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Book World

OCT 1 9 1972

The Ike Years All Over Again

EISENHOWER: And the American Crusades,
By Herbert S. Parmet,
(Machillan, 860 pp., \$12.95)

Reviewed by Karl Hess

The reviewer, who served briefly on special assignment at the White House during the Eisenhower administration is a vixiting fellow at the fusitive for Policy Studies.

If you want to relive the elsenhower years, this is the book for you. It has what seems to be 40 million useful references to Eisenhower sources, piled up as the toundation for what is almost a daily log of the General-President's years in the White House, and the several immediately before, as he backed-and-filled about heeding what eventually he came to see as his bounden duty to lead the nation.

duty to lead the nation.

If cites dozens of interviews. It obviously is written by a man who has read himself bleary in his subject but who, at the end of it all, simply says that to call Eisenhower "a great or good or even a weak President misses the point. He was merely neressary for what? By

Necessary for what? By contenting himself with observing Eisenhower rather than with trying to understand him, his friends, his particular role in the society, Herbert Parmet does not provide even a hint of

very special

answer. But because he is such a voracious reader and studious cobserver, the clues are all there.

First, there is Eisenhower the anti-Communication of the anti-communicatio

First, there is Eisenhower the anti-Communist. Like Kennedy-Johnson-Nixon, Elsenhower saw the confrontation with communism both apoptectically and apocallyptically. Eisenhower's New Look defense policy, diplomatically extended through John Foster Dulles' brinkmanship, meant to deter the Soviets and the Chinese, alleast, from big moves in the world by rattling the sword of nuclear, retallation. As Parmet meticulously recounts—without seeming to be impressed—Eisenhower's rhetoric about the New Look was seriously compromised by the old look of some of his crucial actions: when he landed Marines in Lebanon, for instance.

Also, when Eisenhower supported the covert U.S. operation that overthrew the Guatemalan government, he was well into a world of old-fashioned, even if newly-equipped, coup and counter-coup, terror and covert warfare. That, as a matter of fact, is just the way Eisenhower wanted to fight the war in Indochina—secretly and discreetly. But he did want to fight it. On that he was as dedicated

See BOOKS, BH, Col. 1