

Air Force Program On Sneak Attacks Goes Into High Gear

Washington, May 16—(UP)—The air force defense program against sneak atomic attacks has moved into high gear after years of secret planning.

But a spokesman said the department still needs a great deal of the latest radar and other equipment before the defense network will be able to police the continental air space adequately.

To Detect Planes

The program is intended to keep enemy planes from slipping undetected across U. S. borders to drop A-bombs on vital targets. It calls for \$161 million worth of radar and related equipment, but so far congress has not appropriated the funds.

Eventually all air space over the United States will be policed. Right now the air force is concentrating protection around atomic plants and over the northwestern and northeastern states and Alaska.

Under the present air "screen" program, all pilots flying over designated areas are required to file flight plans with the civil aeronautics administration. If the radar network locates an unidentified plane, speedy jet fighter planes are sent to intercept and identify the craft.

In addition, a civil air defense program provides for a corps of 150,000 trained aircraft observers operating lookout stations to supplement the air detection stations.

Underway Two Years

The air force will not say how far along the program has progressed, but it admits the sky policing has been underway for two years.

The first installations were put into operation within a 100-mile radius of the atomic energy plants at Oak Ridge, Tenn., Hanford, Wash., and Los Alamos, N. M.

Northwestern states and Alaska also got a priority because they are on the shortest air route between the United States and Russia.

An air force spokesman said radar detection units also are in use in northeastern and eastern coastal states. But he said this is "strictly an emergency operation with the equipment we had in World War II."

"It isn't even close to what we need," he said.

Air Screen Asked
The eastern air defense calls for an air screen from the Canadian border south to Norfolk, Va., and 200 miles out to sea. Canada is cooperating on the program for protection above the border.

The air force will not say what

is being done in the Great Lakes area, but it recently served notice that it will intercept all unidentified aircraft crossing the Canadian border in the Michigan-Ohio defense area. It also disclosed that it will build four secret installations in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa.

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Sinatra to Beat Retreat From Ava

Tossa Del Mar, Spain, May 16 (UP)—Frank Sinatra said glumly today that he and Ava Gardner had decided it was a mistake for him to come to Spain to see her.

The crooner said he had made a plane reservation to fly to Paris Thursday, a week after his arrival on the Mediterranean coast where the Hollywood actress is making a movie.

"We know now that because of all this publicity it was a mistake for me to come here," Sinatra said. "I came to Spain only to see Ava, and now I'm going to Paris."

His decision to beat a retreat came soon after both he and the actress, in separate interviews, had hinted that they would be thinking strongly about marriage but for the fact that he has a wife, Nancy.

Sinatra insisted that it was publicity and not Mario Cabre, a Spanish bullfighter-actor with an avowed love for Miss Gardner, that was chasing him out of Spain.

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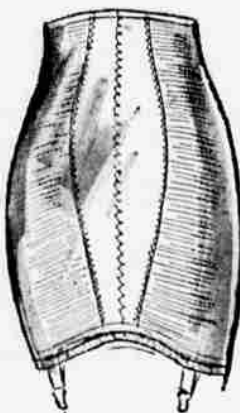
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