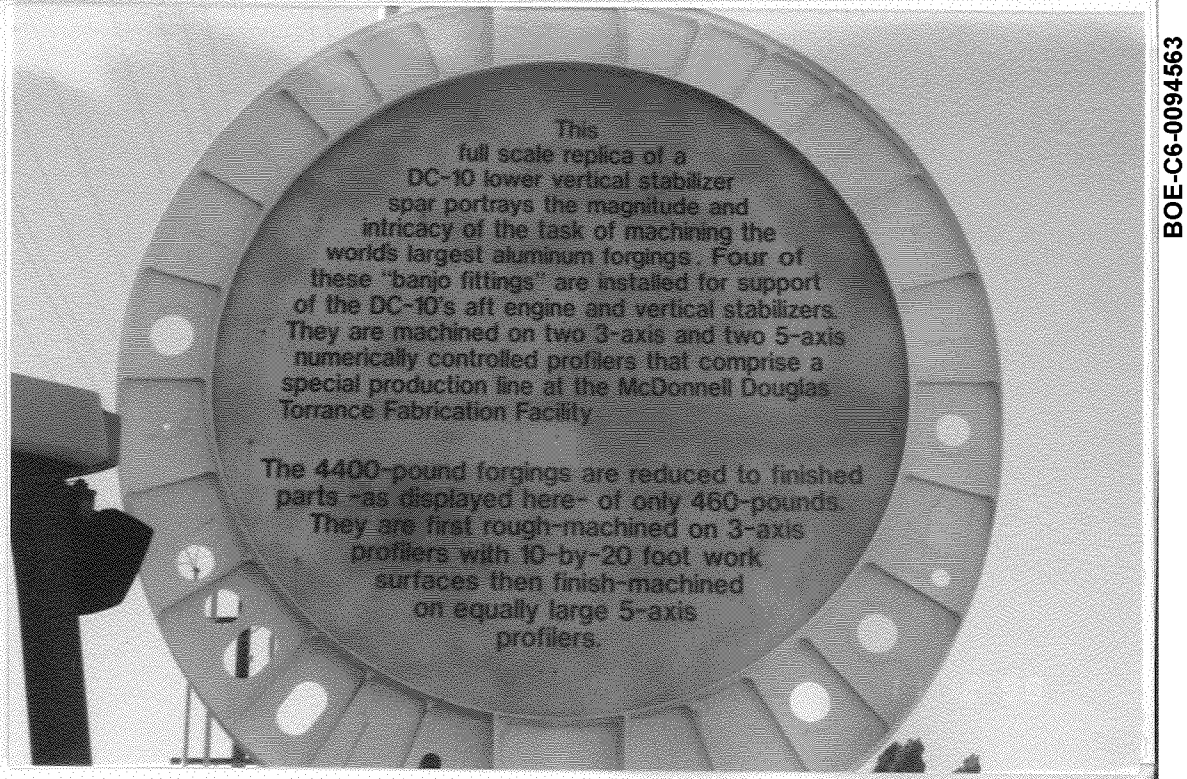
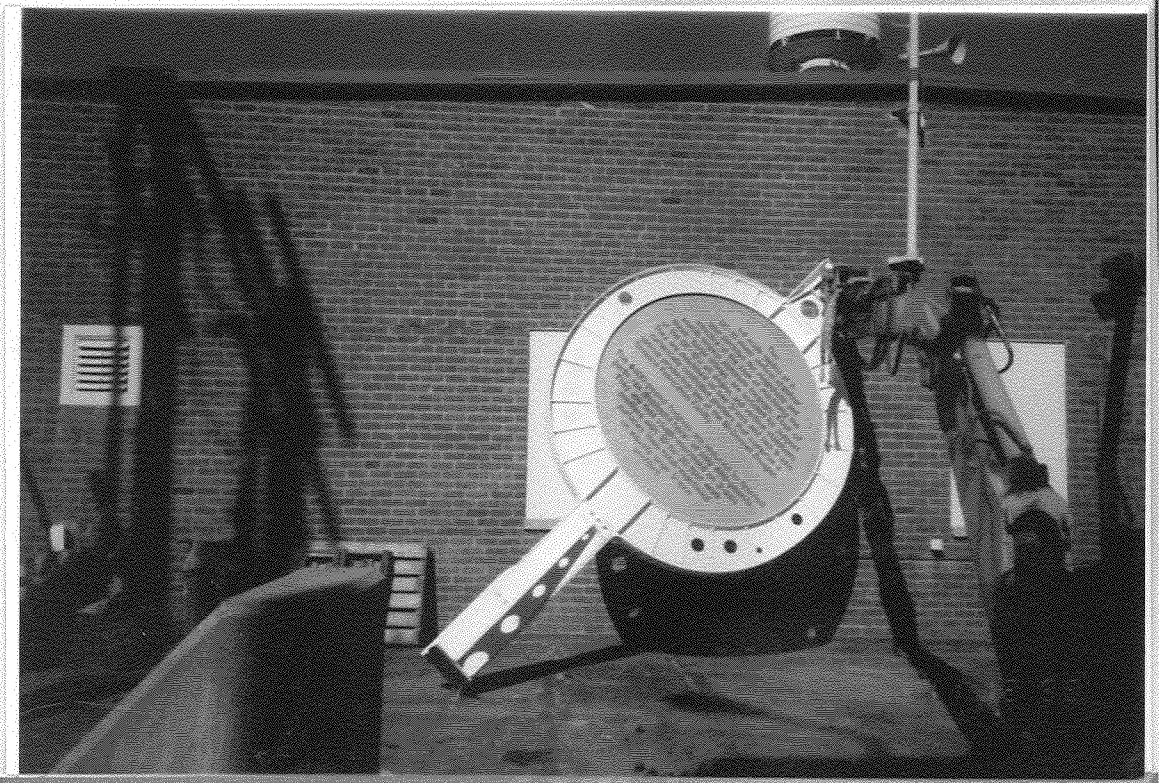


This
full scale replica of a
DC-10 lower vertical stabilizer
spar portrays the magnitude and
intricacy of the task of machining the
world's largest aluminum forgings. Four of
these "banjo fittings" are installed for support
of the DC-10's aft engine and vertical stabilizers.
They are machined on two 3-axis and two 5-axis
numerically controlled profilers that comprise a
special production line at the McDonnell Douglas
Torrance Fabrication Facility

The 4400-pound forgings are reduced to finished
parts -as displayed here- of only 460-pounds.
They are first rough-machined on 3-axis
profilers with 10-by-20 foot work
surfaces then finish-machined
on equally large 5-axis
profilers.



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