



Soos, Helen E.: Files, 1985-1987

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

African Affairs Directorate, NSC

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

Brief Biography

Helen Elizabeth Soos was a career diplomat, spending most of her career with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Helen Soos was born in Switzerland in 1947. Soos father, Geza Soos, was a jurist, a leader of a Protestant youth movement, and a member of the Hungarian foreign service during the Miklos Horthy government between the wars and during World War II. Soos fought in the Hungarian resistance movements against the Nazi and the communist take-overs of Hungary. In 1946, fleeing the increasing communist threat in Hungary, he chose to settle his family in Switzerland. As a devout Christian, he chose their Swiss exile, so he could study to become a Protestant pastor at their home near Geneva. Once he was ordained, he and his family moved to America and settled in the mountains of North Carolina. Geza Soos was not able to fully enjoy their transfer to America. He died in 1953.

Helen Soos was a 1971 graduate of Radcliffe College and had a master's degree from the Fletcher School of International Law and Diplomacy at Tuft's University. Following her father's path, she became a career diplomat with USAID, visiting most of the world, but with a particular emphasis on Africa, with posts to Nairobi, Kenya, Niger and Morocco. She was detailed to the Reagan Administration's National Security Council, 1985-1987. During this time she worked on issues regarding the rapidly changing South African situation, the Angolan war, and the food crisis in Africa of the 1980s.

In later years, Soos was interested in the return to democracy in Hungary after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Soos family returned her father's substantial archives on the Hungarian resistance and interwar years to the Protestant church archives in Budapest. Soos also became interested in her father's connections with Raoul Wallenberg and returned to Hungary to meet former resistance fighters.

Soos died of cancer at her home in Falls Church, VA on May 13, 2004. She and her former husband, Lawrence Hausmann had two daughters.

Scope and Content Note

Scope and Content Note: At the time of arrangement of the African Affairs Directorate, the Library eliminated most of the staff collections for this office. All of the material originally assigned to staff members is now contained in the [African Affairs Directorate, NSC: Records](#) collection. They can be found in Series I: Country File and Series II: Subject File.

Several exceptions were made for clearly marked staff chronological files. The Helen Soos collection consists of one of these chronological files. All other work product for Soos can be found in the series named above.

Last Modified Date

2024-02-26

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Status	Title
CLOSED	Chron File (undated)
CLOSED	Chron File (01/29/1985-02/21/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (02/22/1985-03/04/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (03/05/1985-03/07/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (03/08/1985-03/11/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (03/12/1985-04/04/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (04/05/1985-04/14/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (04/15/1985-04/24/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (04/25/1985-05/07/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (05/08/1985-05/16/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (05/17/1985-06/06/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (06/07/1985-06/12/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (06/13/1985-06/19/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (06/20/1985-06/27/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (06/28/1985-07/06/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (07/07/1985-07/22/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (07/23/1985-08/07/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (08/08/1985-08/12/1985)
CLOSED	Chron File (08/13/1985-09/05/1985)

Status	Title
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CLOSED	Chron File (09/19/1985-09/30/1985)
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Status**Title**

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[Displaywriter Diskette: Working Diskette - Soos]

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