RICHARD M. BISSELL JR. PAPERS
SUBJECT SERIES
1935 – 1994; Boxes 1 - 12

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Alphabetical Subseries: Boxes 1 - 5

Alphabetical/Intelligence Subseries: Boxes 6 - 12

CONTENT

This series contains an alphabetical listing of subjects pertaining to Richard M. Bissell Jr.’s personal and professional lives. Included herein are files documenting his childhood, his personal life, his career at the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA), his career at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), organizations to which he belonged, individuals with whom he had personal and professional relationships, and other topics. Document types include correspondence, interviews, memoranda, newspaper clippings, reports, magazine articles and notes.

This series contains the bulk of the information in this collection regarding the Central Intelligence Agency to be found in this collection. Further information relating to the Central Intelligence Agency may be found in the Correspondence Series, the Historic and Oversize Papers Series, the Interviews Series, the Oral History Interviews Series. Document copies marked “Original filed for safekeeping” were created by Bissell’s office staff who then filed the originals in what is now the Historic Papers, Oversize Objects and Clippings Series of this collection.

As was his apparent practice, many of Bissell’s notes in this series are written on the reverse of University of Hartford budget documents as well as on unused letterhead.

STRUCTURE

This series arrived at the library divided into two alphabetized subseries; a collection of alphabetized subject files relating to various facets of Richard M. Bissell’s personal and professional lives from childhood to retirement, and a collection of alphabetized files related to matters of intelligence and intelligence gathering. It is unclear if the papers were always arranged this way or if they were rearranged at a later date. Both subseries are arranged alphabetically by folder title. Materials in most folders are primarily arranged in reverse chronological order, though the materials in the “Letters written to RMB upon his resignation from the Mutual Security Agency” are arranged alphabetically by correspondent and some other folders appear unarranged or loosely grouped by topic. The folder entitled “Good Will Letters Written to RMB on His Resignation from the CIA” contains a dual reverse chronological arrangement; in addition to good will letters written on the occasion of Bissell’s
resignation it also contains separated letters of support specifically regarding the Bay of Pigs invasion.

The intelligence subseries is arranged unusually in that folders named for individuals are alphabetized by given name instead of surname. Similar folders in the alphabetical subseries are arranged more typically by surname.

**CONTAINER LIST**

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<th>Box No.</th>
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1. **Alliance for Progress** [incomplete photocopies of materials contained in folder “Alliance for Progress (1962 – 1963) (1) – (2)”]


2. **Alsop, Joseph W. / Alsop, Stewart** [social correspondence between Richard M. Bissell and Joseph W. Alsop; articles written by Joseph Alsop; articles written by Stewart Alsop; 7 July 1993 letter from Richard M. Bissell to Adam Platt concerning Bissell’s memoirs and Joseph Alsop; articles written about Joseph Alsop]


5. **The Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown Univ. 1969 – Present [1973]**
Columbia University (Bicentennial Conf.) “Conference on National Policy for Economic Welfare at Home and Abroad” 1954 [conference materials and related correspondence]

[Committee on the Present Danger] [Is America Becoming Number 2?: Current Trends in the U.S. –Soviet Military Balance; Commentary Volume Sixty-four, Number One, July 1977, “Why the Soviet Union Thinks It Could Fight & Win a Nuclear War”]


Foreign Aid (1967) Group of meetings held in 1967 to discuss this topic (for D of State – AID) [Agency for International Development; April 1967 article in Commentary entitled “Counterrevolutionary America” by Robert L. Heilbroner; “Notes on LDCs”; “A Basic Rationale for the U.S. Foreign Aid Program”; “Minutes of a meeting to discuss U.S. foreign aid at the Harvard Center for International Affairs on February 11, 1967”; “Suggestions for improving the administration of foreign economic development assistance”; “A Further Thought As To How To Justify And Evaluate The Success Of The AID Program”; “Notes on ‘Foreign Aid’”]

Freedom of Information [Bissell Freedom of Information Act requests for records concerning himself]

[GHK Survey Corporation / Wilcox Incorporated] [management consulting; Covenant Insurance]

Groton School (1) – (2) [alumni information; classmate obituaries; Richard Bissell’s Groton Fund gifts; reunions; 100th Anniversary Celebration; Richard Bissell biographical questionnaire; Groton School Quarterly; Catalogue of Groton School: 1961 – 1962]

Harkness Hoot [March 27, 1933 document transferring control of the Harkness Hoot; handwritten table of contents for editions of Harkness Hoot from 1930 – 1934]

Harriman, Averell [1969 Averell Harriman interview transcript for Face the Nation; Charles S. Maier; “W. Averell Harriman as Secretary of Commerce”; Francis M. Bator; President’s Committee on Foreign Aid or “Harriman Committee”; Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA); Mark Lincoln Chadwin; January 19, 1953, letter of appreciation from Harriman to Bissell]
Harvard University – Center for International Affairs Visiting Committee
[Richard Bissell’s knowledge of guerrilla warfare; gift of a cigar box from Harvard University to Richard Bissell; appointment and cover letters]


Harvard University – Center for International Affairs Visiting Committee
[correspondence and supporting documentation]

[Hudson Institute] (1) - (3) [publications and supporting documentation; Hudson Institute Members’ Meeting, The University Club, New York City, April 26, 1974; “Inflation Briefing Notes” by Richard W. Richardson, April 26, 1974; “The Impact of Inflation on the Average Man” by Frank Armbruster, April 26, 1974; “Inflation Issues and Consequences”; “The Future of the Financial Services Industry”]


IDA – Notes written to RMB as a result of Joe Alsop’s column – leaving Gov’t
[Stephen Enke; William J. Cox; Don Flickinger; Garrison Norton; Joseph I. Coffey; William A.M. Burden; Clarence L. “Kelly” Johnson; James R. Killian Jr.; Sheffield Edwards; Albert Wohlstetter; Augustus M. Thuermer; Gordon Sweet;
Karl R. Hopke; William A.M. Burden; David M. Freudenthal; Frederick A. Praeger; Jim King


Institute for Defense Analysis 1964 – 67 (1) – (3) [contains documentation from 1963 – 1986; IDA anniversary; correspondence; press releases; reorganization; President’s Commission on Law Enforcement; nuclear weapons; military assistance planning; Bay of Pigs; Bissell resignation from IDA; counterinsurgency systems; Bissell security briefing]

[Institute for Defense Analysis – Miscellaneous Documentation]


Kingswood School [Richard M. Bissell interview with Frances Pudlo and Rob Kyff regarding Bissell’s childhood and the Kingswood-Oxford School; donations to school fund; Bissell Prize for French]

Mark Twain House [Richard M. Bissell correspondence with Walter K. Schwinn concerning Bissell’s recollections of his time as a child in the Mark Twain house; newspaper articles concerning the Mark Twain house]


The Mory’s Association, Inc. DR. [Mory’s a Brief History; Richard M. Bissell’s 1929 life membership in the Mory’s Association, Inc.]

[National Geographic Society] [Richard M. Bissell’s 1957 membership in the National Geographic Society]

[The Neward Syndicate] [May 27, 1935, letter from Patrick Hill to Richard M. Bissell regarding an oil well; Rector Oil Company, Inc; Hector Prudhomme]

Potsdam Conference July 1945 [photostatic copies of documents filed in the Historic Papers, Oversize Objects and Clippings series of this collection relating


Space Research Corporation [Gerald Bull; South Africa; Richard M. Bissell billing for consulting work completed on behalf of Space Research Corporation; exports of weapon components and possible illegal activity; Israel; Antigua; weapon component lists; U.S. Customs Service correspondence]

Sullivan, John P. (1) – (2) [State of Connecticut transportation issues; Richard M. Bissell and John P. Sullivan consulting business; Connecticut Department of Transportation staffing issues; potential jet engine overhaul business; Republican Party organization; “Rail and Bus Transportation Suggested Area of Development”]


Alphabetical/Intelligence Subseries

6 “The Agency” BBC Series 1989/90 [correspondence regarding Bissell’s memoirs; suggestion that Bissell meet Fidel Castro; Bissell photographed with a U-2 aircraft at the Smithsonian Institution; Bissell interview questions]


[94th Congress 1st Session Alleged Assassination Plots Involving Foreign Leaders Committee Print, 1975] (1) – (2)
“Anatomy of Failure: The Decision to Land at the Bay of Pigs” by Lucian Vandenbroucke publ. in Political Sci Qrtrly, Fall 1984

Bay of Pigs – Lucien S. Vandenbroucke [1981 – 1982 correspondence between Richard M. Bissell Jr. and Lucian Vandenbroucke regarding the Bay of Pigs invasion; drafts of work regarding Bay of Pigs]


Central Intelligence Agency 1981 – [1994] (1) – (4) [invitation to Bissell to attend “The Origin and Development of the CIA in the Administration of Harry S. Truman”; December 26, 1993 letter from KGB defector Anatoliy M. Golitsyn regarding a potential book; Bissell’s memoirs; request for Bissell’s photograph; August 20, 1991 letter from Bissell regarding a John F. Kennedy assassination conspiracy theory; Bissell and war games; Bissell on the connection between journalism and American intelligence; Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) brochures and publications; CIA request for Bissell’s photograph for a classified publication; Bissell interview transcript regarding his time in the CIA and including covert action, abridged thoughts on colleagues, the Bay of Pigs, the U-2 aircraft and other matters; Bissell’s lack of knowledge concerning the CIA and Marilyn Monroe; Bissell’s lack of knowledge concerning Operation Phoenix; Bissell’s thoughts on Fidel Castro in 1959; insurance payments and Bissell’s thoughts on the destruction of the vessel Springfjord during the 1954 coup in Guatemala]

Central Intelligence Agency 1973 – 1980 (1) – (6) [February 22, 1980 letter from Bissell concerning his activities with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and his inability to keep his CIA records upon leaving the agency; June 5, 1978 letter from Bissell concerning his thoughts on the “assault on the intelligence community” and the “Church Committee” (United States Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities); February 7, 1977 letter from Bissell concerning his thoughts on Richard Helms; request from Oneida Von Rolleston to Bissell for assistance concerning the possibility of a secret code written into the will of Howard Hughes; September 30, 1975 letter from Bissell concerning his thoughts on the ethics of covert operations, meetings held with prominent citizens at Princeton, the role if individuals in evaluating covert operations proposed by the CIA’s DDP (Deputy Director of Plans), the NSC’s (National Security Council) “Special Group,” cost effectiveness of covert operations and political control; ”The CIA and the American Ethic: Ends, Means and Consequences” by Ernest W. Lefever; Rockefeller Commission; Arthur C. Lundahl’s retirement and Bissell’s membership in the Topographic Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC)]
CIA [1954 & 1962- ] 1965- 1972 (1) – (3) [possible Bissell interview; death of Frank Gardiner Wisner; solicitation of Bissell as a possible backer of a screenplay entitled 
*SUNRISE* about Operation Sunrise; Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Educational Aid Fund; Bissell consulting for the National Intelligence Programs Evaluation Staff of the CIA; death of Lyle T. “Cap” Shannon; Bissell’s activities in the CIA; retirement of CIA DD/S&T (Deputy Directory of Science and Technology) Albert D. Wheelon; Bissell subpoena and motion to quash in the indictment of John R. Hawke for one count of conspiring to export arms, ammunition and implements of war without a license; November 29, 1965 letter from Bissell to Major General O.J. Ritland regarding his retirement and relating to their professional relationship and the U-2 aircraft and other matters; A-12 and SR-71 aircraft; substance of a proposed talk to be given by Bissell at the CIA; Bissell request for a CIA review of questions to be posed during an interview]

8 CIA Bay of Pigs (Cuba) General Correspondence (1) – (4) [newspaper clippings; Bay of Pigs planning and the Cuban Missile Crisis; 2506 Brigade; April 4, 1991 transcript of a telephone interview between Richard M. Bissell and Luis Blanco regarding the Bay of Pigs; Operation Puma; photocopies of photographs of Richard M. Bissell receiving the National Security Medal from President John F. Kennedy; invitation to speak at the University of Miami; March 18, 1986, letter from John A. McCone to Bissell concerning Allen Dulles, President John F. Kennedy and the Bay of Pigs invasion; “Deterrence & Survival in the Nuclear Age” by the Security Resources Panel of the Science Advisory Committee and dated November 7, 1957; November 1, 1977 letter from Richard M. Bissell to P.M. Kamath regarding McGeorge Bundy and the Bay of Pigs; letters to Bissell from admirers; BBC Television; Guatemala, Castillo Armas and Jacobo Árbenz Guzmán; information concerning “Intelligence Report: Cuba’s Communist Takeover” by Edward Nodarse; war games; September 1969 letter from General C.P. Cabell to Richard Bissell regarding the Bay of Pigs and Ernst Halperin visiting Cuba following the attack; July 2, 1965 from Richard M. Bissell to Colonel Stanley W. Beerli regarding speculation on the failures of the Bay of Pigs invasion; June 29, 1965 letter from Colonel Stanley W. Beerli regarding the U-2 and SR-71 aircraft, aerial reconnaissance and the capability to photograph at night or with cloud cover; January 19, 1965 letter from Bissell to Hanson W. Baldwin regarding military technology and other matters]

CIA Bay of Pigs (Cuba) Newspaper Clippings and Articles

CIA Bay of Pigs Summary Report of the Paramilitary Study Group (6/13/61)

CIA Bay of Pigs “Paramilitary Study Group” (Taylor Report) Part II – Background Material (1) – (2)

CIA Bay of Pigs “Paramilitary Study Group” (Taylor Report) Part II – Background Material (3)
CIA Bay of Pigs “Paramilitary Study Group” (Taylor Report) Part III – Annexes (1) - (3)

Congo


Council on Foreign Relations Discussion Group on Role of Intelligence in Foreign Policy Process (1) – (4) [Council on Foreign Relations paper and associated drafts entitled “Intelligence Activities and Foreign Policy” with sections marked “I. Intelligence and Its Environment,” “II. Intelligence and Policymaking,” “III. Organization of the Intelligence Community,” “IV. Clandestine and Covert Activities,” “V. Congress and the Intelligence Community” and “VI. Intelligence and the Press”; discussion meeting reports; Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and intelligence gathering theory and methodology; “The Future of American Intelligence Activities” by William J. Barnds; covert operations; “Covert Operations in American Foreign Policy” by William R. Harris; CIA recruiting and activities; CIA and private institutions; Eastern Europe; Soviet activities; Asia; intelligence officers; “Intelligence and Policy Making” by William J. Barnds; CIA leadership; “Intelligence and Foreign Policy: The American Experience” by William J. Barnds; China; “Covert Activities” by Richard M. Bissell]

Deposition Subpoena - Desai vs. Seymour Hersh Sept. 1989 [libel action regarding statements appearing in The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence]

Drafts: “My Answer on the Bay of Pigs” by Allen W. Dulles (1965) (from Princeton Archives)

Evan Thomas [January 14, 1994 interview with Richard M. Bissell conducted by Evan Thomas regarding assassination plots and Fidel Castro; Bay of Pigs; interviewing Bissell for publication]

“From Open Skies to Outer Space: A Study of American Efforts to Obtain Intelligence from Above During the Cold War” Senior Project by Benjamin J. Goldberg, Submitted to Div. of Social Studies of Bard College

Good Will Letters Written to RMB on His Resignation from the CIA [ “Harold Hotchschild; W. Randolph “Randy” Lovelace, II, M.D., Walt J. Levison; L.A. Hyland; Charles H. and Frances Townes; William A.M. Burden; Sherman Kent; Sir Dick White; James A. Cunningham, Jr.; John Clarke; Arthur G. Syran; Allen Dulles; John H. Grosvenor; Waldemar A. Nielson; John A. McCon; John Baker; Joseph Becker; Robert W. King and John Hadden; Lloyd Emerson; James Q. Reber; individual from Development Projects Division of the Central Intelligence
Agency (CIA); Abbott Washburn; Henry C. Ramsey; T.A. Knowles; Gordon M. Stewart; Frank Wisner [tab marked “Ltrs of support – Bay of Pigs”; James Rowe; Mrs. William P. Bundy; Enno R. Hobbing; K.H. Browne; Eugene V. Rostow; Paul R. Porter; Clarence L. Johnson; James A. Cunningham]

Guatemala [notification of the death of Richard M. Bissell in response to a request for information from a researcher; published articles and newspaper clippings; copies of documentation in the collection of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum]

Harvard University: JFK Institute - Lindsay Group – Special Political Activities Panel (1) – (3) [covert activities; “Indonesia and A.I.D.”; 1968 draft report entitled “Covert Operations of the United States Government” by the Study Group on Clandestine Activities;]

Investigative Committees re: Agency [“Church Committee” Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities; Bissell opening statement notes; travel expenses; “Rockefeller Commission”; Fidel Castro assassination plots

Janet Weininger – Bay of Pigs [pilot lost during Bay of Pigs invasion; Cuban defector and possible reunion with family]

Kelly Johnson [“Salute to Kelly Johnson” program and Bissell’s involvement; September 5th, 1978 letter from Johnson to Bissell containing reminiscences of their work together; experimental aircraft crash]

Lawsuit by Jack Pfeiffer “CIA’s Internal Investigation of the B of P Operation” [release of Central Intelligence Agency Bay of Pigs Report]

Letters written to RMB upon his resignation from the Mutual Security Agency [Howard Bruce; Connie Dwyer; J. Vaughan Gary; W. Goertz; Edmund Hall-Patch; William Barclay Harding; W. Averell Harriman and Bissell’s detailed thoughts on leaving; Robert H. Hinckley; Frank Lee; Melville E. Locker; Robert Marjolin; Filmer M. Paradise; James G. Patton; Gordon E. Reckord; Elmer Staats; M.S. Szymczak; Theodore Tannenwald, Jr.]

Lynn Bollinger Material [clippings regarding the alleged misuse of General Aircraft Corporation’s name by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)]


New York Times Articles on Bay of Pigs, April 1961

Press Clippings re: “Agency” (1) [Central Intelligence Agency (CIA); Tabs marked “Books,” “Misc. articles,” “Editorials and Opinions,” and “CIA and the
12 Press Clippings re: “Agency” (2) – (3) [Central Intelligence Agency (CIA); Tabs “Drug Testing,” “Assassinations” and “Poison”]

Project Oxcart (SR71/A-12) [declassified document “The Oxcart Story” by Thomas P. McIninch; *Aviation Week*]


*[Strategic Review*, United States Strategic Institute, Winter 1984] [Richard M. Bissell Jr. book review of Paul L. Kesaris’ book *Operation Zapata*]

*[Supplementary Detailed Staff Reports on Foreign and Military Intelligence – Book IV – Final Report of the Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities, 1976*] [“History of the Central Intelligence Agency”; “Intelligence and Technology”; “Addenda to the Interim Report on Alleged Assassination Plots”]

United States District Court – 750224 (for the District of Rhode Island) Rodney Driver et al vs. R. Helms et al.

U.S. District Court C.A. 750224 (for the District of Rhode Island) Rodney Driver et al vs. R. Helms et al.

Video Magazine – *Aviation Week*, SR-71

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