

FLASHES

Premier Mendes-France was the loneliest man in the assembly. He knew he was going to be defeated and probably *see* all his good work for European unity thrown away.

20 French political irresponsibility had triumphed again.

Colonial representatives were interviewed and M. Pinay was asked to form a Government. French agreement on German rearmament looks like being postponed.

An x-ray apparatus light enough for use on the battlefield was demonstrated at Fort Knox. It's powered by a little piece of thullium, ^{a mineral} which stays radio-active for a year. To frontline casualties the 48-pound machine is easily carried. It needs no water, electricity or dark room. The developer is a self-contained film-holder with radio-active paper instead of film, and within ten minutes of setting up, the finished radiograph is ready. It's for the U.S. Army to begin with. But imagine what a boon it will be everywhere before long.

The Latest vertical take-off plane ~~mm~~ was tested in America.

Two jet engines on either side of the fuselage can be turned round, first to take the plane off the ground, then back to normal position for level flight. That part of the programme is still secret, so on this test the plane rose and hovered only.

(flag) 20 The descent was just as easy. It's beginning to look as if the problems of vertical take-off are being solved. Perhaps large aerodromes will soon be thing of the past.