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NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR. PRESIDENTIAL COUNTRY FILES FOR LATIN AMERICA, 1974-77

Collection Type

White House Office Files

Extent

2.4 linear feet (ca. 4,800 pages)

Record Type

Textual

Access

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Processed by

Geir Gundersen, October 2001

Biography

Stephen Low

December 2, 1927 - Born, Cincinnati, Ohio

1946-47 - U.S. Army, Medical Corps

1950 - BA, Yale University

1951 - MA, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

1956 - Ph.D., Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

1956-57 - Intelligence Research Officer (Far East), Department of State

1957-59 - Economic-Labor Officer, Kampala, Uganda

1959-1960 - Labor Trainee, Foreign Service Institute

1960-1964 - Labor Officer, then Chief of Political Section, Dakar, Senegal

1964-1965 - Officer in Charge of Guinea-Mali Affairs, Department of State

1965-67 - Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

1967-68 - National War College

1968-71 - Counselor for Political Affairs, Brasilia, Brazil

1971-74 - Director of Brazil Affairs, Department of State

1974-76 - National Security Council, Senior Staff Member for Latin American Affairs

1976-79 - United States Ambassador to Zambia

1979-81 - United States Ambassador to Nigeria

1982-87 - Director, Foreign Service Institute, Department of State

1987-92 - Director, Bologna (Italy) Center, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University

1992-97 - President, Association of Diplomatic Studies and Teaching

Scope and Content Note

The Presidential Country Files for Latin America is one of many subcollections that comprise the National Security Adviser Files.

During the Ford administration, the National Security Council (NSC) advised the President about domestic, foreign and military policies in relation to United States

national security. It considered policies on matters of common interest to the departments and agencies of the Government concerned with the national security; and made recommendations to the President after discussing the alternatives on major issues requiring executive decision.

Within this context, the NSC Office of Latin American Affairs assisted in the formulation and coordination of United States policy toward Latin America and the Caribbean. The office had a wide range of responsibilities on political, economic, intelligence and security matters of importance to the United States government in the region. It also played an important role in coordinating federal agency participation within the interdepartmental environment of Latin American policy formulation.

Stephen Low, a career Foreign Service Officer on detail from the Department of State, served as Senior Staff Member in charge of the Office of Latin American Affairs from August 1974 to June 1976. Following Mr. Low's departure to become United States Ambassador to Zambia, David Lazar assumed the responsibilities of Senior Staff Member until the end of the administration. Mary Brownell assisted Low and Lazar.

Scope and Content of the Materials

The Presidential Country Files for Latin America contain substantive materials on United States policy and relations in Latin America on a bilateral and multilateral level. Materials on the Caribbean are minimal, both in terms of substance and quantity. The bulk of the collection is arranged by country name, with separate sequences for NSC documents and State Department telegrams, but materials are also filed under the general headings of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Latin America.

The NSC documents consist mostly of high-level finished products, especially memoranda, created by the Senior Staff Member and addressed to the Assistant or the Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, or created on their behalf and addressed to the President. These materials were processed through the NSC Secretariat and later forwarded to a secure document storage area operated by NSC staff in the West Wing of the White House. Aside from the State Department telegrams, the files contain only a minimum of the supporting

materials received from other agencies and used in formulating the finished products. The supporting materials are primarily located in the unprocessed (October 2001) collection "NSC Latin America Staff: Files."

Related Materials (October 2001)

Related materials on Latin America are located in the processed segments of other National Security Adviser Files collections. These materials will continue to grow as Library staff members make progress in opening materials through systematic review and mandatory declassification review. Additional materials are located in the White House Central Files Subject File, Presidential Handwriting File, Arthur Burns Papers, William E. Simon Microfiche of Papers, and numerous White House staff files. PRESNET search reports listing all open materials on a specific country or topic are available upon request.

Last Modified Date

2025-03-17

Country File, 1974-77.

(Boxes 1-6, 2.4 linear feet)

Memoranda, telegrams, correspondence, biographies, and briefing books on US bilateral relations with Latin American and Caribbean countries, in particular Mexico, Cuba, Chile, Brazil, Panama, and Venezuela. Illustrative topics include the Panama Canal treaty negotiations, United States military assistance to Chile, human rights in Chile, Venezuelan oil, the war on drugs in Colombia, Mexican President Lopez Portillo's visit to the United States, questionable corporate payments in Honduras, Peruvian seizures of US fishing boats, and Cuban civil aviation overflights of the United States.

Materials on multilateral relations focus on the Organization of American States and its meetings and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's trips to Latin America. There is information on the normalization of relations between individual Latin American countries and Cuba, the regional logistics behind Cuban activities in Angola, the impact of the 1974 Trade Act on the region, Brazil's atomic energy agreement with West Germany, and the territorial conflict between Chile and Peru.

Arranged alphabetically by country except for some regional holdings at the

beginning.

Box 1 - Country File

Status	Title
OPEN	Organization of American States (1)-(4)
OPEN	Organization of American States - Bilateral Briefing Book (1)-(3)
OPEN	Organization of American States - Biographic Briefing Book (1)-(4)
OPEN	Organization of American States - General Assembly Briefing Book (1)-(3)

Box 2 - Country File

Status	Title
OPEN	Latin America - General (1)-(4)
OPEN	Latin America - General - SOUTHCOM
OPEN	Latin America - General - State Department Telegrams
OPEN	Argentina
OPEN	Argentina - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Argentina - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Argentina - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Argentina - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Bahamas
OPEN	Bahamas - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Barbados
OPEN	Bolivia
OPEN	Bolivia - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Brazil (1)-(2)

Status	Title
OPEN	Brazil - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Brazil - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
Box 3 - Country File	
Status	Title
OPEN	Brazil - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Brazil - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS (1)-(2)
OPEN	Chile (1)-(3)
OPEN	Chile - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Chile - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Chile - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Chile - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Colombia
OPEN	Colombia - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Colombia - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Colombia - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Colombia - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Costa Rica - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Costa Rica - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Costa Rica - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS

Status	Title
OPEN	Costa Rica - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Cuba (1)-(6)
Box 4 - Country File	
Status	Title
OPEN	Cuba (7)-(9)
OPEN	Dominican Republic
OPEN	Dominican Republic - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Dominican Republic - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Ecuador
OPEN	Ecuador - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Ecuador - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Ecuador - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Ecuador - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	El Salvador - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	El Salvador - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Grenada
OPEN	Guatemala
OPEN	Guatemala - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Guatemala - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Guatemala - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS

Status	Title
OPEN	Guyana
OPEN	Guyana - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Guyana - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Guyana - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Guyana - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Haiti [Folder received empty]
OPEN	Honduras
OPEN	Honduras - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Honduras - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Honduras - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Jamaica
OPEN	Jamaica - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Jamaica - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Jamaica - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Jamaica - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS

Box 5 - Country File

Status	Title
OPEN	Mexico (1)-(6)
OPEN	Mexico - Lopez Portillo Visit (1)-(3)
OPEN	Mexico - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS

Status	Title
OPEN	Mexico - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Mexico - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Mexico - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Nicaragua
OPEN	Nicaragua - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Nicaragua - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS

Box 6 - Country File

Status	Title
OPEN	Panama (1)-(3)
OPEN	Panama - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Panama - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Panama - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Panama - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Paraguay
OPEN	Paraguay - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Paraguay - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS [Folder received empty]
OPEN	Paraguay - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Paraguay - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Peru (1)-(2)

Status	Title
OPEN	Peru - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Peru - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Peru - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Peru - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Puerto Rico
OPEN	Surinam
OPEN	Surinam - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Trinidad and Tobago (1)-(2)
OPEN	Trinidad and Tobago - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Trinidad and Tobago - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Trinidad and Tobago - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Trinidad and Tobago - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Uruguay
OPEN	Uruguay - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Uruguay - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Uruguay - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS
OPEN	Uruguay - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Venezuela (1)-(2)
OPEN	Venezuela - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - EXDIS

Status	Title
OPEN	Venezuela - State Department Telegrams From SECSTATE - NODIS
OPEN	Venezuela - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - EXDIS (1)-(2)
OPEN	Venezuela - State Department Telegrams To SECSTATE - NODIS (1)-(3)