

DALE VAN ATTA PAPERS, 1968-78

Collection Type

Federal Records

Extent

6.3 linear feet (ca. 8,300 pages)

Record Type

Textual

Access

Open. Some items are temporarily restricted under terms of the donor's deed of gift, a copy of which is available on request, or under National Archives and Records Administration general restrictions (36 CFR 1256).

Copyright

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Processed by

Donna Lehman, December 2004; Revised by Mark Fischer, June - July 2012

Biography

Dale Van Atta

c. 1952 - Born (location unknown), and currently resides in Ashburn, VA

1975 - B.A. in Journalism from Brigham Young University, where he was Editor-in-Chief and columnist of the Daily Universe

1979-1986 - Co-columnist at Washington Merry-Go-Round, a nationally syndicated column with Jack Anderson appearing in the Washington Post and more than 900 other newspapers, and also included television commentary and reports, radio and magazine work primarily for Parade magazine

1984-2006 - Contributing Editor at Reader's Digest, where he wrote assigned articles through their Washington, D.C. office

1985 - President, WMGR, Inc. Freelance writer, professional speaker, television documentary contributor, and talk show guest

2005 - President/Author, Paragon Biographies, a company that privately contracts with individuals interested in leaving a written legacy about themselves or a loved one

2008 - Author, *With Honor - Melvin Laird in War, Peace, and Politics*

Scope and Content Note

Dale Van Atta is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist whose work has appeared in newspapers and magazines nationwide, including *Reader's Digest* where he was a contributing editor, as well as *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Harper's*, *the Washingtonian*, and many others. He is co-author, with Jack Anderson, of *The New York Times* best-selling biography *Stormin' Norman: An American Hero* (1991), and the author of two other books, *Trust Betrayed: Inside the AARP* (1998) and *With Honor - Melvin Laird in War, Peace, and Politics* (2008). Van Atta has also appeared as a guest on several radio and television talk shows and is an accomplished national and international lecturer.

Scope and Content

This collection contains documents acquired by journalists Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta during their tenure as columnists for the *Washington Post*. It is comprised of various documents from intelligence agencies within the Federal government and represented one of the largest leaks of classified material at that time. In October 2000, as Van Atta was working on his biography of former Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, he decided to donate the materials to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he had conducted research for his book.

The photocopied documents are arranged chronologically with an almost complete set of National Security Decision Memoranda (NSDMs), 1969-1975, in the first three boxes, the majority of them from the Nixon Administration. They include topics such as Vietnam and Southeast Asia policy, SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks), Panama Canal Treaty negotiations, and various dealings with the People's Republic of China. NSDMs from the Ford Administration include topics such as military assistance for Israel, Peaceful Nuclear Explosion negotiations in Moscow, and SALT and MBFR (Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions) talks with the Soviet Union. NSDMs declassified in full or in part for both the Nixon and Ford Administrations are posted on their respective websites (www.nixonlibrary.gov and www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov).

The remaining fourteen boxes contain a chronological series of intelligence documents mostly from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and Department of State (DOS). CIA documents include the National Intelligence Daily, the United States Intelligence Board - National Intelligence Bulletin, Staff Notes, the Weekly Review, the Weekly Surveyor, and the Morning Summary. DIA documents include several Intelligence Appraisals. DOS documents include Current Foreign Relations, various telegrams, and documents issued by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

The subject content of these documents is quite diverse. The more prominent topics include unrest in the Middle East involving Egypt and Israel, but also Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. There are several documents that deal with civil unrest in southern Africa, particularly in Angola, which was under Portuguese colonial rule until late 1975. This includes material that pertains to warring factions such as the

communist-backed (including Cuban troops) Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), led by Jonas Savimbi. There is also considerable material on unrest between Morocco, Mauritania, and Spain over the Spanish Sahara during the November 1975 Green March. In addition, several of the CIA Staff Notes exclusively deal with Chinese Affairs and the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Many of the various documents also involve political unrest in Portugal and the rise of the Portuguese Communist Party, Indonesia's invasion of Portuguese Timor, and civil unrest between Greece and Turkey over the Cyprus issue and U.S. troops stationed on bases in Turkey.

Related Materials(June 2012)

Due to the volume and wide-ranging nature of the foreign affairs documents from the various intelligence agencies that comprise the Dale Van Atta Papers, there are several subcollections within the National Security Adviser's Files that are compatible to the Van Atta collection. They include:

- Kissinger Reports on USSR, China, and Middle East Discussions
- Memoranda of Conversations
- NSC East Asia and Pacific Affairs Staff: Files
- NSC Latin American Affairs Staff: Files
- NSC Meeting Minutes
- National Security Study Memoranda and Decision Memoranda
- "Outside the System" Chronological Files
- Presidential Correspondence with Foreign Leaders
- Presidential Country Files for Africa
- Presidential Country Files for East Asia and the Pacific
- Presidential Country Files for Europe and Canada
- Presidential Country Files for Latin America
- Presidential Country Files for Middle East and South Asia
- Trip Briefing Books and Cables of Henry Kissinger
- Trip Briefing Books and Cables of President Ford
- Trip Cables of Brent Scowcroft

Last Modified Date

2024-04-09

National Security Council Planning Staff Journals, 1975-76.

(Box 1, less than 0.1 linear feet)

These two folders were placed at the beginning of the collection most likely due to their broad date ranges. Both folders contain limited material and the two journals that were included in these folders are daily compilations of various NSC activities.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1 - National Security Council Planning Staff Journals

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 10, 1975-May 4, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 14, 1975-May 20, 1976

Intelligence Chronological File, 1968-78.

(Boxes 1-16, 6.3 linear feet)

The materials are arranged in one continuous chronological sequence of folders, with the folders reflecting the dates of the documents; i.e. "Intelligence Documents, January 1-March 31, 1969." Many dates have multiple folders as indicated by (1)-(2), (1)-(3), etc. in the Container List that follows. Boxes 1-3 contain an almost complete numerical set of National Security Decision Memoranda from 1969-1975, while the remaining boxes contain the various types of intelligence documents from the Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, and Department of State as noted in the Summary Description on page 1.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1 (Continued) - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 1-December 31, 1968
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 1-March 31, 1969
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 1-June 30, 1969
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 1-September 30, 1969
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 1-December 31, 1969
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 1-February 28, 1970
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 1-April 30, 1970

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, May 1-June 30, 1970
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 1-31, 1970
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 1-31, 1970
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 1-October 31, 1970
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 1-December 31, 1970
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 1-March 31, 1971
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 1-May 31, 1971
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 1-30, 1971
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 1-15, 1971
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 16-20, 1971
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 21-31, 1971
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 1-31, 1971
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 1-30, 1971
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 1-November 30, 1971
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 1-31, 1971
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 1- February 29, 1972
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 1-April 30, 1972
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, May 1-June 30, 1972
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 1-19, 1972
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 20-31, 1972

Box 2 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 1-31, 1972
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 1-December 31, 1972
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 1-March 31, 1973
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 1973
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 1-May 31, 1973
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 1-30, 1973
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 1-September 30, 1973
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 1-December 31, 1973
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 1-February 28, 1974

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 1-April 30, 1974
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, May 1-31, 1974
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 1-30, 1974
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 1-31, 1974
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 1-September 30, 1974
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 1-31, 1974
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 1, 1974-January 31, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 1, 1975-March 31, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 1-30, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, May 1-15, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, May 16-31, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 1-3, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 4-5, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 6, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 7-10, 1975

Box 3 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 11, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 12-13, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 14-17, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 18, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 19-20, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 20-22, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 23-24, 1975
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Intelligence Documents, June 25, 1975</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Intelligence Documents, June 26-27, 1975</u>
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, June 28-July 3, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 4, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 5, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 6-10, 1975

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 11, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 11-15, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 16-17, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 18, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 19-22, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 23, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 24, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 25, 1975 (1)

Box 4 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 25, 1975 (2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 26-27, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 28, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 29, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 30, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, July 31, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 1, 1975 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 2-3, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 4, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 5, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 6, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 7, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 8, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 9-10, 1975

Box 5 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 11, 1975 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 12, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 13, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 14, 1975 (1)-(2)

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 15, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 16-17, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 18, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 19, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 20, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 21, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 22, 1975 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 23-24, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 25, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 26, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 27, 1975 (1)-(2)

Box 6 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 28, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 29, 1975 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 30-31, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 1-2, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 2, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 3, 1975 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 4, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 5, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 6-7, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 8, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 9, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 10, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 11, 1975 (1)-(3)

Box 7 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 12, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 13, 1975

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 14-15, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 15, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 16, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 17, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, September 18-30, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 1-6, 1975 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 7-15, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 16, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 17-30, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 30, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 31, 1975 (1)-(3)

Box 8 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 1, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 2, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 3, 1975 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 4, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 5, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 6, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 7, 1975 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 8-9, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 10, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 11, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 12, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 13, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 14, 1975 (1)-(2)

Box 9 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 15-16, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 17, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 18, 1975

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 19, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 20, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 21, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 22, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 23, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 24, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 25, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 26-27, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 28, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 29, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, November 30, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 1, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 2, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 3, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 4, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 5, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 6, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 7, 1975

Box 10 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 8-9, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 10, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 11-12, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 13-15, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 16, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 17-18, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 19, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 20-21, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 22, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 23, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 24-26, 1975

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 27, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 28-29, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 30, 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, December 31, 1975
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 1-4, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 5, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 6, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 7, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 8, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 9-11, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 12, 1976

Box 11 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 13, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 14, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 15, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 16, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 17, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 18-19, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 20-21, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 22, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 23, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 24-25, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 26, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 27, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 28, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 29, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 30, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, January 30-31, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February-March 1976

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 1-2, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 3, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 4-5, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 5, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 6, 1976 (1)-(2)

Box 12 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 7-8, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 9, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 10, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 11, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 12, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 13, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 14-16, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 17, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 18, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 19, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 20, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 21, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 22-23, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 23, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 24, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 25, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 26, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 27, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, February 28-29, 1976

Box 13 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 1, 1976 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 2, 1976 (1)-(2)

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 3, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 4, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 5, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 6-7, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 8, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 9, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 10, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 11, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 12, 1976 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 13-14, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 15, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 16, 1976

Box 14 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 17, 1976 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 18, 1976 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 19, 1976 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 20, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 20-21, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 22, 1976 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 23, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 24, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 25, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 26, 1976 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 27, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 28-29, 1976

Box 15 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 30, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, March 31, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 1976

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 1, 1976 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 2, 1976 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 3, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 4, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 5-15, 1976 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 16-21, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 22, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 23, 1976 (1)-(6)

Box 16 - Intelligence Chron File

Status	Title
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 24, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 25, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 26, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 27, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 28, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, April 29-30, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, May 1-June 30, 1976
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, August 12, 1977
OPEN	Intelligence Documents, October 19, 1978