

# Acheson Denies 12 Charges Of 'Collusion' With the Reds

**Brands Statements by Lieutenant Governor  
of California as False or Distorted—  
Secretary Defends China Policy**

**By GLADWIN HILL**

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LOS ANGELES, Aug. 19 — The California and the state-wide Sent details of a verbal duel between atorial campaigns of William Gibbs Secretary of State Dean Acheson McAdoo and Sheridan Downey, and Lieut. Gov. Goodwin J. Knight called upon the Lieutenant Governor for particulars. of California were made public today.

The exchange has been in progress for several months through an intermediary, John B. Elliott, Los Angeles Democrat. The Lieutenant Governor, a Republican, has accused Mr. Acheson of being "in nefarious and secret collusion with violent enemies of my country." The Secretary has taxed Mr. Knight with retailing falsehoods and distortions.

In a speech before the Chico, Calif., Kiwanis Club April 17, Mr. Knight denounced Mr. Acheson as an "American Neville Chamberlain" who had "kow-towed to communism" and plotted the dismissal of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

Mr. Elliott, a wealthy oil man who managed Woodrow Wilson's Presidential campaign in Southern

Mr. Knight replied with twelve specific accusations, which Mr. Elliott forwarded to Secretary Acheson, April 26, requesting authoritative information with which to refute them.

Mr. Acheson wrote Mr. Elliott on May 14 that "the statements which Mr. Knight made are either entirely incorrect or distortions of the true situation." On June 28 he sent Mr. Elliott a 5,000-word "memorandum" of detailed rejoinders, which Mr. Elliott forwarded to the Lieutenant Governor and with Mr. Acheson's permission made public today.

The charges, with most of which the Secretary had dealt at Congressional hearings, were:

1. That Secretary Acheson in December, 1949, termed Formosa

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# ACHESON REJECTS CHARGES ON REDS

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doomed and expendable, in June, 1947, said there was no danger of a Communist defeat of Chiang Kai-shek, and in July, 1949, said that no amount of American aid could have saved China from the Communists.

2. That Mr. Acheson in 1946, over the objection of United States Ambassador Arthur B. Lane, approved a \$80,000,000 loan to Poland on which "his" law firm got a \$50,000 fee.
3. That in July, 1949, he said there were no Communists in the State Department, which "has since proved to be completely false."
4. That he "has never repudiated his support of Alger Hiss."
5. That he recommended the abandonment of Formosa after Chiang's Government had fled there.
6. That Mr. Acheson "and his friends, including Owen Lattimore, encouraged a Communist rebellion in China and referred to the Communists as 'agrarian reformers.'"
7. That Mr. Acheson had acted as counsel to Lauchlin Currie at a 1948 Congressional hearing on "proven charges of aiding the Communists."
8. That Mr. Acheson had recommended Russian participation in the administration of Japan.
9. That in the formation of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Mr. Acheson had "insisted on the veto to please the Soviet Union and supported all Soviet demands."
10. That he had "secured the appointment of Alger Hiss to the Dumbarton Oaks and Yalta conferences."
11. That as Under-Secretary of State in 1945 he had received Juan Negrin, Spanish Leftist, while refusing to see Fernando de los Rios, Spanish anti-Communist.
12. That in 1945 he had promised representatives of the "subversive Abraham Lincoln Brigade" to intervene in behalf of two condemned Communists in Spain. Citing official records extensively, Mr. Acheson in his memorandum labeled the second, fifth, sixth, ninth, tenth and eleventh allegations as outrightly false, and the others as based on false inferences or distortions of the record.

The Polish loan, he said, was approved by responsible State Department officers and Polish anti-Communist leaders, and at the time it was granted, he had severed all connections with the law firm involved.

He asserted he never had said there were no Communists in the State Department — only that he "knew" of none.

Sponsorship of Alger and Donald Hiss had been alleged by Adolph Berle, former Assistant Secretary of State, at a Congressional hearing. Mr. Acheson said Mr. Berle's memory "is faulty" and "plays him false." His only connection with Alger Hiss in regard to the Dumbarton Oaks and Yalta conferences, Mr. Acheson added, was, as he had testified under oath, to sign Hiss' travel orders "as a routine official duty."

On his acting as counsel to Mr. Currie, Mr. Acheson said no charge of Communist affiliation had been made against Mr. Currie. The so-called "proven charges" had not proved to be a basis for any action, he added.

## Comments on Spanish Issue

Regarding the condemned Spanish Communists, Mr. Acheson said that since they were not United States citizens, the State Department's action was "limited to expressions of interest on humanitarian grounds" according to departmental policy established in response to many such appeals.

"Incidentally," the Secretary added, "this assertion not only indicates the way in which information becomes distorted and in effect false, but also bears close resemblance to other similar assertions which admit their source of information is The Daily Worker."

Mr. Elliott, who said today that his role as interlocutor had been entirely on his own initiative, forwarded Secretary Acheson's replies to Lieutenant Governor Knight with the observation:

"Like many others, it would seem you have been 'taken in' by this giant, vicious hoax, unscrupulously invented and intended to destroy the public reputation of the American Secretary of State."

The Lieutenant Governor, in an open letter to Mr. Elliott today, said he did not consider Mr. Acheson's memorandum as any refutation of the charges, and taxed him with "hair-splitting and pettifogging." He added:

"I feel that you are the victim of faltering weasel words and double-talk. \* \* \* The finest thing Dean Acheson could do would be to resign today."