

Vice Admiral Richard G. Colbert

PRESIDENT, 30 AUGUST 1968 - 17 AUGUST 1971

Oil on Canvas

Adrian Lamb, 1971

Loan from Navy Art Collection, Naval History and Heritage Command



Richard Gary Colbert (1915 - 1973) graduated from the Naval War College in 1956. Staying on at the Naval War College, he became the first director of the new senior foreign officers' course, eventually named the Naval Command College, that began in 1956 and had its first graduates in 1957. As the College's thirty-fifth president, he consolidated and strengthened the academic programs initiated by his predecessor, and he set in motion the construction program for Spruance, Conolly, and Hewitt Halls. Colbert also laid the groundwork for the Naval Staff College course for intermediate-level international officers, established the Naval War College Foundation, and instituted the biennial meeting of the world's chiefs of navy, the International Seapower Symposia. From Newport, he went on to be Chief of Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, and then, promoted to four-star rank, he became Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe.

In the background, at the base of this portrait, is a model showing the new buildings that Colbert was instrumental in constructing for the Naval War College. In the foreground, Colbert's hand is on the College's library globe. Made in Scotland in the early twentieth century, the globe is now in the Naval War College Museum collection. The artist, Adrian Stymets Lamb (1901 - 1988), studied at the Art Students League in New York and attended the Académie Julian in Paris in 1929.