

Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson found dead Tuesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dean Acheson, secretary of state during the most turbulent years just after World War II and architect of much of U.S. Cold War strategy, died Tuesday evening.

The 78-year-old Acheson served as secretary of state under President Harry S. Truman from 1949 to 1953, the years of the Korean War, European reconstruction, the adolescence of the North Atlantic Treaty Organiza-

tion, the Japanese peace treaty and the beginning of the so-called McCarthy era.

According to his wife, Acheson died about 6 p.m. EDT at his Sandy Spring, Md., farm, but the cause was undetermined.

Family members said Acheson was found slumped over a desk in his study. He was pronounced dead by the family physician.

Friends said Acheson had a history of hypertension but had not

been in ill health recently.

He is survived by the widow and three children, Jane (Mrs. Dudley B. W. Brown), David Campion Acheson and Mary Eleanor (Mrs. William F. Bundy).

After leaving the State Department, Acheson served in an advisory capacity to the administrations of President John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. But he spent most of his time in a far-flung and lucrative Wash-

ington law practice.

The Connecticut-born Acheson carried an aristocratic manner that often alienated his foes, and even some friends. But he, nonetheless, achieved great success in the government in a career that reached from a monetary-policy negotiator under Franklin D. Roosevelt to secretary of state under Truman.

In between, he practiced law briefly, but spent most of his

time in various positions within the State Department, finally succeeding Gen. George Marshall as secretary in 1949.

Upon taking over as the nation's chief diplomat Acheson immediately assumed a tough stand concerning what was thought at the time as aggressive, expansionist Soviet policy.

He implemented the strategy of alliances ringing the Soviet Union and its Eastern European

allies, including the formation of NATO, still the key defense pact for the United States and Western Europe.

At the same time, Acheson promoted the continuation and strengthening of the Marshall Plan.

But in spite of his hard-line attitude toward international Communism, his hardest fight involved charges he was soft on Communism at home.

He came under near savage and personal attack for his friendship with Alger Hiss, the high State Department official who ultimately was sentenced to jail for perjury after he swore he was not a Communist.

Hiss, who was a key advisor to American delegations during some of the major post-World War II meetings, was charged with giving secrets to the Soviet Union.

In spite of the allegations Acheson refused to disavow his friendship with Hiss and thereafter was attacked for supposedly harboring Communists and their sympathizers in the State Department.

One of his most severe critics was Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., who often charged Acheson was leading the diplomatic corps and the nation down the road to Communism.

The urbane Acheson, a product of Groton, Harvard and Yale, was known as the diplomat's diplomat.

In a speech to the Women's National Democratic Club two years ago, Acheson urged Americans not to be "destructive" and to give the Nixon administration "strong enough support to carry forward what it has to do."

"If we understood the present," he said, "we would deal more wisely with the future."

In an ironic twist, Acheson's last years were spent under attack by so-called revisionist American historians, who said his policies reflected a lack of knowledge about the Soviet Union and Communism.

Acheson also has been under attack from liberals of his own Democratic party, who became disenchanted with his aggressive views on the Vietnam war and his support of a massive American military presence in Western Europe.

But to the end, Acheson maintained his was the consistent view, one illuminated by knowledge, experience and intelligence. Whatever the disagreement over his policies, there are few who can dispute Acheson was a man who made his mark on the world.

Riter named head director of conference

Dr. Steve Riter of the Department of Electrical Engineering has been named chairman of the board of directors of the National Telecommunications Conference. He will serve through December, 1972.

NTC is a major annual meeting of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. The conference covers the theory and applications of telecommunications to transportation, law enforcement, life sciences, oceanography, weather, earth resources and satellites.

Dr. Riter has served on the board since April, 1970. The board consists of representatives of all of the principal groups who participate in the conference. Dr. Riter represents the Geosciences Electronic Group on the board of directors.

Aggie Players present play for children

"The Steadfast Tin Soldier," a play by Hermann Ammann and I. E. Clark, will be presented by The Aggie Players to area elementary schools.

The original play was based on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale of the same name.

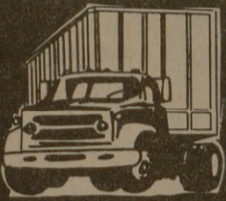
Robert Wenck directs the play. The Stage Manager is Yvonne Schmitz. The lighting is done by Mike McCaskill, the costuming by Rusty McIntruff, and the publicity by Missy Murray.

The cast consists of John Steele as the Tin Soldier, Celia Williams as the good fairy, Becky Ferenz as Cindy, Audie Beesem as Prince Cad, Pat Castle as the Monkey, and Rick Walder as a Jack-in-the-Box.

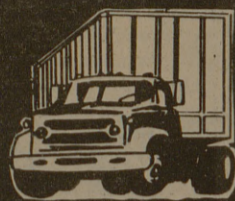
Sandy Sheats performs as the wicked witch, John Tyler and Mike McCaskill as the lackies, Nanette Zeig as Sally, Larry Snyder as Dad, Carla Wolf as Mom and Melanie Dennis as the cook.

The dates for the performances will be announced. The admission will be 25 cents.

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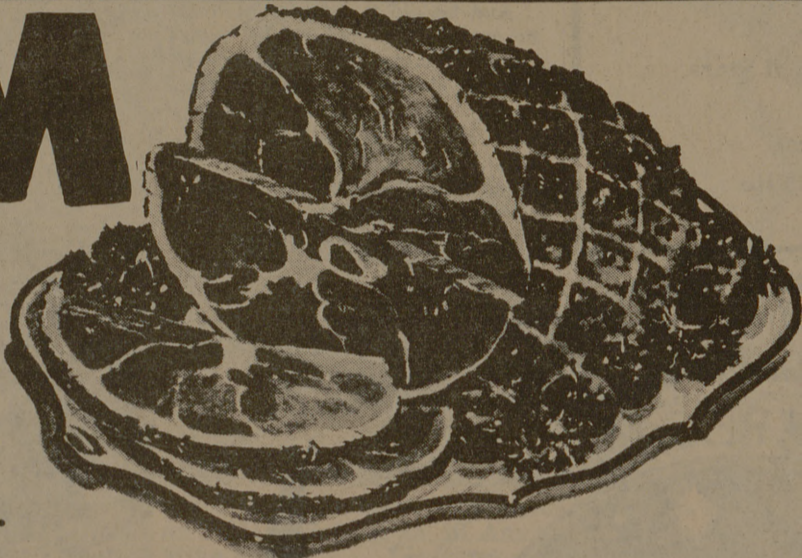
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