

**Records of the Commission on
Security and Cooperation in Europe
RG.233.96.HEL**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe</u>	4
<u>Arrangement note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6
<u>Administrative files</u>	6
<u>Hearing files</u>	6
<u>Meeting files</u>	6
<u>Subject files</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Creator	Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.
Title	Records of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
Date	1979-1980
Extent	11.5 Linear feet (23 archival boxes)
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

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 United States 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.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Files contain travel records and other administrative files, hearing files, and meeting files. Subjects of interest include the Basket II and III hearings and Soviet emigres and defectors.

Arrangement note

Files are arranged in the following series: 1. Administrative files 2. Hearing files 3. Meeting files 4. Subject files

Administrative Information

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 (3 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Invoices, supplies and equipment, travel records.

Hearing files (3 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Printed reports and volumes related to the Basket II and Basket III hearings.

Meeting files (6 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Files relating to meetings held in Madrid and Belgrade, including background material, press releases, proposals, articles and commentaries, and analysis.

Subject files (9 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Subjects include Soviet emigres and defectors, individual case files, and Soviet dissent.