



Stearman, William L.: Files, 1981-1982

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Political Affairs Office, NSC

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

Biography

William Lloyd Stearman is a veteran, a retired government official, an aviator, and an author.

William Lloyd Stearman was born on June 2, 1922 in Wichita, Kansas, the son of Lloyd Stearman, the founder of Stearman Aircraft. After graduating high school in 1940, he went into the Navy's V-12 program, studying at the University of California, Berkeley. He received a B.A. majoring in math. He is also a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College.

In 1944 he was commissioned as an ensign and attended midshipman's school. After training Stearman was deployed to the Pacific. He was in the 7th Amphibious Fleet and was involved in the Philippines Campaign, 1944-1945 and in the Borneo Campaign, 1945.

After World War II, Stearman entered the foreign service. He was stationed in Vienna, Berlin, Bonn, Saigon. He was also able to pursue his graduate studies and earned an MA and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, University of Geneva.

While in Saigon, Stearman became somewhat of an expert on the North Vietnamese and studied the strategies and actions of the war extensively. Upon returning to Washington he joined the State Department's Intelligence and Research Bureau as an expert on North Vietnam and other southeast Asian issues.

In 1971, Stearman joined the National Security Council (NSC) staff under National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger. He was brought over to be the resident "Hanoiologist" on staff. He remained on the NSC until 1976. During this time period he was heavily involved with the Paris peace negotiations with the North Vietnamese, the struggle to enforce the peace agreement, the fall of South Vietnam, the evacuations from South Vietnam, the *Mayaguez* incident, and the POW/MIA issues with Vietnam.

Stearman left the NSC to be an Assistant Director at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) working on the Multilateral Balance Force Reduction in Europe; the Committee on Disarmament 64; and SALT issues. He left in October 1977 when the newly appointed director arrived. Stearman then became a senior

research fellow at the National Defense University.

In 1977, Stearman also began an association with Georgetown University as an adjunct professor. He began to increase his involvement with Georgetown and by the end of the decade was the Director of the Russian Studies Program. Also at this time, Stearman retired in October 1978 from the Department of State taking advantage of a unique government offer to retire at nearly full pay.

During the 1980 Presidential campaign, Stearman was asked to serve on Governor Ronald Reagan's Foreign Policy Advisory Team, and then after the election as a member of the National Security Transition Team. He joined the NSC for the second time in January 1981 working with Richard Pipes on European and Soviet issues on U.S.-Soviet relations, eastern Europe (especially Poland and Yugoslavia), Central Europe and some work on his specialty area, Indochina. Stearman left the NSC on January 19, 1993.

In his service at the NSC, Stearman served under four presidents: Nixon, Ford, Reagan and George H.W. Bush, and eight National Security Advisors: Henry Kissinger, Richard Allen, William Clark, Robert "Bud" McFarlane, John Poindexter, Frank Carlucci, Colin Powell, and Brent Scowcroft.

In 2012, Stearman wrote a memoir entitled *An American Adventure: From Early Aviation Through Three Wars, to the White House*, which has been described as "a fascinating accounting of his own remarkable life and the tumultuous times in which he lived."

Scope and Content Note

Scope Note

William Stearman was brought into the National Security Council staff for the second time in January 1981 after serving as a member of Governor Reagan's Foreign Policy Advisory Team and as a member of the National Security Transition Team.

Stearman remained on the National Security staff until January 19, 1993. He was probably acting as a consultant or "service by agreement" basis past 1982, but the

Library has not verified this information. From 1981-1982, Stearman was working directly for Richard Pipes on U.S.-Soviet relations, Eastern European issues (especially Poland and Yugoslavia), Central Europe and Indochina, a previous regional specialty of Stearman). This collection contains material covering the 1981-1982 time period only. No further material has been identified for Stearman.

The William Stearman collection consists of four series: SERIES I: Subject File; SERIES II: Chronological File; SERIES III: Publication File; and SERIES IV: Administrative File.

Series List

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE

SERIES II: CHRONOLOGICAL FILE

SERIES III: PUBLICATION FILE

SERIES IV: ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Last Modified Date

2024-02-26

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE

RAC Box 1

Status	Title
CLOSED	Afghanistan (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Afghans Central
CLOSED	Africa (AF)
CLOSED	Arms Control (1)-(13)
CLOSED	Asia
CLOSED	Austria (1)(2)
CLOSED	Berlin Wall
CLOSED	Bio
CLOSED	BBC - British Broadcasting
CLOSED	China

Status	Title
CLOSED	CBM (Confidence Building Measures)
OPEN	CSCE
CLOSED	CSSR (Czechoslovak Soviet Socialist Republic)
CLOSED	Czechoslovakia (1)(2)
CLOSED	East/West Economics (1))(2)
CLOSED	Eastern Europe
CLOSED	Eastern Germany (DDR)
CLOSED	Europe
CLOSED	Export Control Policy
CLOSED	Foreign Missions Act
CLOSED	France
CLOSED	General
CLOSED	Germany 02/25/1981-03/01/1981
CLOSED	Germany 03/02/1981-04/27/1981
CLOSED	Germany 04/28/1981-05/14/1981
CLOSED	Germany 05/15/1981 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Germany 05/16/1981-06/03/1981
CLOSED	Germany 06/04/1981-07/08/1981
CLOSED	Germany 07/09/1981-07/15/1981
CLOSED	Germany 07/16/1981-07/20/1981
CLOSED	Germany 07/21/1981-08/03/1981
CLOSED	Germany 08/04/1981-10/05/1981
CLOSED	Germany 10/06/1981-10/31/1981
CLOSED	Human Rights
OPEN	Hungary
CLOSED	Indochina
CLOSED	IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) 02/27/1981-11/04/1981
CLOSED	IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) 11/05/1981-03/19/1982
CLOSED	IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) 03/20/1982

Status	Title
CLOSED	IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) 03/21/1982-01/15/1986
CLOSED	Iran
CLOSED	Middle East
CLOSED	Military
CLOSED	Miscellaneous (1)-(3)
CLOSED	National Security Council Calendar
CLOSED	Nicaragua
CLOSED	NATO
CLOSED	Pakistan
CLOSED	Personal
CLOSED	Procedures

RAC Box 2

Status	Title
CLOSED	Poland - Stearman's Memo (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Poland - January-September [03/04/1981-05/28/1981]
CLOSED	Poland - January-September [05/29/1981-06/30/1981]
CLOSED	Poland - January-September [07/01/1981-07/14/1981]
CLOSED	Poland - January-September [07/15/1981-07/23/1981]
CLOSED	Poland - January-September [07/24/1981-09/07/1981]
CLOSED	Poland - January-September [09/08/1981-09/16/1981]
CLOSED	Poland - October-December [empty]
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 01/29/1981-04/07/1981
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 04/08/1981-05/21/1981
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 05/22/1981-06/01/1981
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 06/02/1981-06/05/1981
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 06/06/1981-06/10/1981
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 06/11/1981-07/12/1981
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 07/13/1981-08/05/1981
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 08/06/1981-08/08/1981
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 08/09/1981-08/17/1981
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 08/18/1981-09/07/1981

Status	Title
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 09/08/1981-09/20/1981
CLOSED	Poland - Telegrams 09/21/1981-11/30/1981
CLOSED	Poland and East Europe 07/09/1981-12/25/1981
CLOSED	Poland and East Europe 12/26/1981-02/01/1982
CLOSED	Poland and East Europe 02/02/1982-07/20/1983
CLOSED	Psychological Operations (undated)
CLOSED	Psychological Operations 04/04/1984-03/31/1985
CLOSED	Psychological Operations 04/01/1985
CLOSED	Psychological Operations 04/02/1985-09/30/1985
CLOSED	Psychological Operations 10/01/1985-02/10/1986
CLOSED	Psychological Operations 02/11/1986-03/19/1986
CLOSED	Psychological Operations 03/20/1986-01/14/1987
CLOSED	Romania 04/28/1981-06/01/1981
CLOSED	Romania 06/02/1981-06/21/1981
CLOSED	Romania 06/22/1981-10/22/1981
CLOSED	South America - ARA (1)(2)
CLOSED	Soviet - January-June [undated]
CLOSED	Soviet - January-June [02/23/1981-05/20/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - January-June [05/21/1981-05/25/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - January-June [05/26/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - January-June [05/27/1981-06/29/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - July-September [undated-07/15/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - July-September [07/16/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - July-September [07/17/1981-08/10/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - July-September [08/11/1981-08/18/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - July-September [08/19/1981-09/21/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - October-December [10/07/1981-11/01/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - October-December [11/02/1981-12/02/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - Stearman's Memos [undated]
CLOSED	Soviet - Stearman's Memos [05/01/1981-08/03/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - Stearman's Memos [08/04/1981-10/13/1981]
CLOSED	Soviet - Stearman's Memos [10/14/1981-11/20/1981]

RAC Box 3

Status	Title
CLOSED	Soviet - Telegrams 02/23/1981-02/26/1981
CLOSED	Soviet - Telegrams 02/27/1981-05/01/1981
CLOSED	Soviet - Telegrams 05/02/1981-06/02/1981
CLOSED	Soviet - Telegrams 06/03/1981-08/03/1981
CLOSED	Soviet - Telegrams 08/04/1981-10/20/1981
CLOSED	Soviet - Telegrams 10/21/1981-12/08/1981
CLOSED	Soviet Arms Control
CLOSED	Soviet Union Economy
CLOSED	Spain
CLOSED	Summit
CLOSED	Terrorism
CLOSED	TNF (Theater Nuclear Forces)
CLOSED	United Nations
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [undated] (1)(2)
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [02/25/1981-07/06/1981]
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [07/07/1981-11/19/1981]
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [11/20/1981]
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [11/21/1981-01/21/1982]
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [01/22/1982-03/15/1982]
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [03/16/1982-10/04/1982]
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [10/05/1982-02/09/1984]
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [02/10/1984-09/09/1984]
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [09/10/1984-01/17/1985]
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [01/18/1985-06/11/1986]
CLOSED	U.S.-Soviet Relations [06/12/1986-11/06/1986]
CLOSED	Vietnam
CLOSED	Weekly Reports [02/27/1981-09/03/1981]
CLOSED	Weekly Reports [09/04/1981-12/15/1981]
CLOSED	Yugoslavia [05/01/1981-05/25/1981]
CLOSED	Yugoslavia [05/26/1981-06/04/1981]
CLOSED	Yugoslavia [06/05/1981] (1)(2)

Status	Title
CLOSED	Yugoslavia [06/06/1981-07/12/1981]
CLOSED	Yugoslavia [07/13/1981-08/31/1981]
CLOSED	Yugoslavia [09/01/1981-11/17/1981]

SERIES II: CHRONOLOGICAL FILE

RAC Box 3, cont.

Status	Title
CLOSED	Stearman - August 1981 (1)-(5)
CLOSED	Stearman - September 1981 (1)-(5)
CLOSED	Stearman - October 1981 (1)-(6)
CLOSED	Stearman - November 1981 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Stearman - December 1981
CLOSED	Stearman - January 1982 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Stearman - February 1982 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Stearman - March 1982
CLOSED	Stearman - April 1982
CLOSED	Stearman - May 1982

RAC Box 4

Status	Title
CLOSED	Unclassified Chron June 1981
CLOSED	Unclassified Chron July 1981-September 1981
CLOSED	Unclassified Chron November 1981
CLOSED	Unclassified Chron January 1982-february 1982
CLOSED	Unclassified Chron March 1982
CLOSED	Unclassified Chron April 1982

SERIES III: PUBLICATION FILE

RAC Box 4

Status	Title
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 06/18/1981-08/05/1981
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 08/06/1981-08/19/1981
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 08/20/1981-09/21/1981
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 09/22/1981-10/07/1981
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 10/08/1981-10/29/1981

Status	Title
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 10/30/1981-12/06/1981
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 12/07/1981-01/06/1982
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 01/07/1982-01/13/1982
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 01/14/1982-01/26/1982
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 01/27/1982-02/25/1982
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 02/26/1982-03/15/1982
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 03/16/1982-03/31/1982
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 04/01/1982-04/13/1982
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 04/14/1982-04/28/1982
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 04/29/1982-05/03/1982
CLOSED	DOD - <i>Current News</i> 05/04/1982-05/18/1982
CLOSED	[FBIS]
CLOSED	<i>Foreign Reports</i>
CLOSED	[<i>Friday Review of Defense Literature</i>]
CLOSED	[Newspaper Article]
CLOSED	[Items Returned to NSC]
CLOSED	[State Department Reports]

SERIES IV: ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

RAC Box 4, cont.

Status	Title
CLOSED	[Administrative]
CLOSED	["ABM Question"] / Carnes Lord <i>Commentary</i> . May 1980]
CLOSED	[Arms Control and Disarmament]
CLOSED	[Cables]
CLOSED	["A Celebration of America"]
CLOSED	[Central America / Mexico]
CLOSED	[Correspondence to Stearman]
CLOSED	[Correspondence from Stearman]
CLOSED	[Correspondence - Third Party]
CLOSED	[Cuba]
CLOSED	[Draft Remarks for the Secretary of Defense to the Japanese Journalists at Japan Press Center, 03/26/1982]

Status	Title
CLOSED	[East-West Politics]
CLOSED	[El Salvador]
CLOSED	[Handwritten Notes]
CLOSED	[“Joint Staff or General Staff: A Critical Crossroads in Strategic Policy-Making”]
CLOSED	[Memo from Michael Allen, NSC, to President Kennedy, 03/15/1961 re: Situation in Cuba]
CLOSED	[Memoranda of Calls]
CLOSED	[Memos 06/01/1981-01/12/1982]
CLOSED	[Memos 01/13/1982-03/16/1982]
CLOSED	[Memos 03/17/1982-05/20/1982]
CLOSED	[Phan Quang Dan – Studies, Reports, et al.] (1)(2)
CLOSED	[Photos]
CLOSED	[Poland] (1)(2)
CLOSED	[President’s Trip to China]
CLOSED	[Press Releases]
CLOSED	[Q’s and A’s]
CLOSED	[“Soviet Perceptions of the Impact of the Energy Problem on United States-Soviet Relations in the Middle East-Persian Gulf Region”] (1)-(5)
CLOSED	[Soviet Union] (1)-(3)
CLOSED	[Stearman – Personal]
CLOSED	[Ty Cobb’s Lecture Tour to China]
CLOSED	[U.S. Navy Battleships]
CLOSED	[Vienna Summit, 1961 – Kennedy and Khrushchev]
CLOSED	[Vietnam]
CLOSED	[Voice of America]
CLOSED	[World Peace Council]