

Plans Shaping Up

U.S.-Latin Summit On 1965 Agenda?

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WASHINGTON — An inter-American presidential summit conference in the early summer appears to be taking preliminary shape.

Hemisphere diplomatic sources believe that President Johnson will meet with all Latin American chiefs of state, with the exception of Communist Cuba, in a South American capital.

In his State of the Union message Johnson announced his intention of visiting Latin America this year.

Subsequently, there was speculation here and in Latin America that he might travel to Brazil in connection with the special Organization of American States conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro May 20.

It was reported unofficially that he might also pay visits to Argentina and Chile.

Since the State of the Union address, several Latin governments have extended invitations in informal conversations between foreign ministers and American ambassadors.

Joining Argentina, Brazil and Chile in making over-

tures have been Peru, Colombia and Uruguay.

Presidential advisers agree it would be difficult, if not impossible, for Johnson to visit all these countries this year.

Also, there is feeling here that a Johnson visit to Brazil should not be linked to the May OAS conference in Rio.

Advisers reason that such a doubleheader even might tend to overshadow the importance of the OAS meeting itself.

Therefore, preliminary soundings are expected to be made shortly in the Latin capitals to determine sentiment for an assembly of all the American heads of state.

At this stage some diplomats feel a summit conference proposal will be acceptable readily.

It is possible, they say, that such a gathering will take place in June. Sites mentioned most frequently are Santiago, Chile, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia, Brazil.

The last full-scale inter-American presidential summit conference was held in July, 1956, in Panama.

The heads of 16 American states, including President Dwight Eisenhower, and four presidents-elect, attended that conference in observance of the 150th anniversary of the first Pan-American meeting.

President Kennedy met with the presidents of Panama and the five Central American nations — Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala — in March, 1963, at San Jose, Costa Rica.

Eisenhower and Kennedy also took excursions to several individual Latin countries. The Kennedy trips to Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico sparked the most tumultuous receptions ever accorded an American chief executive in Latin America.