



Griscom, Thomas C.: Files, 1987-1988

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Office of Communications

Specialization Heading

Director

Disclaimer

This collection is available in whole for research use. Some folders may still have withdrawn material due to Freedom of Information Act restrictions. Most frequently withdrawn material is national security classified material, personal privacy, protection of the President, etc.

Copyright

Some of the archival materials in this collection may be subject to copyright or other intellectual property restrictions. Users of these materials are advised to determine the copyright status of any document from which they wish to publish.

Record Type

Textual

Biography

Biography

Thomas Cecil Griscom (1949-) was in public service as a top aide and advisor to Senator Howard Baker (TN-R), White House Director of Communications (Reagan Administration), corporate executive, and the executive editor and publisher of the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*.

Griscom was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1949. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (B.A., 1971).

Leaving college, Griscom was a political writer for the *Chattanooga News-Free Press* for seven years, 1971-1978. He also served in the army reserves at this time.

In 1978 Griscom joined the staff of Senator Baker and served as press secretary. In 1985-1986, after Baker's retirement from the Senate, Griscom served as the executive director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC), and was charged with the task of overseeing the re-election efforts of the Republican majority in the Senate. In January 1987, Griscom became president and chief operating officer of Ogilvy and Mather Public Affairs.

When Senator Baker was brought into the White House in March 1987 as Chief of Staff, Griscom re-joined Baker at the White House as the Director of Communications with responsibility for the Presidential Appointments and Scheduling, Presidential Advance, Office of Politics and Intergovernmental Affairs, speechwriting and communications planning. He also assisted with the strong links between the administration and the Republican Party.

His most notable claim during this period was that, in 1987, he approved Peter Robinson's draft speech for President Reagan's Berlin Wall speech. This speech contained the now famous line from Reagan demanding that the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev "tear down this wall." Griscom defended this line against all foreign policy and diplomatic advice to remove it from the speech.

Griscom left the White House around the time Baker also resigned as Chief of Staff, July 1988.

In 1990, he joined Reynolds Tobacco (RJR) as head of its external relations program, and over the next 10 years he was responsible for the company's strategic operations against the growing anti-smoking forces. He also administered and organized the company's involvement in the many cooperative campaigns

conducted with Philip Morris and the Tobacco Institute in lobbying the United States Congress to block anti-smoking legislation. Griscom was involved with RJR's misinformation campaigns for the public and the media - especially the promotion of the idea that health regulations were largely the product of junk science.

In 1997-1998, Griscom represented R.J. Reynolds on a long series of tobacco industry negotiations with the State Attorneys-General, the Justices Department, the White House and its agencies. This led to a February 1998 Master Settlement Agreement, in which the tobacco industry agreed to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation for Medicaid costs associated with smoking.

Griscom left R.J. Reynolds in the latter half of 1999 and returned to his hometown of Chattanooga. He returned to his newspaper career and a desire to "to help shape the overall identity" of the city's now single daily print newspaper, *Chattanooga Times Free Press*. On May 26, 2010, Griscom announced he would resign from the newspaper June 30, 2010

Griscom is married to the former Marian Dobbins, has three children, and resides in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Scope and Content Note

Scope and Content

Currently, this is the entire collection for Thomas Griscom, Director of the Office of Communications for nearly two years near the end of the Reagan administration. There is no "office" records collection for the Office of Communications. Administrative material is scattered though out the collections of David Gergen, Patrick Buchanan, Thomas Griscom and Mari Maseng. Most of the routine administrative material regarding personnel, parking, etc for the Office of Communications past 1987 can be found in the Mari Maseng collection. She was the last director of this office and maintained these files, including Griscom material.

This collection consists of three series: SERIES I: U.S.-U.S.S.R. Summits, 1987-1988: Subseries A: Washington Summit, 1987 and Subseries B: Moscow Summit, 1988; SERIES II: President's Weekly Update; and SERIES III: Subject File.

Series List

SERIES I: U.S.-U.S.S.R. SUMMITS, 1987-1988

This series consists of material related to the planning, scheduling, advance work, speeches and some subjects covered at the Washington Summit held December 7-10, 1987 and the Moscow Summit held May 29, 1988-June 2, 1988.

Subseries A: Washington Summit, 1987

This subseries concerns the third meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty was signed at this Summit. The Summit was originally planned for some time in 1986 and was later pushed back due to the meeting of Reagan and Gorbachev in Reykjavik, Iceland, October 1986. This series contains material for the original 1986 planning of the Summit and outlines of topics to be covered.

Subseries B: Moscow Summit, 1988

This subseries consists of material related to the final formal summit meeting of President Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. This subseries consists of material regarding establishing a theme for the summit, scheduling which includes information on pre-Summit (Helsinki, Finland) and post-Summit (Brussels and London) trips, comments on the advantages and disadvantages of possible visits by the Reagans to Russian venues and draft speeches for several events in Moscow including the President's address to Moscow State University students.

SERIES II: PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

This series consists of Thomas Griscom's copies of the weekly update provided to the President. The Weekly Update was a standard packet given to the President each week including his schedule for the week and for upcoming weeks; press

reactions to the news of the previous week, and weekly summaries from most major White House offices on the activities of those offices.

Griscom's copies are from February 1987-January 1988 and are not complete for that time period. The material is arranged chronologically by update.

SERIES III: SUBJECT FILE

This series consists of material related to communication functions and administrative material for the Office of Communications. There is material related to the visit by Secretary Shultz to Helsinki in March 1988; trip folders for the President's European trip in June 1987 including the Venice Economic Summit; strategies for a successful nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court; general strategies and policy ideas for 1987 regarding budget reform, deficit reduction, drug abuse policies, and general domestic and national security legislation, Iran and the Iran-Contra public affairs plan; and published reports on various issues including Congressional voting records on aid to the Nicaraguan resistance. The remaining material is related to the administrative functions of Griscom as head of the Office of Communications including White House staff manuals; personnel files; and Griscom travel files.

Last Modified Date

2024-06-25

SERIES I: U.S.-U.S.S.R. SUMMITS, 1987-1988

This series consists of material related to the planning, scheduling, advance work, speeches and some subjects covered at the Washington Summit held December 7-10, 1987 and the Moscow Summit held May 29, 1988-June 2, 1988.

Subseries A: Washington Summit, 1987

This subseries concerns the third meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty was signed at this Summit. The Summit was originally planned for some time in 1986 and was later pushed back due to the meeting of Reagan and Gorbachev in Reykjavik, Iceland, October 1986. This series contains material for the original 1986 planning of the Summit and outlines of topics to be covered.

Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit, 1987]: Summit (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit, 1987]: Summit (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit, 1987]: Summit (3)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit, 1987]: Summit (4)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit, 1987]: Summit (5)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit, 1987]: Summit (6)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit, 1987]: Summit (7)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit, 1986]: Reagan/Gorbachev Summit: Planning/Background Material (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit, 1986]: Reagan/Gorbachev Summit: Planning/Background Material (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 - Tom Griscom (Binder) (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 - Tom Griscom (Binder) (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 - Tom Griscom (Binder) (3)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 - Tom Griscom (Binder) (4)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 - Tom Griscom (Binder) (5)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 - Tom Griscom (Binder) (6)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	President Ronald Reagan, General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev: Washington Summit 12/07/1987-12/10/1987 (Trip Book)

Subseries B: Moscow Summit, 1988

This subseries consists of material related to the final formal summit meeting of President Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. This subseries consists of material regarding establishing a theme for the summit, scheduling which includes information on pre-Summit (Helsinki, Finland) and post-Summit (Brussels and London) trips, comments on the advantages and disadvantages of possible visits by the Reagans to Russian venues and draft speeches for several events in Moscow including the President's address to Moscow State University students.

Box 1, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	Memos/Cables/Miscellaneous for Tommy Griscom [re: Moscow Summit] (1)-(5)

Box 2

Status	Title
OPEN	Memos/Cables/Miscellaneous for Tommy Griscom [re: Moscow Summit] (6)(7)

SERIES II: PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

This series consists of Thomas Griscom's copies of the weekly update provided to the President. The Weekly Update was a standard packet given to the President each week including his schedule for the week and for upcoming weeks; press reactions to the news of the previous week, and weekly summaries from most major White House offices on the activities of those offices.

Griscom's copies are from February 1987-January 1988 and are not complete for that time period. The material is arranged chronologically by update.

Box 2, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 02/27/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 03/06/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 06/19/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 06/26/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 07/03/1987

Status	Title
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 07/10/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 07/17/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 11/06/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 11/13/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 11/20/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 11/27/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 12/04/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 12/11/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 12/18/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 12/31/1987
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 01/08/1988
OPEN	President's Weekly Update, 01/15/1988

SERIES III: SUBJECT FILE

This series consists of material related to communication functions and administrative material for the Office of Communications. There is material related to the visit by Secretary Shultz to Helsinki in March 1988; trip folders for the President's European trip in June 1987 including the Venice Economic Summit; strategies for a successful nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court; general strategies and policy ideas for 1987 regarding budget reform, deficit reduction, drug abuse policies, and general domestic and national security legislation, Iran and the Iran-Contra public affairs plan; and published reports on various issues including Congressional voting records on aid to the Nicaraguan resistance. The remaining material is related to the administrative functions of Griscom as head of the Office of Communications including White House staff manuals; personnel files; and Griscom travel files.

Box 2, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	"Aid to the Nicaraguan Resistance: Profiles of Swing Congressional Votes" - Citizens For Reagan, January 1988 (1)(2)

Box 3

Status	Title
---------------	--------------

OPEN [Ann Haines / Handwritten Notes on Office Functions]

OPEN [Assisi Peace Group] (see also oversize, Box 6)

OPEN Atmospheric Fluidized Bed Combustion (AFBC) Briefing Book, 05/19/1987 (1)-(4)

OPEN Bork (1)-(7)

OPEN [Budget Reform and Deficit Reduction 1987] (Notebook) (1)(2)

OPEN *Children in Need: Investment Strategies for the Educationally Disadvantaged* - Committee for Economic Development, 1987

OPEN [Domestic and National Security Legislation 1987] (Notebook) (1)(2)

OPEN [Domestic Policy Council/Economic Policy Council Meeting Minutes, April 1987 re: Energy Security]

OPEN / DIGITIZED [\[Drug Abuse Policy Opportunities 1987\] \(Notebook\)](#)

OPEN Economic Summit [Venice, Italy, June 1987] (1)-(3)

Box 4

Status	Title
OPEN	Economic Summit [Venice, Italy, June 1987] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Europe Trip, 06/03/1987-06/12/1987 (1)-(4)
OPEN	[Griscom Personnel File] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Griscom, Travel (1)-(5)
OPEN	[Helsinki State Visit File, 03/09/1988-03/11/1988] (Notebook) (1)-(3)
OPEN	Iran Statement
OPEN	Material re: The State of the Union Message - Currently not found at the Library
OPEN	[President Reagan Article on Media and Democracy - <i>Dateline</i> , 04/19/1988]
OPEN	[Subscription Changes]
OPEN	White House Office Staff Manual, January 1984 (1)(2)

Box 5

Status	Title
OPEN	White House Office Staff Manual, February 1987 (1)-(3)

Box 6 (Oversize)

Status

Title

OPEN

[Assisi Peace Group] - Oversize Material