



# **National Security Adviser. Legislative Interdepartmental Group Files, 1971-1972 (1976)**

## **Collection Type**

White House Office Files

## **Extent**

1.2 linear feet (ca. 2,400 pages)

## **Record Type**

Textual

## **Access**

Open, but some materials continue to be national security classified and restricted. Access is governed by the donor's deed of gift, a copy of which is available on request, and National Archives and Records Administration regulations (36 CFR 1256).

## **Copyright**

Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain.

## **Processed by**

William McNitt, January 1997; Revised, March 2000; Revised by Ellen Wilson August 2010

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Legislative Interdepartmental Group Files is one of many sub-collections that comprise the National Security Adviser Files. The provenance of the Ford National Security Adviser Files and an explanation of the designations “Presidential” and “Institutional” are provided in [Appendix A](#).

The role of the Legislative Interdepartmental Group (LIG) was to coordinate administration efforts in dealing with Congress on questions involving defense or national security matters. Although a LIG was formed early in the Nixon administration, it soon became inactive. Then in April 1971, staff members from the White House Congressional Relations Office met with congressional relations officials from Departments of State, Justice, and Defense; the Central Intelligence Agency; and the National Security Council (NSC) to reconstitute the LIG.

The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Henry Kissinger, chaired some of the early meetings of the LIG. Over time it became much more common to find his deputy, Alexander Haig, handling the duties. Occasionally a staff member from the NSC office handling congressional relations, or a representative from the White House Congressional Relations Office, stood in for Haig.

After meeting three times in April 1971 and four times in May, the LIG settled down to a pattern of meeting once every month or two for the rest of 1971 and on through September 1972. There is no evidence in this collection of any further LIG meetings until June 1973, after which the every-other-month pattern resumed and continued until May 1974. When Gerald Ford succeeded Richard Nixon as President in August 1974, the LIG began meeting regularly again until about the middle of 1975. After that, only two meetings were held, one in September 1975 and one in January 1976, and then the group became inactive again.

Meetings of the LIG varied in length from less than half an hour up to two hours and 45 minutes, with the majority lasting an hour or more. Early in its history, the LIG

held its meetings in the White House Situation Room, but in later times they were held in the Roosevelt Room or, occasionally, in the Cabinet Room. Depending on the topic, sometimes officials from other agencies such as the Department of the Treasury or the Agency for International Development attended.

Before an LIG meeting, attendees usually received an agenda and background memoranda on the issues to be discussed. A representative of the NSC (often Staff Secretary Jeanne Davis) took notes on the discussions and usually produced either minutes or a record of decisions that was circulated to all members of the group.

This collection contains materials on the work of the LIG and was maintained by Jeanne Davis, the NSC staff secretary. Many of the documents are addressed to Henry Kissinger or Alexander Haig, often from NSC staff members John Lehman, Richard Kennedy, or Les Janka. Many documents have profile sheets added by the Secretariat that indicate the routing of the document and its final filing designation.

Documentation on individual meetings varies greatly. Many folders, but not all, contain minutes or a record of decisions (sometimes handwritten, sometimes typed, sometimes both). Some folders contain agendas and background papers on the topics being discussed. The most complete documentation covers the meetings from 1971 and 1972. More than two-thirds of the collection dates from that time period. The folders for later meetings are much thinner, often containing only a briefing paper or only the record of decisions. The Chronological File contains significant materials on legislative liaison that do not relate to specific meetings.

The collection is useful for studying the planning of congressional relations efforts on foreign affairs and national security issues, especially during the Nixon administration. Most of these issues involved legislation, budget decisions, or treaty ratifications. Frequent topics of discussions were antiballistic missiles (ABM), the Vietnam War, foreign aid, security-classified information, the defense budget, Radio Free Europe, treaties and international agreements, foreign affairs, NATO, military bases, arms transfers, arms control, and attempts to cut the number of American troops in Europe and elsewhere.

### **Related Materials** (August 2010)

Small amounts of material concerning LIG meetings during the Ford administration

appear in the files of White House staff members involved with congressional liaison, including Max Friedersdorf (Box 4), William Kendall (Box 3), John Marsh (Box 20), and William Timmons (Box 4). Additional materials on the LIG and NSC congressional relations appear in the unprocessed files of Robert C. McFarlane, Military Assistant to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and the processed files of the NSC Press/Congressional Relations Staff. A large file on Congress in the collection Presidential Subject File does not contain any LIG materials, as it concerns only congressional meetings and contacts at the presidential level.

### **Last Modified Date**

2024-05-28

### **Boxes 1-3**

#### ***Meetings File, 1971-1972 (1976). (1.0 linear feet)***

Memoranda, agendas, briefing papers, minutes, telegrams and records of decisions. The materials concern meetings of the Legislative Interdepartmental Group (LIG) during the Nixon and Ford administrations. At these meetings, representatives from the various departments and agencies involved in foreign affairs and national security questions met to discuss the administration's strategy for dealing with Congress on legislative or budgetary issues or the ratification of treaties. Documentation is most complete on meetings from 1971 and 1972, with relatively small amounts of material for meetings in later years. Arranged chronologically in case files by the date of the meeting.

### **Box 1 - Meetings File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	April 14, 1971
OPEN	April 20, 1971
OPEN	April 21, 1971
OPEN	May 5, 1971 (1)-(2)
OPEN	May 12, 1971
OPEN	May 13-14, 1971
OPEN	May 27, 1971 (1)-(2)
OPEN	June 9, 1971

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	July 20, 1971
OPEN	August 17, 1971 (1)-(3)

**Box 2 - Meetings File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	October 8, 1971 (1)-(3)
OPEN	October 25-26, 1971
OPEN	November 1, 1971
OPEN	November 24, 1971 (1)-(4)
OPEN	January 26, 1972
OPEN	March 10, 1972
OPEN	April 25, 1972
OPEN	May 25-26, 1972
OPEN	June 12 and 16, 1972
OPEN	July 7, 1972
OPEN	September 13, 1972 (1)-(2)

**Box 3 - Meetings File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	June 22, 1973
OPEN	August 31, 1973
OPEN	October 12, 1973
OPEN	November 9, 1973
OPEN	January 14, 1974
OPEN	February 7, 1974
OPEN	March 1, 1974
OPEN	May 7, 1974
OPEN	August 19, 1974
OPEN	September 24, 1974
OPEN	November 22, 1974
OPEN	December 3, 1974
OPEN	December 9, 1974
OPEN	February 7, 1975

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	April 14, 1975
OPEN	September 12, 1975
OPEN	January 13, 1976

**Box 3**

***Chronological File, 1971-74. (0.2 linear feet)***

Memoranda, briefing papers, correspondence and notes concerning the LIG, legislative coordination, or administration relations with Congress that do not relate to specific meetings of the LIG. Materials cover a broad range of topics, including foreign aid, national security, NATO, treaties and agreements, foreign affairs, and atomic energy. Arranged chronologically.

**Box 3 (Continued) - Chronological File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	April 1971-December 1971
OPEN	January 1972-April 1972
OPEN	May 1972-July 1973
OPEN	August 1973-July 1974
OPEN	August 1974-October 1974