

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

The giant "Ukrainia" turbo-prop is the newest of Russia's civil aircraft on show, in Moscow. Another's the "Moskva", still under development. Foreign experts and air attaches - including British - are invited to the display. They are particularly interested in the TU-104, the world's fastest civil aircraft now in service. Russia has at least 50 of these liners on round-the-clock schedules; Britain's equivalent, the Comet IV, won't be in service till next year. The battle for the Blue Riband of the Air grows keener.

A T.U.104 brings a royal passenger on a State visit - King Mohammed Zahir Shah of Afghanistan. President Voroshilov greets him - also Khrushchev, Bulganin, and Marshal Zhukov.

The Afghan ruler takes the salute. Afghanistan, bordering both Russia and India, has long been watched and wooed by the rulers of the Kremlin - whether Csars or Commissars. Personalities and ideologies change - but geography doesn't!