



Clark, William P.: Files, 1982-1983

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, February 10, 1982-November 17, 1983

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

Biography

William Patrick Clark was born in Oxnard, California on October 23, 1931. He was a fourth generation Californian, whose father, grandfather and great-grandfather were law enforcement officers.

Clark graduated from Villanova Preparatory School near Ojai, California. He enrolled at Stanford University, but left after a year to study for the Roman Catholic priesthood at a seminary in New York. Within a few months, Clark decided that the priesthood was not for him.

Clark returned briefly to Stanford, then attended the University of Santa Clara for two years. Clark was drafted into the Army in 1953, and served two years in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps in West Germany. Returning to the United States, he attended Loyola Night Law School from 1956 to 1958 while working as an insurance adjuster. He left law school before finishing, but continued to study law on his own. Clark was admitted to the California Bar in 1959. From 1959 to 1969, he was a senior partner with the Oxnard-based law firm Clark, Cole and Fairfield.

Clark's political activity began as the Ventura County chairman for Ronald Reagan's 1966 gubernatorial campaign. He became the head of the Reagan gubernatorial transition staff after Reagan won the election. Clark was Governor Reagan's Cabinet Secretary until August 1967, when Reagan named him his new Chief of Staff. In 1969, Reagan appointed Clark a judge on the Superior Court in San Luis Obispo County. Clark was appointed to the state Court of Appeals in 1971, and the California Supreme Court in 1973.

Judge Clark joined the Reagan Administration in March 1981 as Deputy Secretary of State. In February 1982, Reagan appointed him Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. Clark held this position until November 1983, when he replaced the controversial James Watt as Secretary of the Interior. Clark resigned as Interior Secretary on February 7, 1985.

Clark's work as a presidential advisor extended beyond his Administration positions. After leaving the NSC, he continued carrying out foreign trips and meetings, as an informal representative of the President. He served as chairman of the Task Group on Nuclear Weapons Program Management, as a member of the Commission on Defense Management (Packard Commission), and as a member of the Defense Department's Commission on Integrated Long-Term Strategy. Domestically, he represented Reagan as a presidential emissary to the chairmen of the Navajo and

Hopi tribes.

From 1985 to 1997, Mr. Clark was a director of Pacific Telesis Group. He later served as a director of SBC, a director of the New Ireland Fund, Inc., and a member of the Corporate Development Committee and the Corporate Public Policy and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Mr. Clark was chief executive officer of Clark Company, and senior counsel to the San Luis Obispo law firm Clark, Cali and Negranti. He was a counselor to the standing committee on law and national security of the American Bar Association, director of the Museum of Flying, Santa Monica, California, and chairman, USA-ROC (Taiwan) Business Council.

Mr. Clark passed away at his ranch near Shandon, California on August 10, 2013.

Scope and Content Note

The William Clark collection is not particularly deep in terms of the actions and issues occurring during his time as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. This is due to the nature of the filing system maintained at the National Security Council during the first Reagan administration. For comprehensive coverage of Judge Clark's actions during his time with the National Security Council, researchers are advised to use the NSC Executive Secretariat filing groups such as the Subject File, the Country File, etc., and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Chronological File.

Major foreign security issues happening during Judge Clark's time at the White House include: the death of Soviet General Secretary Brezhnev and his replacement by Andropov; the resignation of Alexander Haig as Secretary of State and the appointment of George Shultz to the post; the creation of the Multi-National Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon, the bombing of the Marine barracks in Lebanon, the invasion of Grenada, two G-7 Economic Summits in Versailles, France and Williamsburg, Virginia; ongoing Central American issues involving Nicaragua, El Salvador; and the Contras; the Falklands War; continuing arms control (INF) talks with the Soviets; growing anti-nuclear movements in Europe and the United States; and the Soviet shootdown of Korean Air Flight 007, killing all passengers on board.

The William Clark collection consists of memos, schedules, correspondence, briefing papers, and cables. It includes materials not only from his service as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, but also some of his work while serving as Deputy Secretary of State and Secretary of Interior. Given the brevity of the material, the Library has not designated any separate series, but considers the entire collection a “subject file.” The material is arranged in alphabetical order by topic and then chronologically.

Series List

Container List

Last Modified Date

2024-02-26

Container List

Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN	Africa
OPEN	Berlin-May 1984 [1982-1983]
OPEN	Berlin-May 1984 [February 1984-March 1984]
OPEN	Berlin-May 1984
OPEN	Bishops' Letter: War and Peace [November 1982-February 1983]
OPEN	Bishops' Letter: War and Peace [March 1983-July 1983]
OPEN	Budget Crisis Advertisement: 02/25/1983 Letter to the 500/Bipartisan Appeal
OPEN	Casey, William to William Clark for Talking Points Re Kirkpatrick [January 1985]
OPEN	Central America 1982
OPEN	Central America January 1983
OPEN	Central America February 1983 (1)(2)
OPEN	Central America April 1983-June 1983
OPEN	Central America, July 1983-November 1983
OPEN	Central America 1984

Status	Title
OPEN	Central American Commission 07/08/1983-07/14/1983
OPEN	Central American Commission 07/15/1983-08/08/1983
OPEN	Central American Commission [Report of the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America, January 1984] (1)-(3)

Box 2

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OPEN	Central American Speech 04/25/1983
OPEN	Central American Speech 04/26/1983 (1)(2)
OPEN	Central American Speech 04/27/1983-05/21/1983
OPEN	Chemical Warfare
OPEN	China
OPEN	[Core Staff Review Group, January 1985]
OPEN	Cuba 01/09/1982-01/12/1982
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OPEN	Cuba February 1982-August 1982
OPEN	[Econ: Classified Cover Sheet Taped to Outside of Empty and Untitled Folder]
OPEN	[Exercise Briefing and Documentation, April 1984] (Binder) (1)-(6)
OPEN	[Exercise Report, June 1984] (1)(2)
OPEN	Fairness Issues: A Briefing Book on Individual Programs and General Perspectives, 06/01/1982 (Binder) (1)(2)

Box 3

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Falklands War (UN/Kirkpatrick/Haig) 05/13/1982-06/04/1982</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Falklands War (UN/Kirkpatrick/Haig) 06/05/1982</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Falklands War (UN/Kirkpatrick/Haig) 06/06/1982-11/04/1982</u>
OPEN	Grenada
OPEN	Haig/Gromyko Meetings 09/23/1981 and 09/28/1981

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OPEN	Haig/Gromyko Meetings 01/26/1982 10:00am
OPEN	Haig/Gromyko Meetings 01/26/1982 2:00pm
OPEN	Haig/Gromyko Meetings 06/18/1982-06/19/1982
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Haig/Weinberger/Clark (Complaints)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Haig's Resignation-Classified Documents
OPEN	[India]
OPEN	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF): Nitze Meeting "Walk in the Woods" 07/29/1982-07/31/1982
OPEN	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF): Nitze Meeting "Walk in the Woods" August 1982
OPEN	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF): Nitze Meeting "Walk in the Woods" September 1982-October 1982
OPEN	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF): Nitze Meeting "Walk in the Woods" 02/12/1983 Munich
OPEN	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF): Nitze Meeting "Walk in The Woods" 02/21/1983
OPEN	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF): Nitze Meeting "Walk in the Woods" 03/09/1983-08/01/1983
OPEN	Ireland
OPEN / DIGITIZED	KAL 007-Shutdown [09/01/1983-09/03/1983]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	KAL 007-Shutdown [09/04/1983-09/08/1983]
OPEN	Law of the Sea (1)-(3)

Box 4

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OPEN	Lebanon
OPEN	Lebanon: Middle East
OPEN	Lenczowski, John Memos
OPEN	Letters (Classified) April 1982-March 1983
OPEN	Letters (Classified) May 1983
OPEN	[Mission to Europe]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Mitterrand/Clark-6:30pm 10/27/1982: I. Background
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Mitterrand/Clark-6:30pm 10/27/1982: II. Background (1)

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Miterrand/Clark-6:30pm 10/27/1982: II. Background (2)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Miterrand/Clark-6:30pm 10/27/1982: II. Background (3)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Miterrand/Clark-6:30pm 10/27/1982: II. Background (4)</u>
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OPEN	[Nicaragua, US Policy In] Central America (1)-(3)

Box 5

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OPEN	Oil Market Situation 1984 (1)-(3)
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OPEN	Suriname Material (Binder): Brazil and Venezuela
OPEN	Suriname Material (Binder): Background
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OPEN	[Suriname "Miscellaneous" Items 04/09/1983-05/31/1983]
OPEN	[Suriname "Miscellaneous" Items June 1983-July 1983]
OPEN	[Suriname Situation Room Notes and Checklists, 04/13/1983-05/31/1983]
OPEN	[Suriname Situation Room Notes and Checklists, 06/02/1983-10/06/1983]
OPEN	Taiwan [Arms Sales] 01/06/1982-01/09/1982
OPEN	Taiwan [Arms Sales] 01/10/1982-01/14/1982

Box 7

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OPEN / DIGITIZED	Trip, President's European: June 1982 Paris, Versailles, Bonn, Berlin, London (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Trip to Europe - Presidential Speeches (Binder) (1)
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OPEN	Trip, President's China 04/22/1984-05/02/1984 (Binder) (1)-(3)

Status	Title
OPEN	Trip, Vienna May 1984 (1)(2)
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OPEN / DIGITIZED	Trip to Europe, President's: Ireland, United Kingdom, and Normandy 06/01/1984- 06/10/1984 (2)

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OPEN / DIGITIZED	Trip to Europe, President's: London Economic Summit 06/07/1984-06/09/1984 (Binder) (4)

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>US-Soviet Relations Papers Working File: Contains Originals (1)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>US-Soviet Relations Papers Working File: Contains Originals (2)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>US-Soviet Relations Papers Working File: Contains Originals (3)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>US-Soviet Relations Papers Working File: Contains Originals (4)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>US-Soviet Relations Papers Working File: Contains Originals (5)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>US-Soviet Relations Papers Working File: Contains Originals (6)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>US-Soviet Relations Papers Working File: Contains Originals (7)</u>

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Status	Title
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Status**Title**

OPEN

Vatican: Establishing Diplomatic Relations

OPEN

Weekly Update for the President, 12/21/1981 (Binder)