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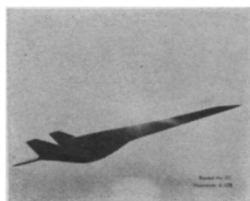
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COVER—Even though the U.S. supersonic transport plane is seven years away from commercial service, engineers and scientists are already at work on the next generation: the hypersonic transport. Designs such as this test model from Lockheed-California Co. are being planned for speeds ranging from 3,500 miles per hour up to orbital velocities of 17,000 mph. P. 528

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