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Caravelle III of Aviation Museum Society will be placed on display in Turku

On September 23rd 1986 the Convair 440 Metropolitan, which had been removed from use in the Finnair fleet, was towed into the Hall II of the Finnish Aviation Museum, still under construction at the time. After that no commercial aircraft have been placed on display in the Finnish aviation museums.

In Finland especially the aircraft of the early decades of the jet age are missing from the museums. This doesn't mean that there hasn't been attempts to get old commercial aircraft, with a background in Finland, to be brought to Finland. The Super Caravelle project ended in 2008 in the seller's decision to have the aircraft scrapped and in 2015 the seller of the so-called short DC-9 withdrew from the project. It is unlikely that an old commercial jet aircraft with a background in Finland could still be found and brought to Finland.

Therefore, it is understandable that the Aviation Museum Society Finland took the opportunity, when the Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museums announced that they were willing to give up the Caravelle III aircraft SE-DAF, which had been standing at the Arlanda airfield since 1974 waiting for its fate. The Aviation Museum Society launched a project which aimed to transport the Caravelle to Finland and to place it on display. The aircraft is of the same type which Finnair took into service in the beginning of the 1960s and moved into the jet age.

The Aviation Museum Society had hoped to place the Caravelle III on display in the Finnish Aviation Museum, but there was no room for it there – nor in the new museum which will be built. In spite of this, the Aviation Museum Society decided to continue the project because if the aircraft isn't brought to Finland, the alternative is scrapping. One of the main aims of the society, founded in 1969, is to preserve aviation history. Therefore, the society has been looking for possible sites for the Caravelle – and now the site has been found.

The airport company Finavia and Aviation Museum Society Finland have agreed that the Sud Aviation SE 210 Caravelle III aircraft will be placed on display at Turku airport. During the modification works of the airport area a site will be cleared for the aircraft on the south-west side of the airport terminal. This will be the long-term location for the Caravelle, which will be painted into the colours the aircraft type had in Finland.

As the location for the aircraft has been confirmed, the Aviation Museum Society's Caravelle-project will be properly launched. The aircraft will be restored in Turku, so the transportation distance from Arlanda will be 160 kilometres shorter as it will not be transported to the Helsinki metropolitan area. When the Covid-19 pandemic is finally over in Finland and in Sweden, it is finally possible to go to Arlanda and examine and approve the aircraft. Then the necessary parts will be dismantled before it is transported to Finland. The transportation will probably happen in the summer 2022.

Now that the location for the Caravelle has been set, the sponsor negotiations will also begin. Aviation Museum Society Finland has estimated that the transportation, restoration and placing on display will require about 500 000 euros during a period of several years. The Aviation Museum Society welcomes to the Caravelle-project all who wish to support it financially or operationally.

As a concrete reminder of the Caravelle-project and of the Caravelle III which will be placed on display at Turku airport, we reveal today a part of the Caravelle which will be located in Turku. The object is the Caravelle's landing gear, which weighs about 500 kg. It was donated to the Caravelle-project by Finnair Oyj, GE Telesis Engine Services Oy and Swissport Finland Oy in the summer 2021.

More information:

www.caravelle-projekti.fi

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