

**Records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
RG.233.90.FA
90th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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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]	1967-1969
Extent	Amount unknown
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 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The bill files of the Committee on Foreign Affairs for this period vary in content from Congress to Congress. At a minimum each file contains one or more copies of a particular bill or resolution. Related documents may include some or all of the following: background correspondence, committee prints (including hearings), and printed reports. For a number of Congresses, it is the exception rather than the rule to find anything in the folder other than a printed copy of the bill or resolution.

Bill files with contents out of the ordinary include those for the following: the Foreign Assistance Act of 1965; H.R. 12048 (90 FA.1), the Foreign Assistance Act of 1967; and H.R. 15263 (90 FA.1), the Foreign Assistance Act of 1968.

Classified Records 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The classified records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs cover the 76th-90th Congresses (1939-1969). Of this amount, 19 feet consists 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.

Committee Papers 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

Petitions and Memorials

The committee papers of the Committee on Foreign Affairs are the key resource for an understanding of the committee's activities. 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. An understanding of the workings of the committee can be gained by examining files of committee members (90 FA.2, 90 FA.3), and committee staff (90 FA.4). Of particular value are those of committee chair Thomas E. Morgan (90 FA.2).

Petitions and Memorials 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials of the Committee on Foreign Affairs are reserved for communications which were 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. Major letter-writing campaigns account for most of the petitions. The bulk of the petitions for the 90th Congress were initiated by the John Birch Society and called for a halt to aid in any form, directly or indirectly, to Communist nations (90 FA.7).

Reading Files 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The reading files of the Committee on Foreign Affairs include bound volumes for the 88th-90th Congresses (1963-1968). Bound "Chairman's Reference Copies" for the 88th-90th Congresses in large measure duplicate the bound reading files. The reading files are copies of committee-generated documents, primarily correspondence.

Subcommittees 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

Subcommittees

The subcommittees of the Committee on Foreign Affairs are as follows: Asian and Pacific Affairs: 80th-90th Congresses, 1947-1968 (1 ft.); 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.); Foreign Economic Policy: 80th-90th Congresses, 1953-1968 (8 in.).