WORLD NEWS

Delta

leases

737s
ATLANTA

Delta has just made an inter-
esting tactical move by bring-
ing Boeing 737s into its fleet
for the first time. The airline
is to lease 33 brand-new
737-232s in a complex deal
with the manufacturer
whereby Boeing will buy 11 of
Delta's older (amortised) Tri-
Stars when the 737s start to
arrive in this year's third
quarter.

The leasing deal is not con-
ducted directly with Boeing. A
"major capital finance
organisation" buys the 737s
and leases them to Delta.

The airline explains its
move as a transitional one:
these aircraft are to work
at feeding Delta's major
hubs—Atlanta, Boston, Cinci-
natti, and Dallas—while the
carrier waits for the "Delta 3"
new-technology 150-seater
that it hopes one of the major
manufacturers will produce
before 1990. There is a pro-
vision in the leasing terms to
cancel after eight years if
Delta buys the "Delta 3" or
another Boeing aircraft. "It
lets us keep our options open,"
a spokesman explains.

McDonnell Douglas, with
its DC-9 Super 80, was "a
major contender right up to
the last minute" for this deal.

Mirage
IIING flies

ISTRES

The prototype Mirage IIING
made its maiden flight at Is-
tres on December 21.
Dassault-Breguet says that
the aircraft reached Mach 1
and a height of 35,000ft dur-
ing its successful lhr flight,
with Dassault test pilot
Patrick Experton at the con-
trols.

Designed and built in a
year, the Mach 2+ fighter is
based on the Mirage III air-
frame but has the Mirage
F.l's Snecma Atar 9K50 tur-
bojet, intake-mounted ca-
nards, leading-edge root ex-

tensions, and avionics from
the Mirage 2000 and F.l.
The fly-by-wire (FBW)
flight control system is de-
rived from that of the Mirage
2000, and the IIING has the
Thomson-CSF Cyrano IV air-
to-air and air-to-surface radar
from the F.l. The Sagem in-
ertial navigation system and
Thomson-CSF headup dis-
play are fitted.

Egypt to
assemble F-7s
Egypt intends to buy 60 to 80
Shenyang F-7s for local as-
sembly under Chinese super-
vision, according to the coun-
try's defence minister,
Field-Marshal Abdel Halim
Abu Ghazala. The F-7 is the
Chinese-built MiG-21 Fish-
bed F, which is understood to
have better engines and weap-
ons then the Soviet-built MiG
21s. Egypt already operates at
least 100 Soviet- and Chinese-
built MiG-21/F-7s.

Soviet cruise
missile on test
Soviet Premier Yuri An-
dropov says that the Soviet
Union "is testing a long-range
cruise missile to counter the
United States' long-range
cruise missile".

In a speech to the Kremlin,
Andropov said the Soviet
Union was prepared to cut
back strategic arms by more
than 25 per cent if the USA
would do the same.

Stansted or T5?

HEATHROW

British Airways is about to
launch officially its campaign
for a fifth terminal at Heath-
row as an alternative to devel-
oping Stansted. The Stansted
Inquiry Board, as part of its
investigation into whether
London needs a third airport
developed, starts to look at
the Heathrow fifth terminal
idea from January 11. BA
says it does not want
to find itself operating
from three bases—Heathrow,
Gatwick, and Stansted. Politi-
cal opinion, influenced by
slow traffic growth in the re-
cession, is swinging away from
the Stansted idea.

RAF to

buyBAel46
The Royal Air Force is to buy
two British Aerospace BAe
146-lOOs for £15 million, with
delivery early next summer.
The 146s will be evaluated
over a two-year period, mainly
for inter-Europe passenger/
general transport with a
secondary aeromedical-evacu-
ation role. The aircraft will be
based at RAF Brize Norton,
Oxfordshire.

After the evaluation, which
will include use by the
Queen's Flight, the Service
will consider the longer-range
BAe.146-200 as replacements
for the Queen's Flight An-
dovers. The 146-lOOs Might
then be traded-in for -200s.

FLIGHT
NEXT WEEK

Scandinavia's aerospace
industry is the subject >>! a
study l,v Peter MiddletotV
an-J T'K'i'fi'd Whitaker.

Cliff Harnett describes the.
qualities of Finland's Pik-
r tug.

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We show how the money
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it may be the biggest cma-r
• muter carrier in. the VASkl
Chris Kjelgaarf explains. -.

Graham Warwick -.reports
on the Hughes Wasp aiiit-
armour missile.::

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Cessna launches
the Caravan
Cessna's Caravan, now flying
from Wichita, has ended a
long period of speculation
about the company's new tur-
boprop single. Engine is a
PT6A-114 flat-rated to 600
h.p., and gross weight is either
6,7001b (land) or 7,0501b
(seaplane/amphibian). Total
cabin volume is 340ft3

, with
rear-fuselage air-stair door
and two-piece cargo doors.
Fuel capacity is 330 US gal
and payload 3,0001b. FAA cer-
tification is expected in 1984
with full production in 1985.

Cessna's Caravan spans nearly 52ft and should have a 3,000lb payload

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FLIGHT International, 1 January 19'