

CANADA MAY HAVE "SAUCER"

Reuter Correspondent

OTTAWA. — Canada may be working on the development of a flying saucer.

The Defence Production Department — perhaps deliberately — has thrown a mantle of confusion over the whole question.

Some officials say a "saucer" is being built — others deny it.

One official has been quoted in Canadian papers as saying he has "never heard a thing about it."

Others are reported to have confirmed that Avro Canada is doing experimental work on a "highly unconventional type of flying saucer supersonic aircraft."

Those who have confirmed these newspaper reports say the exposure has caused a good deal of concern at Defence headquarters.

quarters.

'Years away'

Those officials who say that Avro is working on a saucer are careful to add that any application of the theories being explored is still "many years away."

One said that many large companies in Canada were doing experimental work on radical defence projects which were in the same stage of planning as the flying saucer aircraft.

The saucer is claimed

to be a revolutionary type of aircraft embodying a gyroscopic principle which might allow supersonic speeds and a vertical take-off, eliminating car-

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riers and runways.

Some newspaper reports claim a wooden mock-up of the saucer is hidden away in super-security at Avro Canada.

One unnamed British Air Ministry official is quoted as saying, "It will make everything obsolete—if it flies."

Realist

The "saucer believers" point to the recent action of the Canadian Defence Production Minister, Mr C. D. Howe, who has stoutly resisted efforts of the RCAF to launch the Government on the development of a successor to the Canadian long-range jet fighter, CF-100.

Those who believe Canadian aircraft scientists are tinkering with a flying saucer argue that Mr Howe is a hardy realist who has never before flinched at expense when it was required for Canada's security.

They also note that nearly half of Canada's 2,225 million dollar defence Budget for 1953 has been labelled for the Air Force.