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MCCONE, JOHN A.: Papers, 1958-1961

Accession: A79-9
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In December, 1978, selected papers of John A. McCone, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, were deposited in the Eisenhower Library by the Historian's Office, Department of Energy, at Mr. McCone's request. On February 19, 1979, Mr. McCone executed an instrument of gift for these papers.

Linear feet shelf space occupied: 2
Approximate number of pages: 4,000
Approximate number of items: 1,500

Literary property rights in Mr. McCone's unpublished writings in these papers and in any other collections in the Eisenhower Library have been assigned to the people of the United States.

By agreement with the donor, the following classes of material will be withheld from research use:

1. Papers and other historical materials that are specifically authorized under criteria established by statute or executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such statute or executive order.
2. Papers and other historical materials the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Papers of John A. McCone fall entirely within the years 1958 to 1961 when McCone served as Chairman of the United States Atomic Energy Commission.

John A. McCone was born in San Francisco, California in 1902. After graduating from the College of Engineering, University of California, Berkeley in 1922 he began his long career as a riveter and boiler-maker for the Llewellen Iron Works in Los Angeles. He eventually became superintendent of this company. In 1937, after holding various executive positions with Consolidated Steel Corporation, he organized his own firm, Bechtel-McCone, a major designer and producer of petroleum refineries and power plants throughout the United States and other parts of the world.

In World War II McCone became President and Director of the California Shipping Corporation. After the war he took over the Joshua Hendy Iron Works and served as director and then chairman until 1969 when he became chairman of Hendy International Company.

McCone saw his first federal government service as a member of President Truman's Air Policy Commission in 1947. His work on this commission focused on military aspects of air policy. In 1948 he served as a special deputy to Secretary of Defense James Forrestal and in 1950 and 1951 held the post of Under Secretary of the Air Force. At that time he urged President Truman to establish an embryonic missile program under an individual with firm control over the effort. This proposal later earned McCone praise from the New York Herald Tribune as "a prophet with honor."

McCone first met General Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1947, beginning a long and close personal relationship. As a member of the Air Policy Commission, McCone discussed military aircraft problems with General Eisenhower. Later, as Under secretary of the Air Force, McCone assisted in obtaining high ranking Air Force officers for General Eisenhower's SHAPE staff, including General Lauris Norstad. McCone also discussed a nuclear capability for NATO with General Eisenhower.

When Eisenhower became President he offered McCone the position of Secretary of the Air Force. McCone did not accept this offer but in 1954 did serve as a member of the Wriston Commission which recommended certain reforms of the United States Foreign Service.

In 1958 McCone was offered and accepted the chairmanship of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). As Chairman of the AEC McCone devoted much time to grappling with problems associated with nuclear testing and, specifically, trying to negotiate a nuclear test ban treaty with the Soviet Union. McCone opposed the moratorium on atmospheric tests imposed by President Eisenhower in 1958 in the absence of a treaty. He saw his responsibility as Chairman of the AEC as being to oversee the development of weapons as sophisticated as necessary for military use and believed that the test moratorium would retard this development. He strongly believed in

writing into any treaty with the Soviets firm provisions for verification and inspection to safeguard against covert testing. Although representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union,

and the United Kingdom conducted nuclear test negotiations at Geneva, Switzerland throughout most of McCone's tenure as Chairman, the negotiations foundered largely on the issue of inspection and no treaty on atmospheric testing was signed until 1963.

When McCone became Chairman of the AEC he inherited a bad relationship between certain members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy and his predecessor, Lewis Strauss. McCone tried to improve working relations with the Committee and adopted a policy of providing intelligence briefings on Soviet nuclear capabilities to the Committee. Other issues with which McCone dealt as Chairman included the question of public versus private power, cooperation with foreign countries on peaceful uses of atomic energy, and the safety of nuclear power facilities. On occasion the President sought McCone's advice on matters other than atomic energy, such as the space budget. McCone regularly attended National Security Council and Cabinet meetings.

McCone's government service did not end when President Eisenhower left office in 1961. Later that year President John F. Kennedy picked him as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, a post which he held until 1965 when he returned to private business.

The Papers of John A. McCone pertain almost exclusively to his activities as Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, from July 14, 1958, to January 20, 1961. (The papers contain a few items created in the weeks immediately prior to his becoming Chairman.) The material is from McCone's Office Files, a 34 cubic foot segment of the records of the Department of Energy. These papers were withdrawn from the McCone Office Files by the Department of Energy's historian at Mr. McCone's request and sent to the Eisenhower Library because they document his role as an advisor to President Eisenhower.

These papers were selected from six different series within McCone's Office Files. The Department of Energy's series and file folder arrangement has been retained by the Library staff. Most of the series are arranged chronologically with some alphabetical and functional organization. While McCone was Chairman of the AEC, his office files were split into an "H" Street (Washington, D.C.) Section and a Germantown (main AEC headquarters) Section. Copies of all documents going into the Chairman's Office Files were intended to be placed in each set of files although this was not always done. The selection of materials from both section for shipment to the Eisenhower Library resulted in some duplication. Documents marked "DC File" are from the Washington D.C. section and those marked "GT" are from the Germantown file. Where feasible, file folders have been annotated to indicate the respective sections but several folders contain documents from both Washington, D.C. and Germantown.

In most cases only selected documents from the original file folders were sent to the Eisenhower Library. Only the folders entitled "O&M 12--Cooperation, Coordination and Liaison-White House," the "Testing" folders, and the folders entitled "McCone Sealed File" contain every document that the Office file in Washington holds with the exception of the items noted below.

The cross reference sheets found in many of the folders indicate that certain documents were originally designated for transfer to the Eisenhower Library but were retained at the Department of Energy when it was determined that the documents contained information relating to design, utilization, or manufacture of nuclear weapons. Requests for access to these or any other documents in the McCone Office Files in Washington should be directed to the Historian's Office, Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20545.

Nuclear testing is the topic most thoroughly documented in these papers. Types of documentation include McCone's memos and notes, memoranda of conferences with the President, reports, working papers, and several memoranda of conferences of the Committee of Principals. Some of this material includes studies, reports, and correspondence reflecting the views of the President's science advisers, Dr. James R. Killian and Dr. George B. Kistiakowsky, and members of the President's Science Advisory Committee.

Other topics covered in varying degrees of detail include high energy physics, international atomic energy matters, potential hazards of nuclear reactors, the Paris summit conference and the U-2 incident, Soviet atomic energy programs, and the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy. Attached as an appendix is a select listing of names of individuals and negotiating bodies which frequently appear in these papers.

The papers of John A. McCone should be examined in conjunction with other collections in the Library's holding which also contain documentation on the role of McCone as a presidential advisor and the Administration's policy on nuclear weapons and atomic energy matters. Other collections containing information related to that found in these papers include Dwight D. Eisenhower's Papers as President of the United States (Ann Whitman File), the Records of the White House Staff Secretary, the Records of the Office of the Special Assistant for Science and Technology, and the Records of the President's Science Advisory Committee.

Approximately 40% of the material in these papers was removed because of security classification and placed in the Library's vault when the collection was processed. Scholars may request mandatory declassification reviews of security classified documents in these papers under the provisions of Executive Order 12356.

APPENDIX

The membership of the Atomic Energy Commission from July 1958 to January 20, 1961 consisted of the following:

JOHN A. MCCONE--Chairman
JOHN F. FLOBERT--Commissioner
JOHN S. GRAHAM--Commissioner
WILLARD F. LIBBY--Commissioner

Other AEC staff include the following:

S.G. ENGLISH--Special Assistant to the General Manager
JOHN HALL--Director, Division of International Affairs
DWIGHT INK--Special Assistant to the Chairman
A.R. LUEDECKE--General Manager
BRUCE MERCER--Liaison Officer, Office of the Chairman
JOHN H. MORSE--Special Assistant to the Chairman
ALFRED D. STARBIRD--Director, Division of Military Application

Committees, conferences, and personnel involved in nuclear testing negotiations included the following:

TECHNICAL TALKS ON DETECTION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS--Geneva, Switzerland, July 1 - August 21, 1958. Consisted of specialists from the United States, United Kingdom, France, the Soviet Union, Poland, and Czechoslovakia who discussed problems involved in detecting nuclear tests.

CONFERENCE ON DISCONTINUANCE OF NUCLEAR TESTING--Convened at Geneva, Switzerland in October 1958 and continued through remainder of Eisenhower administration until recessing in December 1960. It then resumed again in 1961 and continued during the Kennedy administration. The Conference consisted of representatives of the United States, United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union who conducted negotiations aimed at approving a treaty banning atmospheric nuclear tests. The heads of the respective delegations were:

JAMES J. WADSWORTH--United States
SIR DAVID ORMSBY-GORE--United Kingdom
SEMYON K. TSARAPKIN--Soviet Union

COMMITTEE OF PRINCIPALS--A group established by the President in 1958 which included the Secretary of State or his deputy, the Under Secretary of State as Chairman, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology. This committee was responsible for working out negotiating positions for the Geneva Conference on Discontinuance of Nuclear Testing.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY--Chaired by representative Carl Durham in 1958 and Senator Clinton Anderson in 1959 and 1960. Includes in addition to chairman and vice-chairman, 8 members of U.S. Senate and 8 members of U.S. House of Representatives on bipartisan basis. Deals with use and development of atomic energy.

Other individuals with whom John McCone dealt on atomic energy matters:

1. PHILIP J. FARLEY--Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Disarmament and Nuclear Energy
2. V.S. EMELYANOV--Head of the Soviet Atomic Energy Authority (Non-military)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

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|------------------------------------|---|
| January 4, 1902 | Born in San Francisco, California |
| 1922 | Graduated from College of Engineering, University of California, Berkeley |
| 1929-1937 | Held various executive positions with Consolidated Steel Corporation, Los Angeles |
| June 21, 1938 | Married Rosemary Cooper (died December, 1961) |
| 1937-1945 | Organized and served as President of Bechtel-McCone Corporation, Los Angeles |
| 1941-1946 | President and Director, California Shipbuilding Corporation |
| 1945-1958 | President and Director, Joshua Hendy Corporation |
| 1947-1948 | Member, President's Air Policy Commission |
| 1948 | Deputy to Secretary of Defense |
| June 1950- October 1951 | Undersecretary of the U.S. Air Force |
| 1954 | Member of Wriston Committee |
| July 14, 1958- January 20, 1961 | Chairman, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission |
| 1961-1965 | Director, Central Intelligence Agency |
| 1958-1969 | Chairman, Joshua Hendy Corporation |
| August 29, 1962 | Married Theiline Pigott |
| 1968- | President and Director Hendy International Company |

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Box Nos. Series

1-2 I COM [Communications and Records] FILE, 1958-61. Less than 2 containers.

Includes chronologically arranged Chairman's Reading File and alphabetically arranged correspondence plus a few items from the files of staff members Bruce Mercer and Captain Jack Morse. Pertains to nuclear testing and other atomic energy matters.

2-4 II O&M [Organization and Management] FILE, 1958-61. Approximately 2 containers.

Includes letters, memoranda, reports, press conference transcripts, and press releases concerning the Atomic Energy Commission's relations with the President's Science Advisory Committee and the White House. Arranged in reverse chronological order within folders.

4 III PERS [Personnel] FILE. May 1960. One file folder.

Contains 8 pages of correspondence and biographical data regarding recipients of the Ernest Orlando Lawrence Memorial Awards.

4 IV RESandD [Research and Development] FILE, March to December 1960. One-half container.

Contains correspondence, memoranda, messages, reports, working papers, and printed material regarding nuclear testing. Arranged in reverse chronological order.

5 V MCCONE SEALED FILE, 1958-56. One-half container.

Consists of material placed in custody of Secretary, AEC, when McCone left the Commission. Arranged erratically in reverse chronological order within each numbered folder. Includes memoranda of meetings of Committee of Principals, memoranda of meetings with President Eisenhower and with Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, and other high level memoranda and correspondence concerning nuclear testing and negotiations.

5-7 VI TESTING FILE, 1958-1960. 2 containers.

Reverse chronological order within each folder. Contains correspondence, memoranda, and reports re Geneva Conference on Nuclear Testing and related nuclear testing matters.

The file designations appearing on file folders in the John McCone papers are as follows:

COM--Communications and Records

O&M--Organization and Management

PERS--Personnel

RESandD--Research and Development

Per telephone conversation with Roger Anders 2/7/83

DJH

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

SERIES I: COM FILE. 1958-61.

- 1 COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE OCTOBER, NOVEMBER and
DECEMBER 1958 [Material for State of Union message; aeronautical and space
activities; euratom]
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE - 1959 JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND
MARCH
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S "H" ST READING FILE (Leona's Material 3/2/59 - 3/27-
59)
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S "H" ST READING FILE (Leona's Material 4/1/59 -
5/28/59)
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S "H" ST READING FILE (Leona's Material 6/1/59 -
10/7/59)
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE 1958 July, August and September
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE 1959 April, May and June
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE 1959 July, August and September
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE 1959 October, November and December
[GT File]
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE July 2, 1959-December 31, 1959 [DC
File]
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE 1960 January, February and March [DC
File]
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE January, February and March [GT File]
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE 1960 April, May and June [DC File]
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE 1960 April, May and June (GT File)

- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE July, August and September 1960 [DC File]
- COM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE July, August, September 1960 (GT File)
- COM 1-1 CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE October thru January 20, 1961 [DC File]
- COM 1-1 CHAIRMAN'S READING FILE October thru January 20, 1961 [GT File]
- COM 1-1 CAPTAIN MORSE'S OFFICIAL FILE [DC File]
- COM 1-1 BRUCE MERCER'S OFFICIAL FILE [GT File]
- COM 1 CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDA FOR FILE - 1958
- COM 1 CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDA FOR FILE - 1959 [GT File] [Soviet Professor Emelyanov and peaceful uses of atomic energy]
- COM 1 CHAIRMAN'S MEMOS FOR FILE THROUGH DECEMBER 1959 [DC File] [Soviet Professor Emelyanov re Khrushchev and Soviet atomic energy matters]
- COM 1 CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDA FOR FILE
- COM 2-2 (B) - Correspondence with Individuals "B" - 6/30/60
- COM 2-2 8 - Correspondence with Individuals "C" [DC File]
- COM 2-2 (G) - Correspondence with Individuals "G"
- COM 2-2 (G) - Correspondence with Individuals "G" Thru 6/30/60 [DC File] [Brazilian rare earth; President Eisenhower's conversation with Professor Emelyanov]
- COM 2-2 (H) - Correspondence with Individuals "H"
- COM 2-2 (H) - Correspondence with Individuals "H" Through June 30, 1960 [DC File]
- 2 COM 2-2 (J) - CORRESPONDENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS "J" [DC File] [letter by Senator Henry Jackson re nuclear testing]
- COM 2-2 (K) - CORRESPONDENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS "K"

COM 2-2 (K) - CORRESPONDENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS "K" Through June 30, 1960

COM 2-2 (L) - CORRESPONDENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS - "L"

COM 2-2 (L) - Correspondence with Individuals "L" Through June 30, 1960

Commissioner Libby

COM 2-2 (M) - CORRESPONDENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS "M" Thru 6/30/60
[DC File]

COM 2-2 (M) - CORRESPONDENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS "M" [DC File]

COM 2-2 (MC) - Correspondence with Individuals - "MC" [DC File]

COM 2-2 (MC) - Correspondence with Individuals - "MC" [GT File]

COM 2-2 (R) - CORRESPONDENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS - "R"

COM 2-2 (W) - CORRESPONDENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS - "W"

SERIES II: O&M FILE. 1958-61

O&M 7-1 - PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE [Folder one]

O&M 7-1 - PRESIDENTS SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE [Folder two]
(1)-(3) [high energy panel; computer panel; seismic detection]

O&M 8 - REPORTS [AEC information for inclusion in White House Staff Notes re oil shale in Colorado; Project Plowshare; JCAC hearings; International Atomic Energy Agency; India; N.S. Savannah; disarmament negotiations; Euratom; Stanford accelerator; Canadian uranium deliveries; Dresden power plant; saline water conversion; USS Triton]

O&M 12-1 - Cooperation, Coordination and Liaison - White House Press Releases
June 1959 - November 1960 [GT File]

O&M 12-1 -- Cooperation, Coordination and Liaison -- White House July 1960 thru
January 20, 1961 (1)(2) [GT File]

3 O&M 12-1 Cooperation, Coordination and Liaison - The White House Press Release
Vol. #1 - Oct. 1956 - May 1959 [GT File] (1)(2)

O&M 12-1 - Cooperation, Coordination and Liaison - The White House Jan. 1960 - January 1961 [DC File] (1)-(3)

O&M 12-1 - COOPERATION, COORDINATION AND LIAISON WHITE HOUSE [March 1958 - June 1960] (1)-(5)

4 O&M 12-1 COOPERATION, COORDINATION AND LIAISON THE WHITE HOUSE Thru June 1960 (1)-(3)

O&M 15-1 VISITS BY THE CHAIRMAN SUMMIT MEETING - May 1960

SERIES III: PERS FILE, MAY 1960

PERS 15 - 2 - E. O. Lawrence Memorial Award

SERIES IV: RES and D FILE, MARCH TO DECEMBER 1960

RESandD 1-2 -- TESTING -- MARCH 1960 - JULY 1960 [Folder 1] (1)-(3)

RESandD 1-2 -- TESTING -- AUGUST 1960 - DEC. 1960 Folder #2 (1)-(3)

SERIES V: MCCONE SEALED FILE, 1958-1960

5 McCone Sealed File Number 1 [DDE - Macmillan meeting]

McCone Sealed File Number 2

McCone Sealed File Number 3 [Memoranda of meetings of Committee of Principals re nuclear testing]

McCone Sealed File Number 4 [Memoranda of meetings of Committee of Principals re nuclear testing]

McCone Sealed File Number 5 (1)(2) [Nuclear testing; President's views on disarmament; US-USSR space vehicle capabilities; Vice President Nixon's conversation with Khrushchev; Senator Humphrey's meeting with Khrushchev; Eisenhower administration personnel serving in Kennedy administration]

SERIES VI: TESTING FILE, 1958-60

COMMISSION POLICY RELATIVE TO TEST CESSATION ISSUES

KHRUSHCHEV EXCHANGE--STATE-AEC EXCHANGE WITH RESPECT TO

U.S. POSITION ON TEST NEGOTIATIONS -- AMBASSADOR WADSWORTH'S
STATEMENT ON APRIL 13, 1959 WHEN CONF. RECONVENED

6 Testing File #1 Eyes Only (1)-(3)

Testing File #2 EYES ONLY (1)-(4)

Test File - March 1960

Test File - February 1960 (1)(2)

7 Test File - January 1960 (1)(2)

Test File - DECEMBER 1959 (1) (2)

END OF CONTAINER LIST