

Evidence Does Not Point To Soviet Plot Says Rusk

Washington Bureau of The News — Secretary of State Dean Rusk told the Warren Commission that he had seen no evidence that the Soviet Union wanted to eliminate President Kennedy, the commission's report said Sunday.

Rusk testified before the commission last June 10.

"I have not seen or heard of any scrap of evidence indicating that the Soviet Union had any desire to eliminate President Kennedy nor in any way participated in any such event," Rusk said.

"Now, standing back and trying to look at that question objectively despite the ideological differences between our two great systems, I can't see how it could be to the interest of the Soviet Union to make any such effort."

Rusk said he believed the Soviet Union "has an interest in the correctness of state relations" which would be particularly true among the great powers.

"I think," he said, "that although there are grave differences between the Communist world and the free world, between the Soviet Union and other major powers, that even from their point of view there needs to be some shape and form to international relations, that it is

not in their interest to have this world structure dissolve into complete anarchy, that great states and particularly nuclear powers have to be in a position to deal with each other . . ."

Rusk said he thought Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev and President Kennedy, despite their grave differences, had "a certain mutual respect."

"I think that both of them were aware of the fact that any chairman of the Soviet Union, and any president of the United States, necessarily bear somewhat special responsibility for the general peace of the world. Indeed, without exaggeration, one could almost say the existence of the Northern Hemisphere in this nuclear age."

It would be "an act of rashness and madness" for the Russian leader to undertake assassination as an active policy, Rusk said.

"It has not been our impression that madness has characterized the actions of the Soviet leaders in recent years," the secretary added.

The commission said it "accepts Secretary Rusk's estimate as reasonable and objective, but recognizes that a precise assessment of Soviet intentions or interests is most difficult."