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National Security Adviser. Presidential Subject File, 1974-1977

Collection Type

White House Office Files

Extent

9.6 linear feet (ca. 19,200 pages)

Record Type

Textual

Access

Open, but some materials 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).

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Processed by

Revised by Helmi Raaska, October 2009

Scope and Content Note

The Presidential Subject File is one of many sub-collections that comprise the National Security Adviser Files. The provenance of the Ford National Security Adviser Files and an explanation of the designations "Presidential" and "Institutional" are provided in [Appendix A](#).

This collection contains the originals of many documents addressed to President Ford and to National Security Advisers Henry Kissinger and Brent Scowcroft. President Ford initialed and annotated many of the documents, as did both of his advisers. These items relate to presidential policy decisions; meetings between the President and members of Congress, agency and departmental officials, and representatives from various organizations; and many foreign policy and national security issues in which the President was heavily involved.

Scope and Content

The Presidential Subject File contains a mix of routine and substantive materials on

a wide range of foreign policy and national security issues. International negotiations, White House-Congressional relations, foreign aid, energy, trade, and military training exercises are major topics of consideration.

A significant amount of the material relating to international negotiations pertains to arms control issues, especially the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II). These files include material on the SALT I treaty, Vladivostok agreements, negotiating strategy and instructions to the U.S. delegation, draft treaty language, compliance issues, State Department telegrams to and from the U.S. delegation regarding their discussions with Soviet counterparts, and congressional and general public reaction to the arms control process.

Other arms control topics represented in the files include the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT), Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes Treaty (PNE), Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR), and nuclear nonproliferation.

In addition to arms control, the files also contain materials relating to Law of the Sea, 200-mile fisheries limits, and treaties and trade agreements with the European Community.

Substantive materials document White House-Congressional relations on a number of issues including the defense budget, SALT II negotiations, assistance to Southeast Asia, Indochina refugees, Turkish arms embargo, and the intelligence investigations conducted by the House and Senate Select Committees. Trade is also a major topic, especially liaison with Congress regarding the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and trade with the Soviet Union.

The materials on foreign aid focus primarily on military assistance and specific arms requests from other countries under the Military Assistance Service Fund (MASF) and requests for humanitarian and food aid. The files of Presidential Determinations provide the administration's justification for the President's exercise of his authority to waive provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 to approve these requests when he believed it was in the national interest to do so.

Both domestic and international energy issues are addressed in the collection. Representatives from the U.S., Great Britain, West Germany, France, and Japan met at Camp David in September 1974 to discuss the global impact of high energy

prices and the potential threat of supply cutbacks or interruption. The meeting materials provide a good overall look at the international scope of the energy crisis of the 1970s. General domestic energy themes are U.S. relations with OPEC countries, energy supply and demand, energy conservation, domestic energy resources, and regulation of commercial nuclear energy.

Significant military training exercises that the U.S. planned, initiated, or participated in from June 1974 through January 1977 are documented in the files. Information provided about the exercises includes code name, date, place, participants, purpose, and potential political implications of the activity.

An example of an issue which was not one of immediate international concern but one in which the President took a personal interest is the case of a missing U.S. Navy flight crew whose plane was downed over the Baltic Sea in 1950. President Ford asked for a review of the investigation to make certain that every effort had been exhausted to determine whether any crew members had survived the crash and were being held captive.

Related Materials (October 2009)

Related materials are located in a number of other National Security Adviser collections and the U.S. National Security Council Institutional Files. Researchers can identify the file locations of materials relevant to their interests from PRESNET search reports which are provided upon request. New information is entered into the PRESNET database as collections become available for research. Researchers are encouraged to consult the Ford Library website for announcements of collection openings and to view online collections and documents.

Last Modified Date

2025-03-17

Boxes 1-24 Presidential Subject File, (1973) 1974-77.

(9.6 linear feet)

Memoranda, briefing papers, correspondence, reports, and foreign policy speeches relating to national security and foreign policy issues. Significant topics include international arms control negotiations, energy, trade policy, foreign aid, and investigations of the intelligence community.

Arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically thereunder.

Box 1 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) - Meeting with the President, April 25, 1975
OPEN	Armed Forces Staff College - Invitation to the President
OPEN	Bicentennial Planning
OPEN	Briefings on International Affairs for Presidential Candidates
OPEN	Cabinet Meetings
OPEN	Camp David Meeting of Foreign and Finance Ministers on Energy, Sept. 28-29, 1974 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Camp David Meeting of Foreign and Finance Ministers on Energy, Sept. 28-29, 1974 - State Department Briefing Book (1)-(3)
OPEN	Captive Nations Week
OPEN	Chemical and Biological Weapons (1)-(3)
OPEN	Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (1)-(2)
OPEN	Committee for Civil Applications of Classified Overhead Photography of the United States
OPEN	Communications (1)-(2)

Box 2 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Concorde
OPEN	Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
OPEN	Congressional (1)-(11) [Aug. 1974-March 1975]

Box 3 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Congressional (12)-(26) [April 1975-Dec. 1976]
OPEN	Contacts with Diplomatic and Official Representatives of Soviet and East European Governments

Box 4 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Deep Underground Command Center

Status	Title
OPEN	Demonstrations and Handling of Petitions
OPEN	Energy (1)-(13) [Aug. 1973 and Aug. 1974-Aug. 10, 1976]
Box 5 Subject File	
Status	Title
OPEN	Energy (14)-(18) [Aug. 11, 1976-Dec. 1976]
OPEN	European Community (1)-(2)
OPEN	European Community - Declaration of Principles, 1973 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Executive Agreements
OPEN	Export-Import Bank
OPEN	Fisheries Legislation (200-Mile Limit) (1)-(3)
Box 6 Subject File	
Status	Title
OPEN	Food/Food Aid/World Food Conference (1)-(4)
OPEN	Foreign Assistance - Military Assistance Service Fund (MASF) (1)-(5) [Aug. 1974-March 1975]
Box 7 Subject File	
Status	Title
OPEN	Foreign Assistance - Military Assistance Service Fund (MASF) (6)-(14) [April 1975-Dec. 1976]
Box 8 Subject File	
Status	Title
OPEN	Foreign Military Sales (1)-(3)
OPEN	Gifts to U.S. Government Officials
OPEN	Gold
OPEN	Grain Sales
OPEN	Jackson-Vanik Amendment
OPEN	Jet Engines - JT-10D License (1)-(2)
Box 9 Subject File	
Status	Title
OPEN	Jet Engines - JT-10D License (3)-(4)

Status	Title
OPEN	Kissinger💎Speech, June 24, 1975 - Atlanta, GA
OPEN	Kissinger💎Speech, Aug. 31, 1976 - World Affairs Council of Philadelphia
OPEN	Kissinger💎Testimony, Sept. 16, 1974 - Senate Foreign Relations Committee
OPEN	Law of the Sea (1)-(6)
OPEN	Microwave

Box 10 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	MIA/Amnesty/National League of Families (1)-(3)
OPEN	Military Exercises (1)-(9) [Aug. 1974-July 1975]

Box 11 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Military Exercises (10)-(21) [Aug. 1975-June 1976]

Box 12 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Military Exercises (22)-(27) [July 1976-Jan. 1977]
OPEN	Missiles (1)-(2)
OPEN	Missing U.S. Flyers Downed Over the Baltic Sea in 1950 (1)-(5)

Box 13 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Murphy Commission (1)-(3)
OPEN	Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR) (1)-(6)
OPEN	Narcotics (1)-(2)
OPEN	National Prayer Breakfast, Jan. 30, 1975

Box 14 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Naval Force Requirements Study (1)-(3)
OPEN	Notes from the President to Scowcroft (1)-(3)
OPEN	Nuclear Non-Proliferation (1)-(3)

Status	Title
OPEN	Olympics
OPEN	OPEC
OPEN	Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Box 15 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Peaceful Nuclear Explosions (PNE) Treaty (1)-(3)
OPEN	Presidency
OPEN	Presidential Commitments
OPEN	Presidential Determinations - FY 1975 (1)-(7)

Box 16 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Presidential Determinations - FY 1976 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Presidential Determinations - Transition Quarter (1)-(2)
OPEN	Presidential Determinations - FY 1977 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Presidential Meeting with Foreign Journalists, May 23, 1975
OPEN	Presidential Meeting with Jewish Leaders, Dec. 20, 1974
OPEN	Presidential Review - Defense Small Agencies (FY 1977 Budget)
OPEN	Presidential Speech on Foreign Policy, April 10, 1975 (1)-(4)

Box 17 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Presidential Weekend Reading
OPEN	Protection of Foreign Officials and Installations (1)-(5)
OPEN	PL-480
OPEN	Public Opinion Polls
OPEN	Radio Free Europe (1)-(3)
OPEN	Refugees - Indochina (1)-(2)

Box 18 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Refugees - Indochina (3)-(5)

Status	Title
OPEN	Rules of Engagement
OPEN	SALT (1)-(9) [Aug.-Oct. 1974]
Box 19 Subject File	
Status	Title
OPEN	SALT (10)-(21) [Nov. 1974-Aug. 1975]
Box 20 Subject File	
Status	Title
OPEN	SALT (22)-(33) {Sept. 1975-Jan. 1976]
Box 21 Subject File	
Status	Title
OPEN	SALT (34)-(42) [Feb. 1976-Jan. 1977]
OPEN	SALT - State Department Telegrams - EXDIS from SECSTATE
OPEN	SALT - State Department Telegrams - EXDIS to SECSTATE (1)-(3) [Aug. 1974-Feb. 1975]
Box 22 Subject File	
Status	Title
OPEN	SALT - State Department Telegrams - EXDIS to SECSTATE (4)-(12) [Mar. 1975-July 1976]
OPEN	SALT - State Department Telegrams - NODIS from SECSTATE
OPEN	SALT - State Department Telegrams - NODIS to SECSTATE
OPEN	Satellites
OPEN	Security ("Leaks")
OPEN	Select Committees on Intelligence (1)-(2)
Box 23 Subject File	
Status	Title
OPEN	Select Committees on Intelligence (3)-(8)
OPEN	State of the Union, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	State of the Union, 1977 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Strategic Air Defense Costs

Status	Title
OPEN	Terrorism
OPEN	Trade (1)-(2) [Aug. 1974-May 1975]

Box 24 Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Trade (3)-(6) [June 1975-Nov. 1976]
OPEN	Trade Negotiations, Special Representative for
OPEN	U.S. Tanker Industry Problems
OPEN	U.S./United Kingdom Intelligence Cooperation (1)-(2)
OPEN	VE Day Celebration
OPEN	VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) - Meeting with New Commander in Chief, Aug. 1976
OPEN	VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) - Speech, Aug. 1974
OPEN	Vice President's Trip to King Faisal's Funeral (President's Daily Briefings)
OPEN	White House Emergency Actions Officer
OPEN	White House Fellows