Extent

27 folders, 925 pages

Summary

This collection consists of the files of Joe Lockhart, Press Secretary for President Clinton from 1998-2000. The records located here include memoranda, correspondence, talking points, lists, statements, and emails. Major topics of interest can be grouped under three categories: (1) press opportunities for President Clinton; (2) statistics concerning press and FOIA inquiries on a weekly basis; (3) ways to improve NATO press relations/strategy vis-à-vis the Kosovo crisis.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2011-0585-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. This FOIA consists of records related to former Press Secretary Joe Lockhart. The records dealing with Lockhart take the form of memos, correspondence, news clippings, talking points, lists, and statements. In the WHORM-Subject Files there are memos in which Lockhart describes potential press opportunities for Clinton and details the efforts to improve the operations of the NATO media strategy group. Of particular importance to the researcher should be the methods and techniques employed to better present the American case for action in the Kosovo crisis. In the Staff and Office Files of John Podesta numerous memos list Lockhart as a co-recipient. These documents mainly focus on weekly press and FOIA inquiries. Further, this FOIA consists of email created by Joe Lockhart. Also, specific to negotiations made with the researcher, this FOIA consists of email to Lockhart as it was related to the relationship between the Office of the Press Secretary and the media.

Biographical Note

Serving as President Bill Clinton's Press Secretary from October 5, 1998 to September 29, 2000, Lockhart succeeded his mentor Mike McCurry. Prior to becoming a key figure in the Clinton Administration, he held the position of press secretary for several Democratic politicians. In the 1980s, Lockhart acted as press secretary for Walter Mondale during his presidential campaign, worked for Paul Simon in the Senate, and was the chief spokesperson in Michael Dukakis' ill-fated run for the presidency. A graduate of Georgetown University, he came into the Clinton camp in 1996 as the result of recruiting efforts by McCurry. In sequential order, Lockhart handled the press for Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign, served as Deputy Press Secretary under McCurry, and once replacing his friend and teacher took on the task of press relations during the Clinton impeachment trials. After Clinton left office, Lockhart worked both in political and public capacities. In September 2004, he signed on as a senior advisor for John Kerry. Subsequently, he founded the communications consulting firm Glover Park Group. In June 2011, Lockhart accepted an offer to become spokesman for Facebook.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that were responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files; Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files; Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email] and Clinton Presidential Records: Tape Restoration Project [Email]. The White House of Records Management (WHORM) contains a variety of series created to organize and track documents and correspondence. The WHORM Subject File was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management and is a series of categories designated by a letter/number combination. Staff and Office Files are maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration

activity. WHORM files are processed at the document level; whereas, 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. 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 dataset is comprised of 6 sub-series of email records called “Buckets.” The buckets include NPR, OPD, POTUS, WHO, CEA, and Default. ARMS emails are arranged chronologically by creation date. The Tape Restoration Project (TRP) is a database consisting of restored emails from the Automated Records Management System from July 1994 through June of 2000. The TRP is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential record email. The TRP dataset is comprised of 6 sub-series of email records called “Buckets.” The buckets include NPR, OPD, POTUS, WHO, CEA, and Default. TRP emails are arranged chronologically by creation date. FOIA 2011-0585-F includes WHORM records from these subject codes: FE Federal Government FG Federal Government - Organizations IT International Organizations PR Public Relations TR Trips UT Utilities

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 USC 2201) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 USC 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 USC, 101) 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).

Person Names

Lockhart, Joseph

Organization Names

United States. Office of the White House Press Secretary

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2012. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2012-11-02

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2011-0585-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File
Category Case Number
FE010-01 Case Number: 233449
FG007-01 Case Number: 425362

IT067 Case Number: 301698SS
Case Number: 302930SS
PR015 Case Number: 299531SS
Case Number: 402634
Case Number: 402661
TR348 Case Number: 305000SS
TR351 Case Number: 305504SS
TR361 Case Number: 309749SS
UT001 Case Number: 401964
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
Chief of Staff
Podesta, John
August 21, 1998; August 22, 1998; March 19, 1999 & July 1999 – FOIA Inquiries for July 23, 1999 [OA/ID 14872]
Weekly Reports – October 1999 – Press Inquiries for October 22, 1999 [OA/ID 14872]
Weekly Reports – October 1999 – FOIA Inquiries for October 22, 1999 [OA/ID 14872]
Weekly Reports – November-December 1999 – Press Inquiries for November 19, 1999
[OA/ID 14872]
Stephanopoulos, George
FBI Files – Background for CNN Interview [OA/ID 8028]
Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Creator: Joe Lockhart]
[03/06/1997 – 07/30/1997]
[08/01/1997 – 11/12/1997]
[11/12/1997 – 03/12/1998]
[03/12/1998 – 07/06/1998]
[07/07/1998 – 02/24/1999]
[02/24/1999 – 08/31/1999]
[08/31/1999 – 12/28/1999]
[12/31/1999 – 03/17/2000]
[03/17/2000 – 08/29/2000]
[08/31/2000 – 09/28/2000]
Clinton Presidential Records: Tape Restoration Project [Email]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[To: Joe Lockhart]

[03/28/1997 – 04/26/1999]