

WOLFGANG J. LEHMANN PAPERS, 1973-79 (2002)

Collection Type

Federal Records

Extent

0.7 linear feet (ca.1350 pages)

Record Type

Textual

Access

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Processed by

William McNitt, March 2000

Biography

Wolfgang J. Lehmann

September 18, 1921 - Born in Berlin, Germany

1934 - His family emigrated to the United States and settled in New Rochelle, NY. He later attended Haverford College in Pennsylvania.

1942-1947 - Major, U.S. Army. He served with the Fifth Army in Italy and subsequently with occupation forces in Austria.

1951 - He entered the Foreign Service and was assigned as a political officer to the American Embassy in Austria.

1953-1957 - He supervised implementation of the U.S. Refugee Relief Program from assignments at embassies and U.S. Missions in Rome, Geneva, and Vienna.

1957 - Appointed Public Affairs Advisor, Office for NATO and European Regional Affairs, Department of State.

1962-1964 - Political Officer, U.S. Mission to the European Communities, Brussels.

1964-1968 - Following senior training at the U.S. Army War College, he served as an Assistant for European Affairs in the Department of Defense.

1968 - He returned to the Department of State as Director of the Office of Atomic Energy and Aerospace

1970-1973 - Political Advisor, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany

1973-1974 - U.S. Consul General and senior U.S. official in Can Tho, Military Region IV, South Vietnam

1974-1975 - U.S. Minister to South Vietnam and Deputy Chief of Mission

1975-1979 - U.S. Consul General, Frankfurt, Germany

1980-1983 - Senior advisor to Director of Central Intelligence, Washington, DC

1983 - Retired from the Foreign Service and became an independent international affairs consultant

Scope and Content Note

Wolfgang Lehmann had a long and distinguished career in the Foreign Service, but this collection focuses narrowly on the time he spent in South Vietnam (1973-1975), especially the closing months of the Vietnam War and the evacuation from Saigon in April 1975. During his last year in South Vietnam, Lehmann served as the deputy to Ambassador Graham Martin.

The collection does not contain Lehmann's official files. Instead, it consists of materials created by or collected by Lehmann concerning the events in which he was involved. Most date from after the fall of Saigon, although one folder of declassified State Department cables concerns some aspects of the work of Martin and Lehmann, August 1974 to April 1975. In addition, the collection contains some maps, newspapers, and photographs from that period.

Two key documents are the transcripts of Lehmann's oral history interviews. His 1989 interview concerns events from the entire time Lehmann served in Vietnam, while the 1982 interview focuses specifically on the last few weeks of the war and the final evacuation.

After leaving Vietnam, Lehmann delivered speeches and wrote "historical perspectives," letters to the editor, op-ed pieces, and book reviews concerning events of that era. These are included in his collection, along with materials he collected about the evacuation. The latter documents were written by others directly involved in the same events.

Related Materials (June 2012)

The most important related Ford Library collection is the one titled "Saigon Embassy Files Kept by Ambassador Graham Martin: Copies made for the NSC." Other materials on the closing weeks of the Vietnam War and the final evacuation appear in many Ford Library collections, especially the files of the NSC East Asian and Pacific Affairs Staff and the Presidential Country Files for East Asia and the Pacific.

Last Modified Date

2024-05-09

Subject File, 1973-79 (2002).

(Boxes 1-2, 0.7 linear feet)

Oral history transcripts, correspondence, memoranda, speeches, testimony, State Department cables, publications, maps, newspapers, photographs, and clippings. The materials focus on Lehmann's service in the American embassy in Saigon and the last two years of the Vietnam War, especially the final evacuation from Saigon in April 1975. Arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically thereunder.

Box 1 - Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Anti-War "Agit-Prop" Kits
OPEN	Cavelty, Betsy - Letter re Max Loudenslager and Southeast Asia MIAs/POWs
OPEN	Declassified Documents Written By Graham Martin, Henry Kissinger, and Lehmann, 1974-1975
OPEN	Hummel, Arthur - Statement before House Special Committee on Investigations, September 28, 1976
OPEN	Kissinger, Henry - Testimony on U.S. Aid to Hanoi before House Committee on International Relations, July 19, 1977
OPEN	Lehmann - Draft Letter on Situation in Vietnam to Senator Mathias, March 1975
OPEN	Lehmann - Letters to Editor, Op-Ed Pieces, Book Reviews, and Articles, 1982-1999
OPEN	Lehmann - Oral History - Army Military History Institute, 1982
OPEN	Lehmann - Oral History - Foreign Affairs Oral History Program, 1989
OPEN	Lehmann - "Richard Nixon - A Vietnam Retrospective"
OPEN	Lehmann - Speech Draft, Undated
OPEN	Lehmann - Speech "Vietnam - The Last Two Years, " March 8, 1977
OPEN	Martin, Graham - Testimony on Vietnam Evacuation before the House Committee on International Relations, January 27, 1976

Status	Title
OPEN	Memoir "Great Spring Victory" by North Vietnam General Van Tien Dung
OPEN	News Clippings, 1975-1994
OPEN	Saigon Maps and Newspapers (Transferred to Oversize File)
OPEN	U.S. Diplomatic Mission to Vietnam - Organizational Charts
OPEN	U.S. Diplomatic Mission to Vietnam - Telephone Directory, October 1974
OPEN	Vietnam - Chronologies, 1974-1975

Box 2 - Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - Evacuation
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - Claims by Former Embassy Employees, 1976-1979
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - Defense Attaché Office Reports (1)-(2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Vietnam (Continued) - Embassy Emergency Evacuation Plan
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - "Fall of Saigon - A Historical Perspective" by Lehmann
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - Follow-up Documents, 1975-1994
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - Kissinger Press Conference, April 29, 1975
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - Lehmann Memoranda for the Record
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - Pleiku Province
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - "Potomac" Magazine Article on Refugees, June 8, 1975
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - Recommended Awards for Embassy and Agency Staff (1)-(2)
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - Statistics on Persons Evacuated

Status	Title
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - "The Final Forty-Five Days in Vietnam" by Homer D. Smith, Defense Attaché
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - Lehmann Photograph Album, 1973-1975 (Transferred to AV Collection)
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - Letters from House Speaker and Senate President to American Leaders, March 1975
OPEN	Vietnam (Continued) - MASF Program, 1975

Box 2 - Accretions

Status	Title
OPEN	Scrapbook photocopies
OPEN	Remarks at Texas Tech, 2002 (Acc. 2002-NLF-034)
OPEN	Graham Martin Miscellaneous