


Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian presents...

Friends, Enemies, and Interests

FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESEARCH WITH GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

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Librarian for Political Science, International Affairs,
Public Policy, and Government Information
Yale University



“We have no eternal allies, and we have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those interests it is our duty to follow.”

HENRY TEMPLE, 3RD VISCOUNT PALMERSTON

REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, MARCH 1, 1848

[HTTP://HANSARD.MILLBANKSYSTEMS.COM/COMMONS/1848/MAR/01/TREATY-OF-ADRIANOPL-CHARGES-AGAINST](http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1848/mar/01/treaty-of-adrianople-charges-against)

In this presentation:

Issues

Strategies

Sources

Foreign affairs research with government information

- ▶ **Diverse sources** (memos, correspondence, reports, treaties...)
- ▶ **Varied topics** (intelligence, diplomacy, security, aid, sanctions...)
- ▶ **Levels of access** (published, in archives, classified/declassified)
- ▶ **Complex interactions** (among branches and agencies)
- ▶ **Changes over time** (to agencies, departments, agendas)

My strategies: availability and accessibility

▶ **What's available?**

- ▶ time period
- ▶ country/region
- ▶ topic or incident

▶ **What's accessible?**

- ▶ published documents
- ▶ archival records
- ▶ classified/declassified
- ▶ databases or microfilm

My strategies: bibliographies & secondary sources

- ▶ *American Foreign Relations Since 1600*
 - ▶ “Magisterial!” says the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (<https://shafr.org/publications/american-foreign-relations>)
- ▶ *The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method* (Marc Trachtenberg)

Jazz diplomacy

Where are the sources?



See "Jazz at the National Archives": <http://www.archivesfoundation.org/jazz/>

Who is responsible for foreign policy?



Department of State

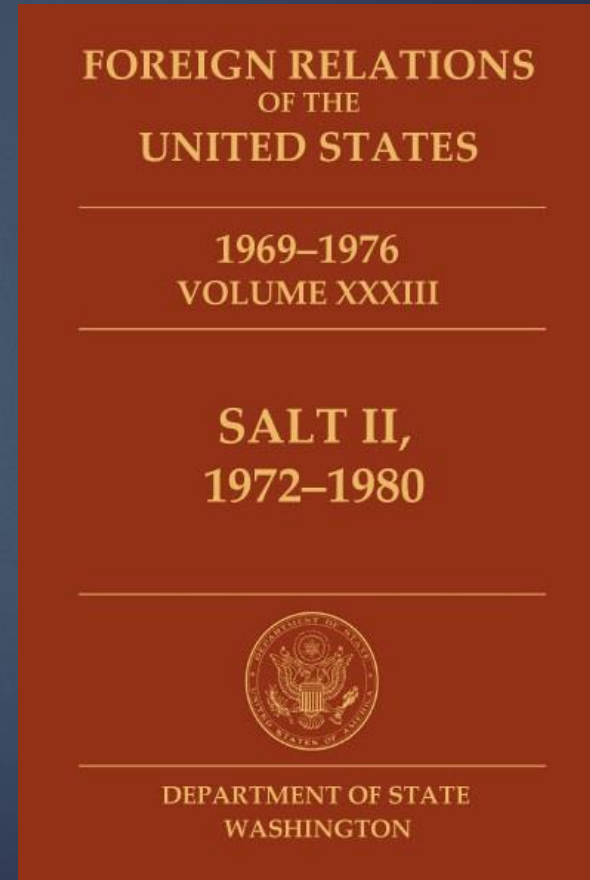
- ▶ Created in 1789 to oversee international relations of the United States, implement foreign policy, and operate diplomatic missions
- ▶ The chief executive officer of the State Department, the Secretary of State, advises the President on foreign policy
- ▶ Responsibilities also include public diplomacy, foreign aid, and development assistance
- ▶ <http://state.gov>

State Department publications include:

- ▶ Country and travel information: <http://www.state.gov/countries/>
- ▶ Diplomatic List: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/dpl/>
- ▶ Bilateral Relations Fact Sheets: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/>
- ▶ *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/>
- ▶ *Country Reports on Terrorism*: <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/>
- ▶ *State Magazine*: <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/statemag/>
- ▶ Earlier publications: *Bulletin* (1939-1989) and *Dispatch* (1990-1999)

FRUS: Foreign Relations of the United States

- ▶ Produced by the State Department's Office of the Historian since 1861
- ▶ Consists of documents from the State Department, the Department of Defense, National Security Council, the CIA, and other foreign affairs agencies, as well as documents from Presidential libraries and some personal papers
- ▶ "The official WikiLeaks," according to one of my colleagues



How to access *FRUS*

- ▶ Department of State Office of the Historian: <http://history.state.gov>
- ▶ University of Wisconsin Digital Collections: <http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/FRUS>
- ▶ HeinOnline (subscription database)
- ▶ In print!
 - ▶ Helps students understand the series, how it's organized, and the types of sources it contains



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The *Foreign Relations of the United States* (FRUS) series presents the official documentary historical record of major U.S. foreign policy decisions and significant diplomatic activity.

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Ford Administration
1974–1976



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FRUS topical volumes include:

- ▶ Emergence of the Intelligence Establishment (1946-1950)
- ▶ Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath (1961-1963)
- ▶ Foreign Economic Policy (1961-1963)
- ▶ Documents on Arms Control and Nonproliferation (1969-1976)
- ▶ Energy Crisis (1969-1974; 1974-1980)
- ▶ Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs (1977-1980)

FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1961–1963, VOLUME XI, CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS AND AFTERMATH

Editors:

Edward C. Keefer
Charles S. Sampson
Louis J. Smith

General Editor:

David S. Patterson

United States Government Printing Office
Washington
1996

Department of State
Office of the Historian
Bureau of Public Affairs

[Preface](#)

[Kennedy Administration Volumes](#)

[Sources](#)

[List of Abbreviations](#)

[List of Persons](#)

[Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath \(Documents 1-390\)](#)

[Index](#)

Overview

The editors of the volume focused much of their selection on documenting the most serious U.S.-Soviet confrontation of the Cold War, the Cuban missile crisis and its aftermath. Although the crisis itself was short, it was so intense that it absorbed the entire attention of President Kennedy and his closest advisers. Much of the documentation printed in this volume relates to discussions with key Soviet officials through a variety of channels ranging from Kennedy-Khrushchev letters to communications through an American newsmen with a Soviet official. Because of space constraints, the editors have included only the most important examples of the frequent and detailed consultation with key allies regarding the crisis.

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the History of U.S.
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[Johnson, Lyndon B.](#)
[Kennedy, John F.](#)
[Laos](#)
[Military Bases](#)
[Morocco](#)
[Nuclear Weapons](#)
[Organization of
American States](#)

Document 78: Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between the Under Secretary of State (Ball) and the President's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs (Bundy)

Washington, October 26, 1962, 9:25 a.m.

Document 79: Summary Record of the Sixth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council

Washington, October 26, 1962, 10 a.m.

Document 80: Memorandum From ABC Correspondent John Scali to the Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (Hilsman)

Washington, undated.

Document 81: Telegram From the Department of State to the Embassy in Brazil

Washington, October 26, 1962, 2 p.m.

Document 82: Memorandum for the Record

Washington, October 26, 1962, 2:30 p.m.

Document 83: Telegram From the Department of State to the Mission to the United Nations

Washington, October 26, 1962, 5:16 p.m.

Document 84: Telegram From the Embassy in the Soviet Union to the Department of State

Moscow, October 26, 1962, 7 p.m.

Document 85: Editorial Note

Document 86: Telegram From the Mission to the United Nations to the Department of State

New York, October 26, 1962, 7 p.m.

Document 87: Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between President Kennedy and Prime Minister Macmillan

Washington, October 26, 1962.

**FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1961–1963
VOLUME XI, CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS AND AFTERMATH,
DOCUMENT 81**

81. Telegram From the Department of State to the Embassy in Brazil [Source](#)

Source: Department of State, Central Files, 737.56361/10-2662. Top Secret; Niact; Eyes Only. Drafted by Martin, cleared with U. Alexis Johnson, and approved by Rusk.

Washington, October 26, 1962, 2 p.m.

1055. Ambassador from Secretary. We believe time has come for representative friendly country to discuss with Castro alone predicament in which Soviet actions have placed him. We also believe Brazilian Ambassador in Havana is best person to do this and therefore wish you to see Hermes Lima as soon as possible to secure his agreement to instruction to their Ambassador along following lines. This approach to Castro should be handled in such way as make absolutely clear to Castro it is solely Brazilian initiative. Naturally we would hope matter could be handled by Brazilians with greatest discretion. In this connection we feel strongly that need for complete secrecy between FM and Ambassador in Havana only, and absolute accuracy, is so great that the instructions should be taken to Havana by special courier in special airplane as soon as possible (FYI. Important should not be any Brazilian cables referring this subject. End FYI.) Report reaction niact.

View Image

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Persons

Johnson, U. Alexis

Kennedy, John F.

Martin, Edwin M.

Rusk, Dean

Abbreviations & Terms

FYI

NATO

OAS

USSR



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2. 1969–1976, Volume XXIII, Arab-Israeli Dispute, 1969–1972 (August 17)
3. 1977–1980, Volume XVIII, Middle East Region; Arabian Peninsula (August 19)
4. 1969–1976, Volume XXII, Panama, 1973–1976 (October 6)

Volumes Published in 2014 (9)

1. 1969–1976, Volume XXXV, National Security Policy, 1973–1976 (March 31)
2. 1977–1980, Volume XXI, Cyprus; Turkey; Greece (April 3)
3. 1969–1976, Volume E–15, Part 2, Documents on Western Europe, 1973–1976 (May 8)
4. 1969–1976, Volume XXI, Chile, 1969–1973 (May 23)
5. 1969–1976, Volume E–9, Part 1, Documents on North Africa, 1973–1976 (September 26)
6. 1977–1980, Volume I, Foundations of Foreign Policy (October 29)
7. 1917–1972, Public Diplomacy (November 25)
8. 1969–1976, Volume XXXVIII, Part 2, Organization and Management of Foreign Policy; Public Diplomacy, 1973–1976 (December 4)
9. 1977–1980, Volume IX, Arab-Israeli Dispute, August 1978–December 1980 (December 18)

Volumes Planned for Publication in 2015 (6)

Volumes in Production

1. 1969–1976, Volume E–11, Part 2, Documents on South America, 1973–1976
2. 1969–1976, Volume E–14, Part 2, Documents on Arms Control, 1973–1976
3. 1969–1976, Volume E–16, Documents on Chile, 1969–1973
4. 1977–1980, Volume XX, Eastern Europe
5. 1977–1980, Volume XXVI, Arms Control
6. 1981–1988, Volume XIII, Conflict in South Atlantic, 1981–1984

Volumes Planned for Publication in 2016 and later

Volumes in Production (4)

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2. 1977–1980, Volume XVII, Part 1, Horn of Africa
3. 1977–1980, Volume XXVIII, Organization and Management of Foreign Policy
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2. 1969–1976, Volume E–9, Part 2, Documents on the Middle East Region, 1973–1976
3. 1977–1980, Volume IV, National Security Policy

FRUS is fantastic! Except...

- ▶ It only begins in 1861
 - ▶ A source for earlier foreign relations information: *American State Papers* (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsp.html>) covers 1789-1817
- ▶ There's a significant time lag
- ▶ Historians and other scholars often express dissatisfaction with the declassification process

Microfilm??

Yes. Microfilm.



Microfilm collections from the National Archives

- ▶ State Department Consular Despatches
 - ▶ Reports to the Department of State from U.S. diplomatic representatives stationed abroad. Years of coverage vary, but most documents are from the late 19th through early 20th centuries.
- ▶ State Department Central Files
 - ▶ “Records of the State Department Relating to...”
 - ▶ “Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files”
 - ▶ Foreign affairs and internal affairs
 - ▶ Especially strong for early-mid-20th century
 - ▶ Some of these files records are included in Gale’s Archives Unbound collections

More than just the State Department on microfilm...

- ▶ Records of the Office of Strategic Services
 - ▶ CIA Research Reports
 - ▶ Records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - ▶ National Security Files (organized by administration)
-
- ▶ Major publishers: National Archives, University Publications of America, Primary Source Media

“ The president is the commander-in-chief, the chief negotiator, and the chief diplomat but the Congress makes laws, must ratify treaties, and appropriate funds. ”

MARGARET G. HERMANN, "THE STUDY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY," IN *ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY*, EDS. STEVEN W. HOOK AND CHRISTOPHER M. JONES, NY: ROUTLEDGE, 2012: 6.

The role of Congress in foreign affairs

Congressional committees

▶ Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

- ▶ <http://www.foreign.senate.gov/>
- ▶ Develops and influences U.S. foreign policy
- ▶ Oversight and legislation related to foreign assistance
- ▶ Debates treaties and legislation
- ▶ Holds confirmation hearings for high-level State Department positions

▶ House Committee on Foreign Affairs

- ▶ <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/>
- ▶ At various times, it was the House Committee on International Relations
- ▶ “considers legislation that impacts the diplomatic community, which includes the Department of State, the Agency for International Development (USAID), the Peace Corps, the United Nations, and the enforcement of the Arms Export Control Act”

Congressional sources

- ▶ Press releases
- ▶ Hearings
- ▶ Bills
- ▶ Treaties
- ▶ CRS reports
- ▶ *Congressional Record*



United States Senate Committee on
FOREIGN RELATIONS

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Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2015
Time: 09:30 AM
Location: Senate Dirksen 419
Presiding: Senator Corker

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Subscription databases for foreign affairs research

- ▶ Digital National Security Archive (ProQuest)
- ▶ Archives Unbound (Gale)
- ▶ History Vault (ProQuest)
- ▶ Cold War Intelligence Online: The Secret War Between the U.S. and the USSR, 1945-1991 (Brill)

Some of my research guides

- ▶ Foreign relations:
<http://guides.library.yale.edu/govdocs/foreignrelations>
- ▶ Declassified documents:
<http://guides.library.yale.edu/govdocs/declassified>
- ▶ National Archives: <http://guides.library.yale.edu/nara>



Thank you!

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