Extent

252 folders, approximately 18,295 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records related to Bosnia from the files of Jane Holl, director of the European Affairs Office of the National Security Council (1991-1994) and Donald Kerrick, director of the European Affairs Office of the National Security Council (1994-1995). The collection contains memoranda, talking points, letters, reports, press guidance, news articles, and Department of State cables regarding the war in Bosnia. Topics include humanitarian aid, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the question of whether to lift the UN arms embargo, the Vance-Owen Peace Plan, and former President Jimmy Carter’s trip to Bosnia in December 1994 to facilitate a ceasefire agreement.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2008-0994-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. This FOIA contains records regarding Bosnia from the files of two Directors of the European Affairs Office of the National Security Council: Jane Holl (1991-1994) and Donald Kerrick (1994-1995). The records include memoranda, talking points, letters, reports, press guidance and articles, and Department of State cables regarding the war in Bosnia. Before it dissolved in 1991, Yugoslavia was made up of six republics: Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Macedonia. Slovenia and Croatia were the first to declare their independence on June 25. Bosnia followed suit in a February 27 - March 1, 1992 referendum. Two days later on March 3 hostilities broke out in Bosnia, beginning a war that would last over three years. Before the war the Bosnian population was made up of three main ethnic groups: Muslim, Serbian, and Croatian, with Muslims being the majority. The remainder of Yugoslavia was however overwhelmingly Serbian, which is why the

Serbian population of Bosnia was against the push for independence. Following the referendum, the Serbian population, with the help of the Yugoslav National Army, gained control of an estimated 70% of Bosnia. Their goal was to create a Serb Republic of Bosnia Hercegovina. Muslims and Croats living within those areas were forced to flee, murdered outright, or detained and starved. This policy became known as “ethnic cleansing”. An estimated 100,000 people would die before the war ended on December 14, 1995 with the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords. The files of Jane Holl and Donald Kerrick cover a wide-range of topics. Included are talking points on humanitarian airdrops, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic’s visit to New York in September 1993 to address the UN Security Council. Several documents deal with lifting the UN arms embargo, including talking points on both the implications of a unilateral lift and on the Nunn-Mitchell Amendment to terminate funding for U.S. enforcement of the embargo. A 1993 country report for Bosnia from the Department of State and a March 12, 1993 Report on Rape and Massacre in Bosnia are also included. Other topics include the Vance-Owen Peace Plan, former President Jimmy Carter’s December 1994 trip to Bosnia to facilitate a 4-month ceasefire agreement, and the creation of the Contact Group – five influential countries (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Russia) that came together to work towards peace in Bosnia. Also included are several congressional letters to the President on topics including urging the President to lift the arms embargo, cautioning against the use of US ground troops in the conflict, and calling for action following the massacre in Srebrenica. Other letters of interest include a first-hand account of the shelling of the Sarajevo market provided by Fred Cuny to Mort Abramowitz on February 7, 1994 and a March 2, 1993 letter from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reporting on the situation in Bosnia. Several issues of Bosnia Briefing, which was published by Action for Bosnia, are also included. The majority of these records related to this FOIA case are closed for national security reasons.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in this collection area—Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files. Staff and Office files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 22, as amended) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

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Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2015. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2015-12-03

Container List

View all digitized files in the National Archives Catalog (NAC)

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