

Donald T. Regan Papers

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Prepared by Laura J. Kells with the assistance of Patricia Rettig

Collection Summary

Title: Donald T. Regan Papers

Span Dates: 1919-1993

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1981-1987)

ID No.: MSS82740

Creator: Regan, Donald T.

Extent: 78,000 items ; 221 containers plus 21 oversize plus 5 classified ; 95.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Correspondence, memoranda, chronological and subject files, speeches and engagements file, personal file, scrapbooks, and other papers documenting Donald T. Regan's government service as U.S. secretary of the treasury and chief of White House staff during the presidency of Ronald Reagan.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Bush, George, 1924-

Casey, William J.

Deaver, Michael K.

Gorbachev, Mikhail Sergeevich, 1931-

Leland, Marc Ernest, 1938-

McFarlane, Robert C.

McLaughlin, Ann Dore.

McNamar, Richard T.

Mehle, Roger W. (Roger William), 1941-

Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994.

Poindexter, John M.

Reagan, Nancy, 1923-

Reagan, Ronald.

Regan, Donald T.

Sprinkel, Beryl W.

Stockman, David Alan, 1946-

Volker, Paul.

Organizations

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (U.S.)

Cabinet Council on Economic Affairs (U.S.)

Council of Economic Advisers (U.S.)

United States Mint.

United States. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

United States. Department of the Treasury.

United States. Office of Management and Budget.

United States. Secret Service.

United States. White House Office.

Subjects

Finance, Public--United States.

Summit meetings--Iceland--Reykjavík.

Summit meetings--Switzerland--Geneva.

Places

Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Economic policy.
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.
Financiers.
Public officials.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Donald T. Regan, cabinet member, White House chief of staff, and financier, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Regan in 1994.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Sound and video recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Donald T. Regan Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Donald T. Regan is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Donald T. Regan are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified items in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified material.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Donald Regan Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1918, Dec. 21	Born, Cambridge, Mass.
1940	B.A., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1940-1946	Served in United States Marine Corps, becoming lieutenant colonel Posted to Iceland and participated in Guadalcanal, New Georgia, North Solomons, Guam, and Okinawa operations in the Pacific
1942	Married Ann Gordon Buchanan
1946	Entered training program, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Beane

1968	President, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith
1970-1980	Member, board of trustees, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. (chairman 1974-1978)
1971	Elected chairman of the board and chief executive officer, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith
1972	Published <i>A View from the Street</i> (New York: New American Library. 220 pp.)
1972-1975	Vice chairman, director, New York Stock Exchange
1981	Resigned from Merrill Lynch and Co.
1981-1985	Secretary of the treasury
1985-1987	White House chief of staff
1987-1994	President, Regdon Associates, Alexandria, Va.
1987-1989	Commentator, NBC News and NBC Radio Network
1988	Published <i>For the Record: From Wall Street to Washington</i> (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 397 pp.)
2003, June 10	Died, Williamsburg, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Donald Thomas Regan (1918- 2003) span the years 1919-1993, with the bulk of the collection dating from the period 1981-1987, the years in which Regan served first as secretary of the treasury and then White House chief of staff during the presidency of Ronald Reagan. Regan's career at Merrill Lynch and Company started with a training program following his military service in World War II and culminated as chief executive officer and chairman of the board. His papers, focusing mainly on his government service in the Reagan administration, are organized into three series: [Treasury Department](#), [White House](#), and a [Personal File](#).

The [Treasury Department](#) series contains files from Regan's tenure as secretary of the treasury from January 1981 to January 1985. It is the largest segment of the collection and documents the economic policies of the Reagan administration. [Chronological files](#) within the series include Regan's official correspondence and a reading and information file containing material put together by Regan's executive assistant, David L. Chew, to brief the secretary on important issues and activities. Another subseries contains [memoranda](#) prepared by various offices in the Treasury Department, including those relating to domestic finance, economic policy, monetary affairs, and tax policy. A [speeches and engagements](#) file contains a chronological record of the speaking engagements, statements, and trips Regan made as secretary.

The [subject file](#) in the Treasury Department series focuses on the issues, activities, and organization relating to the Treasury Department during Regan's tenure. It includes files on the bureaus comprising the department, such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Secret Service, and the United States Mint, as well as economic policy-making bodies such as the Cabinet Council on Economic Affairs, the Council of Economic Advisors, the Federal Reserve Board, and the Office of Management and Budget. A file of transition material contains briefing books on economic issues addressed at the start of the Reagan administration. Additional subjects covered include the federal budget, financial deregulation, tax cut legislation, and tax reform. Filed with material on the thrift industry are papers relating to a congressional inquiry into savings and loan institutions which took place in 1991 when Regan testified regarding policies and activities during his term as secretary of the treasury.

Individuals whose activities and correspondence are reflected in the [Treasury Department](#) files include department officials Marc Leland, Ann Dore McLaughlin, Richard T. McNamar, Roger W. Mehle, and Beryl W. Sprinkel; director of the Office of Management and Budget David Alan Stockman; head of the Federal Reserve Paul Volker; and Vice President George Bush.

In January 1985, at the start of Ronald Reagan's second term, Donald Regan and James A. Baker switched positions, with Baker becoming secretary of the treasury and Regan taking over as White House chief of staff. Papers in Regan's [White House](#) files relate to his service until his resignation on 27 February 1987. Regan's management of the day-to-day operations of the Reagan presidency is documented in the daily schedules of both Regan and the president and Regan's telephone logs of incoming and outgoing calls. Notes recording the activities and issues dealt with by the White House, including notes on meetings and conversations, are also among Regan's files.

A subject file in the [White House](#) series includes administrative and briefing documents related to Regan's appointment as chief of staff. One such document is a letter from Richard Nixon offering his impressions and advice on running the White House. Another subject treated is arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union, including files on summit meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, and Reykjavik, Iceland. Located in files relating to the Soviet Union is an exchange of correspondence between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev that occurred in the period between these summit meetings. There is also material on the Iran-Contra Affair, some of which, along with files for his memoirs, was subpoenaed during an independent counsel's investigation into the Iran-Contra Affair. Notations and markers are attached to documents requested and examined in 1992 as part of this inquiry.

Individuals mentioned in the [White House](#) series are William Casey, Michael Deaver, Robert C. "Bud" McFarlane, John M. Poindexter, and Nancy Reagan.

The [Personal File](#) contains material related to Regan's activities outside government before and after his positions in the Reagan administration, including a few items from his career at Merrill Lynch. These files supplement a larger collection of records, including fifty-six volumes of desk diaries, schedule books, and calendars dating from 1952 to 1980, which is located in the Merrill Lynch corporate archives in New York. Other papers from the period prior to Regan's work in Washington include files of political activities and memberships in organizations ranging from the tournament policy board of the Professional Golfers' Association of America to his chairmanship of the board of trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Files from the period following his departure from government service include speeches and writings. Files from the preparation of his memoirs *For the Record*, which he wrote with the assistance of Charles McCarry, include transcripts of tapes which Regan dictated, communications with and drafts by McCarry, and research files containing such original documents from Regan's Treasury Department and White House periods as a diary of his initial days as secretary of the treasury, his handwritten account of the assassination attempt on President Reagan in 1981, as well as notes from that day, material on Reagan's cancer surgery in 1985, and the Geneva summit meeting. Among the speeches and writings are commentaries, mainly on financial topics, which Regan presented on television and radio. Papers relating to Thomas Dawson, Regan's executive assistant at the White House who moved with him to the firm Regan established, Regdon Associates, also appear among Regan's personal files.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [Treasury Department, 1975-1992](#)
- [White House, 1947-1993](#)
- [Personal File, 1919-1993](#)
- [Classified, 1979-1987](#)
- [Top Secret, 1987](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-188	<u>Treasury Department, 1975-1992</u>
BOX 1-29	<u>Chronological Files, 1981-1985</u> Official and personal correspondence sent by Regan with attached material, a reading file of memoranda and notes from Regan's staff with attached related material, and a file of notes to staff. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 29-34	<u>Correspondence, 1980-1985</u> Letters received by Regan. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 34-65	<u>Memoranda, 1981-1985</u> Memoranda received by individuals in the Treasury Department and other government officials. Arranged alphabetically by name of office or individual and chronologically therein.
BOX 66-87	<u>Scrapbooks (Oversize), 1981-1985</u> Scrapbooks containing correspondence, photographs, clippings, and other memorabilia from Regan's tenure as secretary of the treasury. All but one of these volumes are arranged chronologically.
BOX 88-99	<u>Speech and Engagement File, 1981-1985</u> Speeches, statements, testimony, correspondence, and miscellaneous material relating to speaking engagements, trips, and other official activities undertaken by Regan. Arranged chronologically by event.
BOX 99-188	<u>Subject File, 1975-1992</u> Correspondence, memoranda, briefing books, minutes, transcripts, reports, schedules, notes, clippings, charts, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization, topic, or activity.
BOX 189-216	<u>White House, 1947-1993</u> Correspondence, notes, memoranda, schedules, telephone logs, speeches, invitations, transcripts, clippings, reports, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic and chronologically therein.
BOX 217-242	<u>Personal File, 1919-1993</u> Correspondence, memoranda, notes, speeches, book manuscripts and related material, writings, transcripts, and other material covering Regan's activities outside government service. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or activity and chronologically therein.
BOX CL 1-CL 4	<u>Classified, 1979-1987</u> Government security classified correspondence, memoranda, reports, and notes. Described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.

BOX TS 1

Top Secret, 1987

Top secret government security classified congressional hearing transcript.
Described according to the series, folder, and box from which it was removed.

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BOX 50	Dec. 1983-Jan. 1985 (4 folders)
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BOX TS 1

White House

Subject File

Iran-Contra Affair

Investigations

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