

**Records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
RG.233.96.FA  
96th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,  
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Creator</b>	Committee on Foreign Affairs.
<b>Title</b>	Records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1979-1980
<b>Extent</b>	150.0 Linear feet (circa 300 archival boxes)
<b>Language</b>	English

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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The House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs (known as the Committee on International Relations from 1995 until 2007) traces its origins to November 29, 1775, when the Continental Congress created a committee, by resolution "for the sole purposes of corresponding with our friends of Great Britain, Ireland, and other parts of the world." Chosen for this Committee were Benjamin Franklin—who served as chairman and guiding spirit—Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Johnson, Jr., John Dickinson, and John Jay. Originally known as the Committee of Correspondence, then as the Committee of Secret Correspondence, it was the first institution created to represent the United States in foreign affairs.

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## **Committee on Foreign Affairs, 96th Congress**

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The records document the work of the Committee on Foreign Affairs during the 96th Congress. The records are divided into full committee and subcommittee series and contain related subseries. Records contain staff files; legislative files; executive communications and presidential messages; hearing files; and correspondence. Of particular interest are files on the legislation for the implementation of the Panama Canal, which includes bill and hearing files; committee prints; meeting files; and background studies, papers, reports; and the investigative files of the Jonestown Mass Suicide in Guyana, which includes transcripts of interviews, transcripts of meetings and hearings, witness hearings, and miscellaneous investigative files. There is a large series of records from the subcommittee on International Economic Policy & Trade. Some series contain classified records.

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## **Arrangement note**

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The files are arranged by full committee and subcommittee files. The full committee files contain series of staff files arranged by staff name, correspondence files, hearing files, committee prints, bill files, official committee papers, investigative files, legislative files, and minority files. The subcommittee files are arranged by subcommittee name.

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

### **Rule VII**

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules: (b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Panama Canal (Panama)

### **Subject(s)**

- Jonestown Mass Suicide, Jonestown, Guyana, 1978.
- Olympic Games (22nd : 1980 : Moscow, Russia)

## Collection Inventory

### Full committee

### Bill files (6 archival boxes)

### Committee prints (4 archival boxes)

### Correspondence files (circa 68 archival boxes)

#### Scope and Contents note

Contains correspondence categories subcommittees; members; congressional; general; memos, speeches, and press releases; parliamentary exchanges; oversight; legislative; case files; country files; subject files; yellow alphabetical cross-file; white chronological cross-file. Three boxes contain correspondence related to the North Atlantic Assembly.

### Hearing files (5 archival boxes)

### Investigative files (circa 23 archival boxes)

#### Scope and Contents note

Files include 14 archival boxes of investigative files related to the Jonestown, Guyana, mass murder, including transcripts of interviews, transcripts of related meetings and hearings, correspondence, memos,

**Legislative files**

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and other material documents related to the investigation, NBC news videotapes, miscellaneous files of George R. Berdes (staff consultant on the staff investigative group). Files are classified.

**Legislative files (6 archival boxes)****Official committee papers**

Official communications (circa 66 archival boxes)

**Scope and Contents note**

Executive communications (including classified executive communications), presidential messages, unnumbered reports, required reports, and international agreements.

Travel (11 archival boxes)

**Scope and Contents note**

Domestic travel orders, foreign travel correspondence, individual reports of foreign travel.

Meeting records of U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Conference meeting (3 archival boxes)

**Staff files 1979-1980**

Nancy M. Carman (27 archival boxes)

**Biographical/Historical note**

**Staff files**

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Nancy M. Carman was a professional staff member on the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

**Scope and Contents note**

Files include committee organization information, full committee meeting files, miscellaneous legislative files, and 13 boxes of legislative files related to the Panama Canal Act, including floor notebook, background and related material, Congressional Record clippings, hearings, and reports, meetings, letters, background materials, related bills, hearing files, related subcommittee material, studies. Also includes 7 boxes of meeting files and floor folders, legislative information relating to the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, hearings, and mark-ups.

Marian Chambers (2 archival boxes)

**Biographical/Historical note**

Marian Chambers was a Staff Consultant on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

**Scope and Contents note**

Miscellaneous issue files.

T.E. Dunman, Jr. (6 archival boxes)

**Scope and Contents note**

Legislative/subject files from the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade, including the Export Administration Act of 1979.

Vance Hyndman (1 archival box)

**Scope and Contents note**

## Subcommittees

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Files related to security assistance legislation.

Lewis Gulick (4 archival boxes)

### **Biographical/Historical note**

Lewis Gulick was a senior staff consultant on the Foreign Affairs committee.

### **Scope and Contents note**

Travel files.

Virginia Schlundt (1970-1980) (4 archival boxes)

### **Biographical/Historical note**

Virginia Schlundt was a subcommittee staff associate for the Subcommittee on International Affairs on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

## **Subcommittees**

**Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs (4 archival boxes)**

### **Scope and Contents note**

Chronological files, hearing folders, and activity folders.

**Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade (circa 36 archival boxes)**

### **Scope and Contents note**

## **Subcommittee on International Operations**

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Legislative correspondence; publications; files related to the international investment survey act, export trading companies, Export Administration Act, export controls, export licensing; speeches and study missions; legislative files; subject files; hearing files; files related to the Deep Seabed Hard Minerals Resource Act and nuclear energy; briefing books; CODELs. Some files are in the staff files of T.E. Dunman, Jr.

**Subcommittee on International Operations (2 archival boxes)**

**Subcommittee on International Organizations (3 archival boxes)**

### **Scope and Contents note**

Chairman's correspondence, hearings.