcor), has announced that work would begin early next year on the ground station.

The cost of the project is esti-mated to be $2 5 million, and is ex-pected to be completed by the end of 1983. Nicaragua is already connected to the North American Telsat satel-lite, but the Sputnik link will connect Nicaragua directly with the countries of the Socialist bloc, and a number of countries in Africa and Asia. Other Latin American states will also be able to direct telecommunications to
these countries through Nicaragua's
Sputnik connection, and Telcor anti-
cipates that this will be a valuable
source of foreign exchange to help
the country's struggling economy.

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