

JOB No. G. 86.

Tel. No. Trafalgar 8811
Extn.

INFORMATION DIVISION,

AIR MINISTRY,

WHITEHALL GARDENS,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

15th December, 1952.

Dear Sir,

The first main delivery of the three to four hundred F.86E Sabre jet aircraft which the Royal Air Force are to receive under Mutual Defence Assistance Programme arrangements made between the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States, are scheduled to reach this country ~~next~~ ^{the} week after a Transatlantic flight.

They will be flown in convoy from Canada to the United Kingdom by Royal Air Force ferry pilots of Royal Air Force Transport Command, who have been converted on to these aircraft.

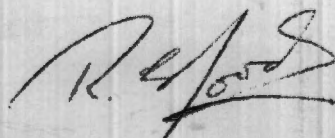
On Friday next (19th December) at Royal Air Force Station, Abingdon, Berks., the first of these Sabres will be officially handed over to the Royal Air Force by the Canadian Minister of Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, and the Under Secretary of State for Air, Mr. George Ward, M.P., will officially receive them on behalf of the United Kingdom and the Royal Air Force.

It is hoped that among other distinguished visitors at the ceremony will be: The Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. Norman A. Robertson; the Air Member for Supply and Organisation, Air Marshal Sir John Whitworth Jones and other Members of Air Council, Air Marshal Sir Robert M. Foster, Commander-in-Chief, 2nd Tactical Air Force, Germany, Air Vice-Marshal C.E.N. Guest, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Royal Air Force Transport Command, and Air Commodore M. Costello, Air Member Canadian Joint Staff in the United Kingdom.

Before the handing-over ceremony there will be a fly-past by the Sabres, followed by an inspection of aircraft and crews by the Canadian Minister of Defence and the Under-Secretary of State for Air. The Canadian Minister of Defence will take the salute at a march past, after which the Press will be given opportunities to interview and photograph the Royal Air Force ferry pilots. Some of the home towns or counties of the pilots are: Bath, Herefordshire, London, Hull, (Yorkshire), Berkshire, Doncaster (Yorkshire), Derbyshire, Darlington (Durham), Edinburgh, and Hertfordshire.

Transport will leave Air Ministry, Horse Guards Avenue, S.W. 1., at 9 a.m. on Friday (19th December). I should be grateful if you will notify Information Division, Trafalgar 8811, Extensions 6151 and 6152 if you wish to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the ceremony.

Yours sincerely,



for Chief Information Officer

The Editor,

Arranged for Transport.