Extent

631 folders, approximately 5,026 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records related to Haiti from 1993 through 2000 including immigration policy, diplomacy, the 1994 military intervention, and refugee issues. It contains correspondence to and from Congress, correspondence with activists and concerned citizens, memoranda, speeches, talking points, and administrative reports.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2013-0983-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult FOIA case 2006-0650-F for related materials. In December of 1990, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a former Catholic priest, was elected to the presidency of Haiti in the country’s first ever democratic presidential election. He assumed the office on February 7, 1991, but was overthrown that September in a coup led by dissatisfied elements of the army. From October 1991 to September 1994, a military junta governed Haiti. This brutal military dictatorship was characterized by widespread and systematic human rights violations. It has been estimated by the UN that government and paramilitary forces killed upwards of 4,000 Haitians and forced hundreds of thousands more to flee into the neighboring Dominican Republic and to risk emigration on the high seas. During those violent years of 1991-1994, many thousands of Haitians crowded into unseaworthy boats in an attempt to seek asylum in the United States. Continuing the policy of his predecessor George H.W. Bush, the Clinton administration responded to this massive wave of immigration by interdicting the refugees on the high seas and repatriating them back to Haiti. This Haitian refugee policy went through many changes and legal maneuverings in U.S. courts and in response to a public relations campaign by human rights activists. Eventually more than 30,000 Haitians were

detained in a legal limbo at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In the fall of 1994, President Clinton ordered U.S. forces to prepare to launch a military intervention (Operation Uphold Democracy) to restore the democratically elected Aristide to power. President Clinton also dispatched a last minute diplomatic team of former President Jimmy Carter, General Colin Powell and Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA). This two-prong approach of diplomacy backed with the threat of military invasion was successful, and Haiti's military leaders agreed to step down returning Aristide to office. Operation Uphold Democracy's mission changed from a combat operation to a peace-keeping and nation-building operation until March of 1995 when U.S. forces were replaced by the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). A large contingent of U.S. troops (USFORHAITI) participated as peacekeepers in the UNMIH until 1996 under the command of Colonel Greg Pulley of the U.S. Army. U.N. forces under various mission names were in Haiti from 1995 through 2000. During the more than 6 years of U.S. military operations in Haiti, only one U.S. service member was killed by hostile fire. Records responsive to this FOIA include correspondence to and from Congress, correspondence with activists and concerned citizens, memoranda, speeches, talking points, and administrative reports.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas - Clinton Presidential Records: White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Subject Files and Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files-CF. The White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) contains a variety of series created to organize and track documents and correspondence. The WHORM Subject file was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management and is a series of categories designated by a letter/number combination. WHORM files are processed at the document level. FOIA 2013-0983-F includes WHORM records from this subject code: CO072 Haiti, Republic of

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

Copyright

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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

2016-03-22

Container List

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

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2013-0983-F:

Box 1

Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File

Category Case Number

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CO072 000009SS
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Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File (continued)

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