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It's the Other Side Who Is Sinning

Rusk Is Sounding More Like Dulles

By ^{3/31/61}Chalmers M. Roberts

Washington Post Staff Writer

Like husbands and wives who seem to look more and more alike as time passes, Dean Rusk is sounding more and more like John Foster Dulles.

Dulles holds eighth place in terms of service for Secretaries of State and Rusk is now next in line, with 13 months to go to pull even. Rusk already has logged about the same aerial mileage as the peripatetic Dulles.

It is, however, on the related issues of China and Vietnam that Rusk sounds so much like Dulles. He tends to avoid the finalities of Dullesian prose but his stance is about the same, given the altered circumstances of time. It is the other fellow who is the sinner so it's up to him to repent, Dulles felt and Rusk feels.

Cooperated on Policy

Although few now remember it, Rusk and Dulles worked very closely on a major piece of Far Eastern policy during the Truman Administration. Dulles,

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before becoming Secretary of State in the Eisenhower Administration, served during 1950-52 as a consultant to the Secretary of State and personal representative of President Truman in negotiating the Japanese peace treaty. Rusk, at that time, was Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs.

Nine years ago, when there was a round of talk in the United States about easing the American attitude toward the Communist regime in Peking, Dulles made a lengthy speech to say "no." Now Rusk is engaged in damping down, in less scerbic tones but with no less finality, the current talk along the same lines.

Oppose U.N. Seating

"If communism is stubborn for the wrong," said Dulles, "let us be steadfast for the right." That certainly has been the Rusk attitude toward the Chinese-supported war in Vietnam.

Both argued that the United States has had sufficient contact with Peking through the ambassadorial meetings, then at Geneva and now at Warsaw. Both rejected diplomatic recognition and admission to the United Nations.

Dulles at first refused to let even American newsmen have passports valid for travel to China but after strong protests from the press he relented. Rusk has gone further in asking the Chinese for an exchange of newsmen or even suggesting that Peking's representatives come here without a promise of reciprocity.

Dulles argued that "neither recognition, trade or cultural relations, nor all three, would favorably influence the evolution of affairs in China." Rusk does not stand that part; indeed, he is prepared for cultural exchanges, it appears, though not for altering the trade embargo. And, like Dulles, he is unhappy about Western European trade deals with China.

Change in Peking

The issue today, as it has been raised in the Senate hearings, relates in good

part of preparing the United States for the day there is a change of leadership in Peking. It is in this regard that various witnesses have advocated a policy of "containment without isolation."

Rusk, however, refused at this press conference Friday to accept that formulation, even though Vice President Humphrey has done so publicly. He argued that China's isolation is largely self-imposed and that the American hands are clean because the United States has made unavailing efforts to break through this isolation.

The fact is, however, that the efforts have been minimal and that the Administration is inhibited by the war in Vietnam from taking any steps that do not produce reciprocity from Peking.

Hated From China

Nine years ago Dulles noted that China was "bitingly hateful" of the United States. China is doubly hateful today. But many of those who argue for a change contend that the American policy of isolation has



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DEAN RUSK

... Isolation is self-imposed

helped to intensify, rather than diminish, that hate.

Signs of change in Washington are needed, they argue, to give heart to those of the succeeding generations in Peking who might be inclined to alter policies after Mao's death. To this line of reasoning, Rusk replied Friday that perhaps there will be a change then but the United States knows too little about Mao's potential successors and their attitudes.

In short, this is where we came in. Mr. Rusk meet Mr. Dulles.

