

Rusk Defends NATO; Senators Are Uneasy

By Chalmers M. Roberts
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Secretary of State Dean Rusk went to Capitol Hill yesterday to offer an encouraging report on NATO but encountered considerable senatorial unease and uncertainty about American policy in Europe.

Rusk was testifying before the Jackson subcommittee, reputed to be more friendly toward the Administration than the Foreign Relations Committee, which opens its own hearings Monday.

The Secretary described the recent NATO meeting in Brussels as "an impressive demonstration of the unity" of the 14 allies in the face of French President de Gaulle's eviction notice. But Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.) wanted to know why Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson seemed to see virtue in some of de Gaulle's actions and whether the Administration was misleading the public "by making de Gaulle a whipping boy."

Needs 'Clarification'

Rusk said that the Prime Minister's speech needed "clarification" and he himself was unaware that the United States had mistreated the French President. When Ribicoff asked why President Johnson should not meet with de Gaulle, Rusk said he had "no feeling of assurance" that a meeting would "dissolve the difficulty" and anyway there was "no outstanding invitation at the present time."

Later, in executive session, Rusk was reported to have said that the time was not ripe for a meeting.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), who heads the Government Operations national security subcommittee, suggested that perhaps the West Europeans would not take such

a favorable view of detente with the East if the United States began to withdraw its forces. He noted that a number of senators favor withdrawals.

'Avoid Tempting Thieves'

To this Rusk replied that NATO forces now are at "a minimum level that prudence requires."

However, Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.) commented that he was disappointed at the lack of European support for the United States in Vietnam and that "we may have to withdraw some men" from Europe for that war.

The problem of detente, the increasing desire of many in Western Europe for a new approach to the Communist East ran through much of the hearing. This led Rusk to comment that "the problem for democracies is to avoid tempting thieves."

Several times he said that the rapid post-World War II American demobilization had tempted the Soviets to move west and that any new unilateral action would again encourage Russian adventures.

No Soviet Readiness

As to prospects for a new Western initiative, Rusk said that despite efforts of the past five years "we have not yet found any readiness" on the Soviet side "to discuss the question of German reunification seriously."

When Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) asked about charges that the United States is too frozen in its attitudes, Rusk replied that "new ideas are rarer than most people think" and that "we ought to see if the ideas really are new or only old and discredited."

When Sen. Jacob Javits (D-N.Y.) wanted to know what restraint the United States was putting on West German "political exuberance for negotiations" with the Communists, Rusk replied only that the Germans are concerned about unification, especially the younger generation.

The Barzel Speech

Sen. Fred Harris (D-Okla.) referred to a speech issued Wednesday by West Germany's Rainer Barzel, calling for a new Western initiative on German reunification and East-West security, and asked whether the United States was responding.

"Yes," said the Secretary, "but it is not a question for us alone," since Soviet approval is necessary for any changes in Europe.

Barzel yesterday had a talk with President Johnson but no details were disclosed. A State Department spokesman said the proposals of the majority leader in the West German Bundestag were "of interest to us." It was added, however, that the United States does not know whether Barzel's proposals have his Government's endorsement. In Bonn, a West German spokesman said the proposals were "personal" and did not represent the views of Chancellor Erhard.

Bearings for India

Reuters

TOKYO, June 16 — Two Japanese firms will produce ball and roller bearings for rolling stock in Hyderabad, India, in a joint venture with an Indian company, it was announced today.