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## ROLE AS A CRITIC ABJURED BY RUSK

He Declines to Be Critical  
of Nixon on Cambodia

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 16 — Dean Rusk, the former Secretary of State, broke 18 months of silence Wednesday on United States foreign policy to say that he could not "throw brickbats" at President Nixon for his failure to find peace in southeast Asia because the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations had also failed.

However, Mr. Rusk, who is to teach international law at the University of Georgia in the fall, avoided directly answering a question from an audience of lawyers about whether he supported the Cambodian operation.

But he won loud applause from critics and the supporters of the Nixon Administration's policies attend the forum when he said that "it would be unseemly for me to be a grandstand quarterback or throw brickbats because he cannot find the answers to that to which we could find no answers ourselves."

Mr. Rusk said, "We are all in the same canoe in turbulent waters," adding, "I pray for wisdom and for compassion for those lonely men in Washington who try to find the answers."

In his first public appearance in Washington since leaving office, Mr. Rusk served as chairman of a forum on Law and the Cambodian Incursion sponsored by the American Society of International Law at the Cosmos Club here.

In defending the Administration's policy, George H. Aldrich, deputy legal adviser of the State Department, disclosed for the first time that the United States had "seriously considered" asking the Cambodian regime of Premier Lon Nol for an invitation to enter his country but had decided against it.

"A Cambodian Government statement on the sanctuaries would not have really been very useful," Mr. Aldrich said. "So we chose to make a case based on the right of self-defense and the security of our troops in South Vietnam that have been subject to attacks for years."