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Rusk Apology to Singapore Authentic, U.S. Admits

CIA

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State State Department press officer. The letter from Rusk which Other officials said that the Department today acknowledged Robert J. McCloskey said that a Lee made public in a Singapore U.S. government had considered that Secretary of State Dean Rusk formal denial made Tuesday by news conference after the state the case closed after Rusk's lethad written a letter of apology the State Department was in er-department denied his allegations, ter was sent to Lee. There were to Singapore's Prime Minister Lee ror.

in Singapore. government on this matter yes-

Lee has said a \$3 million bribe had been offered to him by the U.S. government to keep quiet that occurred 4½ years ago." dated April 15, 1961. In another news conference yesabout the arrest of an American Central Intelligence Agency offi-ter expressing this government's if any, disciplinary action had re-states did not retract its denial regret over the incident," Mc-sulted from the review. Nor would of his original charge he would buy secret information in Singa-|Closkey said. pore.

In comfirming the Rusk letter, the subject or comment further. the Lee government.

McCloskey refused to discuss were under way in Singapore with to bribe me."

said that the administration of no further exchanges on the mat-Kuan Yew for the "improper ac-tivities" of certain U.S. officials who were consulted within the ious view of the incident. McCloskey said that "those John F. Kennedy took a very ser-tralian newsmen at a televised Rusk promised to "Review the news conference Monday that he

> "The Secretary did write a let- McCloskey refused to say what, terday Lee said that if the United he say what diplomatic exchanges name the intermediary "who tried

> > Lee scaid the U.S. governmentⁱ

was "studipdly denying the unde-bribe me." niable."

"I have never lied publicly in ber of the U.S. government, and men in the Singapore govern-senhower was president in 1960. my life," Lee said. "And what a lot of people will be embar-ment cannot be bought," Lee The Kennedy administration, ever I say about the CIA I can rassed if I reveal his identify," prove. If they are stupid enough Lee said.

to go on denying this, we will He said the Singapore govern- bring this out into the open. And Lee said he had offered to have to reveal other details. It ment still had tapes made of an if they continue to deny these keep the incident quiet if the will do them no good, and it will attempt by the CIA to buy state incidents they will get them-U.S. government gave Singanot help future relations be-tween us and the United Lee told States."

Lee told a news conference calumny." Tuesday that the tapes were Lee said that if the U.S. gov-ernment continued to deny the incidents" he would have to them over Radio Singapore if British and Australian foreign name the intermediary of the the U.S. government persists," U.S. government "who tried to he said.

"If they were wise people, through a said.

"They have forced me to ed, began in January 1961. selves dragged further into the pore \$33 million for economic

The bribery allegation was correspondents.

He said the bribe was offered

presidential inter-"He was a high ranking mem- they would have known that the mediary in 1960. Dwight D. Eiunder which Rusk was appoint-

development.