

Rusk Urges Post-Viet NATO View

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Secretary of State Dean Rusk said yesterday that the Atlantic Alliance must look beyond the Vietnamese crisis to "the great problems that still divide East and West."

This goal will be a central theme of United States efforts to maintain "unity of action" in NATO despite the defection of France, Rusk indicated at a news conference.

When the struggle in Vietnam "is settled, as it must be," said Rusk, "there is still another world that has to be considered . . ." He was referring to relations with the Soviet Union and other Com-

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Rusk Urges Alliance to Adopt Outlook Beyond Vietnam War

munist nations of Eastern Europe.

"We would hope that we could get on with some of those problems, whether in disarmament or direct East-West relations," said Rusk, "even though Vietnam is still unresolved."

Rusk leaves here Tuesday for brief visits to Finland and Norway before attending a particularly significant foreign ministers conference in Brussels of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The June 6-8 conference there will be the first since French President de Gaulle

issued his timetable for withdrawing his forces from NATO.

On June 20, de Gaulle is scheduled to begin a visit to the Soviet Union. That trip is regarded as de Gaulle's major bid to demonstrate French ability to pursue an independent line of East-West relations.

In Paris on Wednesday, a Danish proposal for NATO quickly to initiate talks with the Communist nations was coldly received by the United States and other NATO nations.

Rusk sought to demonstrate

yesterday that the United States is not so obsessed with Vietnam that it is ignoring the problem of reducing underlying East-West tensions. But in fact most diplomats, on both sides of the East-West divide, see little prospect for any new agreements while the war in Vietnam dominates the international scene.

What the United States itself could do, said Rusk, is act on the consular agreement with the Soviet Union that is pending in the Senate, and "make some headway on the East-West trade legislation which we have sent to the Congress."

A newsman asked if that meant the Johnson Administration was now "coming alive" on these issues, for both subjects have been put on the congressional shelf. Rusk countered that "there is no doubt about the attitude of the Executive Branch," but he said, "It is really a case of counting the votes, quite

frankly." He said the Administration would not want to see these bills "come up and be defeated."

Asked about pressure building up in Congress to cut the size of American forces in West Germany, Rusk replied that "at the present time I would think that unless there is some major change in the situation, some significant change throughout the European scene, that there would not be major reductions in our forces contemplated."

The United States has said it is temporarily withdrawing 15,000 men for Vietnam duty, leaving 215,000 in Germany.

In answer to questions on the reunification of Germany, Rusk gave the traditional response that it is "a basic and elementary question in the heart of Europe."

For NATO, Rusk listed the following three objectives: "to provide an effective defense of the Atlantic area; to maintain a powerful deterrent, to preserve that unity of action necessary to the settlement of the great problems that still divide East and West."

There are, said Rusk, "important matters to consider as the result of the decision of the French government to withdraw from many of the activities" of NATO.

Rusk sharply criticized the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, headed by J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), for limitations written into the new foreign aid bill now before it.

"... We understand," said Rusk, "the general desire on the part of many people to take countries off of the aid list as soon as it is possible to do so." He said 27 countries already have been removed from the list.

But Rusk criticized any "arbitrary ceiling" on numbers of recipient countries as being "ungracious of this great Nation . . ." He also protested any "retreat" from the formula of five-year authorizations for the development loan program and the Alliance for Progress, to a one-year term.