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SWISSAIR NEWS

The Convair 880-M jet is an advanced version of the Convair 880 now in service with domestic carriers in America. Developing a top cruising speed of 618 miles per hour, it is one of the fastest commercial jet airliners in the world.

From September 1961 Swissair will start jet services on its Far East route with two Convair 880-M; at the beginning of 1962 they will be replaced by the even faster Convair 990 Coronado jets.

* * *

Like the Coronado, the 880-M is equipped with leading edge slats, allowing operations from relatively short runways. When extended, the leading edge slats increase the maximum lift coefficient. This is of particular advantage in tropical countries with high temperatures and low air density.

The 880-M has a wing-span of 120 feet. The wings have a sweep-back of 35 degrees. Overall length is 129

feet 4 inches and tail height 36 feet 4 inches, equivalent to a four-storey house. Maximum take-off and landing weights are respectively 192,700 lbs. and 155,000 lbs.

The passenger cabin is divided into three sections: the economy class section seats 64, the first class 20, and there is also a lounge. Two galleys ensure prompt and careful service. Cabin pressurisation and temperature can be regulated automatically or manually from the flight deck. The air-conditioning system keeps the cabin temperature constant at any level desired. On each side of the fuselage are 44 rectangular windows providing good visibility, whatever the passenger's seat position. To counteract glare at high altitude, the window panes are tinted light grey. To avoid the "tunnel" effect and convey a pleasing and inviting note, the cabin ceiling is painted white, the floor is carpeted and the walls are in turquoise blue.

Under the cabin floor are roomy compartments for luggage and freight.

* * *

The Convair 880-M is powered by four General Electric CJ-805-3B pure jet turbines of 11,650 pounds thrust each. They are fitted with silencers and thrust reversers. The 880-M engines are basically similar to those used on the Coronado, which in addition, however, are equipped with the cold air fan.

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