

Loy W. Henderson Papers

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Washington, D.C.

1992

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Revised and expanded by Michael Spangler

Collection Summary

Title: Loy W. Henderson Papers

Span Dates: 1918-1984

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1938-1957)

ID No.: MSS53314

Creator: Henderson, Loy W. (Loy Wesley), 1892-1986

Extent: 8,250 items ; 29 containers plus 1 oversize ; 12 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Diplomat; later professor of international relations, American University, Washington, D.C. Correspondence, memoir, speeches and writings, academic and subject files, engagement books, scrapbook, photographs, and miscellany pertaining primarily to Henderson's diplomatic career.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Bohlen, Charles E. (Charles Eustis), 1904-1974.

Bullitt, William C. (William Christian), 1891-1967.

Davies, Joseph Edward.

Henderson, Loy W. (Loy Wesley), 1892-1986.

Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955.

Kellogg, Frank B. (Frank Billings), 1856-1937.

Kennan, George F. (George Frost), 1904-2005.

Messersmith, George S. (George Strausser), 1883-1960--Correspondence.

Stalin, Joseph, 1879-1953.

Steinhardt, Laurence A. (Laurence Adolph), 1892-1950--Correspondence.

Steinhardt, Laurence A. (Laurence Adolph), 1892-1950.

Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950.

Welles, Sumner, 1892-1961.

Wiley, John C. (John Cooper), 1893-1967--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Red Cross.

American University (Washington, D.C.)--Faculty.

Germany. Treaties, etc. Soviet Union, 1939 August 23.

United States. Department of State.

United States. Foreign Service Act of 1924.

Subjects

Collectivization of agriculture--Soviet Union.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Baltic States.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--India.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Iran.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Iraq.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Soviet Union.

Diplomatic and consular service, American.

Humanitarian assistance.

Russo-Finnish War, 1939-1940.

Places

Baltic--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

Germany--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.
India--Foreign relations--United States.
Iran--Foreign relations--United States.
Iraq--Foreign relations--United States.
Israel--History--1948-1967.
Palestine--History--Partition, 1947.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--Baltic States.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--Germany.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Baltic States.
United States--Foreign relations--India.
United States--Foreign relations--Iran.
United States--Foreign relations--Iraq.
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

Occupations

Diplomats.
Educators.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Loy W. Henderson, career diplomat and professor, were given to the Library of Congress by Henderson in 1981. Additional materials were received from his estate in 1987.

Processing History

The papers of Loy W. Henderson were arranged and described in 1983. Additional material received in 1987 was incorporated into the collection in 1992.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Most photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Most maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Loy W. Henderson Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Loy W. Henderson in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Loy W. Henderson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Loy W. Henderson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1892, June 28	Born, Rogers, Ark.

1915	A.B. degree, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.
1917-1918	Student, University of Denver Law School, Denver, Colo.
1919	Member of Inter-Allied Commission to Germany for repatriation of prisoners of war
1919-1921	Member of American Red Cross Commission to Europe
1922	Entered foreign service as vice consul in Dublin, Ireland
1925	Division of East European Affairs, Department of State
1927	Third secretary of legation, Baltic States
1930	Division of East European Affairs Married Elise Marie Heinrichson
1934	Second secretary of embassy, Moscow, U.S.S.R.
1942	Inspector, diplomatic missions and consular office, Department of State
1943	Ambassador to Iraq
1945	Director, Near Eastern and African Affairs, Department of State
1948	Ambassador to India and Nepal
1951	Ambassador to Iran
1955	Deputy under secretary of state for administration
1956	Delegate to Baghdad Pact, Iran
1957	Chief of mission to arrange new establishments in Africa, Department of State
1960	Retired
1961-1968	Professor, international relations, American University, Washington, D.C.
1986	Memoirs published, <i>A Question of Trust</i> , edited by George W. Baer (Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.: Hoover Institution Press. 579 pp.)
1986, March 24	Died, Bethesda, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Loy Wesley Henderson (1892-1986) trace his brief time with the American Red Cross, his long career in the foreign service, and a brief academic career. Relatively little of his personal life is documented outside of the drafts of his memoirs. Although the papers span the years 1918-1984, they are concentrated in the period of the late 1930s to the late 1950s.

Included in the collection are [correspondence](#), [subject files](#), [speeches and writings](#), [academic papers](#), engagement books, and a manuscript of Henderson's extensive memoir detailing his early life, education, and career up to 1942. His professional life in the foreign service was divided between assignments in Washington, D.C., and overseas posts. The memoir comments on the background and implementation of the Rogers Act (Foreign Service Act of 1924), which combined the diplomatic and consular services. Problems in the Baltic states in the late 1920s and early 1930s resulting from Soviet threats to their independence are also discussed. Treated as well are American-Soviet negotiations leading up to the recognition of the Soviet Union in 1933, plus the many difficulties encountered in establishing and operating the American embassy in Moscow.

A highlight of Henderson's career was his service in Moscow (1934-1938) under William C. Bullitt, the first American ambassador to the Soviet Union, and Bullitt's successor, Joseph Edward Davies. Throughout the memoirs Henderson notes his impressions of major figures in American diplomacy during the period between the wars, including William C. Bullitt, Joseph Edward Davies, Cordell Hull, Frank B. Kellogg, Laurence A. Steinhardt, Henry L. Stimson, and Sumner Welles. Others whose careers were just beginning are also mentioned, such as Charles Bohlen, George F. Kennan, George Messersmith, and John C. Wiley.

The [Correspondence](#) series includes significant correspondence with George S. Messersmith, Laurence A. Steinhardt, and John C. Wiley. For the years 1939-1941, letters from Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt in Moscow and John C. Wiley, Minister to the Baltic states, are mostly personal rather than official correspondence to Henderson, at that time assistant chief of the European Division. Both Steinhardt and Wiley record in some detail the internal problems of their posts, their difficulties in dealing with the Soviets, and observations on the Russo-Finnish War and the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact. They also speculate about future actions of the Soviet Union, Germany, and Japan.

Other correspondence is from scholars writing Henderson about events in his career. He was fastidious in answering these queries, and the responses in the [Subject Files](#) or the [Correspondence](#) series supplement his memoirs.

The [Subject Files](#) cover the breadth of his career. Although the files are not extensive, those on the Soviet Union, Israel, Palestine, and Near Eastern, African, and South Asian affairs are the most substantive.

[Speeches and writings](#) document various periods of Henderson's career. Dispatches from the American legation in Riga, Latvia, in 1930, the originals of which are in the National Archives, analyze Josef Stalin's collectivization of Soviet agriculture. Also in the file is Henderson's brief summary of his foreign service assignments from 1922 to 1961, part of which treats his tenure as ambassador to Iran from 1951 to 1954.

The [Academic File](#) consists of correspondence, course outlines and notes, reports, and student papers related to his teaching at American University. Biographical information, engagement books, oral history transcripts, and awards comprise the [Miscellany series](#).

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [Correspondence, 1938-1974](#)
- [Subject File, 1918-1981](#)
- [Academic File, 1961-1968](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984](#)
- [Miscellany, 1950-1973](#)
- [Oversize, 1922-1982](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-5	<p><u>Correspondence, 1938-1974</u></p> <p>Letters received and copies of letters sent, including telegrams, memoranda, and miscellaneous attachments.</p> <p>Organized in two categories: special correspondence, including high-level State Department officials, secretaries of state, and presidents arranged alphabetically by name or office; and general correspondence, including routine letters from friends and acquaintances, arranged alphabetically by name or topic.</p>
BOX 5-16	<p><u>Subject File, 1918-1981</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, and reports.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 16-18	<p><u>Academic File, 1961-1968</u></p> <p>Correspondence, administrative papers, and student papers accumulated by Henderson while director of the Center for the Study of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at American University.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.</p>
BOX 18-22	<p><u>Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984</u></p> <p>Draft of unpublished memoirs, copies of drafts of dispatches, and manuscripts of articles and speeches.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 23-29	<p><u>Miscellany, 1950-1973</u></p> <p>Biographical material, awards and honors, engagement books, oral history transcripts, clippings, photographs and a scrapbook.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically or alphabetically.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><u>Oversize, 1922-1982</u></p> <p>Certificates.</p>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-5	Correspondence, 1938-1974 Letters received and copies of letters sent, including telegrams, memoranda, and miscellaneous attachments. Organized in two categories: special correspondence, including high-level State Department officials, secretaries of state, and presidents arranged alphabetically by name or office; and general correspondence, including routine letters from friends and acquaintances, arranged alphabetically by name or topic.
BOX 1	Special Benton, William, 1969-1973 Haig, Alexander M., Jr., 1974 Harper, Samuel, 1939-1943 Messersmith, George S., 1938 Steinhardt, Laurence, 1939-1941 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Wiley, John C., 1938-1961 Presidents of United States, 1938-1961 Secretaries of state, 1957-1969 General A-L (9 folders)
BOX 3	M-Z (9 folders) Congratulations 1954
BOX 4	1954-1958 (3 folders) Retirement, 1961 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Death of former colleagues and friends
BOX 5-16	Subject File, 1918-1981 Correspondence, memoranda, and reports. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 5	American Red Cross Correspondence, 1919-1924 Instructions, 1918-1921 Miscellany, 1919-1975 Travel documents, 1918-1921 Work in Europe (2 folders)

Subject File, 1918-1981

Container

Contents

	Africa trip, 1960 (2 folders)
BOX 6	(1 folder) Baghdad Pact, 1956-1957 Baltic States, 1928-1976 (2 folders) Bullitt, William C., 1936-1938 Communism
BOX 7	Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C. Delta Tau Delta Foreign service Appointments Blacks in foreign service, 1975 Cemetery Changes Conferences Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa., 1963 San Salvador, 1959 Congressional comments Correspondence, 1962-1963 Dawson, H. G., Jr. <i>See same Container, Blacks in foreign service</i> Draft report, 1961 Entry into, 1921-1922
BOX 8	Printed material Greece (2 folders) India Appointment to position, 1948 Exchanges with Indian officers, 1949-1950 Ismail, Mirza, 1950-1951 Miscellany (2 folders)
BOX 9	Nehru, Jawaharlal, 1965-1967 Social and ceremonial, 1949-1950 (2 folders)
	Iran Background Correspondence, 1954-1978 Colleagues Congratulations and condolence Personal Henderson, Elise (Mrs. Loy) Miscellany (1 folder)
BOX 10	(2 folders) Trips, 1953-1954 Zahedi, Ardeshir, 1962-1974

Subject File, 1918-1981

Container

Contents

	Iraq
	Correspondence, 1943-1968
	Miscellany
	Social and ceremonial
BOX 11	Israel-Palestine
	Adler, Frank J., 1975-1976
	Correspondence, 1947-1977
	Lilienthal, Alfred, 1969-1977
	Papers/lectures
	Podet, Allen, 1976-1981
	Printed material
BOX 12	Wilson, Evan, 1976
	Margolin, Arnold D., 1943-1945
	Middle East oil, 1943
	Near Eastern, African, and South Asian affairs, 1945-1948
	Administrative
	Substantive
	General
	Miscellaneous
BOX 13	Nepal, King Mahendra's visit to Washington, 1960
	Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., 1951-1961
	Pakistan, 1951
	Shigemitsu, Mamoru (Japan), 1937-1950
	Turkey, 1946
	USSR
	American-Russian Institute, 1940-1943
	Arrests, trials, cases, 1938-1939
	Baltic States, problems, 1939-1940
	Collective farms, report, 1930
	Constitution
	Control of distribution of labor
BOX 14	Diplomatic lists
	(2 folders)
	Eastern Europe, 1939-1943
	Embassy and consular office staff
	Establishment of relations, 1933
	German-Soviet relations, 1939
	Great Purge, 1935-1939
BOX 15	Historical treatment of ambassadors in Russia
	Oumansky, Constantine A., 1939
	Post-retirement papers, 1961-1977
	Telegrams and dispatches list, 1934-1938
	Trips
	Krasnoyarsk and Igarka, 1938
	Siberia, 1938
BOX 16	United States citizens, problems, 1938-1941

Subject File, 1918-1981

Container

Contents

United States personnel, 1939-1943
United States-USSR relations, report on first three years after diplomatic recognition, 1936
United States-USSR trade, 1939
Zinoviev-Kamenev trial, 1936
Wagner College, St. George, Staten Island, N.Y.
Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs, Washington, D.C., 1974-1978

BOX 16-18

Academic File, 1961-1968

Correspondence, administrative papers, and student papers accumulated by Henderson while director of the Center for the Study of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at American University.
Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

BOX 16

Correspondence, 1961-1968
Problems in diplomacy

BOX 17

Program reports, 1963-1964
(2 folders)
Scholarship applications, 1962-1963
Seminars, 1963-1965

BOX 18

(1 folder)
Student papers
Zambian students, 1963-1964

BOX 18-22

Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984

Draft of unpublished memoirs, copies of drafts of dispatches, and manuscripts of articles and speeches.
Arranged by type of material.

BOX 18

Articles
(2 folders)

BOX 19

Writings
Memoirs

BOX 20

(5 folders)
(4 folders)
Summary of foreign service career, 1984

BOX 21

Dispatches from Latvia, 1930
(6 folders)

BOX 22

Speeches, 1945-1967, undated
(4 folders)

BOX 23-29

Miscellany, 1950-1973

Biographical material, awards and honors, engagement books, oral history transcripts, clippings, photographs and a scrapbook.
Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically or alphabetically.

BOX 23

Biographical data
Comments about Henderson
Awards

Miscellany, 1950-1973

Container

Contents

	Certificates <i>See also Oversize</i>
	Honorary degrees
	Honors
	Engagement books
	1950, 1952
	(2 folders)
BOX 24	1953-1956
	(4 folders)
BOX 25	1956-1958
	(4 folders)
BOX 26	1958-1961
	(5 folders)
BOX 27	1967-1968
	Oral history interviews with Henderson (transcripts)
	By Columbia University, New York, N.Y., 1970
	By Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, Mo., 1973
	(2 folders)
BOX 28	Printed material
	Clippings
	Pamphlets
	Poland, Katyn Forest Massacre
	Reports
BOX 29	Photographs
	(6 folders)
	Scrapbook of visit to India, 1950
	(2 folders)
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1922-1982
	Certificates.
BOX OV 1	Certificates, 1922-1982, undated (Container 23)