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ABILENE, KANSAS

U.S. PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION ACTIVITIES ABROAD  
(SPRAGUE COMMITTEE): Records, 1959-61

Accession: 83-10  
Processed by: DJH  
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The Records of the U.S. President's Committee on Information Activities Abroad were transferred to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library from the National Security Council in August 1981.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 12.5  
Approximate number of pages: 25,200  
Approximate number of items: 5,000

Literary rights in the official records created by this Committee are in the public domain. Literary right in personal papers which might be among the Committee's records are reserved to their respective authors. These records were reviewed under provisions of the instrument of gift which Dwight D. Eisenhower signed on April 13, 1960. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers that are security-classified until such classification shall be removed.
2. Papers the use of which may be prejudicial to the maintenance of good relations with foreign nations.
3. Papers containing statements made in confidence unless the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.
4. Papers relating to family or private business affairs.
5. Papers containing statements which might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Records of the President's Committee on Information Activities Abroad (Sprague Committee) span the years 1959-61, but most of the records were created during the period from February to December 1960 when the Committee was active. Types of documentation include official correspondence and memoranda, minutes of meetings, memoranda of conversations, briefing summaries, reports, drafts of sections of the Committee's report as well as the final report, staff papers, press releases and printed material.

Throughout his presidency, Dwight D. Eisenhower retained a strong interest in the United States government's overseas information programs and propaganda activities which were labeled "psychological warfare." He demonstrated his interest almost immediately after his inauguration in January 1953 by establishing the President's Committee on International Information Activities (Jackson Committee). This committee conducted an extensive study of the United States government's information and psychological warfare policies and in June 1953 presented its findings to the President. Many of these recommendations were implemented, including the establishment of an Operations Coordinating Board and the United States Information Agency, two key elements of the Administration's national security machinery. In addition, the Jackson Committee expressed a basic tenet of the Eisenhower Administration's cold war philosophy: psychological activities and strategy do not exist apart from official policies; instead, every diplomatic, economic and military action of the United States government has a psychological aspect or implication.

The cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union remained a major problem for President Eisenhower throughout his administration. In order to help him deal with this continuing problem, the President sought advice on psychological aspects of the government's national security policies from the White House advisers, most notably C.D. Jackson, and to a lesser extent, Nelson Rockefeller, William H. Jackson, Frederick Dearborn, and Karl G. Harr. In spite of President Eisenhower's demonstrated interest in psychological warfare, he and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles received letters from C.D. Jackson complaining that the U.S. government's policy makers lacked interest in or failed to understand what Jackson termed "political warfare." In a lengthy letter of July 10, 1959, to the President, Jackson contrasted the President's own knowledge of political warfare with the lack of understanding within such agencies as the Department of State. Claiming that the "moment of truth" for political warfare was at hand, Jackson urged the President to hold a meeting on this topic. The President complied by inviting over 15 representatives of the major national security agencies and the White House to a dinner on September 10, 1959. C.D. Jackson's record of this dinner meeting describes a lively discussion which stimulated interest in psychological or political warfare.

It was apparently more than coincidental that a few weeks after this meeting, President Eisenhower asked Mansfield Sprague, a former counsel for the Secretary of Defense, to serve as chairman of a new committee, the President's Committee on Information Activities Abroad. In his letter to Sprague dated December 2, 1959, President Eisenhower stated that the Committee's purpose was "to review the findings and recommendations of the Committee on International Information Activities in its report dated June 30, 1953, and consider changes in the international situation which affect the validity of the findings and recommendations in that report." In other words the President wanted the earlier report updated. Sprague accepted this assignment and the work of forming the Committee began. On February

17, 1960 the President publicly announced the establishment of this Committee and listed its members as follows:

Mansfield D. Sprague, Chairman  
C.D. Jackson  
Philip D. Reed  
Livingston T. Merchant  
George V. Allen  
Allen W. Dulles  
Gordon Gray  
Karl T. Harr, Jr.  
John N. Irwin II  
Waldemar A. Nielsen, Executive Director

The Committee's staff included representatives of the White House, Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense, Department of State, and the United States Information Agency. The Committee also employed several consultants.

The Sprague Committee held the first of 18 formal meetings on February 29-March 1, 1960, and met for the last time on December 27, 1960. The Committee took over nine months to complete its business and experienced some delays and complications stemming from the 1960 presidential campaign. In October 1960 the White House felt compelled to refute an allegation that the Sprague Committee had drawn conclusions regarding the status of the United States' prestige abroad, a political issue during the campaign.

The Committee received several briefings from representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense, International Cooperation Agency, Department of State, and the United States Information Agency. It also studied a large volume of classified material, talked to numerous government officials and other individuals and produced a file of staff papers and draft staff papers which were refined into 44 numbered documents.

Finally, the Committee produced several report drafts which were discussed and revised section by section. During the course of the Committee's deliberations Mansfield Sprague met with the President at least three times to discuss the timing and handling of recommendations. On December 23, 1960, Sprague transmitted the Committee's finished product, Conclusions and Recommendations of the President's Committee on Information Activities Abroad, to President Eisenhower. The President was initially leery of releasing any portion of the document for fear that the incoming Kennedy Administration might exploit it for political purposes at his (Eisenhower's) expense. After reading the report, however, Eisenhower consented to the release to the public of a sanitized version of the document and agreed that the full security classified report be retained in the government's files for future reference.

The White House released an unclassified summary of the Committee's report on January 12, 1961. This public version called for substantial expansion of the United States' information efforts, especially in such developing areas as Africa and Latin America. The Committee urged extensive training of government personnel in informational and psychological aspects of policy,

recommended increased assistance to educational development abroad, and expansion of exchange programs including those with the Soviet Bloc, and pointed out the need to pay attention to the impact on foreign opinion of U.S. economic, scientific and military programs and activities. It also suggested that United States diplomacy place more emphasis on public opinion during the conduct of negotiations and conferences, the selection of foreign service personnel and in the treatment of foreign visitors. Finally, the Committee also urged that the Operations Coordinating Board be continued and strengthened. The seemingly perpetual cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union was undoubtedly the primary reason for the establishment of the Sprague Committee and clearly influenced the tone of the report and the nature of the recommendations. The Committee was particularly concerned with Soviet influence in underdeveloped countries.

The Sprague Committee apparently delved much deeper into international cultural and educational activities than did the Jackson Committee in 1953. Consequently the Sprague Committee records are a source of much information of such topics as English language teaching, foreign educational development and exchange programs and the use of television in informational programs. Another extensively documented topic in these records is international broadcasting including, specifically, the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, and the Voice of the United Nations Command in the Far East. A few of the many other well-documented subjects in these records include U.S. military personnel abroad, experiences of foreign citizens in the United States, the impact of scientific and technological developments on the United States' image, and the roles of private business, labor, universities, foundations, the news media, and international sporting competition in overseas information programs. In addition to the Soviet Union, the Committee studied and generated documentation concerning Latin America, Africa, Western Europe, mainland China, the Middle East, and East and South Asia.

The potential historical significance of the Sprague Committee Records is enhanced not only by the variety of topics covered but also by the detailed records kept of the Committee's deliberations. The lengthy summaries of Committee discussions and staff meetings for the period February through October 1960 not only reflect the topics covered in these discussions and briefings but also provide considerable insight into the philosophical outlooks and differences among Committee members.

The detailed administrative records contained herein document the creation, organization, personnel and the daily functioning of this presidential committee. The intelligence aspect of information programs is reflected in the several briefings and memoranda originated by the Central Intelligence Agency. Also not to be overlooked as sources are the numerous United States Information Agency Office of Intelligence and Research reports on various countries, geographic regions and topics.

The arrangement of these records at the time they were received by the Library as been retained, with the records organized into six series. Two of these series, Series I and Series III pertain to the numbered papers prepared by the Committee staff, with Series I consisting of background materials including correspondence, memoranda and reports relating to most--although not all--staff papers, and Series III containing the numbered papers, drafts, and some supporting materials. Series II is an alphabetically arranged subject and correspondence series which

includes correspondence, memoranda, and schedules relating to the administration and organization of the Sprague Committee, folders labeled "Chronological File" and "Reading File" which contains information on most aspects of the Committee's work, and some reports, studies and other materials pertaining to specific information-related topics. These three series are the largest in the collection, with Series I comprising about 35% of the total, Series II almost 30% and Series III about 20%.

Series IV, about 10% of the entire collection, consists of the final Committee report to the President plus drafts of sections of the report and drafts of a proposed public version. Series V, although small (approximately 400 pages), is important because it contains detailed and revealing summaries of the Committee discussions for the first through the thirteenth meetings plus summaries of staff meetings and briefings by various agency representatives. Series VI consists of one card index container holding document receipts and card indexes alphabetized by names and subjects.

At the time these records were processed by a staff archivist approximately 7,400 pages (30% of the collection) of security classified material were withdrawn and placed in the Library's security vault. Another 41 pages were closed in accordance with the provisions of President Eisenhower's letter of gift. A small number of still photographs were removed and transferred to the Library's audiovisual collection.

## SERIES DESCRIPTION

Box Nos. Series

- 1-11 I BACKGROUND TO PCIAA STAFF PAPERS SERIES, 1959-61 10 ½ containers.

Organized to parallel numerical arrangement of PCIAA staff papers nos. 1-42, excluding papers nos. 6,9,22,27,32,35,38,39,43, & 44. Consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports and printed matter. Used as background material for preparation of PCIAA staff papers.

- 11-19 II ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1959-61. 8 ½ containers.

Arranged alphabetically by subject. Consists of correspondence, agendas, memoranda, notes of discussions, reports and schedules pertaining to budgetary, organizational, personnel, security, and other aspects of PCIAA administrative matters but also contains information on topics studied by the Committee, including minutes of meetings and other items many of which are copies of documents found elsewhere in these records.

- 20-25 III PCIAA STAFF PAPERS SERIES, 1960. Five containers.

Arranged numerically by number of papers, 1-44. Contains reports and memoranda prepared largely by PCIAA staff or in some instances by individuals in various government agencies or by outside consultants, to assist the Committee in preparing its report to the President. Includes final versions and drafts of individual papers as well as some correspondence and memoranda.

- 25-27 IV PCIAA REPORT SERIES, 1960. 2 ½ containers.

Arranged to reflect the preparation of the different versions of the Committee report--outline and background, chapter drafts, initial and final report, conclusions and recommendations, draft annexes to report, and drafts of public version.

- 27 V PCIAA MINUTES SERIES, February-October 1960. One-half container.

Arranged chronologically by PCIAA meeting and includes notes or minutes of discussions for the first through the thirteenth meetings but none for the fourteenth through the eighteenth meetings. Also includes notes of PCIAA staff meetings and briefings of PCIAA by agency representatives.

28 VI ADMINISTRATIVE SERIES, 1960. 1 card index container.

    Holds classified document receipts, name index and subject index cards.

## CONTAINER LIST

Box No.   Contents

BACKGROUND TO PCIAA STAFF PAPERS SERIES 1959-61

- 1      Radio and Television #'s 1, 3, 5, 14, 26 (1)-(16) [China; Radio Free Europe; Sino-Soviet broadcasting; US overseas television; Voice of America; Korea; UNESCO; Armed Forces Radio and Television Service; Radio in the American Sector; Radio Liberty; Charles Bohlen & USSR]  
  
        Attributed & Unattributed #2  
  
        Private Foundations #4  
  
        English-Teaching Program #7 (1)-(3)  
  
        Soviet Bloc #8 (1) (2)
  
- 2      Soviet Bloc #8 (3)-(13) [Soviet image; bilateral friendship societies; Soviet people; East Asia and neutralism; teaching about communist threat; newly emerging countries]  
  
        Map training #10 (1)-(6) [military assistance training]  
  
        Record of USAF Orientation Activities (PCIAA # 10) (1)-(4)
  
- 3      Communist China #11 (1)-(6)  
  
        Latin America #12 (1)-(4)  
  
        American Business Abroad #13 (1)-(3)  
  
        Am. Labor in International Affairs #15 (1)-(5) [Latin America; Chile; trade unions in developing countries]
  
- 4      International Flow of News #16 (1)-(6) [Lecture on role of the press; principle news agencies in the world; freedom of information; Roscoe Drummond memo of presidential press conferences]  
  
        Western Europe #17 (1)-(9) [European image of America; communist propaganda; political developments]

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5	Western Europe #17 (10)-(12)
	United Nations #18
	Psychological Aspects Foreign Aid #19 (1)-(4) [US military image]
	Voluntary Foreign Aid #20 (1)-(5) [IVS in Southeast Asia]
	U.S. Public Understanding #21 (1)(2) [statements by government officials on foreign policy; surveys of U.S. public opinion on foreign policy issues]
	Science & Technology #23 [File #1] (1)-(6)
6	Science & Technology #23 [File #1] (7)-(9)
	Science & Technology #23 [File #2] (1)-(6)
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7	Science & Technology #23 [File #4] (1)-(7)
	Science & Technology Basic Material - PCIAA 23 (1)-(6)
	#23 Science & Technology Final Report (1)-(7) [Soviet proposal for dam across Bering Strait; disease prevention]
8	Disarmament #24 (1)-(4) [including information re establishment of US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency]
	International Travel #25 (1) (2)
	Military #28 (1)-(15) [military personnel abroad; Latin America; troop orientation; defense expenditure abroad; military activities during cold war]
9	People to People Activities #29 (1) (2)
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	Asia #30 (1)-(8)
	Africa #31 (1) (2)
	Information - MSA #33 (1)- (3)

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11	<p>International Education Development #42 (1)-(10)</p> <p>ALPHABETICAL SERIES</p> <p>Accession List No. 1</p> <p>Accession List No. 2</p> <p>Accession List No. 3</p> <p>Accession List No. 4</p> <p>Accession List No. 5</p> <p>Agricultural Technical Assistance and the American Image</p> <p>Andrews, Stanley (1) (2)</p> <p>"B" [questions for Bureau of the Budget]</p> <p>Benesh, Agnes K.</p> <p>Budget Matters (1) (2)</p>
12	<p>Chronological File - Col. Coffey (1)-(6) [includes summaries of PCIAA meetings and staff meetings on wide range of topics, many duplicates of summaries in PCIAA Minutes Series]</p> <p>Chronological File - Waldemar A. Nielsen (1)-(5) [private foundations]</p>

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12 (cont.)	Chronological File - Official (1)-(8) [underdeveloped countries; Soviet Bloc; China; USIA programs]
	Chronological File - M.D. Sprague
	Chronological File - Staff Members (1) (2) [Italy; USSR & newly emerging countries; intelligence; Far East; passports for China travel]
	Circulation and Filing of Documents
	Classified Documents Requested from other Agencies (1) (2)
	Committee Meeting No. 1 (Feb. 29-March 1, 1960) (1)-(3) [summaries of Committee meetings, largely duplicated in PCIAA Minutes Series]
	Committee Meeting No. 2 (March 14-15, 1960) (1) (2)
13	Committee Meeting No. 3 (April 25-26, 1960) (1) (2)
	Committee Meeting No. 4 (May 9-10, 1960)
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	Committee Meeting No. 7 (June 20, 1960)
	Committee Meeting No. 8 (July 11, 1960)
	Committee Meeting No. 9 (July 26, 1960)
	Committee Meeting No. 10 (August 8-9, 1960)
	Committee Meeting No. 11 (September 19-20, 1960)
	Committee Meeting No. 12 (September 29-30, 1960)
	Committee Meeting No. 13 (October 10-11, 1960)
	Committee Meeting No. 14 (November 14, 1960)
	Committee Meeting No. 15 (November 22, 1960)
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	Committee Meeting No. 17 (December 12, 1960)

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16	"M"  Marshall, Charles Burton  Memoranda to Staff (1) (2)  Miscellaneous Documents (1)-(3)  National Security Council  Nielsen, Waldemar A. (1)-(3)  "O" [OCB]  OCB - Operations Coordination Board (1)-(7)  "P"  P-Factor (1) (2)  Personnel (1)-(5) [recruitment and training of government personnel]

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20	D Sheets (File #1)  D Sheets (File #2) (1)(2)  D Sheets (File #3)  PCIAA #1 (1)-(3) [International Radio & Television Activities of the US Government]  PCIAA #2 [Roles of Attributed and Unattributed Information and the Division of Responsibility Between the USIA and the CIA]  PCIAA #3 [VOA/RFE/RL and RIAS]  PCIAA #4 [Private Foundations]  PCIAA #5 [The Mission of the VOA]  PCIAA #6 [ Tentative Report Outline]  PCIAA #7 [The English Teaching Program]

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22	PCIAA #19 (1) (2) [Psychological and Informational Aspects of Foreign Economic Aid]  PCIAA #20 [The Psychological Impact of American Voluntary Foreign Aid]  PCIAA #21 (1) (2) [The Problem of U.S. Public Understanding of International Affairs]  PCIAA #22 [The Financial Flexibility of the U.S. Apparatus]  PCIAA #23 (1)-(7) [The Impact of Achievements in Science and Technology Upon the Image Abroad of the United States]  PCIAA #24 (1)-(3) [Disarmament and the Factor of Public Opinion]

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24	PCIAA #33 [Information Efforts in support of Mutual Security]  PCIAA #34 (1) (2) [Research Programs and the Allocation of Limited Informational Resources]  PCIAA #35 (1) (2) [The International Communist Propaganda Machine]  PCIAA #36 (1) (2) [The Middle East]  PCIAA #37 (1)-(3) [Themes]  PCIAA #38 [Repeal of the Connally Amendment]  PCIAA #39 (1)-(3) [Agricultural Technical Assistance and the American Image]  PCIAA #40 (1)-(3) [The Exchange of Persons Program of the United States Government] PCIAA #41 [The Role of the American University in International Relations]  PCIAA #42 [A Program For International Development]

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	Initial Report to the President - Dec. 24, 1960 (1)-(4)
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	Printed Committee Report
	Committee Recommendations Which May Involve Additional Expenditures
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(cont.)

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PCIAA MINUTES SERIES

Minutes (1) [notes of 1st PCIAA meeting 2/29-3/1/60 plus briefing on intelligence and on USSR]

Minutes (2) [notes on 2nd PCIAA meeting 3/14-15/60 including discussions and presentations re PCIAA topics, underdeveloped countries, US military power]

Minutes (3) [notes on PCIAA staff meeting 4/25/60 re RFE/RL]

Minutes (4) [notes on 4th, 5th, 6th PCIAA meetings, 4/22, 5/10/ 5/23, & 6/60 re PCIAA 1/1, 10, 12/1, 15, 21, 23, & 25 plus considerable discussion of Voice of America]

Minutes (5) [notes on 7th & 8th PCIAA meetings 6/20-21/60 & 7/11-12/60 re PCIAA 17/1, 22/1, 23, 24,26, 30, 31, 33, & 34]

Minutes (6) [notes on 9th & 10th PCIAA meetings 7/26/60/ & 8/8-9/60 re PCIAA 10/1, 21/1, 21/2, 28/1, 34/1, 35/1, 38/1, 40, 41, & 42]

Minutes (7) [notes on 11th PCIAA meeting 9/19-20/60 re Chapters I, II, & VI of PCIAA report]

Minutes (8) [notes on 12th PCIAA meeting 9/29-30/60 re OCB and re Chapters III & IV of PCIAA report]

Minutes (9) [notes on 13th PCIAA meeting 10/10-11/60 re Chapters I, III, IV, & V of PCIAA report]

Minutes (10) [notes of PCIAA staff meetings 2/24, 3/9, 4/7, 4/13 re procedures, ICA and US aid programs]

Minutes (11) [notes on briefings and staff meetings during March & April 1960 re the USIA, USSR, intelligence, and NATO]

Minutes (12) [notes on staff meetings and briefings re ICA activities in Latin America; South Asia, Southeast Asia, and educational and cultural activities]

Minutes (13) [briefings and memoranda re USIA activities in Africa, Middle East, South Asia, the USIA mission, Western Europe, Far East, and Information Center]

Minutes (14) [memoranda of conversations re RFE, intelligence, VOA, and general matters for the PCIAA]

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