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EISENHOWER, JOHN

EISENHOWER, JOHN S. D. (OH-15) 147 pages OPEN

Son of President Eisenhower; Assistant White House Staff Secretary, 1958-1961; U.S. Ambassador to Belgium, 1969-71.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Military service with the Joint War Plans section of the Army General Staff, 1957-58: work on the Joint Strategic Objectives Plan, projecting objectives for four years in the future; how decisions were made at the Pentagon; comments on Admiral Arthur Radford. DDE's feelings towards U.S. involvement in Indochina. DDE's actions towards the military while President: his balanced handling of the different services' requests; use of his military aides from the different services. Development and deployment of the Pershing missile. DDE's attitudes towards America's first earth satellite programs. Developments surrounding the Berlin crisis, 1958-59; reaction to Khrushchev's ultimatum of November 1958; discussion at NSC meeting of "minimum force" necessary to keep roads open to Berlin (includes comments on Lyndon Johnson and Richard Russell); meeting with Harold MacMillan at Camp David in March 1959. Plans for Khrushchev's visit to the United States in 1959: how the invitation came about; DDE's trip to see European allies before Khrushchev's arrival (includes comments on John arranging the trip, and DDE's meeting with Charles De Gaulle). DDE's speaking ability. U-2 affair: advice Allen Dulles gave DDE; DDE accepting full responsibility for the flights.

Interview #2. Anecdotes and reminiscences: Grandfather and Grandmother Eisenhower; the Eisenhower home in Abilene; visits to Abilene when he was a boy.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Office, by Maclyn Burg, 1972]