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BURKE

BURKE, ARLEIGH A. (OH-284) 249 pages PRCQ

Chief of naval Operation (CNO), United States Navy, 1955-61.

**DESCRIPTION:** Interview #1. First meeting with DDE, and his opinion of DDE's grasp of navy's role. Position as Chief of Naval Operations: appointment; resignation; tour of Far East just prior to his appointment; DDE's instructions to him when he took the job. Decision-making regarding the military services: purpose of Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS); how DDE made decisions regarding the military; Burke, and a navy draft. His relationship with DDE. Foreign policy questions: John Foster Dulles and brinkmanship; Communist China shooting down a U.S. reconnaissance plane; Quemoy and Matsu; Lebanon crisis, 1958; Suez crisis, 1956; concept of massive retaliation. Testifying before Congress on the defense budget.

Interview #2. How DDE used the JCS in formulating a decision. How Burke used his immediate subordinates in the decision-making process. Observations on use of conventional weapons, guerilla operations, and general philosophy of war. Serving as an unofficial adviser to DDE on non-military problems. Suez crisis, 1956. Missile and satellite research and development, and intelligence gathering on foreign missile programs. Comments on Defense Department reorganization. DDE's understanding of the navy's role. Early Warning systems and the DEW line. NATO, and U.S. bases in Spain and Scotland.

Interview #3. NATO, and U.S. bases in Spain and Scotland. Helping Great Britain develop the Polaris submarine. Nautilus expedition to the Arctic, and navy's scientific undertakings. How U.S. handled problems in Asia: Korean War; Laos; Vietnam, and Diem. Observations on subversive military activities and guerilla warfare. His relations with foreign naval officials: helping establish an Ecuadorian Naval Academy; flying to Brazil for consultations; sending ships to Latin America on amity cruises.

Interview #4. Discusses his relations with naval officer in foreign countries: Lord Mountbatten in Britain; Mattoso-Maia in Brazil; Ruge in Germany; Hoshima and Nomuro in Japan; the Queen of Greece. Reappointment in 1959 as CNO. Major events of his last year as CNO: fire on carrier Constellation; piracy of Portuguese ship Santa Maria; the Bay of Pigs invasion. The navy and public relations activities. Recollections of DDE His philosophy of sea power.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** An extensive name and subject index for this transcript is located at the end of interview #4.

[U.S. Naval Institute Oral History Program, interviews by John R. Mason, Jr., 1972, 1973; provided to NLE by COHP]