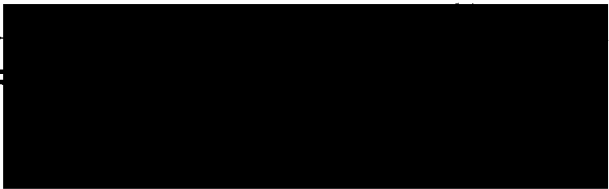


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Hearing for Otepka Put Off Until Dec. 16

Associated Press

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The State Department said yesterday that a hearing for Otto F. Otepka, dismissed former security evaluator of the Department, has been postponed until Dec. 16 at the request of Otepka's counsel.

Press officer Robert McCloskey related recent developments in the year-long case when he was asked about charges made by the Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Barry Goldwater, in Pittsburgh Thursday night.

McCloskey did not reply to the charges. Sen. Goldwater accused Secretary of State Dean Rusk of having "coddled" those who investigated Otepka and called them

"liars, wiretappers, brutal abusers of government power."

A Senate hearing developed evidence that State Department investigators had placed a listening device in Otepka's office. There were also acknowledgements of false statements to Senators about the case.

Otepka was dismissed after charges he gave restricted information to a congressional investigating committee. The dismissal was on formal charges of conduct "unbecoming an officer." He is, however, still on the Department's payroll, pending the outcome of his appeal.