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ALLEN

ALLEN, GEORGE V. (OH-279) 78 pages PRCQ to Col

Foreign Service officer and State Department official; U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia, 1950-53, India and Nepal, 1953, and Greece, 1956-57; Director, U.S. Information Agency (USIA), 1957-60.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background: his decision to study international relations; entrance into the Foreign Service. Service as a vice-consul in Shanghai, 1930-34: working with Chinese crews of American ships; working with the American extraterritoriality courts in Shanghai. Service as senior vice-consul at Patros, Greece, 1934-36: why he was appointed; handling currant shipping and tourism. Service as third secretary of the legation in Cairo, Egypt, 1936-38: his change from consul activities to diplomatic duties; problems with extraterritoriality ("mixed") courts in Egypt. Comments on the United States engaging in international "police actions."

Interview #2. Service with the State Department's Division of Near Eastern and African Affairs, 1938-46: Comment on British influence in Middle East during World War II; dealing with the British and Russians re the military occupation of Iran; reasons for increased American participation and responsibility in the Middle East. Potsdam Conference: Russian desire for a naval base on the Dardanelles; Russian desire for a naval base on one of the Dodecanese Islands; Russian desire to control Italy's former African colony of Libya. Observations on the Palestine problem since World War II.

[Columbia University Oral History Program interviews by Paul Greenberg, 1962]