

THE WHITE HOUSE

By David Wise

WASHINGTON.

President Kennedy is leaving his schedule flexible for the rest of the year, to be ready for any number of diplomatic developments that may arise in the post-Cuba period, including a summit meeting with Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev.

It was chiefly for this reason that his state visit to Brazil scheduled for Nov. 12-14 was postponed until after Jan. 1. The President has accepted virtually no major engagements in the next several weeks, in order to have freedom of movement to deal with any international developments.

In the days immediately preceding the Cuban crisis, it had become an almost generally accepted fact that Mr. Khrushchev would come to the United Nations and that there would be a summit meeting in Washington some time during the fall or early winter.

That picture is no longer the same, if only because Washington would in all likelihood not, at this moment, be Mr. Khrushchev's favorite spot for a summit meeting. Two weeks ago, he could have walked into the White House in a strong diplomatic position. Now, having promised to pull his missiles out of Cuba in the face of United States determination, he would risk the appearance of coming to Washington hat in hand.

As a result, American officials are inclined to believe that if Mr. Khrushchev does continue to press for a summit, he will now suggest that it be held somewhere halfway—Vienna again, Geneva, or Paris, for example.

THE U-2 IS BACK IN THE NEWS

The U-2, the world's most controversial airplane, has a way of embarrassing American Presidents at the oddest times. Almost lost amidst the flurry of notes over Cuba was that another of the high-flying reconnaissance planes drifted over the eastern tip of Siberia last Sunday—at the peak of tension over Cuba.

The President, in his reply to the Soviet Premier, expressed "regret" at the incident. Of even more interest, however, is the fact—and now it can be told—that U-2's have been photographing Cuba for months. It was the U-2 that first brought back evidence of Soviet offensive missile bases on Castro's island.

This carefully guarded secret can now be told because the American reconnaissance plane lost last Saturday, and presumed downed by a Soviet SAM anti-aircraft rocket, was a U-2 of the Strategic Air Command. The Air Force listed the man as missing—Maj. Rudolph Anderson Jr., of Greenville, S. C., and the U-2 is the Air Force's only *overhead* reconnaissance plane.

It will be recalled that when Francis Gary Powers and his U-2 were captured by the Russians and the 1960 summit meeting collapsed, President Eisenhower pledged that the plane would not overfly Russia again.

President Kennedy repeated this promise five days after he took office. But neither President promised that



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