

To Economic Development

Rusk Finds Asia Thinking Beyo

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Washington Post Foreign Service

SEOUL, July 10 — When Secretary of State Dean Rusk left here Saturday afternoon, he had completed a long journey of personal diplomacy that took him from Australia through the Philippines, the Republic of China on Taiwan, Japan, to South Korea.

He summed up his impressions of the trip by saying that he found people's minds in Asia moving beyond the present crisis in Vietnam to the needs for economic and social development in Asia.

He spoke of new-winds of change "and fresh hope and energy" in the field of economic development. He told a Saturday press conference here that "things are stirring" in this part of the world and noted "the growing sense of community" among non-Communist Asian nations.

The Secretary seemed to derive a certain satisfaction from this, although he did not dismiss the dangers of the Vietnam crisis and the militant attitude of Peking.

Is Persuasive

In public utterance, Rusk, though given to repetition and oversimplification, is coherent and persuasive. The listener may disagree with the premise but the argument has its own tight inner logic and the listener soon becomes aware that Rusk never says anything without a purpose in mind.

If this was so in public, it's reasonable to presume that it held in his private diplomatic talks with high officials along the way.

At one stop, an official privy to the discussions said that Rusk didn't try directly

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to persuade the Foreign Minister with whom he was conferring to accept the American viewpoint. But, the official said, Rusk's presentation was organized so that a certain amount of persuasion inevitably rubbed off.

Rusk cut through questions about American China policy time and again by going to what he considers the nut of the problem—Taiwan.

The Communist Chinese, Rusk argued, will negotiate nothing until the United States agrees to see Taiwan go under Communist control. This, Rusk said simply and flatly, the United States cannot do. And, therefore, the negotiation is stalemated before it starts.

Rusk evidently sees some value in trips and meetings such as the one he has just finished. They allow him to get out of Washington, with all of its complications, and to focus his attention on one area of the world and on one set of problems for a few days.

Officials Pleased

American officials stationed out here also like to have the attention concentrated on their work that a visit by the Secretary generates.

These journeys also seem to give Rusk a fresh viewpoint and even some relaxation, being out of Washington. Rusk seems to like the face-to-face confrontation with other members of what he calls "the trade union of foreign ministers." Even when his counterpart's position is known through normal diplomatic channels,

there is some benefit from the personal dialogue.

The Secretary's dealings with the press were somewhat volatile during this trip. Sometimes he was straightforward and articulate, other times he slid off questions blandly, saying nothing in elegant language. Sometimes he was humorous, other times waspish.

Rusk almost always has four audiences in mind when he says something for the record. They are the American people, the allied nations, the neutrals, and the Communists. Gauging the impact of what he says on each apparently consumes a good bit of Rusk's mental energy.

Issues Highlighted

Rusk's meetings with other foreign ministers and heads of state often highlight issues, which he has said publicly before he would like to see negotiated quietly rather than in the newspapers. But he would be satisfied, sources close to him say, if the press gave as much attention to the agree-

ments and solutions of problems as it does to the disagreements and continuation of disputes.

Rusk is also thought to feel that there should be more debate about foreign policy among editorial pages and columnists themselves, where a profusion of differences exist, rather than having the debate limited to that between Government officers and the writers.

A telling sidelight to the Secretary's press relations was the coverage he got from the press in the countries he visited. It sometimes interpreted his statements not the way he intended, but to suit its own prejudices.

In Japan, for instance, several papers said Rusk promised Prime Minister Sato that the United States would not expand its bombing strikes beyond the oil facilities near Hanoi and Haiphong. In Korea, papers said Rusk told the Korean government the United States would not stop short of military victory in Vietnam.

In fact, Rusk said neither.

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On the first point, he repeated stated American policy that no one knows what the future holds. On the second, he reiterated America's intention to continue seeking a negotiated peace.