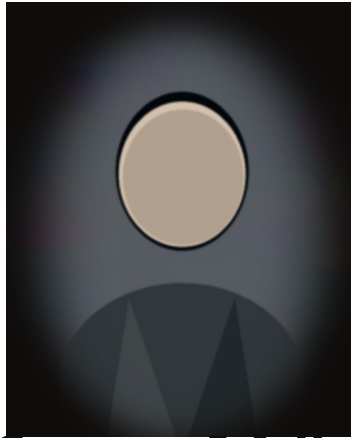




Sumner Welles

October 14, 1892 - September 24, 1961

Bernardsville, New Jersey

Sumner Welles - Benjamin Sumner Welles - American diplomat and under secretary of state who helped shape Franklin Roosevelt's Good Neighbor Policy toward Latin America, died in Bernardsville, New Jersey, on September 24, 1961. He was sixty-eight. Born October 14, 1892, in New York City to a family of means and public service, he entered the Foreign Service young, specialized in Caribbean and Latin American affairs, and rose as a polished, exacting presence in Roosevelt's State Department.

He pressed nonintervention rhetoric into practice, advised on hemispheric strategy as war approached, and wrote with a clarity that made policy memos read like briefs for history. Career triumphs sat beside a private life that later drew scandal and forced resignation - a reminder that diplomatic polish does not erase human fracture. Historians still weigh his Latin American work as among the more constructive Midwestern-to-coastal foreign-policy turns of the New Deal era.

Bernardsville offered a New Jersey retreat after Washington corridors. He died there in retirement, leaving papers and memoirs that keep arguing with the century he tried to manage.

He died in Bernardsville on September 24, 1961. Diplomatic shelves still file Good Neighbor under his careful hand.

Welles's gift was hemispheric restraint - arguing that U.S. power in the Americas worked better without the old gunboat reflex. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 24 remembers the New York-born diplomat who tried to rewrite neighborhood politics before the world war closed in.

Services

Died in Bernardsville, New Jersey, September 24, 1961. U.S. diplomat; under secretary of state; architect of aspects of the Good Neighbor Policy.

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