Extent

168 folders, approximately 11,290 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records related to the Intelligence Oversight Board (IOB). The IOB’s mission was to prepare reports to the President of intelligence activities which the IOB believed to be unlawful, or contrary to Executive Order or Presidential directive and forward reports concerning such intelligence activities to the Attorney General. The IOB also had authority to conduct not just reviews but investigations as it deemed necessary to carry out its functions. The files contain copies of news articles, press releases, press guidance, draft guidance, correspondence, memoranda, e-mails, memos and talking points. They also contain letters from Members of Congress, non-governmental organizations and private citizens requesting information related to issues the IOB was publicly known to be reviewing.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2006-0996-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. A substantial number of records considered to be responsive to this FOIA request were previously processed pursuant to FOIA requests 2006-0995-F and 2006-1025-F. Records processed in response to FOIA request 2006-0996-F are associated with the Intelligence Oversight Board. A large number of records related to this FOIA case are closed for national security reasons. The WHORM Subject Files relating to the IOB contain eight subject file categories. These categories contain correspondence, memoranda, and copies of the Executive Orders. White House Staff and Office Files material, found to be responsive to this FOIA, are predominantly from the records of the National Security Council (NSC). More specifically, these NSC records are from the offices of: European Affairs, Intelligence Programs, Legal Advisor, and the Staff Director. Records responsive to this FOIA from the files of

Alexander Vershbow, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European Affairs, consist of letters responding to inquiries made by members of Congress, background papers (to include an unclassified paper concerning Iranian involvement in Bosnia), a chronology of diplomatic events related to Bosnia from 1991- 1994, news articles and drafts of talking points. From 1994 to 1997 James Baker served as Deputy Legal Advisor to the National Security Council (NSC). Records from his files, which are responsive to this FOIA, range in subject matter but primarily deal with the activities involving executive intelligence oversight through the IOB and its relationship with the House and Senate Committees providing congressional intelligence oversight. The responsive records are in the form of memos, news articles, talking points, press guidance and draft letters. Records which could be considered responsive to this FOIA were found in the files of another Deputy Legal Advisor to the NSC, Mary Derosa. All of these records were processed pursuant to FOIA request 2006-0995-F. From the files of the NSC's Staff Director, Nancy Soderberg, one folder of responsive records includes copies of news articles and copies of correspondence between the IOB and Members of Congress concerning the introduction of arms in Bosnia from Iran and claims of executive privilege pertaining to the IOB's report. Other folders (as listed below) containing records from the files of Nancy Soderberg, which are responsive to this FOIA, were previously processed pursuant to FOIA request 2006-1025-F. Records from the Office of Intelligence Programs which are responsive to this FOIA were previously processed pursuant to FOIA requests 2006-0995-F and 2006-1025-F. Emails from the Automated Records Management Systems (ARMS) contain copies of press releases, new articles, and press briefings directly dealing with or related to the activities of the President's Oversight Intelligence Board. NSC cables and emails responsive to this FOIA are mainly in the form of press guidance, draft press guidance, press releases and talking points. These cables and emails are mainly concerned with two very much publicized topics addressed by the IOB; namely - the CIA's involvement or knowledge of human rights abuses in Guatemala for decades up until the early 1990's, and later the IOB's investigation into the flow of arms, particularly from Iran, to the Muslim-led government in Bosnia starting in 1994. Documents from the NSC's Records Management System contain correspondence to and from private citizens or nongovernmental organizations concerned with the release of information related to human rights violations in Guatemala. Several documents from the NSC's Records Management System, concerning human rights abuses in Guatemala and the IOB, were previously processed pursuant to FOIA request 2006-1025-F. Documents from

the NSC’s Record Management System related to PFIAB/IOB member Ann Z. Caracristi were previously processed pursuant to FOIA request 2006-1007-F.

Biographical Note

The President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) was created by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956. Executive Order 10656, signed February 6, 1956, created the President’s Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities. Eisenhower believed that this board of respected and knowledgeable citizens could provide him with unbiased and candid appraisals of United States’ intelligence activities. President John Kennedy, by the signing of Executive Order 10938 on May 4, 1961, renamed the Board of Consultants, the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. Though the name was changed, the board continued to operate in much the same fashion. Executive Order 11460, signed by President Richard Nixon on March 20, 1969, again changed the name of the PFIAB to the President’s Advisory Intelligence Board. President Jimmy Carter abolished the board in March of 1977. Carter did, however, retain the Intelligence Oversight Board. The IOB was created by President Gerald Ford in 1976 following a post Watergate investigation by Congress into potential illegal activities of the intelligence agencies. The IOB was tasked with reporting potential illegal activities to the Department of Justice for review. As Ford told Congress in 1976, “I believe [the changes] will eliminate abuses and questionable activities on the part of the foreign intelligence agencies while at the same time allowing them to get on with their vital work of gathering and assessing information.” President Ronald Reagan modified the role of the IOB in 1981 and re-established the PFIAB in 1985 by signing Executive Order 12537. President William Jefferson Clinton combined the IOB and the PFIAB, making the IOB a committee rather than an independent organization. President George W. Bush radically modified the role of both the IOB and the PFIAB following the creation of a Director of National Intelligence. The newly named President’s Intelligence Advisory Board was designated to oversee the intelligence collection activities of any Federal agency engaged in the collection of intelligence or the production of intelligence policy. President Barack Obama more clearly defined the role of the PIAB and strengthened the IOB with the passage of Executive Order 13516. Under President Clinton the PFIAB had between eleven and twelve members, by law it could be no

more than sixteen, whose terms were established by the President. Members were chosen for their independence, knowledge, and experience. The members of the President’s Intelligence Advisory Board serve as unpaid observers of the United States intelligence community. Much of their work is highly secret in nature though Presidents have chosen on occasion to make the Board’s reports, or portions thereof, public. The members of the Board are appointed by the President and the Director serves at the leisure of the President.

Executive Order (E.O.) 12863, signed by President Clinton on September 13, 1993, rechartered the Intelligence Oversight Board (IOB) to be a standing committee of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB). Under E.O. 12863, the IOB consisted of four members of the PFIAB selected by the chairman of the PFIAB. In December 1997, E.O. 13070 amended E.O. 12863 by stating the four PFIAB members to serve as IOB members would be designated by the President. Being members of the PFIAB, members of the IOB were considered to be trustworthy and distinguished individuals from outside the government who were selected on the basis of achievement, experience and independence. While some members of the IOB had experience in the intelligence field, such experience was not a prerequisite. The PFIAB’s overall mission was to assess the quality, quantity and adequacy of intelligence collection, analysis and estimates, as well as issues relating to counterintelligence, and provide advice to the President. The IOB’s more focused mission was to prepare reports to the President of intelligence activities which the IOB believed to be unlawful, or contrary to Executive order or Presidential directive and forward reports concerning such intelligence activities to the Attorney General. The IOB also had authority to conduct not just reviews but investigations as it deemed necessary to carry out its functions.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are 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: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System. The White House Office 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 were 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. FOIA 2006-0996-F includes WHORM records from these subject codes: CO068 Guatemala, Republic of FE002-01 Presidential Powers- Succession- Term of Office FE010 Records and Archives FE010-01 Access to Records- Documents FG006-11 Central Intelligence Agency FG006-14 President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board FG006-15 President’s Intelligence Oversight Board JL Judicial- Legal Matters.

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).

Organization Names

United States. Intelligence Oversight Board
United States. President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2011. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2014-07-16

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 2006-0996-F:

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Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File
Category Case Number
CO068 Case Number: 159101SS
CO068 Case Number: 161583SS
CO068 Case Number: 165216
CO068 Case Number: 174269SS
CO068 Case Number: 184377SS
FE002-01 Case Number: 162437SS
FE010 Case Number: 046894
FE010-01 Case Number: 172041
FE010-01 Case Number: 172936SS
FG006-11 Case Number: 134236
FG006-14 Case Number: 026519SS
FG006-14 Case Number: 242511SS
FG006-15 Case Number: 038525
FG006-15 Case Number: 176204
FG006-15 Case Number: 274992SS
JL Case Number 434541
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
Counsel’s Office
Counsel Intelligence Oversight Board 1994 [OA/ID 7539]
Nussbaum, Bernard; Cutler, Lloyd
BWN PIOB (President’s Intelligence Oversight Board) 1993 [OA/ID 3735]
NSC-IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board] Report 1996 [OA/ID CF 859]
Press Secretary
Press Release Subject File
PFIAB [President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board]/PFIOB [President’s Foreign Intelligence Oversight Board] [OA/ID 101770]

Box 2
National Security Council
European Affairs
Vershbow, Alexander

Bosnia/Iran/IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board], April-May 1996 [1] [OA/ID 1076]
Bosnia/Iran/IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board], April-May 1996 [2] [OA/ID 1076]
Bosnia/Iran/IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board], April-May 1996 [3] [OA/ID 1076]
Bosnia/Iran/IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board]-Basic Documents 1996 [1] [OA/ID 898]
Bosnia/Iran/IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board]-Basic Documents 1996 [2] [OA/ID 898]
Bosnia/Iran/IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board], End of May 1996 [1] [OA/ID 898]
Bosnia/Iran/IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board], End of May 1996 [2] [OA/ID 898]
Bosnia/Iran/IOB-SSCI [Intelligence Oversight Board/Senate Select Committee on Intelligence] Minority Report [1] [cover page – page 155] [OA/ID 898]
Bosnia/Iran/IOB-SSCI [Intelligence Oversight Board/Senate Select Committee on Intelligence] Minority Report [2] [pages 156 – Appendix G] [OA/ID 898]
Bosnia/Iran/IOB-SSCI [Intelligence Oversight Board-Senate Select Committee on Intelligence] Report [OA/ID 898]
Intelligence Programs
Beers, Rand
PFIAB/IOB [President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board/Intelligence Oversight Board] 1996 [1] [OA/ID/ 2528]
PFIAB/IOB [President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board/Intelligence Oversight Board] 1996 [2] [OA/ID/ 2528]
PFIAB/IOB [President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board/Intelligence Oversight Board] 1996 [3] [OA/ID/ 2528]
Intelligence Programs
Mitchell, Donald
IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board] Guatemala [1] [OA/ID 3566]
IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board] Guatemala [2] [OA/ID 3566]
Legal Advisor
Baker, James

IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board] Bosnia Background Papers [1] [OA/ID 1004]
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Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files (continued)
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IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board] Bosnia Background Papers [2] [OA/ID 1004]
IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board] Bosnia Report [OA/ID 1005]
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President’s Intelligence Oversight Board (IOB) [5] [OA/ID 3277]
Derosa, Mary
PFIAB/PIOB [President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board/President’s Intelligence Oversight Board] 1993 Alan Kreczko [1] [OA/ID 3081]
PFIAB/PIOB [President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board/President’s Intelligence Oversight Board] 1993 Alan Kreczko [2] [OA/ID 3081]
PFIAB/PIOB [President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board/President’s Intelligence Oversight Board] 1993 Alan Kreczko [3] [OA/ID 3081]
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PFIAB/PIOB [President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board/President’s Intelligence Oversight Board] 1993 Alan Kreczko [6] [OA/ID 3081]
PFIAB/PIOB [President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board/President’s Intelligence Oversight Board] 1993 Alan Kreczko [7 [OA/ID 3081]
PFIAB/PIOB [President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board/President’s Intelligence Oversight Board] 1993 Alan Kreczko [8] [OA/ID 3081]
Staff Director
Soderberg, Nancy
Bosnia/Iran Arms-IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board] Report, April 1996 [OA/ID 1402]
Guatemala-IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board] Investigation, 1995-1996

[OA/ID 1404]
Guatemala-IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board], September 1995 [OA/ID 1404]
Key Guatemala/IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board]/Harbury Bamaca [1] [OA/ID 1404]
Key Guatemala/IOB [Intelligence Oversight Board]/Harbury Bamaca [2] [OA/ID 1404]
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