Extent

3 folders, approximately 263 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records related to European Security and Defense Identity (ESDI) in the records of Phil Gordon.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2020-0252-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. This FOIA request was for records related to European Defense and Security Identity (ESDI) in the records of Phil Gordon. Philip Gordon holds a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies. During the Clinton administration he was a Director of European Affairs in the National Security Council for only one year (1998-1999). The ESDI came about as changes within the European Union (EU) became manifest. In 1995 Austria, Finland, and Sweden joined the EU. None of these three countries were, however, original signatories to NATO. As part of the NATO ministerial in Berlin in 1996, NATO began to explore a way to increase flexibility of operations within its organizations and to address treaty obligations across signatory and non-signatory states. As a July 1, 2000 NATO Review article notes, the intention was to create “separable but not separate” operations within NATO. In December 1999 at Helsinki, Finland, the European Council of the European Union met to discuss, among other topics, how non-NATO signatory parties could operate under the auspices of NATO and also outside of the influence of other NATO member states. In other words, under ESDI the countries of the EU or the Western European Union (WEU) could conduct their own security operations and Combined Joint Task Forces (CJTF). Records in this FOIA case consist of administrative paperwork, correspondence, speeches, reports, and memoranda all relating to the ESDI and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: Staff and Office Files 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.

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, 2021. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2022-06-06

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2020-0252-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
National Security Council
European Affairs
Gordon, Philip
NATO/ESDI [European Security and Defense Initiative] [1] [OA/ID 2469]
NATO/ESDI [European Security and Defense Initiative] [2] [OA/ID 2469]
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Records Management System
[European Security and Defense Initiative and Gordon]
9906276 [OA/ID 3810]