Extent

163 folders, approximately 3,173 pages

Summary

This collection consists of National Security Council Records Management Numbered documents related to the Kosovo Refugee crisis from March of 1998 until June of 1999. The collection contains Congressional correspondence, memoranda between the President and National Security Advisor Sandy Berger, and letters from concerned individuals including the former Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, Milan Panic. The records also include memoranda and reports concerning the allocation of money for refugee assistance programs, as well as press accounts regarding the effectiveness of United Nations refugee assistance efforts.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2016-0205-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. (See also 2006-1186-F). This collection includes contemporaneous correspondence between various members of Congress and the President about the growing humanitarian crisis, correspondence between the President and National Security Advisor Sandy Berger, and various concerned citizens including the former Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, Milan Panic (then living in Los Angeles as an American-based businessman). Other correspondents include the President of the International Red Cross, 1986 Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel, a number of international ambassadors to NATO allies, and various American citizens expressing their concerns for the victims of the war. Also included in this collection are memoranda and reports from members of the National Security Council to the President concerning the allocation of money for refugee assistance programs and press accounts about the effectiveness of United Nations (UN) refugee assistance efforts.

Biographical Note

The Kosovo War was an armed conflict in the former Yugoslavian province of Kosovo that lasted from March of 1998 until June of 1999. The war began in earnest when the Albanian separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) attacked Serbian security forces in an effort to enforce their independence. The conflict was a bloody and violent guerilla war fought between the KLA and Yugoslavian police, paramilitary, and uniformed defense forces. It was marked, as was the whole of the 1990's Balkan wars, by extensive humanitarian suffering and both racial and religious genocide. In October of 1998, the combatants agreed to a short-lived ceasefire which was however quickly violated. After high-level peace discussions at the Rambouillet Conference led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) failed in March of 1999, NATO began a bombing campaign against the Yugoslavian forces in an attempt to force them to accept the independence of Kosovo. Serbian forces continued their ethnic cleansing campaign however, and by April of 1999 the United Nations (UN) estimated that nearly 860,000 Kosovars had fled or were forcibly expelled to Albania (444,600), Macedonia (344,500) and Montenegro (69,900).1 On June 3rd, 1999, Slobodan Milosevic (the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), capitulated to the NATO air campaign. On June 9th, he accepted the proposed peace conditions and on June 11th a UN led Kosovo Force (KFOR) moved in to take over law enforcement duties and to care for the hundreds of thousands of refugees left homeless by the conflict.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas—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, 2017. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2017-09-28

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 2016-0205-F:

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