

Soviet Scientists May Visit Here On Rice 'Ike Day'

By BILL PANNILL

The Cold War may come to the Rice campus October 24th with the visits of President Eisenhower and perhaps eight touring Russian scientists.

Although the visits are as yet unofficial on the part of the University, their doubtful status itself will provide Riceites with an eye-witness view of a Cold War protol skirmish.

RESTRICTIONS ON the scientists' travel have been urged by W. W. Keeler, executive vice-president of Phillips Petroleum Company, and leader of a similar, ten-man American group that toured Russia in August under State Department auspices. The two tours are part of the cultural exchange agreements negotiated between the U. S. and the Soviet Union in balmy days. Mr. Keeler complains that strict Russian watch was placed on his group and urges the same treatment here for the Soviets. He was also aggravated by Russian spy charges made after his party had left Russia.

(Continued on Page 2)

SOVIET VISIT . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

PROTOCOL DIFFICULTIES are certain to arise if the tour is made, owing to the presence on the campus the same day of the President of the United States, scheduled to speak to the University.

The problems will arise from the recent worsening of Russo-American relations. The same sort of problems were encountered at the United Nations General Assembly meeting earlier this month, when top-level diplomatic decisions had to be made about such a simple matter as what manner of greetings were to be exchanged if the President encountered Mr. Khrushchev. The same problems could presumably arise on a lesser scale here, since the scientists are official representatives of the Soviet government.

RICE IS THE ONLY university in the country on the Russians' tentative itinerary. Representatives of the Russian petroleum industry, they will also assist Austin and Midland in Texas, and other petroleum centers throughout the country.

Dr. LeVan Griffis, Dean of Engineering, told The Thresher that although a petroleum engineering degree is not offered by the University, there are several areas of emphasis in the chemical engineering curriculum which should be of interest to the visitors. He also said that Drs. Akers and Kobayashi of the Chemical Engineering Department are carrying on notable research projects in the field of petroleum engineering.