

RAAF TO MAKE RAIN IN VICTORIA SOON

Special fluid will replace dry ice in new tests

IMPORTANT rain-making tests will be made in Victoria soon. A RAAF Dakota, at present being fitted out, will play a leading part in the tests, using a special fluid instead of the dry ice which was used in previous tests.

RAAF headquarters said yesterday that a Dakota was being fitted with a number of tanks capable of holding 700 gallons of the special fluid.

Rain is expected to develop when the fluid is sprayed on to clouds.

When the Dakota has passed tests it will commence flying duties in collaboration with the CSIR. It will be in charge of Communications Flight at Laverton.

Sprays about 8ft long are being fitted underneath the aircraft to eject the fluid. The tests will be made by Flight-Lieut H. Slape, a Victorian member of the Air Force.

Flight-Lieut Slape recently played an important part in aerial spraying of hordes of grasshoppers that invaded cereal crops in the State. He brought the "invasion" to a halt with a number of Beaufighters using wing tanks. They covered more than 30,000 acres of crops and grasslands.

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