

Acheson Says International

By Jean R. Hailey
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International law is inadequate to bring about world peace in this day of revolutions, former Secretary of State Dean Acheson declared yesterday.

Values and the ways in which they are pursued differ greatly among nations, he said. Hence, there are limits to an effective international legal order in this age, he added.

"If disagreement on values is wide, no agreement seems likely on how opposing values can be pursued in an orderly way," Acheson said.

The United States, uninhibited by secret purposes or ambitions, therefore "must look beyond the resources of law and use all the arts and methods which the wit of man has devised and can devise," he stated.



DEAN ACHESON
... delivers law lecture

other means and does not mean bargaining between parties both wanting to reach agreement," he said.

Alumni Day Address

Acheson made his remarks in the Doherty Lecture delivered on Law Alumni Day at the University of Virginia.

Citing the American Bar Association's crusade of World Peace Through World Law, he declared that he was a "staunch supporter of law." It is pervasive and essential, he said, but "it is not the path which surely leads to peace" in the world or immediate surroundings.

Acheson noted he lives in a city (Washington) which has more courts per square mile, a more expensive city council (Congress) and more law en-

It must negotiate not only from strength but with strength, for negotiation today means war carried on by

Law Is Inadequate for Peace

forcement officers than any other place in the world.

Yet its record in the basic essential of peace, freedom from violence, is "depressingly bad," he said, citing several instances of murder, robbery and assault in the District of Columbia.

Looking beyond the inability of the law to protect against the criminal, we see that the law's power in achieving peace seems to diminish, he said.

Acheson compared relations between nations with those between labor and management. The role of law here is "cautious and limited." It may deal with the protocol of war in industry, but it is wary of interfering in the main controversy and there is no legal order, he said.

Legal order also is with-

drawn in revolutionary situations. People are in a hurry, unwilling to "pursue and realize values in an orderly way," he said. In situations like this, "pursuit of peace through law is more illusory than ever . . ."

Order in Last Century

Acheson said the 19th Century saw more of an international legal order than any time before or since then. But the 19th century society "has gone forever and taken its orders and values with it."

The theory and practice of the pursuit of peace has had some trial under the Charter of the United Nations, said Acheson, who played an important role in the formation of the U.N. But the U.N. has only one law which guards against threats to peace and acts of aggression, he said.

Calling this law admirable, he noted that it alone was not a legal system and that the result of enforcing it could be "to protect perpetrators of other misdeeds and leave their victims without redress."

The problems of achieving peace lie deeper than dialectics or the shortcomings of the U.N. Charter Acheson said.

This country, he said, has proved beyond question that it is able and willing to lend powerful help to others in attaining greater security, material benefits, physical well-being and a part in advancing human knowledge. We also have proved we can be an obstacle to domination and hegemony, he added.

The United States has made and made known its choice. "It is to influence the 'vast external realm' toward maintaining an environment in which free societies may flourish," he declared.