

Diplomatic Corps Dean, Jefferson Caffery, Dies

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP)—Jefferson Caffery, ranked as dean of the United States diplomatic corps before his retirement in 1955, died here Saturday. He was 87.

He held the distinction of having served as chief of mission longer than any other foreign service officer in America's history, holding the rank of ambassador for 20 years.

President Dwight Eisenhower labeled Caffery's career "brilliant" when he left his last post, ambassador to Egypt.

Caffery was appointed to that ambassadorship in 1949 by President Harry Truman and played a major role in settling British-Egyptian disputes over Suez Canal bases.

He was asked to stay on nearly three years after normal retirement age to handle American affairs in that hotspot.

He was sent to Egypt from France, where he had been the first ambassador to liberated France. He reopened the embassy in Paris, which had been closed during the German occupation, and served as chief of mission during one of the most critical periods in Franco-American relations.

The scion of an aristocratic family from Lafayette, Caf-

fery served as personal emissary for five successive presidents, from Calvin Coolidge through Eisenhower.

After graduating from Tulane University in 1906, he joined the Foreign Service "for a lark," as he once told an interviewer. "Looking back on it now," he said at the time of his retirement, "there's nothing better I could have done."

In his early years, he was sent to a variety of embassies: Caracas in 1911-13, Persia in 1916, Madrid in 1920, Athens in 1922, Tokyo in 1923, Brussels and Berlin in 1925 and Salvadore in 1926.

In 1919, he accompanied President Woodrow Wilson to the Paris Peace Conference at the end of World War I.
