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History at Foggy Bottom

The Nuts and Bolts of Producing the *Foreign Relations* of the United States Series

FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1961-1963, VOLUME VI, KENNEDY-KHRUSHCHEV EXCHANGES

5. Telegram From President Kennedy to Chairman Khrushchev

I wish to extend my congratulations and those of the American people for the impressive scientific achievement represented by the launching of your space vehicle to Venus. We shall watch its progress with interest and wish you success in another chapter of man's exploration of the universe.

John F. Kennedy

o. Source: Department of State, Central Files, 761.13/2-1361. Unclassified. Drafted by Rusk. A typed note on the source text indicates it was sent by commercial telegram. A copy of this message is also in the Kennedy Library, National Security Files, Countries Series, USSR, Khrushchev Correspondence, and Department of State, Presidential Correspondence: Lot 66 D 204.-

180. Memorandum of Conversation¹

Key Biscayne, Florida, December 30, 1971, 10:30 a.m.

PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Chou Shu-kai, Foreign Minister, Republic of China
James Shen, Republic of China Ambassador to the United States
Coleman S. Hicks, notetaker

Chou: It is very nice of you to take the time to see us here in Key Biscayne. I have three questions that I would like to ask you. First, how secure is Taiwan from Communist attack? Second, will you press us to negotiate with Peking? And number three, I would like to raise matters regarding confiscation of property. The Japanese are very excited about these concerns. Kissinger: Well, I won't tell you anything until the Ambassador promises to invite me to another Chinese dinner. (Laughter)

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OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN



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LATEST NEWS



Now Available: *Seventeen Foreign Relations Volumes*

Sixteen of these volumes are newly digitized as part of the Office's ongoing project, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center, to digitize the entire *Foreign Relations* series. They cover events that took place in 1919 and were originally published in print between 1934 and 1947. This quarterly release also includes the new publication *Foreign Relations, Iran, 1951–1954*.

26 Jun

FOREIGN RELATIONS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

1977–1980
VOLUME XV

CENTRAL
AMERICA

Now Available: *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977–1980, Volume XV, Central America*

This volume is part of a *Foreign Relations* subseries that documents the most important foreign policy issues of

26 Jun

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OFFICE OF THE

HISTORIAN

Historical Studies Divisions (HSD)

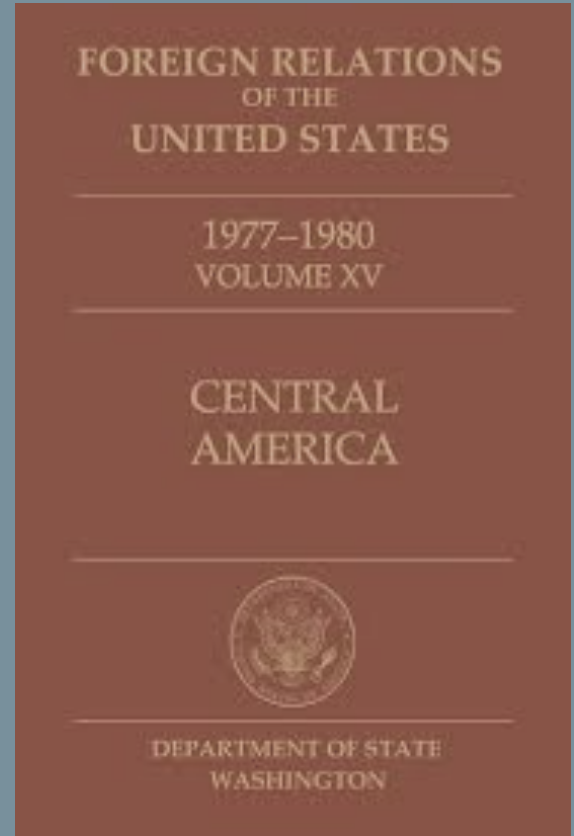
- Policy Studies
- Special Projects

- Prepare policy-supportive historical studies for DoS official and other agencies
 - Studies provide essential background information, evaluate how and why policies evolved, identify precedents.
- Conduct oral history interviews with Ambassadors and Department officials
- Prepare studies and datasets concerning Department History
- Facilitate OH teaching at FSI

To start with the basics...

The *Foreign Relations of the United States* (commonly called FRUS) is:

- ❑ The official documentary record of U.S. foreign relations and significant diplomatic activity (1861)
- ❑ A record and guide for policy makers at all levels
- ❑ A powerful declassification engine



Congressional Mandate: PL 102-138, 1991

- To produce a “thorough, accurate, and reliable documentary record of major United States foreign policy decisions and major United States diplomatic activity”... to include “alternative views to the policy position ultimately established”
- Established a *30-year publication timeline* from the events being documented (based on access to records at 25 years)
- Directed the Office of the Historian to use records from across the national security establishment and provided for *full access* to those records
- Defined a unique dedicated *declassification* system

Planning FRUS

Defining the Sub-Series

- Presidential Administration
- Topics, Events, Crises

Types of Volumes:

- Bi-lateral Relations (US-Soviet; US-China)
- Crisis Volumes (Lebanon)
- Regional Volumes (South America)
- Topical (Global Issues, War on Drugs)

Ronald Reagan Administration (1981–1988)

1981–1988

1. Foundations of Foreign Policy (*In Production*)
2. Organization and Management of Foreign Policy (*Under Declassification Review*)
3. Soviet Union, January 1981–January 1983 (*Published and available in Full Text, Ebook*)
4. Soviet Union, January 1983–March 1985 (*In Production*)
5. Soviet Union, March 1985–October 1986 (*In Production*)
6. Soviet Union, October 1986–January 1989 (*Published and available in Full Text, Ebook*)
7. Western Europe, 1981–1984 (*Under Declassification Review*)
8. Western Europe, 1985–1988 (*Being Researched or Prepared*)
9. Poland, 1982–1988 (*Being Researched or Prepared*)
10. Eastern Europe (*In Production*)
11. START I (*In Production*)
12. INF, 1984–1988 (*Being Researched or Prepared*)
13. Conflict in the South Atlantic, 1981–1984 (*Published and available in Full Text, Ebook*)

Overview of the FRUS Production Process

–Research

–Compiling

–Review & Revision

–Declassification

–Editing & Publishing

- Coordination with outside agencies and reviewers
 - Access for research
 - NARA, NSC, DoD, CIA, and more
 - Declassification
 - Editing- contract work

General Research Sequence: Defining the volume

FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1981-1988, VOLUME VI, SOVIET UNION,
OCTOBER 1986-1989

7. Memorandum of Conversation¹

Vienna, November 6, 1986, 8:05-9:40 a.m.

Secretary Shultz's Meeting with Foreign Minister Shevardnadze

PARTICIPANTS

U.S.

The Secretary
Amb. Ridgway
Amb. Nitze
Amb. Hartman
Amb. Kampelman
Amb. Matlock
Mr. Linhard
Mr. Parris
Mr. Zarechnak (Interp.)

U.S.S.R.

Foreign Minister Shevardnadze
Dep. ForMin. Bessmertnykh
Amb. Karpov
Mr. Mikul'chak
Mr. Palazhchenko (Interp.)

Shevardnadze opened the meeting by asking when the Secretary would have to leave. The Secretary replied that, as he understood Shevardnadze had to leave Vienna at 10:00, he had planned accordingly.² Shevardnadze confirmed that his plane would leave Vienna at 10:00.

The Secretary indicated he had a number of points to make on subjects which had not been discussed the day before.³ He understood that Shevardnadze had something to say on chemical weapons and conventional arms, and was looking forward to hearing his views.

FRUS methodology

- Compiler defines scope of volume and research plan
 - based on historiography
 - what is known of sources and documentation
- List of major themes and topics to be covered
- Chronology of events

Research



Views from Reagan Library

- Presidential Libraries
- Central Intelligence Agency
- Dept. of Defense
- Dept. of State
- Other archives and agencies as appropriate
- Private papers as authorized



Research, research, research

(ROBINSON)

The President has seen ⁶¹⁷
JUNE 12, 1987

50196455

REMARKS AT BRANDENBURG GATE BERLIN, GERMANY

CHANCELLOR KOHL, GOVERNING MAYOR
DIEPGEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TWENTY-FOUR
YEARS AGO, PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY VISITED
BERLIN, SPEAKING TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY
AND THE WORLD AT THE CITY HALL. SINCE THEN,
TWO OTHER PRESIDENTS HAVE COME, EACH IN HIS
TURN, TO BERLIN. TODAY I MYSELF MAKE MY
SECOND VISIT TO YOUR CITY.

WE COME TO BERLIN, WE AMERICAN
PRESIDENTS) BECAUSE IT IS OUR DUTY TO SPEAK,
IN THIS PLACE, OF FREEDOM. BUT I MUST

CONFESS WE ARE
AS WELL BY THE
CITY MORE THAN

EAR MUCH FROM

REFORM AND

ISONERS HAVE

IGN NEWS

NG JAMMED.

VE BEEN

EATER FREEDOM

S OF PROFOUND

OR ARE THEY

RAISE FALSE

NGTHEN THE

NG IT?

SS. FOR WE

GO TOGETHER

BERTY CAN ONLY

D PEACE.

THE GOODWILL OF THE AMERI

GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV, IF YOU

SEEK PEACE /- IF YOU SEEK PROSPERITY FOR

THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE /-

IF YOU SEEK LIBERALIZATION /- COME HERE,

TO THIS GATE.

MR. GORBACHEV, OPEN THIS GATE.

MR. GORBACHEV, TEAR DOWN THIS WALL.

I UNDERSTAND THE FEAR OF WAR AND THE

PAIN OF DIVISION THAT AFFLICT THIS

CONTINENT /- AND I PLEDGE TO YOU MY

COUNTRY'S EFFORTS TO HELP OVERCOME THESE

BURDENS. TO BE SURE, WE IN THE WEST MUST

RESIST SOVIET EXPANSION. SO WE MUST

MAINTAIN DEFENSES OF UNASSAILABLE STRENGTH.

YET WE SEEK PEACE. SO WE MUST STRIVE TO

REDUCE ARMS ON BOTH SIDES.

Bread & Butter FRUS Docs: signed decision documents; presidential correspondence; memcons & memrecs; information memoranda; cables

Compilation Process: Is it “FRUS-able?”

- Organize documentation chronologically and/or by topic, country, or region
- Read and do primary selection
 - What goes in and what gets left out
 - what made it to the President? Sec State?
 - High-level policy documents
- Final selection and annotation



Determine what documents influenced decision-making
on specific policies and best convey the story

Compilation Process: Annotation

- Source Notes
- Footnotes for information and context
- **Footnotes as necessary to guide further research**
- Cross References: to other documents and other FRUS volumes

Fill gaps in documentation

- Augment with memoir literature
- Editorial Notes

2. After meeting with Shevardnadze, Shultz traveled to Paris to meet with French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.↔
3. See Document 6.↔
4. Shultz was Secretary of Labor from January 1969 until June 1970.↔
5. In telegram 15505 from Moscow, September 8, the Embassy reported on a September 6 TASS statement condemning the attempted hijacking of Pan Am Flight 73 to Karachi. (Department of State, Central Foreign Policy File, D860680-0336)↔
6. In telegram 19053 from Moscow, November 4, the Embassy reported that elements of the Soviet media had “raised the possibility of Israeli or American military action against Syria” over the attempted bombing of an El Al flight from London to Tel Aviv in April 1986 (the so-called Hindawi Affair). The Embassy noted that Soviet officials had downplayed the Hindawi Affair in conversations with Embassy officials but had “highlighted possible Syrian-Israeli tension” in conversations with Arab diplomats.” (Department of State, Central Foreign Policy File, D860841-0301)↔
7. Reference is to the British proposal in August to allow a signatory to an international treaty banning chemical weapons to demonstrate its innocence within ten days to avoid on-site inspections.↔
8. Reference is to the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, which concluded on September 19.↔

Review & Revision: Quality Control

Each volume goes through two levels of review before entering declassification

First review, usually by division chief, both for procedures and techniques

Gaps in research

Imbalance in documentation

Fine points of annotation

Narrative flow of documents

Second review

Fundamentally, to ensure compliance with statutory and editorial standards and how the volume fits into the sub-series as a whole

Volume is returned to compiler for final revision

Declassification Process

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

February 11, 1985

- Declass Division: Reviews every document in each compilation to determine which agencies have document equity

FY 1985-1990 NUCLEAR WEAPONS STOCKPILE (X)

- Refer documents to individual agencies
 - Agencies or Departments review and approve declass of documents for inclusion in *FRUS*

Stockpile Plan for the fiscal years 1985 through 1990. The stockpile levels represent authorized ceilings, not to be exceeded, except as provided. For the period FY 1985-1990, the following are authorized:

- Coordination of responses; appeal declassification decisions when necessary

****Note: OH has no declassification authority****

2. DOE may produce and transfer to the Department of Defense (DOD) parts of nuclear weapons, not containing special nuclear materials, as may be agreed by DOE and DOD. These parts may be used in nuclear weapons, training programs, research and development, and production. Additionally, DOE may temporarily transfer parts of its stockpile of plutonium power supplies for development and flight testing programs. (X)

Declassification

The FRUS statute defines a unique declassification process:

- Processes and timelines for declassification review
- Provision for appeal of withheld material

Subsequently, DOS, CIA, and NSC worked out processes for policy review and declassification of covert operations in the High Level Panel processes.

- To date: 60 CA acknowledged and declassified

This is a unique, essential, and effective aspect of our program.

REDACTED

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Authority S. Tilley, VSC (F87-1035)S-17-41
BY MJB, NARA Date 8/30/97

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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Editing Division (unsung heroes of FRUS)

FRUS editors ensure that the *Foreign Relations* series meets rigorous documentary editing standards.

Major elements of editing/publishing process:

- ❑ Technical edit and manuscript preparation
- ❑ Typesetting
- ❑ Proofreading
- ❑ Queries with compiler (final volume review)
- ❑ Copy edit, preparation for publication
- ❑ Digital publication

Remember the documents presented in FRUS are the tip of an iceberg.



Using FRUS

- Use it all! documents, front matter, annotation, everything
- While you're at it—use our website: www.history.state.gov
 - Look across the full range of material—digital search is an incredibly powerful mechanism
- Others will have covered aspects of the story before FRUS gets there--But!
 - We provide unique value through solid, comprehensive coverage of the development of policy-- backed by our privileged access to classified and non-publicly available interagency and archival records