Voices of the sky

Audio adventures from takeoff to touchdown

F-86 JETS FROM A NEW YORK AIR FORCE BASE

VISCONTI TURBO-PROPS FROM CARIBBEAN AIRLINES

DC 6-B AIRLINERS FROM IDLEWILD AIRPORT, N.Y.

recorded by EMORY COOK

Tighten your safety belt, locate the nearest emergency exit, study the instructions for inflating your life jacket and hearken to the pert stewardess listing the exotic ports of call on the flight plan—Trinidad, Barbados, Puerto Rico, Bermuda. Instead of huge airliners over the sparkling Caribbean Sea, listeners to VOICES OF THE SKY are riding their high fidelity sets in comparative safety over their living room rugs. But anybody who has the courage—and the wattage—to turn up the sound to runway volume may find himself gripping the arms of his seat as he hears the voices of the mighty quartet of engines deepen smoothly into a huge, gorgeous roar and the aircraft hurls itself down the runway for takeoff. Later, he may tense with the rest of the passengers . . . .

(cont'd overleaf)
VOICES OF THE SKY

The sounds of piston and jet aircraft on the ground and in the air.

An even more shuddery kind of audio experience aloft is on the other face of VOICES OF THE SKY, in the form of a visit to Suffolk Air Force Base. There, intrepid interceptor jet pilots who guard the safety of New York City are on 24-hour alert. The listener will hear the raucous horn and bell as the pilots in the ready room are summoned to "scramble" into their jets and into the air. None of them knows until he is airborne whether this is another dry run or he will encounter real enemy "bogeys" in the sky. Between the scramble and the return of the jets, the control tower directs routine flying traffic on and above the field in the rapid fire lingo which uninitiate groundlings can hardly hope to understand.

As anybody who has ever used a microphone can imagine, the enormous sounds encountered in the air and on the ground in the preparation of VOICES OF THE SKY presented unique recording problems, as they will undoubtedly present some playback problems. Wide range Cook-modified equipment was used throughout—a battery-driven machine the size of a portable typewriter and a special Capps condenser microphone were carried aloft.* But technicalities aside, VOICES OF THE SKY excitingly dramatizes the advance of the air age, starting with piston-driven airliners with their reassuring throaty roars—sounds that may soon be as hard to find as the pounding of steam locomotives on RAIL DYNAMICS (Cook #1270)—continuing with the shrill screams of transitional turboprops and concluding with the other worldly howls of military jets as they cut in their afterburners for takeoff and their monstrous sighs as the engines are shut off.

So tighten your seatbelts, ladies and gentlemen, and prepare to take off on another great adventure in sound.

*Who but Emory Cook would attempt field work with a delicate, non-directional studio microphone?

NOTICE
This record contains the unattenuated sound of engines at full power. Nevertheless, the grooves have not been overcut, and any failure to track will be the fault of playback equipment.