J. F. Fazekas Dies, D.C. General Critic

Dr. Joseph Francis Fazekas, 59, the center of a stormy controversy at D.C. General Hospital in 1958, died Friday of a coronary occlusion at Eastern Shore State Hospital while making his rounds.

In the decade between 1949 and 1959, Dr. Fazekas was chief of staff at D.C. General. In 1955, he and 13 other staff physicians submitted a 38-page criticism of the hospital administration and the District health department director.

His "rebellion" kicked off three congressional investigations.

In hearings on Capitol Hill in late November, 1958, Dr. Fazekas was described by some witnesses as a "troublemaker" and a "disruptive influence."

District Commissioner David B. Karrick, however, defended Dr. Fazekas, admitting that he was a "tempestuous individual, a stormy type," but adding that, "I have never known him to get excited about anything except medical care."

By July, 1959, the 48-year-old chief of staff had suffered two heart attacks and he retired from the post at D.C. General.

In February and March, 1966, Dr. Fazekas served in the Volunteer Physician Project in Vietnam under the aegis of the Agency for International Development.

Upon his return to Washington, he said, "Nothing in my life has been so satisfacory as my work there." He urged graduating American medical students to advance their profession - and improve their healing skills by serving in Vietnamese civilian hospitals.

DR. JOSEPH FAZEKAS

Dr Fazekas became chief of the U.S. Army Medical Component in Bangkok, Thailand, a year later, and remained in that post until 1967.

Since then, he had served as director of education and training at Eastern Shore Hospital in Cambridge, Md.

Born in New Haven, Dr. Fazekas graduated from Albany Medical College, Albany, N.Y., in 1944. He held numerous academic positions, including associate professor of neurology at Tufts University, visiting professor of neurology at the University of New Mexico and associate clinical professor of neurology at George Washington University.

He is survived by his wife, Mary S., a daughter, Michele, and two sons Thomas S. and Joseph S., all of the home at 1 Stockton Rd., Silver Spring; two sisters, Julia Griezing and Mary Miller, both of New Haven, and two brothers, Leslie, of New Haven, and John, of Oakland, Calif.