Extent

48 folders, approximately 833 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records related to the renewal of Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status for the People’s Republic of China in 1993 1994. It contains National Security Council (NSC) Records Management System (RMS) numbered documents which include memoranda regarding the negotiations, draft trade legislation, statements of Administration policy, and press materials.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2014-1037-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. The records in FOIA 2014-1037-F concern the renewal of Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status for the People’s Republic of China in 1993 and 1994. After being suspended in 1951, China’s MFN status had been restored in 1980. However, beginning in 1990, concerns over military technology sales and human rights abuses, especially the Tiananmen Square incident in 1989, made the annual renewal of China’s MFN status a point of contention with Congress. The Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the Trade Act of 1974 prohibits the granting of MFN to non-market economies, thus requiring a waiver for China’s renewal. In 1993, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12850, which renewed China’s MFN status for another year and set forth specific human rights objectives for the 1994 renewal. On May 20, 1994, despite continuing tension in relations with China, the President announce China’s MFN renewal. A Congressional effort to overturn this action failed the following June. In 2000, the designation of Permanent Normal Trade Relations replaced China’s MFN status. The records responsive to this FOIA request are located in the National Security Council (NSC) Records Management System (RMS) numbered documents. These materials include memoranda to the President,

Anthony Lake, or Samuel Berger regarding negotiations with both the Chinese and Congress regarding MFN renewal. In addition there are records concerning trade status legislation, including draft of the United States – China Act of 1993, press materials, and statements of the Administration’s policy on certain legislation.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection area— Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems.

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

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 U.S.C. Chapter 1) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

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).

Geographic Place

China

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2016. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released

Last Modified Date

2017-07-11

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 2014-1037-F:
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Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Records Management System
[China and MFN…]
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NSC Records Management
[China and MFN…]
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9420464 [OA/ID 2165]
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Content Available Online