Extent

4 folders, approximately 73 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records of Sheila Heslin, former director of Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian Affairs in the National Security Council, relating to Turkmenistan. The collection contains correspondence, background information, briefing materials, talking points, promotional materials and meeting agendas relating to the expansion of bilateral relations and the encouragement of economic reform, human rights reform, and foreign investment in Turkmenistan, particularly concerning the development of oil and gas pipelines in the region surrounding the Caspian Sea.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2025-0782-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. Sheila Heslin is a former director for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian Affairs in the National Security Council. Prior to her appointment to the NSC, Heslin graduated from Cornell University, received her master’s degree in public policy from Harvard, and was a member of the State Department’s policy planning staff. She has authored and co-authored many articles focusing on Eastern Europe and former Soviet states. Turkmenistan is a landlocked country in Central Asia and a former constituent republic of the Soviet Union. It is bordered by Uzbekistan to the north and east, Afghanistan to the southeast, Iran to the south, the Caspian Sea to the west, and Kazakhstan to the northwest. Since gaining its independence in 1991, Turkmenistan has received ongoing international criticism for human rights abuses, discrimination of religious and ethnic minorities, corruption, the lack of political and media freedoms, lack of freedom of speech for its citizens, and the lack of free and fair elections. According to Human Rights Watch, Turkmenistan remains one of the

world’s most repressive countries. This collection contains correspondence, background information, briefing materials, talking points, promotional materials and meeting agendas relating to the expansion of bilateral relations and the encouragement of economic reform, human rights reform, and foreign investment in Turkmenistan, particularly in relation to the development of oil and gas pipelines in the region surrounding the Caspian Sea. A significant percentage of 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 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. Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area.

Access

This 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, 2025. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2026-03-26

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2025-0782-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
National Security Council
Heslin, Sheila
Central Asia [1] [OA/ID 679]
Central Asia [2] [OA/ID 679]
Turkmenistan [OA/ID 679]
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Records Management System

[Heslin; Turkmenistan or Central]
9606537 [OA/ID 1123]