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WHITE HOUSE OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT
FOR DISARMAMENT (HAROLD STASSEN): Records, 1955-58

Accession: A80-16 & A94-10
Processed by: RS & TB
Date Completed: February 1998

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 15
Approximate number of pages: 29,600
Approximate number of items: 7,500

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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

Harold Stassen served as President Eisenhower's Special Assistant for Disarmament from March 19, 1955 to February 15, 1958. Stassen and his staff were responsible for developing broad studies concerning disarmament on behalf of the President and State Department. These studies, when concurred in by the National Security Council and approved by the President, would become the basis for United States disarmament policy.

The functions performed by Stassen and his staff were transferred to the State Department in 1958, and the records of Stassen's office were apparently transferred to the State Department shortly thereafter. The Department of State transferred the records to the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) shortly after its formation on September 26, 1961. There are withdrawal sheets and notations in the collection indicating that Top Secret documents were filed in a separate "Top Secret File." The Eisenhower Library, however, did not receive this file when the collection was received from the ACDA in March 1980. The Eisenhower Library was subsequently informed by the ACDA that they have no record of having ever received the "Top Secret File" when the agency received the records in 1961. The Library has been unable to track the missing file any further.

The records cover the work and activities of the President's Special Committee on Disarmament Problems, the Geneva Foreign Ministers Conference in 1955, meetings of the North Atlantic Council, the debate over nuclear weapons tests, the contact and relationship of the Eisenhower administration with the Senate Disarmament Subcommittee, communications between President Eisenhower and Premier Bulganin relating to disarmament, and the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Commission Subcommittee. Most of the collection contains material pertaining to United States participation in the UN Disarmament Commission Subcommittee. The UN Subcommittee, consisting of representatives from the United States, France, Britain, Canada, and the Soviet Union, was the forum for all disarmament negotiations from 1955 through 1957.

The main body of the records was received at the Eisenhower Library in March 1980. This shipment was organized into seven series and opened to research in April 1982. The ACDA staff later found several additional files relating to the work of the disarmament staff and sent the accretion to the Eisenhower Library in April 1994. This accretion contained duplicate copies of many of the items in the first shipment but also some unique material, including the working papers of the U.S. delegation to the 1957 disarmament negotiations and a set of the Secretariat Notes compiled by the Special Committee's staff.

The 1994 accretion was arranged in the order in which it had been stored in the ACDA file room, and comprises Series VIII of the collection. A few miscellaneous items, which were found mixed in with the ACDA material, were placed in a miscellaneous series (Series IX) at the end of the collection. These items include various printed reports on disarmament and several telegrams from 1964 on the spread of nuclear technology to third world countries.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Box Nos. Series

- 1-4 I. PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT PROBLEMS. 1 1/4 containers. Correspondence, memoranda, statements, telegrams, notes, and reports re the activities of the President's Special Committee on Disarmament Problems. Arrangement is chronological.
- 4 II. SENATE DISARMAMENT SUBCOMMITTEE. 3/4 container. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, statements, telegrams, and transcripts re the contact and relationship of the Eisenhower administration with the Senate Disarmament Subcommittee. Arrangement is chronological.
- 5-7 III. NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS. 2 containers. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, and telegrams re the debate over continuing or suspending nuclear weapons test. Arrangement is chronological.
- 7-8 IV. EISENHOWER-BULGANIN LETTERS. 1 container. Telegrams, memoranda, reports, letters, and drafts of letters between President Eisenhower and Premier Bulganin concerning the subject of disarmament. Arrangement is chronological.
- 8-9 V. FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE. 1 1/2 containers. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, list, and statements re the Geneva Foreign Ministers Conference (1955). Arrangement is chronological.
- 9 VI. NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. 1/2 container. Minutes, telegrams, memoranda, and reports re the North Atlantic Council Meetings. Arrangement is chronological.
- 10-20 VII. UN DISARMAMENT COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE. 11 containers. Memoranda, statements, minutes, reports, correspondence, telegrams, and press briefings re the activities and deliberations of the UN Disarmament Commission Subcommittee. Arrangement is chronological.
- 21-36 VIII. ACDA FILE ROOM MATERIAL. 15 1/2 containers. Correspondence, memoranda, telegrams and reports concerning the work of the US delegation to the UN Disarmament Subcommittee and the White House disarmament staff. Arranged according to filing system established by ACDA staff.
- 36-37 IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL. 1 1/2 container. Miscellaneous telegrams and reports found mixed in with the ACDA File Room material. Arranged by subject.

CONTAINER LIST

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