NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR. OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM CHRONOLOGICAL FILE, 1974-77

Collection Type

White House Office Files

Extent

2.0 linear feet (ca. 3,800 pages)

Record Type

Textual

Access

Open, but many documents continue to be national security classified and restricted. Access is governed by the donor's deed of gift, a copy of which is available on request, and National Archives and Records Administration regulations (36 CFR 1256).

Copyright

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Provenance

[Provenance of the National Security Adviser Files](#)

Processed by

Helmi Raaska, June 2005

Scope and Content Note

The Outside the System Chronological File is one of many sub-collections that comprise the National Security Adviser Files.

When National Archives staff received this collection at the end of the Ford administration, the boxes were labeled "Outside the System." The exact office of origin is uncertain.

The collection consists almost entirely of photocopies, with occasional carbon and ribbon copies, of items that were not included in the regular National Security Council (NSC) computer control number system. Some items were not entered into

the system because they were considered either highly sensitive or very routine in nature. They were often marked "OS," "Outside the System," or "Completely Outside the System." "Completely Outside the System" appears to have been used for the most sensitive materials. In some cases the documents were time sensitive and were marked "Urgent Action," "Urgent Staffing," or "Urgent Information." Originals or photocopies of many of these documents can be found in other National Security Adviser collections.

Scope and Content of the Materials

The collection contains memoranda, briefing papers, reports, correspondence, notes, and messages. These items are usually from the NSC staff to National Security Advisers Henry Kissinger and Brent Scowcroft, and from Kissinger and Scowcroft to the President. Supplemental materials from the Departments of State and Defense and Central Intelligence Agency are often included with NSC items. Researchers will not find a concentration of material on a given topic, but rather individual documents of high importance. Major topics include arms control negotiations, nuclear test ban negotiations, arms sales, military assistance for Israel, the Middle East peace process, reorganization of the intelligence community, Angola, Cuba, and the Soviet Union. Items concerning the Nixon-Ford transition and worldwide reaction to President Ford's assumption of office are available, as well as briefing materials prepared for Donald Rumsfeld for his confirmation hearings as Secretary of Defense. Other materials relate to personnel matters and administration and organization of the NSC.

The volume of material is uneven over the course of the Ford administration. There are several folders for some months, while others have only one. The folder for September 1975 was received empty.

Approximately 50 percent of this collection remains classified. These classified documents relate especially to arms control and nuclear test ban treaty negotiations, the Middle East, and intelligence matters, and most have been referred for further systematic declassification review via the Remote Archive Capture project. Researchers can request access to materials that remain closed through the mandatory declassification review process

Related Materials (June 2005)

Related materials are available in a number of other National Security Adviser collections. Subject access to materials in processed collections is provided through PRESNET search reports. As collections are processed, the information is entered into the PRESNET database. Researchers can consult the Ford Library website for announcements of collection openings.

Last Modified Date

2025-03-17

Outside the System Chronological File, 1974-77.

(Boxes 1-5, 2.0 linear feet)

Memoranda, briefing papers, reports, correspondence, notes, and messages, usually from the NSC staff to National Security Advisers Kissinger and Scowcroft, and from them to the President. Primary topics include arms control and nuclear test ban treaty negotiations, arms sales, the Middle East peace process, Angola, Cuba, the Soviet Union, and reorganization of the intelligence community. Materials concerning personnel matters and administration and organization of the NSC are also included.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1 - Outside the System Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	August 5-11, 1974
OPEN	August 12-31, 1974
OPEN	September 1-9, 1974
OPEN	September 10-14, 1974
OPEN	September 15-19, 1974
OPEN	September 20-24, 1974
OPEN	September 25-30, 1974
OPEN	October 1-9, 1974
OPEN	October 10-16, 1974
OPEN / DIGITIZED	October 17-31, 1974

Status	Title
OPEN	November 1974
OPEN	December 1974
OPEN	January 1-10, 1975
OPEN	January 10-21, 1975

Box 2 - Outside the System Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	January 22-26, 1975
OPEN	January 27-28, 1975
OPEN	January 29-31, 1975
OPEN	February 1975
OPEN	March 1-10, 1975
OPEN	March 11-20, 1975
OPEN	March 21-31, 1975
OPEN	April 1975
OPEN	May 1975
OPEN	June 1975
OPEN	July 1975
OPEN	August 1975
OPEN	September 1975 [empty]
OPEN	October 1975
OPEN	November 1, 1975

Box 3 - Outside the System Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	November 2-11, 1975
OPEN	November 12, 1975 (1)-(4)
OPEN	November 13-19, 1975
OPEN	November 20-30, 1975
OPEN	December 1-11, 1975
OPEN	December 12, 1975
OPEN	December 13-18, 1975
OPEN	December 19, 1975 (1)-(2)

Status	Title
OPEN	December 20-31, 1975

Box 4 - Outside the System Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	January 1-11, 1976
OPEN	January 12-17, 1976
OPEN	January 18-31, 1976
OPEN	February 1-9, 1976
OPEN	February 10-29, 1976
OPEN	March 1-4, 1976
OPEN	March 5-31, 1976
OPEN	April 1-15, 1976
OPEN	April 16-30, 1976
OPEN	May 1976
OPEN	June 1976

Box 5 - Outside the System Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	July 1976
OPEN	August 1976
OPEN	September 1976
OPEN	October 1976
OPEN	November 1976
OPEN	December 1976
OPEN	January 1-5, 1977
OPEN	January 6, 1977