

**Records of the Commission on  
Security and Cooperation in Europe  
RG.519.95.HEL  
95th 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

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC, 20408  
202-357-5350  
[legislative.archives@nara.gov](mailto:legislative.archives@nara.gov)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Title</b>	Records of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1977-1978
<b>Extent</b>	9.6 Cubic feet (24 archival boxes)
<b>Language</b>	English

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, is an independent U.S. Government agency created in 1976 to monitor and encourage compliance with the Helsinki Final Act and other Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments.

The Commission consists of nine members from the U.S. Senate, nine members from the U.S. House of Representatives, and one member each from the Departments of State, Defense, and Commerce. The positions of Chair and Co-Chair are shared by the House and Senate and rotate every two years, when a new Congress convenes. A professional staff assists the Commissioners in their work.

The Commission contributes to the formulation of U.S. policy on the OSCE and takes part in its execution, including through Member and staff participation on U.S. Delegations to OSCE meetings and in certain OSCE bodies. Members of the Commission have regular contact with parliamentarians, government officials, NGOs, and private individuals from other OSCE participating States.

The Commission convenes public hearings and briefings with expert witnesses on OSCE-related issues; issues public reports concerning implementation of OSCE commitments in participating States; and organizes official delegations to participating States and OSCE meetings to address and assess democratic, economic, security and human rights developments firsthand.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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Records are primarily files related to subjects of interest to the Commission.

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## **Arrangement note**

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The records are arranged into the following series: administrative files, correspondence, and subject files. Any discernible series arrangement is noted therein.

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

### **Rule VII**

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

### **Administrative files (2 archival boxes)**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Travel records and other administrative files.

#### **Arrangement note**

Arranged by fiscal year.

### **Correspondence (1975-1978) (2 archival boxes)**

#### **Arrangement note**

Arranged by year and by category of correspondent.

### **Subject files (19 archival boxes)**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Subjects include Soviet emigres and defectors, documents of the Moscow and Ukrainian Helsinki Groups, Soviet dissent, Basket III hearings, and psychiatric abuse in the USSR.