STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

There have been new attacks within the past week against
Secretary of State Acheson. I have been asked to remove him from office.
The authors of this suggestion claim that this would be good for the
country.

Now our position in the world would be improved by the retire-
ment of Dean Acheson from public life is beyond me. Mr. Acheson has helped
above and beyond our policy of resistance to communist imperialism.
From the time of our sharing of arms with Greece and Turkey nearly four
years ago, and coming down to the recent moment when he advised me to
resist the communist invasion of South Korea, no official in our Govern-
ment has been more alive to communism's threat to freedom or more forceful
in resisting it.

At this moment, he is in Brussels representing the United States
in getting up mutual defenses against aggression. This has made it possible
for me to designate General Eisenhower as Supreme Allied Commander in
Europe.

If communism were to prevail in the world — as it shall not
prevail — Dean Acheson would be one of the first, if not the first, to
be shot by the enemies of liberty and Christianity.

These recent attacks on Mr. Acheson are old in the sense that
they are the same false charges that have been made time and time again
over a period of months. They have no basis in fact whatever.

It is the same sort of thing that happened to Seward, President
Lincoln was asked by a group of Republicans to dismiss Secretary of State
Seward. He refused. So do I refuse to dismiss Acheson.

If I did anything else, it would weaken the firm and vigorous
position this country has taken against communist aggression.

If those groups attacking our foreign policy and Mr. Acheson
have any alternative policies to offer, they should disclose them. They
owe it to their country. This is a time for hard facts and close thinking.
It is a time for vague charges and loose generalities.

There are some Republicans who recognize the facts and the
true reasons for these attacks on Secretary of State Acheson and who do
not agree with their colleagues.

This Nation needs the wisdom of all its people. This is a time
of great peril. It is a time for unity, for real bipartisanship. It is
a time for making use of the great talents of men like Dean Acheson.

Communism — not our own country — would be served by losing
him.