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ACHESON WARNS OF 'WITCH HUNT'

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National Defense Could
Be Hurt, He Says

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson told Congress Wednesday that any witch hunt against the so-called military-industrial complex could lead to a dangerous weakening of national defense.

” “What I wish to warn against—and I do so with all the emphasis at my command—is any effort to use the attendant issues as an excuse for tampering with defense and foreign policies which rise from external necessities and are vital to national existence,” Acheson said. Acheson, who was secretary

of state in the Harry S. Truman administration, appeared before a House-Senate economic subcommittee holding hearings on the military budget and national priorities.

“The cliché about a military-industrial complex, moreover, is invidious to an honorable profession,” Acheson said. “To portray such individuals, by innuendo, as schemers against the national interest is misleading and unjust. I urge abandoning the foolish phrase, once and for all.”

He said that if anything Congress has “underspent rather than overspent on the defense of the United States.”

Acheson was pessimistic about possible U.S.-Soviet arms limitations talks.

“I am cynically convinced they won't get very far,” he said.