Extent

3 folders, approximately 72 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records related to the September 28th, 1994 sinking of the car and passenger ferry MV Estonia in the Baltic Sea. The files contain cables about the disaster, including offers from the FBI for victim identification services, condolences to the Swedish, and Estonian government authorities and news reports from Europe. The collection also contains two emails concerning the routing and editing of a presidential condolence letter to the president of Estonia.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2017-0132-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. (See 2011-1036-F for records relating to the nation of Estonia). The car and passenger ferry MV Estonia sank in the northern Baltic Sea during the early morning hours of September 28th, 1994. Of the 989 people on board that night, only 137 survived. According to the official accident report, most of the 852 people who went down with the ship never had a chance to reach a lifeboat, as the nearly 16,000 ton passenger/cargo ferry sank very rapidly (perhaps in less than 10 or 20 minutes). The official accident report produced by the “Joint Accident Investigation Commission of Estonia, Finland and Sweden,”1 determined that the main cause of the accident was the locking device of the bow 1 https://web.archive.org/web/20010602144742/http://www.onnettomuustutkinta.fi/estonia/ visor and ramp used to on-load and offload trucks and cars failed. This failure allowed large amounts of water to enter the car deck forcing the ship to severely list to starboard. The list quickly worsened until the ship capsized and sank to the bottom trapping most of the passengers and crew. This collection consists of cables about the disaster, including offers from the FBI for victim identification services,

condolences to the Swedish, and Estonian government authorities and news reports from Europe about the disaster. Also included in this collection are two emails concerning the routing and editing of a presidential condolence letter to the president of Estonia.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in this 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).

Processed by

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

Last Modified Date

2017-07-19

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2017-0132-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Cables
Jan 1993-Dec 1994 [OA/ID 505000]
[Estonia, Ferry, Disaster]
[09/29/1994 – 12/21/1994]
NSC Email
MSMail-Record (Sept 94-Sept 97) [OA/ID 590000]
[Estonia, Ferry, Disaster]
[09/29/1994]
MSMail-Non-Record (Sept 94-Sept 97) [OA/ID 605000]
[Estonia, Ferry, Disaster]
[09/29/1994]