

W. Beverly Carter Papers

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Collection Summary

Title: W. Beverly Carter Papers

Span Dates: 1924-1997

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1924-1982)

ID No.: MSS85604

Creator: Carter, W. Beverly (William Beverly), 1921-1982

Extent: 3,600 items ; 8 containers plus 2 oversize plus 2 classified and 1 top secret ; 3.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Diplomat. Correspondence, news clippings, and photographs relating primarily to the various positions held by Carter during his tenure with the Department of State.

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

Carter, W. Beverly (William Beverly), 1921-1982.

Organizations

Stanford University--Students.

United Nations. Commission on Human Rights.

United States. Department of State.

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Liberia.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Tanzania.

Diplomatic and consular service, American.

Guerrillas--Zaire.

Human rights.

Kidnapping--Tanzania.

Political campaigns--Pennsylvania.

Places

Liberia--Foreign relations--United States.

Tanzania--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--Liberia.

United States--Foreign relations--Tanzania.

Occupations

Diplomats.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of W. Beverly Carter, diplomat, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his son, William Beverly Carter III, in 2011 and converted to a gift in 2013. Additional material was given by Carter III in 2015.

Transfers

Audiocassettes containing interviews, speeches, conferences, and memorial services honoring the life of W. Beverly Carter have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of W. Beverly Carter is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of W. Beverly Carter 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 material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified materials.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1921, Feb. 1	Born, Coatesville, Pa.
1943	B.A., Lincoln University, Oxford, Pa.
1943-1945	Reporter, <u>Philadelphia Tribune</u>
1945-1948	City editor, <u>Philadelphia Afro-American</u>
1946	Married Rosalie Alice Terry (divorced, 1971)
1947	J.D., Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.
1948-1955	Managing director, Journalists Associates, Philadelphia, Pa.
1954	Congressional campaign, Republican, 4th District, Pennsylvania
1955-1964	Publisher, <u>Pittsburgh Courier</u>
1958	President, National Newspaper Publishers Association
1965-1966	Director, United States Information Service, Nairobi, Kenya
1966-1969	Director, United States Information Service, and counsellor of embassy, Lagos, Nigeria
1969-1972	Deputy assistant secretary of state, Washington, D.C.
1971	Married Carlyn Brown Pogue
1972	Member, Commission on Human Rights, United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
1972-1975	Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania

1975-1976	Special assistant to the assistant secretary of state for Africa
1976-1979	Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia
1979-1981	Ambassador at large, Department of State
1981-1982	Director, Development and International Affairs, Inter Maritime Group, Geneva, Switzerland
1982, May 9	Died, Bethesda, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Beverly Carter Jr. (1921-1982) span the years 1924-1997 with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period of 1924-1982. The collection consists primarily of correspondence, photographs, news clippings, and miscellaneous material from Carter's tenure with the Department of State. The papers are organized in four series: [Professional Files](#), [Classified](#), [Top Secret](#), and [Oversize](#).

Carter began his civil service in 1965, serving in Nigeria and Kenya in several capacities before being named ambassador to Tanzania. During his tenure, three Americans and one Dutch student were kidnapped from a Stanford University research camp by Zairian terrorists. Carter aided the release of the students by working with intermediaries in order to meet the kidnappers' demand for ransom. Soon after, Carter was demoted for breaching diplomatic protocol, but the public outcry resulted in his appointment as the ambassador to Liberia. Later, he became the first African American to be named ambassador at large. The [Professional Files](#) from Carter's work with the Department of State contains correspondence, news clippings, and photographs covering a variety of events and duties, but highlighted are his various ambassador appointments, the kidnapping of Stanford University students, and his subsequent reassignment as the Tanzanian ambassador.

Carter also served as an independent member on the Commission on Human Rights for the United Nations. Material related to the United Nations includes primarily Department of State cables and correspondence. Prior to his diplomatic work, Carter ran a congressional campaign as a Republican for Pennsylvania's 4th district. Material from the campaign includes a scrapbook of photographs and news articles. Carter's personal file contains miscellaneous news clippings, an oral history interview, biographical sketches, passports, and obituary. Carter's speech files contain transcripts of his speeches given in various settings.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Professional Files, 1924-1997](#)
- [Classified, 1965-1981](#)
- [Top Secret, 1975-1978](#)
- [Oversize, 1924-1982](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-8	<u>Professional Files, 1924-1997</u> Correspondence, news clippings, and photographs relating primarily to Carter's tenure with the Department of State. Arranged by type of material or topic and thereunder chronologically.
BOX CL 1-CL 2	<u>Classified, 1965-1981</u> Documents containing government-security information. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX TS 1	<u>Top Secret, 1975-1978</u> Documents containing top secret classified information. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1-OV 2	<u>Oversize, 1924-1982</u> Campaign poster, elementary school class photograph, Philadelphia declaration honoring Carter, photographs with Gerald Ford, and certificates naming Carter to his various positions. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-8	Professional Files, 1924-1997 Correspondence, news clippings, and photographs relating primarily to Carter's tenure with the Department of State. Arranged by type of material or topic and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 1	Commission on the Organization of the Government for the Conduct of Foreign Policy, 1974-1975 Congressional campaign, 1954 <i>See also Oversize</i> (3 folders) Personal file Biographical sketch and résumé, 1975-1982 Correspondence Kidnap victims, 1975-1997 Thank-you letters, 1966-1981 Lincoln University, Oxford, Pa. Hall of fame, 1988 Yearbook, 1943
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1924-1982 <i>See also Oversize</i> News clippings, 1975-1976 Obituary and related material, 1982 Oral history transcript, 1981-1982 Papers solicitation, 1975-1980 Passports, 1952-1981 Photographs, 1937-circa 1954 <i>See also Oversize</i> Publicity, 1952-1976 <i>See also Oversize</i> Speeches 1969-1973 <i>See also Classified</i> (3 folders)
BOX 3	1974-1980 (4 folders) State Department Ambassador at large Appointment as ambassador, 1978-1979 Chronological file, 1979-1981 Miscellany, 1979-1981 Photographs, 1979 Publicity, 1979-1980 Senate confirmation hearing, 1979
BOX 4	Deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, 1969-1972 Liberia Appointment as ambassador, 1976 <i>See also Classified</i> (2 folders)

Professional Files, 1924-1997

Container

Contents

	Chronological file, 1976-1978 <i>See also Classified and Top Secret</i>
	Miscellany, 1976-1977 <i>See also Oversize</i>
	Photographs, 1976-1979 <i>See also Oversize</i> (3 folders)
BOX 5	Publicity, 1976-1978
	Revolt, 1979-1980 <i>See also Classified</i>
	Miscellany
	African policy, 1973-1979
	Certificates, 1968-1981 <i>See also Oversize</i>
	Employee evaluations, 1965-1981 <i>See also Classified</i>
	Photographs, circa 1970-1980 (2 folders)
	Special assistant to the assistant secretary of state for Africa, 1975-1976 <i>See also Classified</i>
	Tanzania
	Appointment as ambassador, 1972
	Chronological file
	1972-1974 <i>See also Classified</i> (3 folders)
BOX 6	1975 <i>See also Classified</i> (3 folders)
	Kidnapping, 1975 <i>See also Classified</i> (3 folders)
	Kidnapping fallout and reassignment, 1975 <i>See also Classified and Top Secret</i> (2 folders)
	Miscellany, 1972-1975
BOX 7	Publicity, 1972-1975
	Thank-you letters, 1975 <i>See also Classified</i> (2 folders)
	Visitors file
	United States Information Service 1965-1969 <i>See also Classified</i>
	United Nations
	1972-1975 <i>See also Classified</i> (4 folders)
BOX 8	1976-1981 <i>See also Classified</i> (7 folders)
BOX CL 1-CL 2	Classified, 1965-1981 Documents containing government-security information. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX CL 1	Speeches
	1971 (Container 2)
	State Department
	Liberia
	Appointment as ambassador, 1976 (Container 4)
	Chronological file, 1976-1978 (Container 4)
	Revolt, 1979-1980 (Container 5)

	Miscellany Employee evaluations, 1965-1981 (Container 5) Special assistant to the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, 1975-1976 (Container 5) Tanzania Chronological file 1972-1974 (Container 5) 1975 (Container 6) Kidnapping, 1975 (Container 6)
BOX CL 2	Kidnapping fallout and reassignment, 1975 (Container 6) Thank-you letters, 1975 (Container 7) Visitors file, 1972-1973 (Container 7) United States Information Service, 1965-1969 (Container 7) United Nations 1972 (Container 7) 1976-1981 (Container 8)
BOX TS 1	Top Secret, 1975-1978 Documents containing top secret classified information. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX TS 1	State Department Liberia Chronological file, 1976-1978 (Container 4) Tanzania Kidnapping fallout and reassignment, 1975 (Container 6)
BOX OV 1-OV 2	Oversize, 1924-1982 Campaign poster, elementary school class photograph, Philadelphia declaration honoring Carter, photographs with Gerald Ford, and certificates naming Carter to his various positions. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Congressional campaign, 1954 (Container 1) Personal file Miscellany, 1924-1982 (Container 2) Photographs 1937-circa 1954 (Container 2) Publicity 1952-1976 (Container 2)
BOX OV 2	State Department Liberia Miscellany, 1976-1978 (Container 4) Photographs, 1976-1979 (Container 4) Miscellany Certificates, 1968-1981 (Container 5)