

Regionals become CAI feeders

MONTREAL

Quebecair, Nordair Metro, and Quebec Aviation have joined the Canadian Airlines International route network under the name Inter-Canadian. They will continue to operate separately, but all aircraft will carry the Inter-Canadian name and CAI colours.

The name change and a new commercial agreement are designed to consolidate CAI strength in Quebec and increase frequency on many routes. Inter-Canadian will share the CP flight designator, common ticketing, reservation, and ground services.

The new move follows the recent sale of Quebecair to private interests for C\$5 million, and the announcement of the airline's plans to lease four Fokker 100s for

service in mid-1988. Around 300 of Quebecair's ground workers have been on strike since July 10, with 50 flight attendants joining them on August 5, in protest at pay cuts.

DHC ends Dash 7 programme

TORONTO

De Havilland Canada is to end production of the Dash 7 and Twin Otter in the middle of next year. It will concentrate on developing a new family of aircraft around the Dash 8.

Production of the Dash 7 will end with the completion of the 114th aircraft, while Dash 8 production will be stepped up to three and then four aircraft a month.

A total of 82 Dash 8s has now been delivered, and the company holds orders for 62

more, with options on another 24. Orders for the 56-seat series 300 now total 23, with options on a further 11.

DHC now says it is committed to developing a new 70-seat series 400 version of the Dash 8, which would compete against the British Aerospace ATP and the ATR72, as well as the bottom end of the small-jet class. The company also sees an opportunity to fill the niche between 70 and 90 seats with a DHC-designed and developed turboprop, or a share in any new jet programme initiated by Boeing.

Cargo and combi versions of the Dash 8 are under development, together with a military version for the anti-submarine-warfare and low-cost maritime patrol market, to be known as the Dash 8M.

Since its first flight in May 1965, more than 830 Twin Otters have been built, and three more will be completed before the production line closes down. DHC officials say there is a possibility that another manufacturer will produce the aircraft under licence.

NEWS SCAN

Manchester Airport, the third largest in the UK, has received a £5 million loan from the European Investment Bank. The money will go towards expansion and development of the passenger terminal, car parks, the cargo area, and improvements to the runway turning circle and taxiway systems. The cash is part of a £10 million loan granted to the city to help generate new investment in the area.

The Chinese authorities have granted a joint venture licence to Lufthansa's \$200 million business centre in Beijing. The complex will contain office blocks, apartments, a hotel and shops, and will be open to both German and other visiting businessmen. Lufthansa has a technical co-operation agreement with CAAC, the Chinese national carrier, and operates three flights a week from Frankfurt to Beijing.



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