



# *Dwight D. Eisenhower Library*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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Eisenhower Presidential Library releases formerly secret documents.

The Eisenhower Presidential Library has released 40,000 pages of formerly security classified material. This release is in conjunction with the Library's declassification program that has resulted in the opening of over 400,000 pages of formerly security classified material since 1977.

The formerly classified papers covered by this notice cover some of the most well known historical events of the mid and late 20<sup>th</sup> century. These documents, now available to the public, provide additional research material on well-known 20<sup>th</sup> century issues that include J. Edgar Hoover's (FBI) controversial domestic intelligence and surveillance operations; the Cuban Missile Crisis; correspondence of former Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter on various foreign policy matters; National Security Council deliberations; aerial intelligence activities; psychological warfare operations during World War II and the Cold War; the moral implications of the use of atomic bombing on Japanese targets during World War II; construction of the Berlin Wall, 1961; U.S. Middle East policy; Latin America; NATO; and Panama Canal.

Among the declassified documents now available for research are items from the White House Staff Secretary (Andrew Goodpaster, post -September 1954) files. This fascinating collection documents some of the sensitive intelligence gathering operations during the height of the Cold War. Many of these documents pertain to the CORONA satellite reconnaissance project, the U-2 flights over the USSR and other communist territories, and reconnaissance missions conducted along the periphery of the Soviet Union. This material includes information on U-2 vulnerability testing, maps showing U-2 flight routes, and data on Soviet missile bases as intelligence targets. The Records of the White House Staff Secretary also document the international diplomatic impact of the U-2 incident of May 1960.

The Robert Anderson Panama Canal Series collection documents Robert Anderson's role as Special Ambassador in negotiating a Panama Canal treaty during the years 1964-1973. This body of Anderson material contains a wealth of high-level State Department and White House memoranda, as well as memoranda of conversations, messages and reports which provide a remarkably detailed look at US-Panamanian relations during these turbulent years. The declassified material contains Nixon Administration material including memoranda of conversations with President Nixon, Ambassador George Bush and Dr. Henry Kissinger. This material, added to other collections in the Library's holdings, helps establish the Eisenhower Library as an important source of information on the Panama Canal as a major issue in Western hemispheric security. Among the recently declassified materials are 6,000 pages from the Lauris Norstad Collection. The declassified documents in this collection reflect General Lauris Norstad's duties as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, in

developing plans for western European defense. General Norstad's Papers are particularly rich for the years 1958 to 1962 and document NATO affairs during the Eisenhower and Kennedy presidencies. Topics covered include Berlin contingency planning, Charles DeGaulle and French relations with NATO, West Germany's role in European defense, command structures, individual country issues, and overall US-NATO strategic planning. The Norstad Papers include partially declassified messages on the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. Nuclear questions were almost always at the center of this multi-national military planning.

The David Osborn collection contains a very intriguing file documenting China from 1972-75 that includes declassified material he prepared regarding the impact of President Nixon's visit to China as well as analysis of the perennial one China vs. two Chinas--Taiwan issue. Davis Osborn held several diplomatic posts from 1947-1978, with special emphasis on East Asia.

Declassified papers located among the Herbert Brownell collection include documents on negotiating the Colorado River salinity agreement with Mexico in 1972-73 and declassified minutes of a meeting of major Middle East oil company executives in 1953 regarding the impact of anti-trust measures on these companies' position in the Middle East. There are also documents pertaining to Saudi Arabia, Iran, and other Middle East countries.

Other materials recently declassified by the Eisenhower Presidential Library include National Security Council policy papers concerning Austria, Latin America and Yugoslavia, and a paper on evacuation of United States civilians abroad prior to hostilities. Even the materials released only in part can add significantly to understanding of certain topics. A notable example is the partially declassified major report entitled "Scientific Judgments on Foreign Communications Intelligence (known as the Baker Report) after the panel's chair, Dr. W.O.Baker. This January 1958 report offers data on the theory and practice of crypto analysis during the Cold War. With the partial release of this report, scholars can gain at least a limited grasp of the complexities of code breaking as well as the importance of this method of intelligence collection to the nation's security.

Additional material formerly off limits to public scrutiny is the report of Task Force C in Project Solarium, a major study of the United States' strategic posture which Eisenhower launched in the spring of 1953. Project Solarium involved three task forces, A, B, and C, each depicting a different scenario in this early cold war exercise. Task Force C took the harshest stance vis-à-vis the Soviet Union as it based its report on the premise stated therein: "We can make no acceptable peace with the group in the Kremlin. We must proceed to bring about the destruction of its power and the overthrow of its leadership." The report advocated aggressive overt and covert actions aimed at achieving this objective.

The Eisenhower Presidential Library will continue to declassify and make available formerly security classified documents. The Library will issue periodic notices alerting the public to the availability of newly released documents through the declassification program. The Eisenhower Presidential Library is one of 12 presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. For more information regarding the availability of formerly security classified documents, please contact the Eisenhower Library at 785-263-6700.

*The Eisenhower Presidential Center is one of 12 presidential libraries operated by the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. The Eisenhower Center located in Abilene, Kansas is open from 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m., daily and closed only Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For more information, please call 785.263.6700 or toll free 1-877 Ring Ike.*