

Prepared by: EWH
Date: 2/1/96

O'CONNOR

O'CONNOR, RODERIC L. OH-307 144 pgs. w/Index

PRCQ

Special Assistant to the Secretary of State, 1953-55; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, 1955-57; Administrator, State Department Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, 1957-58.

DESCRIPTION: PART I:

Synopsis of governmental career from 1949-1958 (incl. law background, anecdote regarding appointment as legislative assistant to Senator John Foster Dulles, friendships formed while campaigning for Sen. Dulles, recruitment by Allen Dulles to the CIA, experiences as special assistant to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, relationship with Dulles, appointment to staff of Thruston [B.] Morton, anecdote concerning Morton and Dulles, appointment to Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, anecdote concerning Dulles' advice about government service); Sen. Dulles and foreign affairs (incl. working with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, relationship with Sen. [Arthur H.] Vandenberg, involvement with the NATO Treaty and the military assistance bill); Dulles' relationship with Sen. [Robert A.] Bob Taft; Dulles and bipartisan foreign policy; the development of the relationship between Eisenhower and Dulles (incl. pre-Presidential acquaintance, speculation as to reason for [Walter] Bedell Smith's appointment as Under Secretary, anecdote regarding [Robert D.] Bob Murphy and the changing relationship between Eisenhower and Dulles, development of friendship, Eisenhower the decision-maker, Dulles' awareness of the vulnerability of his position, anecdote regarding Eisenhower, Dulles, and Mossadegh of Iran); Dulles' self-control; Dulles in an adversarial role; Dulles' relationships with others (incl. Cabinet members generally, [George M.] Humphrey, Sherman Adams, Gov. [Thomas E.] Dewey); Dulles as an administrator (incl. leadership through intellectual dominance, delegation of responsibilities); Latin American affairs (incl. the Dulles priorities, John Moors Cabot and Henry Holland); in pursuit of foreign policy (incl. Dulles' role in and attitude toward summit meetings, Dulles' concept of successful foreign policy); State Department concerns (incl. European and Middle Eastern affairs, getting departmental personnel under control, Dulles vs. right wing Republicans, Dulles' strengths, Presidents and their advisors, the effect of foreign relations operations on foreign policy); Dulles and Sen. Joseph McCarthy; the Dulles-Eisenhower working relationship; Dulles' methods of operation (incl. daily schedule, work habits, coined phrases, pragmatic philosophy); Dulles' relationship with foreign leaders (incl. [Konrad] Adenauer, [David] Ben Gurion, [Ramón] Magsaysay, [Vyacheslav Mikhailovich] Moltov, Anthony Eden, [Harold M.] Macmillan, [the Marquess of] Salisbury); O'Connor's personal observations and anecdotes about Dulles.

DESCRIPTION: PART II:

Dulles' relationships within the State Department (incl. Herman Phleger, [Livingston] Livvy Merchant, [Robert R.] Bob Bowie, [Douglas II] Doug MacArthur, and Walter Roberston); the China question; Dulles' use of Bowie; utilization of other State Department personnel; the Under Secretary for Political Affairs (incl. role of the Under Secretary, Dulles' relationship with [Robert D.] Bob Murphy); the Dulles- [Walter] Bedell Smith relationship; Dulles' relationship with ambassadors (incl. Douglas Dillon, [Clare Boothe] Luce, Winthrop Aldrich, [James Bryant] Conant, acquaintances with other ambassadors in general, ambassadorial appointments); Dulles as a politician (incl. the Senate race of 1949, relationship with Congress, interest in politics); Dulles' Congressional relationships (incl. [William F.] Knowland, members of foreign policy committees generally, [Everett M.] Dirksen, the Bricker Amendment, other Congressional leaders); working with Congress (incl. Thruston Morton's role, Dulles' appearances before Congress); Dulles and Gen. [Wilton B.] Persons; influence on Dulles' thinking of prior secretaries of state (incl. [Dean] Acheson, [Robert] Lansing and the Wilson Administration); Dulles' relationship with [Christian] Chris Herter; conflict and the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs (incl. controversy over passports for Communists, upholding the Learned Hand Doctrine); the 1953 trip to the Middle East (incl. purposes of the trip, results, Arab-Soviet-Israeli relations, Dulles and Arab leaders, Dulles and Ben Gurion); anecdote regarding Dulles and the Aswan Dam project; anecdote regarding Dulles and Syngman Rhee.

DESCRIPTION: PART III:

Dulles and Syngman Rhee (incl. as negotiators, the Korean settlement problem, the question of using the atomic bomb); Chiang Kai-check; Dulles' concern for Far East problems; Dulles' attitude toward security pacts; the U.N. (incl. Dulles' involvement with the organization, relationship with U.N. ambassador [Henry] Cabot Lodge); the Geneva summit meeting (incl. general atmosphere, the foreign ministers' meeting following the summit, accomplishments of the summit, the Open Skies proposal, anecdote regarding Eisenhower's presentation of the proposal, U.S. personnel at the summit); Dulles' relationship with [Harold E.] Stassen (incl. anecdote involving a trip to the Middle East, Stassen's abilities, encroaching on Dulles' "turf"); Dulles and the Rockefellers; Dulles' views on European affairs (incl. the importance of German reunification, the unifying role of the Common Market, the propaganda value of radio broadcasts); Dulles' attitude toward advisors in Soviet affairs (incl. [Robert R.] Bob Bowie, [Charles] Chip Bohlen, [Llewellyn E., Jr.] Tommy Thompson); George Kennan; Dulles' concern over Middle Eastern policies (incl. political influence of the Jewish community, Dulles' relationship with Jewish leaders, discussions with Sen. [Jacob] Javits, disaffection of the Zionist community); Dulles' personal idiosyncrasies (incl. comments about his pencil-and-paper habits, reading and drinking preferences, swimming habits, sense of humor); Dulles as a man of convictions (incl. ethical views, format/content of speeches and press conferences); Dulles' view of the Vatican (incl. his perception of the power of the Vatican, personal relationship with church leaders); Dulles as a decision-maker (incl. his attitude toward worrying and second-guessing, his similarity to Eisenhower in this area, his use of the adversarial system for processing information, his attention to detail, his ability to establish priorities, the ambassador-Secretary of State relationships, Dulles' habits of discussion, his use of Bowie as a foil, the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research as an information source, his relationship with

Allen Dulles); personal characteristics (incl. disorderly desk and dress habits, vanity and family background, preoccupation with work, pragmatism, travel habits); Dulles' attitude toward appointees (incl. prerequisites for selection, screening candidates through the "Three Wise Men" group); the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs (incl. responsibilities of job, the security question, Scott McLeod's problems, protecting State Department affairs, the conflict over passports for Communists); Dulles' friendship with Carl McCardle; policies regarding the Dulles papers; Dulles and the press (incl. individual relationships, attitude toward press relations); purpose of the Caribbean Commission; Dulles as Secretary of State (incl. Dulles' concept of his role, accomplishments, role of the U.S. in world politics); analysis of the Eisenhower Administration (incl. strengths of Eisenhower, the Eisenhower-Dulles working relationship).

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interviews by John Luter, Part I, February 3; Part II, February 25; Part III, April 4, 1972]