WALTER HOWE, 58, DIPLOMAT, IS DEAD.

Eisenhower Envoy to Chili Scored Castro Regime.

BARBOURSVILLE, VA. April 9 (AP) — Walter Howe, United States Ambassador to Chile during the second Administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, died of a heart attack yesterday at a Charlottesville hospital. He was 58 years old.

Replied to Students. Mr. Howe, whose career in public affairs ranged from the state to the international level, served as Ambassador to Chile from 1958 to 1961.

When President Eisenhower visited that country in March of 1960 during a South American tour, a student group bitterly criticized United States policies, charging that the Government supported dictators on the continent.

The President challenged the charge and promised that the students would receive a more detailed reply through Ambassador Howe.

On behalf of the President, the Ambassador wrote a letter on April 8 defending our policies and sharply attacking Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders for "betrayal" of the ideals they proclaimed when they took power on Jan. 1, 1959.

Containing some of the Administration's strongest criticism of the Castro regime up to that time, the letter received worldwide attention, spurred student debate in Chile and provoked an angry 15-page rebuttal by President Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado of Cuba. Nine months later the United States severed diplomatic relations with Cuba.

After leaving his post in Chile, Mr. Howe was an adviser on South American affairs to private and Governmental organizations.

Before coming to Virginia, a year ago, he lived in Connecticut, where he was a member of the General Assembly from 1934 to 1942 and speaker of the House of representative from 1939 to 1940.

Mr. Howe also had been director of the United States Foreign Operations Mission to Columbia. He served in the Navy during World War II and the Korean War.

Surviving are his widow, Jane; four sons, Peter of Barboursville, Jonathan of Atlanta, Timothy of New York and Walter of New Haven, and four granddaughters.

A funeral service will be held at 2 PM on Monday at St. Michael's Episcopal Church on South Street in Litchfield, Conn.