

Rusk: Watergate Hurts Nixon's Foreign Policy

By Marilyn Berger

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Former Secretary of State Dean Rusk made a rare public appearance in Washington yesterday and declared that the "odious" and "tragic" Watergate affair would impair the President's role in foreign affairs.

"It is impossible to come into this poisonous fog that has settled over . . . Washington without commenting on

Watergate," Rusk told some 350 persons at the Women's National Democratic Club.

"This has been an odious affair. I feel it is very important we get all of the truth as quickly as possible, take remedial action, and get on with the public business."

Talking with reporters later, when asked about the impact of the scandal on Mr. Nixon's foreign policy, Rusk added: "Anything which reduces lead-

ership at home impairs to some extent his role in foreign affairs. . . . No doubt his voice will be muted by this very serious and tragic affair."

Rusk said that he had "no doubt that the truth will come out" as a result of investigations by several Congressional committees, the courts, various grand juries "and a vigorous and inquiring press."

He expressed personal confidence in the work of Attorney-General Elliot Richardson and special prosecutor Archibald Cox.

"This is not a matter . . . concentrated in Washington," Rusk said. "This is a matter of deep concern throughout this land." He expressed the hope that the "malefactions of a few" would not be used to condemn government employees as a class, for more than 99 per cent of them were trying to do the right job.

The use of covert techniques for partisan political purposes, he said in the interview, was the "first step toward a police state in this country . . . a deep infringement of the most elemental notion of our society."

The Democratic Party, he said, could take no comfort from the scandal. All Americans, he said, "are in the same ship and we come through together or we go down together. Such a deep injury to our national political system is something in which we can take no joy at all."

He said that the temporary bombing of Cambodia would not improve the American bargaining position in negotiations. "Those on the other side know the American people have decided to get out and will not return. We're out, we're going to stay out and . . . we'll have to accept the consequences."