

Ban That Bird

Editor — The impending landings of the supersonic Concorde in New York and Washington D.C. are not simply a local issue for a few Easterners. Nor is it a matter to be settled by Kissingerian edict.

The British Aircraft Corporation admits its main reason for seeking U.S. government approval

of these landings is to establish a "bridgehead" from which to expand sales of the Concorde. As the break-even production figure for recouping losses is believed to be about 130 planes, we can see what the expectations for Concorde traffic actually are.

As for the sound produced by Concorde, I have heard the real thing in England — not the qualified version cunningly produced for visiting dignitaries and the like — and no amount of fooling around with decibel meters can alter the actual impact of that sound: horrible! There are, of course, other reasons for banning such aircraft.

HELEN McLAREN
Berkeley