

Paris, February 27, 1961

**General de GAULLE INAUGURATES NEW ORLY AIR TERMINAL**  
**35 mn. developed positive: 29 meters - 97 ft**

The new \$34,000,000 Air Terminal Building at Orly - four years in construction and completed 24 hours ahead of schedule - was officially inaugurated by President Charles de Gaulle before a distinguished and numerous assistance. Surrounded by members of his cabinet and french and foreign officials, General de Gaulle visited - in 40 minutes - the giant ultra-modern installations, and made a speech from a platform at the far end of the large hall stressing the forward and modern ideals shown in this grand realization of french Industries and art.

The main building in which all the passenger services are concentrated is the vastest erected in France since LouisXIV ordered the construction of the Invalides some 300 years ago. Its nine stories - two of them underground contain a total of 1,000,000 square feet of fleet space, the equivalent of the whole length of one side of the Champs Elysees.

Last year Orly handled 2,600,000 air passengers. The total this year is expected to be about 3 million. With planned extensions which will give Orly-airport a surface of one fifth of the city of Paris- the airport will be able to take care of 8 million passengers a year.

The installations include all facilities for passengers, restaurant, hotels, duty-free shops, and even a chapel. Of course a movie-theater and television sets everywhere.

At present 24 planes can be handled simultaneously, and 200 arrivals and departures in a single 24-hour period. At the opening to traffic of the new terminal in early March from 8,000 to 9,000 passengers can be handled daily.

The airport is linked to Paris by a special branch of the new Great Southern Thoroughway, and by the main Paris-Fontainebleau Highway - on which the terminal buildings straddles, and over which the main runway (sturdy enough to support a plane of 250 tons) passes on a concrete bridge.