Extent

39 folders, approximately 3,215 pages

Summary

This collection contains records related to Taiwan's membership in the World Trade Organization as the separate customs territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, also known as Chinese Taipei. The records consist of emails between National Security Council (NSC) staffers concerning trade issues with Taiwan and various other countries and numerous cables between the NSC the Department of State and the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT).

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2012-0978-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. Taiwan’s entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) was a topic of intense debate in the 1990’s during the 106th Congress. Several congressmen expressed concern that due to the “One China” policy of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), they would exert political influence over other WTO member states to block Taiwan’s accession. Congressional support for Taiwan’s bid was included in H.R. 4444, a bill to extend permanent normal trade relations status to the PRC. Section 601 of the bill (which was enacted into law on October 10, 2000) states that, immediately after the PRC’s accession, the U.S. representative to the WTO should formally request that Taiwan’s accession be the next order of business. The PRC’s WTO membership was formally approved at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar on November 10, 2001. The very next day, the WTO formally approved Taiwan’s membership, and on December 2, the Taiwanese government notified the WTO that it had ratified its accession agreement. Taiwan joined the international trade body as “the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu,” also known as “Chinese Taipei” on January 1, 2002. This collection consists

of emails between National Security Council (NSC) Staffers concerning trade issues with Taiwan and various other States, and numerous cables between the NSC, the Department of State and the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT). The AIT is a non-profit, private corporation established on the island of Taipei in order to foster commercial, cultural and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan. Since the U.S. has non-diplomatic, unofficial relations with Taiwan, the AIT also serves as a liaison between its Taiwanese counterpart organization, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) and various U.S. government agencies. These e-mails and cables concern tarifs, taxes and other trade issues involving agricultural products such as grapes, alcohol, tobacco products, and pork bellies. They also concern manufactured goods such as automobiles and airplanes. Other issues discussed in the cables and e-mails are intellectual property rights, port docking fees and ecological issues such as whale hunting and pollution. 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 these collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files, Clinton Presidential Records: ARMS Emails, Clinton Presidential Records: TRP Emails, and Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems. Staff and Office files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email. The ARMS database is comprised of six sub-series of email records called "buckets." The buckets generally represent a specific White House office. The buckets are titled: NPR for National Performance Review, OPD for Office of Policy Development, POTUS for President of the United States, WHO for White House Office, CEA for Council of Economic Advisers, and Default for emails not

associated with an office. ARMS emails are arranged by topic, there-under by bucket, and there-under chronologically by creation date.

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).

Processed by

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

Last Modified Date

2017-07-20

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2012-0978-F:

Box 1

Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
National Economic Council
Brainerd, Lael
Taiwan – WTO [World Trade Organization] [OA/ID CF 1995]

Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email]
NSC [OA/ID 1200000]
[Taiwan and World Trade Organization]
[05/17/1998 – 11/24/2000]

Clinton Presidential Records: Tape Restoration Project (TRP) [Email]
NSC [OA/ID 1200000]
[Taiwan and World Trade Organization]
[11/15/1999 – 12/15/1999]

Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Cables
Jan 1997-Dec 1998 [OA/ID 520000]
[Taiwan and World Trade Organization]
[01/08/1997 – 02/05/1997]
[02/05/1997 – 03/25/1997]
[03/28/1997 – 06/06/1997]
[06/06/1997 – 08/01/1997]
[08/12/1997 – 09/26/1997]
[09/30/1997 – 10/26/1997]
[10/30/1997 – 12/19/1997]

Box 2

[12/24/1997 – 02/12/1998]
[02/12/1998 – 04/01/1998]
[04/02/1998 – 05/29/1998]
[06/02/1998 – 07/22/1998]
[07/24/1998 – 08/22/1998]
[08/27/1998 – 12/28/1998]

Jan 1998-Dec 2000 [OA/ID 530000]

[Taiwan and World Trade Organization]
[01/05/1999 – 02/09/1999]
[02/10/1999 – 04/30/1999]
Box 3
[05/03/1999 – 09/09/1999]
[09/14/1999 – 10/30/1999]
[11/01/1999 – 12/01/1999]
[12/09/1999 – 01/31/2000]
[02/02/2000 – 04/19/2000]
[05/17/2000 – 07/14/2000]
[08/03/2000 – 12/28/2000]
NSC Email
MsMail-Record (Sept 94-Sept 97) [OA/ID 590000]
[Taiwan and World Trade Organization]
[02/01/1997 – 04/23/1997]
MsMail-Non-Record (Sept 94-Sept 97) [OA/ID 605000]
[01/10/1997 – 04/24/1997]
Exchange-Record (Sept 97-Jan 01) [OA/ID 620000]
[09/12/1997 – 05/18/1998]
Box 4
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System (continued)
NSC Email
Exchange-Record (Sept 97-Jan 01) [OA/ID 620000]
[05/19/1998 – 08/12/1999]
[08/19/1999 – 10/05/1999]
[10/07/1999 – 11/11/1999]
[11/18/1999 – 08/18/2000]
[08/18/2000 – 08/30/2000]
[09/11/2000 – 11/15/2000]
Exchange-Non-Record (Mar 97-Jan 01) [OA/ID 630000]
[06/04/1997 – 11/30/1998]
[12/01/1998 – 09/01/1999]
[09/12/1999 – 11/09/2000]
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System (continued)
NSC Records Management System

[Taiwan and World Trade Organization]
9807854 [OA/ID 3273]
0000217 [OA/ID 4073]