

**Records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
RG.233.88.FA
88th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
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Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20408
202-357-5350
legislative.archives@nara.gov

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	Records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
Date [inclusive]	1963-1965
Extent	1.0 Cubic feet
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Foreign Affairs gained status as a standing committee of the House of Representatives in 1822, however, its antecedents date as far back as 1775 when the Continental Congress established a committee to correspond with friends abroad. The jurisdiction of the committee includes relations of the United States with foreign nations generally; acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries; establishment of boundary lines between the United States and foreign nations; export controls, including nonproliferation of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; foreign loans; international commodity agreements (other than those involving sugar), including all agreements for cooperation in the export of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; international conferences and congresses; international education; intervention abroad and declarations of war; diplomatic service; measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad; international economic policy; neutrality; protection of American citizens abroad and expatriation; the American National Red Cross; trading with the enemy; and United Nations organizations. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of State.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Collection Inventory

Bill Files 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The bill files of the Committee on Foreign Affairs which are out of the ordinary include S. 777 (88 FA.1), relating to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Classified Records 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The classified records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs include 29 feet covering the 76th-90th Congresses (1939-1969). Of this amount, 19 feet consist of transcripts of executive session hearings on foreign policy and mutual security, and include amendments offered in committee, executive agency comments, staff memoranda, and background data. Other records include General Accounting Office reports, foreign aid amendment books, background briefing books primarily on mutual security matters, and documents of the Subcommittee on Review of Foreign Aid Programs.

Committee Papers 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Foreign Affairs document significant areas of committee interest involving aid to Israel (88 FA.24), and include papers documenting foreign assistance (88 FA.7, 88 FA.8). An understanding of the workings of the committee can be gained by examining files of committee members (88 FA.12 and 88 FA.13); and committee staff, (88 FA.11). Of particular value are those of committee chair, Thomas E. Morgan (88 FA.13). Bound "Chairman's Reference Copies"

Memorials and Petitions

for the 88th Congress in large measure duplicate the bound reading files. The reading files consist of copies of committee-generated documents, primarily correspondence. During this period, 1947-1968, the committee papers are the key resource for an understanding of the committee's activities. Quantity, however, is often not a real indication of importance for research.

Memorials and Petitions 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The memorials and petitions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs are reserved for communications sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and referred to the committee; similar items of correspondence addressed to the committee chair are among committee papers, rather than petitions. For the period under consideration, petitions played an insignificant role in shaping the committee's agenda for action. Some of the petitions are from the John Birch Society and called for a halt to aid in any form, directly or indirectly, to Communist nations (88 FA.14).

Subcommittee Files 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The subcommittee files of the Committee on Foreign Affairs include the following: Asian and Pacific Affairs: 80th-90th Congresses, 1947-1968 (1 ft.); National Security and Scientific Developments Affecting Foreign Policy: 80th-89th Congresses, 1947-1966 (1 in.); Europe: 80th-90th Congresses, 1947-1968 (1 ft. 3 in.); State Department Organization and Foreign Operations: 80th-90th Congresses, 1951-1968 (5 in.); Inter-American Affairs: 80th-90th Congresses, 1947-1968 (5 in.); Africa-Near East: 80th-90th Congresses, 1947-1968 (7 in.); International Organizations and Movements: 80th-90th Congresses, 1947-1968 (1 ft. 8 in.); and Foreign Economic Policy: 80th-90th Congresses, 1953-1968 (8 in.). Records for ad hoc or special subcommittees include the Review of Foreign Aid Programs: 88th-89th Congresses, 1963-1966 (9 ft.).