
Summary Information

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Abstract: Allen W. Dulles (1893-1969), though a diplomat and lawyer, was renowned for his role in shaping United States intelligence operations, including the longest service as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The Allen W. Dulles Digital Files contain scanned images of professional correspondence, reports, lectures, and administrative papers, declassified and released by the CIA in 2007. The collection spans Dulles's time as Chief of the Office of Strategic Services office in Bern, Switzerland during World War II, his work at the Central Intelligence Agency, and his retirement.  
Location: This collection is stored onsite at the Mudd Manuscript Library.
Table of Contents

Summary Information .......................................................................................................................... 1
Biography/History ............................................................................................................................... 3
Description ....................................................................................................................................... 4
Arrangement ..................................................................................................................................... 4
Access and Use ................................................................................................................................. 5
Acquisition and Appraisal .................................................................................................................. 5
Related Materials ............................................................................................................................. 6
Processing and Other Information ..................................................................................................... 6
Subject Headings ............................................................................................................................... 6

Contents List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Agendas, Itineraries, and Programs, 1950-1964</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Calendars, 1943-1961</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Clippings and Articles, 1939-1967</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Correspondence, Memoranda, and Communications, 1939-1974</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Guest Lists, 1954-1962</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Illegible and Unavailable Documents, 1943-1960</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lectures, Speeches, and Talk Notes, 1946-1961</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Maps, 1943-1945, 1959</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Miscellaneous, 1943-1960</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Notes, 1940-1960</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Personal Information, 1951-1961</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Photographs, 1943-1964</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Press, 1943-1969</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Receipts and Finances, 1939-1942</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Reports, 1939-1977</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Transcripts, 1953-1965</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Allen W. Dulles (1893-1969), though a diplomat and lawyer, was renowned for his role in shaping United States intelligence operations, including the longest service as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Born in Watertown, New York, and a Princeton University graduate (BA, Class of 1914; MA 1916), Dulles was the nephew of Robert Lansing, Woodrow Wilson's Secretary of State, and attended the peace negotiations to end the First World War as a member of the American Commission. During his stint in the diplomatic corps, he served in Vienna (1916), Berne (1917), Berlin (1919) and Constantinople (1920) before becoming Division Chief for Near Eastern Affairs (1922). While serving in Washington, D.C., Dulles studied law at night at George Washington University. In 1925, he served as an American delegate to the International Conference on Arms Traffic in Geneva. After earning his LL.D in 1926, Dulles joined the Wall Street law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell, where his brother John Foster was a managing partner. But Dulles did not practice law so much as utilize his knowledge of government processes and officials to assist the firm's corporate clients conduct business. (In fact, Dulles would not pass the bar until 1928.) However, diplomacy would always be Dulles's primary interest and in 1927, he spent six months in Geneva as legal adviser to the Naval Armament Conference.

In New York, Dulles joined the Council on Foreign Relations, eventually was named a director and enjoyed the friendship of fellow Princetonian Hamilton Fish Armstrong '16, the editor of the Council's journal, Foreign Affairs. Together they authored two books ( Can We Be Neutral? (1936) and Can America Stay Neutral? (1939)). He also continued to serve the United States government in diplomatic capacities, including representing the United States at a League of Nations arms conference in 1932-1933.

During the Second World War, Dulles took a step that changed his life and ultimately American history. He joined the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the intelligence service, serving as chief of the Bern, Switzerland office. From there he established himself as a highly successful intelligence gatherer and operator, penetrating the German Foreign Ministry Office as well as the "July 1944" anti-Hitler conspirators. He also played a role in the events that led to the surrender of the German Army in northern Italy.

In 1948, Dulles's reputation led to his being named chairman of an intelligence review committee that faulted the organization of the then fledgling Central Intelligence Agency. In 1950, he was named Deputy Director of Plans of the CIA, the covert operations arm of the agency; in 1951 he became the number two person in the organization. After Eisenhower's election in Nov 1952, Dulles was appointed to the CIA's directorship. His brother, John Foster Dulles, served as Eisenhower's Secretary of State, and the two men would work closely during their joint service.

The CIA under Dulles's leadership established the dual policy of collecting intelligence through a wide variety of means, as well as taking direct action against perceived threats. In the former category fell such notable achievements as the U-2 spy plane program, the cooptation of Soviet Lieutenant General Pyotr Popov, and the tapping of a sensitive East Berlin phone junction by tunneling under the Berlin Wall.

The CIA's efforts in the area of direct action during Dulles tenure were notable for both their successes and failures. CIA operatives orchestrated the overthrow of the government of Iran in 1953 and Jacob Arbenz's regime in Guatemala in 1954. However, efforts to oust Castro from Cuba
following his rise to power consisted of a series of failures culminating in the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961. Though John F. Kennedy had asked Dulles to remain at CIA, after the invasion and the political fallout, Dulles, already past retirement age, resigned.

In retirement, Allen Dulles wrote books (including two autobiographical works) about his career in intelligence and appeared on numerous television programs to discuss foreign policy. He was called to public service once again, in 1963, when he was named to the Warren Commission. His connection to the CIA and its activities in Cuba would fuel later speculation about possible government complicity in Kennedy’s assassination.

Dulles married Martha Clover Todd (known as Clover) of Baltimore, Maryland in 1920. She died in 1974. They had three children, Clover Todd (known as Toddy), Joan, and Allen Macy. Dulles’s son sustained a near-fatal head wound while serving with the Marines in Korea, relegating him to supervised care for life.

Description

The Allen W. Dulles Digital Files contain scanned images of professional correspondence, reports, lectures, and administrative papers. The Agency culled these documents from Dulles’s home office immediately after his death in 1969 and they continue to maintain the originals. The Agency redacted the documents and provided PDF scans to Princeton University in Spring 2007. The collection spans Dulles’s time as Chief of the Office of Strategic Services office in Bern, Switzerland during World War II, his work at the Central Intelligence Agency, and his retirement.

While the collection is comprised of more than 7,800 digital files, most areas are not covered in depth as the files are scattered over more than 30 years. The collection does provide a fair amount of correspondence and narrative statements documenting Dulles’s activities during World War II, especially relating to the work of individuals involved in the war effort in Europe. The files also include more than 1,000 war telegrams from the OSS office to Washington. Documents from the 1950s and 1960s deal almost exclusively with the Cold War. While there are documents occasionally dealing with Senator Joseph McCarthy and the Communist threat in the United States, most materials focus outwards on intelligence and the Soviet Union.

Items relating to Dulles’ time with the CIA have been heavily redacted, obscuring the names of correspondents as well as individuals and events mentioned in reports and letters, greatly reducing the research potential of these materials.

Please see series descriptions in contents list for additional information about individual series.

Arrangement

The filing notations on many of the scanned documents as well as the organizational structure of the paper records of the Dulles collection suggest that in their original form, the materials were organized by subject or correspondent. The electronic records retain no original order and instead are reduced solely to the item level, with each file named by date and a sequential number.
The PDF files have been arranged into series based on material type, such as correspondence, calendars, and reports. The series are very loosely defined because the context which often identifies records is missing from the electronic files.

Organized into the following series:

Files are arranged chronologically within series.

Series 1: Agendas, Itineraries, and Programs, 1950-1964
Series 2: Calendars, 1943-1961
Series 3: Clippings and Articles, 1939-1967
Series 4: Correspondence, Memoranda, and Communications, 1939-1974
Series 5: Guest Lists, 1954-1962
Series 6: Illegible and Unavailable Documents, 1943-1960
Series 7: Lectures, Speeches, and Talk Notes, 1946-1961
Series 8: Maps, 1943-1959
Series 9: Miscellaneous, 1943-1960
Series 10: Notes, 1940-1960
Series 11: Personal Information, 1951-1961
Series 12: Photographs, 1943-1964
Series 14: Receipts and Finances, 1939-1942
Series 15: Reports, 1939-1977
Series 16: Transcripts, 1953-1965

Access and Use

Access

Collection is open for research use.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. For quotations that are fair use as defined under U. S. Copyright Law, no permission to cite or publish is required. For those few instances beyond fair use, researchers are responsible for determining who may hold the copyright and obtaining approval from them. Researchers do not need anything further from the Mudd Library to move forward with their use.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

The Allen W. Dulles Digital Files are available to researchers in PDF format. Users must have access to a portable document format reader, such as Adobe Acrobat Reader (available for free download at: http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html) to view these files.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Custodial History
The papers of Allen W. Dulles were donated by Mrs. Clover Todd Dulles in 1973. The Central Intelligence Agency removed documents determined to be federal records pursuant to Title 44 of the U.S. Code and/or requiring protection from public disclosure pursuant to Executive Order or statute. In 2007, papers declassified under the Freedom of Information Act were provided in electronic form. The originals remain with the CIA. Those wishing to seek further declassification of any documents should contact the CIA.

Provenance and Acquisition
The electronic images of the Allen W. Dulles papers were transferred to the Mudd Manuscript Library on three compact discs from the Central Intelligence Agency in 2007.

Appraisal
No material has been separated from the files during processing in 2007.

Related Materials

Location of Originals
The originals of the Allen Dulles Papers Digital Files are held by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Related Archival Material
The Allen W. Dulles Digital Files form part of the Allen W. Dulles Papers. The full finding aid for the Allen Dulles Papers is available online: http://arks.princeton.edu/ark:/88435/736664491.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation
Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Allen W. Dulles Papers, Digital Files, Folder Name; Public Policy Papers, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information
This collection was processed by Diann Benti in August 2007. Finding aid written by Diann Benti in August 2007. Biography of Dulles written by Susan J. Illis, Daniel Linke, Kristine Marconi, and Thomas Rosko.

Encoding

Descriptive Rules Used
Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings
· United States. Central Intelligence Agency -- History.
· United States. Foreign Service.
· United States. Office of Strategic Services.
· Intelligence officers -- United States -- 20th century.
· Intelligence service -- United States -- 20th century.
· Spies -- United States -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· World War, 1939 - 1945 -- Secret service -- United States.
· United States -- Foreign relations -- Soviet Union -- 20th century.
· United States -- Foreign relations -- 20th century.
· Articles.
· Born digital.
· Correspondence.
· Speeches.
· American history/20th century
· American politics and government
· Cold War
· Diplomacy
· World War II
### Series 1: Agendas, Itineraries, and Programs, 1950-1964

**Language(s) of Materials:**
- Size: 1 digital file

**Description:** The Agendas, Itineraries, and Programs series contains documents listing various event schedules, such as business and defense committee meetings, seminars, and occasionally itineraries of visiting military and diplomatic individuals.

**Arrangement:** Arranged chronologically.

### Series 2: Calendars, 1943-1961

**Size:** 5 digital files

**Description:** The Calendar series is comprised of engagement and standard calendar pages which provide minimal information about Dulles' schedule. The calendars are not continuous, as large gaps exist between dates.

**Arrangement:** Arranged chronologically.

- **1943**
  - Size: 1 digital file
- **1944**
  - Size: 1 digital file
- **1950**
  - Size: 1 digital file
- **1960**
  - Size: 1 digital file
- **1961**
  - Size: 1 digital file

### Series 3: Clippings and Articles, 1939-1967

**Size:** 178 MB, 458 digital files

**Description:** The Clippings and Articles series includes newspaper clippings, cartoons, and published articles. Clippings collected from the 1940s deal with World War II and include topics such as Mussolini, the Ciano Diaries, and Hitler and the Nazis. In the late 1940s the subjects transition to the Cold War and secrecy and security, focusing more on public statements by Dulles and articles relating to the Central Intelligence Agency.
Series 4: Correspondence, Memoranda, and Communications, 1939-1974

Arrangement: Divided into seven subseries based on language of materials. Arranged chronologically within subseries.

Danish, 1961
  Language(s) of Materials:
  Size: 1 digital file
  Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

English, 1939-1967
  Language(s) of Materials:
  Size: 1 digital file
  Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

French, 1943-1961
  Language(s) of Materials:
  Size: 1 digital file
  Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

German, 1940-1963
  Language(s) of Materials:
  Size: 1 digital file
  Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

Italian, 1943-1946
  Language(s) of Materials:
  Size: 1 digital file
  Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

Norwegian, 1955
  Language(s) of Materials:
  Size: 1 digital file
  Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

Spanish, undated
  Language(s) of Materials:
  Size: 1 digital file
  Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

Size: 853 MB, 5,910 digital files

Arrangement: Divided into eleven subseries based on type and, when applicable, language. English correspondence is further divided in chronological groupings.

Description: The Correspondence and Memoranda series is comprised of an assortment of different communication types as well as administrative records relating to communication. Most messages relate to the World War II intelligence gathering activities, especially among the non-English correspondence.

Appointment and Call Diaries, 1939-1974

Size: 47.1 MB, 318 digital files

Description: The Appointment and Call Diaries subseries provides secretarial summaries of phone calls to Dulles as well as lists of his appointments. The diaries are most plentiful from 1962-1967; while gaps exist, the diaries do provide detailed information about Dulles' daily communication.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Exhausted Number Lists, 1943-1945

Size: 1 digital file

Description: The Exhausted Number Lists subseries holds lists of exhausted numbers used to identify communications during World War II.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

File Lists, 1943-1951

Size: 1 digital file

Description: The File Lists subseries includes two lists of the "Personal Files of Allen W. Dulles, 'Edda Ciano Diaries,'" descriptions of the contents of Dulles' file cabinet, and a note on destroyed memoranda.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

General, English, 1942-1974

Description: The General English Correspondence and Memoranda subseries is the largest of the collection. During the 1940s, correspondence focuses on World War II intelligence and generally relates to the war activities of others as opposed to that of Dulles himself. Portions of the correspondence written after the war have been redacted by the Central Intelligence Agency, and consequently much of what remains unclassified is routine or administrative in nature. While correspondents include Presidents, senators, and notable individuals, there is little ongoing correspondence, and topics are generally not explored in depth. Post-World War II topics include events relating to the Soviet Union and the Cold War, books written about the CIA, the U-2 spy plane incident, and the 1962 book CIA: The Inside Story by Andrew Tully.
The value of the correspondence is greatly diminished by the above-mentioned redaction as well as the date order filing structure, which makes it difficult to determine follow-up to any particular letters. In addition, some files appear to have been dated incorrectly by the CIA. These files may be found in the "Miscellaneous and Incorrect Dates" file grouping.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically with undated and incorrectly dated files grouped together at the end of the subseries.

General, French, 1940-1966

Language(s) of Materials:
Size: 20.9 MB, 216 digital files

Description: The bulk of the General French Correspondence and Memoranda subseries consists of telegrams from an individual identified as "Iris" with specific intelligence information during World War II. The series also includes letters from individuals to Dulles.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

General, German, 1943-1945

Language(s) of Materials:
Size: 12.2 MB, 29 digital files

Description: The General German Correspondence and Memoranda subseries consists of correspondence sent during World War II.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

General, Italian, 1944-1945

Language(s) of Materials:
Size: 2.24 MB, 12 digital files

Description: The General Italian Correspondence and Memoranda subseries consists of correspondence sent during World War II.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Legibility Lists, 1939-1944

Size: 1 digital file

Description: The Legibility Lists subseries holds monthly notes kept by Dulles during World War II of legible, illegible, and missing letters identified by number.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Name Keys, 1943-1944

Size: 1 digital file
Series 5: Guest Lists, 1954-1962

Size: 1 digital file

Description: The Guest Lists series is comprised of documents naming individuals attending or invited to events such as parties, meetings, and seminars.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Series 6: Illegible and Unavailable Documents, 1943-1960
Series 7: Lectures, Speeches, and Talk Notes, 1946-1961

Size: 20.1 MB, 59 digital files

Description: The Lectures, Speeches, and Talk Notes series contains outlines of remarks given by Dulles, sometimes including handwritten additions and corrections. The lectures are often focused on United States intelligence and the Soviet Union and were presented to war colleges, business councils, and defense committees.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Series 8: Maps, 1943-1945, 1959

Size: 1 digital file

Description: The Maps series consists of hand drawn maps of German bunkers, regions of France and Italy, and a 1959 map of Mediterranean oil fields.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Series 9: Miscellaneous, 1943-1960

Size: 1.97 MB, 17 digital files

Description: The Miscellaneous series is comprised of unidentifiable scraps of paper with various handwritten names or numbers written on them.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Series 10: Notes, 1940-1960

Size: 14.0 MB, 60 digital files

Description: The Notes series holds mostly handwritten notes by Dulles that appear to be rough first drafts of reports or correspondence relating mainly to World War II activities.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Series 11: Personal Information, 1951-1961

Size: 58 MB, 6 digital files

Description: The Personal Information series contains a small assortment of documents relating to Dulles, such as a medical history, a personnel form, and a personal history.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Series 12: Photographs, 1943-1964

Size: 19.1 MB, 74 digital files

Description: The Press series is comprised mainly of radio bulletins, news flashes, and press releases from World War II along with later statements made by Dulles, as well as miscellaneous press from the United States government regarding the Cold War and the Soviet Union.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Series 14: Receipts and Finances, 1939-1942

Size: 2.44 MB, 11 digital files

Description: The Receipts and Finances series consists of miscellaneous financial statements including deposit slips from the Guaranty Trust Company of New York in 1939, records regarding annual salaries, and reimbursement calculations regarding postage.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Series 15: Reports, 1939-1977

Size: 436 MB, 845 digital files

Description: The Reports series is a broad series that comprises most written documents that could not be distinguished as correspondence. Most of the non-English materials, as well as many of the English records, document intelligence missions of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. They include narratives of spies and resistance workers. The reports created in the 1950s and 1960s focus on the Cold War and foreign policy in regards to the Soviet Union. This series also contains book chapters from Dulles' writings as well as other authors.

Arrangement: Divided into four subseries based on the language of the materials.

Subseries 15A: English, 1943-1977
  Size: 320 MB, 554 digital files
  Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

Subseries 15B: French, 1939-1950
  Size: 85.3 MB, 224 digital files
  Arrangement: Arranged chronologically
Series 16: Transcripts ... (Continued)

Subseries 15C: German, 1943-1960
Size: 24.1 MB, 48 digital files
Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

Subseries 15D: Italian, 1943-1945
Size: 6.35 MB, 19 digital files
Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

Series 16: Transcripts, 1953-1965
Size: 21.6 MB, 23 digital files
Description: The Transcripts Series includes transcripts from various sources including television shows and government proceedings; only a portion of the transcripts include Dulles.
Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.