Extent

87 folders, approximately 3,935 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records regarding the signing of the Declaration of Principles for Interim Self-Government Arrangements, often referred to as the Oslo Accords, by Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, on September 9, 1993. The event, which included the iconic handshake between Arafat and Rabin, was a landmark moment in the Middle East Peace Process. The records in this collection include invitation lists, press materials, correspondence, briefing material, and other planning documents in anticipation of the event.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2008-0728-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. The majority of the records related to this FOIA are closed for national security reasons. The WHORM Subject Files contain correspondence, memoranda, speeches, papers, and annotated newspaper articles. President Clinton sent thank you letters to prominent individuals who supported his work in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, he solicited suggestions from outside sources that took the form of reports regarding the Middle East Peace Process, and the Chief Executive made bold, pointed remarks on newspaper pieces pertaining to countries such as Israel and Egypt. Additionally, members of Congress wrote POTUS urging him to include them in the signing ceremony for the Oslo Accords. The White House Staff and Office Files of National Security Council Staff Director Nancy Soderberg contain press materials, invitations lists, and statements on the September 13, 1993 Signing Ceremony. These files also include copy of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements printed by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The

NSC Cables and Emails systems contain statements regarding issues related to the peace process, press guidance, and planning documents for the Signing Ceremony. Most of the records released in response to this FOIA request are located in the NSC Records Management System. These files contain briefing materials for telephone calls and meetings between President Clinton and Prime Minister Rabin, as well as external and congressional correspondence on matters related to the peace process. Furthermore, the NSC Records Management System includes background materials, briefing papers, and draft remarks for the signing of the Declaration of Principles. There is also a collection of letters to President Clinton in which Palestinian teenagers express their views on the deportation crisis and the peace process.

Biographical Note

The Middle East Peace Process was one of the first foreign policy priorities of the Clinton Administration. In 1991, a conference in Madrid, Spain launched a series of multilateral peace talks between Israel and her Arab neighbors. On January 20, 1993, the Israeli legislature, the Knesset, lifted the legal ban on meetings between Israeli officials and members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), thereby allowing the possibility of direct negotiations. However, the peace process had temporarily stalled in December 1992, when Israel deported over 400 Palestinians to Lebanon. The Palestinians vowed to sit out of the peace talks until the issue was resolved, and the United Nations Security Council stepped in to negotiate an agreement on the return of the deportees. The PLO did return to the peace process in time for the ninth round of negotiations in Washington, D.C. in May 1993. However, the talks did not produce an agreement between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations. In the meantime, PLO and Israeli representatives had been meeting secretly in Oslo, Norway. During a December 1992 meeting in London, Norwegian sociologist Terje Larsen and Israeli government official Yossi Beilin came to the conclusion that a dialogue with the PLO was necessary for peace. They arranged for two Israeli professors to meet with a PLO delegation led by Ahmed Qurei a month later at the Oslo area home of Norwegian official Jorgen Holsts. The negotiators sought to create a set of guidelines for Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. With the support of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Israel made the negotiations official in May 1993 through the involvement of Vice Foreign Minister Uri Savir. By August 1993, the Oslo negotiators had agreed upon a Declaration of Principles for

Interim Self-Government Arrangements, to the surprise of the Clinton Administration and Middle East Envoy Dennis Ross. As part of the agreement, PLO leader Yasir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin were to exchange Letters of Mutual Recognition. By September 9, the two parties had reached agreement on the wording of the letters. Four days later, President Clinton hosted a formal signing ceremony for the Declaration of Principles, which culminated in the landmark handshake between Arafat and Rabin. Foreign dignitaries from all over the world traveled to Washington to witness the event. The Declaration of Principles, also known as the Oslo Accords, outlined a number of significant changes in Israeli-Palestinian relations. The two parties would first officially recognize the right of the other to exist. Israel agreed to withdraw from portions of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, allowing Palestinians to engage in self government in those areas. During the following five years, the two parties were to negotiate a permanent peace settlement. However, internal political opposition and the failure of both sides to fulfill commitments caused the peace process to stall again. The Olso Accords have not produced a final resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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 Office of Records Management (WHORM) Subject Files, Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files, and Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems. 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. FOIA 2008-0728-F includes WHORM records from these subject codes: CO: Countries – Geographic Areas CO001-07 Middle East CO081 Ireland CO082 Israel FG: Federal Government - Organizations FG006-01 White House FO: Foreign Affairs FO009 Treaties PR: Public Relations PR013-08 Opinions – Statements – Questionnaires – Articles PU: Publications PU001-07 Clippings to the President

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).

Processed by

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

Last Modified Date

2012-10-31

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 2008-0728-F:

Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files

Category	Case Number
CO001-07	Case Number: 036832
CO001-07	Case Number: 036925
CO001-07	Case Number: 037763
CO081	Case Number: 039908
CO082 PC	Case Number: 036501
CO082 PC	Case Number: 038619
FG006-01	Case Number: 039452
FO009	Case Number: 083551
PR013-08	Case Number: 036010SS
PU001-07	Case Number: 041258SS
PU001-07	Case Number: 041297SS

Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
First Lady's Office
Misc. Subject Files
Massey, Eric
Israel [OA/ID 17216]
Rabin Lecture/Israel [OA/ID 17216]

Remarks by POTUS at Signing of Israeli-Palestinian Agreement, 9/13/93 [OA/ID 17216]

Box 2
National Security Council
Staff Director
Soderberg, Nancy
Middle East Peace [OA/ID 1406]
Peace Process Ceremony, September 11, 1993 [OA/ID 1406]
Middle East Peace Process – Declaration of Principles [OA/ID 1406]
Middle East Peace Process, U.S. – PLO Dialogue [OA/ID 1406]
[Middle East Peace Process Signing Ceremony] Invitees Contact Numbers and Clearance Information [OA/ID 1406]

Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Cables
Jan 1993 – Jan 1994
[Arafat and Rabin]
[01/21/1993 – 02/06/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[02/07/1993 – 02/28/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[03/01/1993 – 04/14/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[04/15/1993 – 04/29/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[05/02/1993 – 05/14/1993] [OA/ID 505000]

Box 3
[05/17/1993 – 05/29/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[06/01/1993 – 06/12/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[06/13/1993 – 06/30/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[07/02/1993 – 07/14/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[07/16/1993 – 07/31/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[08/02/1993 – 08/20/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[08/23/1993 – 08/31/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[09/01/1993 – 09/04/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[09/05/1993 – 09/10/1993] [OA/ID 505000]

Box 4
[09/11/1993 – 09/13/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[09/14/1993 – 09/17/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[09/18/1993 – 09/23/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[09/24/1993 – 09/25/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[09/27/1993 – 09/30/1993] [OA/ID 505000]

[Middle East Peace]
[01/21/1993 – 02/12/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[02/13/1993 – 04/26/1993] [OA/ID 505000]

Box 5
[05/06/1993 – 05/29/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[06/02/1993 – 06/29/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[07/03/1993 – 07/27/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[08/02/1993 – 08/19/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[08/20/1993 – 08/30/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[09/01/1993 – 09/10/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
[09/11/1993 – 09/29/1993] [OA/ID 505000]

NSC Emails
A-1 – Record (Jan 93 – Sept 94)
[Arafat and Rabin]
[04/05/1993 – 09/17/1993] [OA/ID 570000]
[Middle East Peace]
[02/04/1993 – 09/01/1993] [OA/ID 570000]

Box 6
NSC Records Management System
[Arafat or Rabin]
9300023 [OA/ID 139]
9300046 [OA/ID 139]
9300191 [OA/ID 2263]
9300627 [OA/ID 140]
9300645 [OA/ID 140]
9300965 [OA/ID 140]

9301074 [OA/ID 141]
9301237 [OA/ID 142]
9301259 [OA/ID 142]
9301289 [1] [OA/ID 142]
9301289 [2] [OA/ID 142]
9301289 [3] [OA/ID 142]
9301305 [OA/ID 142]
9301630 [OA/ID 143]
9306718 [OA/ID 160]
9306788 [OA/ID 160]

Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System (cont.)
NSC Records Management System
[Arafat or Rabin]
9306855 [1] [OA/ID 161]
9306855 [2] [OA/ID 161]
9306913 [OA/ID 2275]
9307082 [OA/ID 162]
9307467 [OA/ID 2275]
9307905 [OA/ID 167]
9308003 [OA/ID 167]
9308047 [OA/ID 167]

Box 7
[Middle East Peace]
9300072 [OA/ID 139]
9302084 [OA/ID 145]
9302474 [OA/ID 146]
9302973 [OA/ID 148]
9303182 [OA/ID 148]
9303683 [OA/ID 2269]
9304135 [OA/ID 2270]
9304280 [OA/ID 151]
9305104 [OA/ID 153]
9305370 [OA/ID 154]

9306349 [OA/ID 157]
9307130 [OA/ID 162]
9307159 [OA/ID 163]
9307575 [OA/ID 165]

Content Available Online