



## **Rentschler, James M.: Files, 1981**

### **Finding Aid Type**

White House Staff and Office File Collections

### **Subtitle/Office**

Office of Political Affairs, NSC

### **Specialization Heading**

Western European Office

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### **Record Type**

Textual

### **Biography**

James Malone Rentschler was a career diplomat and the Ambassador to Malta, 1982-1985. He was detailed to the White House National Security Council Staff during the Carter and Reagan Administrations.

Rentschler was born on October 16, 1938 in Rochester, Minnesota. In 1954 he received a certificate from the University of Paris and later graduated from Yale University in 1955. He obtained his master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

In 1959, Rentschler joined the United States Foreign Service and worked in multiple countries including Brazil, Italy, Morocco France and Romania He was also posted at the US NATO headquarters in Brussels.

In 1978, Rentschler became a senior staff member and Director of West European Affairs in the Office of Political Affairs at the National Security Council. He was retained at the NSC from the Carter Administration into the Reagan Administration.

In 1982, Reagan appointed Rentschler Ambassador to Malta where he remained until April 1985. He was appointed Ambassador to Guinea in 1986 but the nomination was withdrawn before the Senate could act upon the nomination.

While serving in Malta, Rentschler was asked to head the Summit Public Diplomacy Inter-Agency Team. His team assisted with the London, Bonn, Germany and Tokyo Economic Summits.

James Rentschler died in Paris, France in May 2007. He published an autobiography posthumously, *A Reason to Get Up in the Morning: A Cold Warrior Remembers*.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The old Office of Political Affairs within the National Security Council included specific Offices with the responsibility for various geographic regions. Under the Office of Political Affairs, James Rentschler was the Director of the Western Europe Office. In 1983, these regional responsibilities were later revised and elevated to directorates in a rough approximation of the Department of State regional organizations. Rentschler's position would correspond to the European and Soviet Affairs Directorate in the new system.

In addition, Rentschler created chronological material for this time period. This material was intermingled with Dennis Blair chronological material. The Rentschler chronological material is now part of the [Office of Political Affairs collection](#). Please see that collection for the 1981 chronological files of James Rentschler.

This Rentschler collection consists of three series: SERIES I: Subject File, SERIES II: Trip File, and SERIES III: Visit File.

## Series List

### SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE

### SERIES II: TRIP FILE

### SERIES III: VISIT FILE

## Last Modified Date

2024-06-18

### SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE

#### RAC Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN	Canada 1981 (12/24/1980-02/28/1981)
OPEN	Canada 1981 (03/01/1981-03/31/1981)
OPEN	Canada 1981 (04/01/1981-04/30/1981)
OPEN	Canada 1981 (05/01/1981-06/30/1981)
OPEN	Canada 1981 (07/01/1981-07/31/1981)
OPEN	Canada 1981 (08/01/1981-09/30/1981)
OPEN	Canada 1981 (10/01/1981-10/08/1981)
OPEN	Canada 1981 (10/09/1981-12/21/1981)
OPEN	Cancun 1981
OPEN	CSCE - Commission on Security and Cooperation/Europe 1981 (1)
OPEN	CSCE - Commission on Security and Cooperation/Europe 1981 (2)
OPEN	CSCE - Commission on Security and Cooperation/Europe 1981 (3)
OPEN	CSCE - Commission on Security and Cooperation/Europe 1981 (4)
OPEN	France 1981 (1)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	France 1981 (2)
OPEN	France 1981 (3)
OPEN	France 1981 (4)
OPEN	France 1981 (5)
OPEN	France 1981 (6)
OPEN	France 1981 (7)
OPEN	[Briefing Book – Material Loose re: Consultations on Svalbard and the Northern Areas, Oslo, 10/20/1980-10/21/1980] (1)
OPEN	[Briefing Book – Material Loose re: Consultations on Svalbard and the Northern Areas, Oslo, 10/20/1980-10/21/1980] (2)
OPEN	[Briefing Book – Material Loose re: Consultations on Svalbard and the Northern Areas, Oslo, 10/20/1980-10/21/1980] (3)
OPEN	[Briefing Book – Material Loose re: Consultations on Svalbard and the Northern Areas, Oslo, 10/20/1980-10/21/1980] (4)
OPEN	Press – Western Europe
OPEN	[Quadripartite Meeting of Political and Economic Directors, London, 12/22/1981] (Binder)
OPEN	Sympathy Messages and Things Relating to President Assassination Attempt (1)
OPEN	Sympathy Messages and Things Relating to President Assassination Attempt (2)
OPEN	United Kingdom 1981 (02/18/1981-06/15/1981)
OPEN	United Kingdom 1981 (06/16/1981-09/24/1981)
OPEN	United Kingdom 1981 (09/25/1981-12/13/1981)

### **SERIES III: VISIT FILE**

#### **RAC Box 2**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Luns [NATO Secretary-General Joseph Luns – Thursday, 04/16/1981]

Status	Title
OPEN	Visit of Secretary Haig to Rome and Brussels 05/01/1981-05/05/1981 (Binder) (1)
OPEN	Visit of Secretary Haig to Rome and Brussels 05/01/1981-05/05/1981 (Binder) (2)
OPEN	Visit of Secretary Haig to Rome and Brussels 05/01/1981-05/05/1981 (Binder) (3)
OPEN	Visit of Secretary Haig to Rome and Brussels 05/01/1981-05/05/1981 (Binder) (4)
OPEN	Visit of Secretary Haig to Rome and Brussels 05/01/1981-05/05/1981 (Binder) (5)
OPEN	Visit of Secretary Haig to Rome and Brussels 05/01/1981-05/05/1981 (Binder) (6)
OPEN	Visit of Secretary Haig to Rome and Brussels 05/01/1981-05/05/1981 (Binder) (7)
OPEN	[Visit of FRG Chancellor] Helmut Schmidt 05/20/1981-05/23/1981 (1)
OPEN	[Visit of FRG Chancellor] Helmut Schmidt 05/20/1981-05/23/1981 (2)
OPEN	[Visit of FRG Chancellor] Helmut Schmidt 05/20/1981-05/23/1981 (3)
OPEN	[Visit of FRG Chancellor] Helmut Schmidt 05/20/1981-05/23/1981 (4)
OPEN	[Visit of FRG Chancellor] Helmut Schmidt 05/20/1981-05/23/1981 (5)
OPEN	[Visit of FRG Chancellor] Helmut Schmidt 05/20/1981-05/23/1981 (6)
OPEN	Official Visit of FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt 05/20/1981-05/23/1981 (Binder) (1)
OPEN	Official Visit of FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt 05/20/1981-05/23/1981 (Binder) (2)
OPEN	Official Visit of FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt 05/20/1981-05/23/1981 (Binder) (3)
OPEN	Background Information from Briefing Book on Schmidt (JR) (Binder) (1)

Status	Title
OPEN	Background Information from Briefing Book on Schmidt (JR) (Binder) (2)
OPEN	Background Information from Briefing Book on Schmidt (JR) (Binder) (3)
OPEN	[EEC President] Gaston Thorn
OPEN	[Canadian Prime Minister] Trudeau 07/10/1981 11:30
OPEN	Visit of Prime Minister Trudeau (Binder)
OPEN	Visit of Spanish Foreign Minister Pedro Pérez-Llorca 09/09/1981 10:00 A.M.
OPEN	Visit of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain 10/12/1981-10/15/1981 (Binder)
OPEN	Mitterrand 10/18/1981-10/19/1981 (1)
OPEN	Mitterrand 10/18/1981-10/19/1981 (2)
OPEN	Mitterrand 10/18/1981-10/19/1981 (3)
OPEN	Visit of President and Mrs. Mitterrand of France 10/17/1981-10/19/1981 (Binder) (1)
OPEN	Visit of President and Mrs. Mitterrand of France 10/17/1981-10/19/1981 (Binder) (2)
OPEN	Visit of President and Mrs. Mitterrand of France 10/17/1981-10/19/1981 Rentschler (Binder) (1)
OPEN	Visit of President and Mrs. Mitterrand of France 10/17/1981-10/19/1981 Rentschler (Binder) (2)

**RAC Box 1 (Continued)**

Status	Title
OPEN	Visit of Italian Foreign Minister Colombo 02/12/1981 (Binder) (1)
OPEN	Visit of Italian Foreign Minister Colombo 02/12/1981 (Binder) (2)
OPEN	Thatcher's Visit 02/26/1981-02/28/1981 (Binder) (1)
OPEN	Thatcher's Visit 02/26/1981-02/28/1981 (Binder) (2)
OPEN	Thatcher's Visit 02/26/1981-02/28/1981 (Binder) (3)
OPEN	Thatcher's Visit 02/26/1981-02/28/1981 (Binder) (4)
OPEN	Genscher [Visit] (1)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Genscher [Visit] (2)
OPEN	Visit of FRG Foreign Minister Genscher 03/09/1981-03/10/1981 VP Staff (Binder) (1)
OPEN	Visit of FRG Foreign Minister Genscher 03/09/1981-03/10/1981 VP Staff (Binder) (2)
OPEN	Canada Visit - 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (1)
OPEN	Canada Visit - 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (2)
OPEN	Canada Visit - 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (3)
OPEN	Canada Visit - 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (4)
OPEN	Canada Visit - 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (5)

## **SERIES II: TRIP FILE**

### **RAC Box 1 (Continued)**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	President Reagan's Trip to Canada 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (Binder) (1)
OPEN	President Reagan's Trip to Canada 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (Binder) (2)
OPEN	President Reagan's Trip to Canada 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (Binder) (3)
OPEN	President Reagan's Trip to Canada 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (Binder) (4)
OPEN	President Reagan's Trip to Canada 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (Binder) (5)
OPEN	President Reagan's Trip to Canada 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (Binder) (6)
OPEN	President Reagan's Trip to Canada 03/10/1981-03/11/1981 (Binder) (7)
OPEN	Ottawa Summit 07/20/1981-07/21/1981
OPEN	Ottawa Summit II [07/20/1981-07/21/1981] (1)
OPEN	Ottawa Summit II [07/20/1981-07/21/1981] (2)
OPEN	Ottawa Summit II [07/20/1981-07/21/1981] (3)
OPEN	Ottawa Summit II [07/20/1981-07/21/1981] (4)
OPEN	Ottawa Summit II [07/20/1981-07/21/1981] (5)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Ottawa Summit II [07/20/1981-07/21/1981] (6)
OPEN	President's Meeting with Jamaican Prime Minister Seaga 01/28/1981 (Binder)
OPEN	President's Trip to Grand Rapids - Meetings with Giscard [d'Estaing] & López-Portillo 09/17/1981-09/18/1981