

State Explains Resignation Of Schwartz

Puts Blame on 'Leak,' Says Rusk Planned New Job for Him

By Richard Harwood
Washington Post Staff Writer

The State Department's management yesterday blamed the resignation of Abba P. Schwartz on a clumsy breakdown in internal diplomacy.

Schwartz, according to the authoritative Department version, returned from a three-week trip to Geneva, Switzerland, at midnight last Friday. He was met at the airport by a journalist who informed him that his job as administrator of the Department's Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs was being abolished.

The next day—Saturday—Schwartz appeared at the State Department in an agitated frame of mind. He met separately with Secretary Dean Rusk and Under Secretary George Ball, who explained that in his absence the Bureau of the Budget had unexpectedly given its approval to a reorganization plan affecting Schwartz's Bureau.

Rusk had laid the plan aside, pending Schwartz's return. It had been his intention, according to the Department, to discuss it with Schwartz before any other steps were taken. The premature leak at the airport had been an unfortunate slip-up.

During this Saturday discussion, Ball asked Schwartz See **SCHWARTZ, A8, Col. 1**

to remain in the Department in the same rank (equivalent to Assistant Secretary of State) as a Special Assistant to Rusk. His new duties would have encompassed immigration and refugee affairs which Rusk has said, Schwartz had handled "superbly" since 1962. But Schwartz, the Department maintains, was in no mood to take a new job. He turned down the Ball offer and expressed no interest in any other assignment.

Rusk, accordingly, made no effort to dissuade him from resigning and on Sunday Schwartz announced that he had quit.

This version of the Schwartz affair, which has aroused political liberals in and out of Congress, is likely to be disputed in the days ahead, by Schwartz, among others. The deaths, the sequence of

events and the new job offer are among the matters at issue.

In any case, both the White House and the State Department were perturbed yesterday over the repercussions of his resignation. From both quarters came firm denials that Presidential Assistant Marvin Watson had played any part in the matter and equally firm denials that the departure of Schwartz signaled any change in the liberal policies he had pursued with respect to the issuance of passports and visas and the administration of immigrant affairs.

The Department's managers and the White House both insisted that the abolition of the 27-man Bureau that Schwartz had headed was being recommended for only two reasons. The first was that the Bureau



United Press International

ABBA P. SCHWARTZ
... his leaving explained

was an unnecessary appendage of the Department's bureaucracy. The second was that its elimination was an economy move that would save \$246,000, with no loss of Departmental efficiency.

It was pointed out that last year Rusk had abolished the job of Assistant Secretary, Dwight Porter, who was an administrator, and had combined the Bureau of American Republic Affairs with another departmental unit. There was not a word of protest, according to the Department, and the result of those and other shifts has been a worthwhile reduction in jobs and an elimination of unnecessary way stations in the chain of command.

Schwartz, in his resignation announcement on Sunday, implied strongly that his leaving was related to policy

disagreements with Deputy Under Secretary William J. Crockett. He said Crockett had not been "one of the most enthusiastic supporters of our policy of maintaining a free and open society."

This explanation has been accepted by liberals who have described the Schwartz departure as an effort by the Administration to appease conservatives, mainly in Congress, who were disenchanted with Schwartz and his "liberal" ideas.