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Ford Is Preparing Busy Fall Schedule Of Trips Overseas

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (AP)

—President Ford is tentatively planning a busy autumn schedule of foreign travel with trips to Europe and China, White House sources said today.

Mr. Ford probably will time his European journey so he can participate in a projected summit conference in Helsinki, Finland, on European security, it was reported. But that would depend on progress in the 35-nation talks on a new security system for Europe.

One source, who said Mr. Ford would like to be on hand to sign personally any Helsinki agreement, said the President would likely visit Europe around September. He said the President's trip to Peking probably will be scheduled for October or November.

Responding to a published report that Mr. Ford would go to Europe in April, the White House press secretary, Ron Nessen, flatly ruled out such a possibility.

Mr. Ford has already accepted in principle invitations to visit Britain, West Germany and Yugoslavia and also is weighing an invitation to visit Rumania, Rome and perhaps Paris and other capitals—as well as the Brussels headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Common Market—are also likely to be on his itinerary.