

State Department Aides, Told by the

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There are times, in this age of Presidential summitry and White House diplomacy, when middle-level officials at the State Department get the distinct feeling that they are being left out of the foreign-policy process.

The sensation was reinforced last month, when the vast Washington majority of the department's officials learned about President Nixon's plans to visit the Soviet Union next May

through the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers had apparently known about the planned trip—he confessed to his staff later that he had—and perhaps a few other senior figures in the department, knew, but the first word for all the rest came in the form of a routine intelligence advisory from the F.B.I. that arrived a few days before the formal announcement on Oct. 12.

It said that the bureau had learned from an informant that Gus Hall, general secretary of the American Communist party, had been ad-

vised of the plans for the trip several days before by a Soviet diplomat.

"I must remember to check with Hall in the future on the President's travel plans," one State Department official said sarcastically. "He's obviously more clued in than I am."

While many in the State Department feel that the White House has already achieved a monopoly on foreign policy, the President is leaving nothing to chance. The following memo, dated Nov. 17, was sent to the Secretary of State and Gerard C. Smith, the head of the

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F.B.I. of Nixon's Travel Plans, Feel

Arms Control and Disarmament Agency:

"The President has directed that all official statements relating to the Conference on Disarmament henceforth will be cleared at the White House.

signed,
Henry A. Kissinger,
Special Assistant to the President."

The East Asian Bureau of the State Department has a similar standing instruction prohibiting any discussion with newsmen of Mr. Nixon's forthcoming trip to China.

Last week the injunction was broadened to include any

discussion or speculation by officials about the recent internal developments in China. "I really don't know why," one department official said, "except that the White House seems to be very nervous about anything that might conceivably upset the President's Peking plans."

Perhaps on the theory that getting there is half the fun, the White House has sent to Congress a supplemental budget request of \$9-million for a duplicate of the Presidential jet, The Spirit of 76.

The new jet, a Boeing 707-320B, would replace a 13-year-old 707-120 that has

served as the President's chief back-up plane. Among other journeys, the old plane carried Mr. Kissinger to Peking last month.

Although there is no difference in looks or luxury, the newer version has better range and can operate from shorter airstrips, according to Col. Ralph D. Albertazzie, the President's personal pilot.

In Seattle, a spokesman for the Boeing Company reported that the new plane could be ready by mid-1972. The Presidential campaign will be in full swing by then and Mr. Nixon, assuming he seeks re-election, may well be airborne much of the time.

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Bypassed on Foreign Policy

To its dismay, the Environmental Protection Agency learned last week that the affections of the faculty and students of Clover Bend High School, Hoxie, Ark., are not won by a few four-color brochures about the President's new environmental awards program. (The brochures were paid for by the agency, but the layout and design work was done by the Republican National Committee).

In a letter acknowledging receipt of the brochures, which were mailed to schools all over the country, the

Clover Bend superintendent, Francis Gate, wrote:

"We must decline to involve our teachers and children in this effort because we feel that the President of the United States is not really interested in saving the environment but rather is engaging in more of the 'Nixon rhetoric.'"

"We feel that Mr. Nixon's failure to support the Water Pollution Bill now pending in Congress speaks louder of his true purposes. His real option is with the industrialists and against the environment."

Mr. Gate did not return the brochures.