
Inventory of the Richard T. Davies Papers

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Register of the Richard T. Davies Papers

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Richard T. Davies Papers

Dates: 1952-2004

Collection number: 2006C16

Creator: Davies, Richard T. (Richard Townsend), 1920-2005.

Collection Size: 17 manuscript boxes 6.8 linear feet

Repository: Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace
Stanford, California 94305-6010

Abstract: Speeches and writings, interview transcripts, correspondence, printed matter, and photographs, relating to American foreign policy and especially to relations between the United States and Poland.

Physical location: Hoover Institution Archives

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research. Access to audiovisual materials requires at least two weeks advance notice. Audiovisual materials include sound recordings, video recordings, and motion picture film. Hoover staff will determine whether use copies of the materials requested can be made available. Some materials may not be accessible even with advance notice. Please contact the Hoover Institution Archives Audiovisual Specialist for further information.

Publication Rights

For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Archives.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Richard T. Davies Papers, [Box no.], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information

The collection was acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 2005.

Accruals

Increments may have been received since this finding aid was prepared. Please check Stanford University's online catalog Socrates at <http://library.stanford.edu/webcat> to find the full extent of the collection.

Biography / Administrative History

Richard T. Davies was U.S. ambassador to Poland from 1973 to 1978. Davies, who joined the Foreign Service in 1947, spent his first two years in Poland as a consular and political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw. His later assignments included counselor for political affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow during the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, director of the U.S. Information Agency for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and deputy assistant secretary of state for European affairs from 1970 to 1972.

During his five years as ambassador to Poland, Davies worked on trade issues and helped arrange state visits by Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. He also met frequently with members of the nascent democratic opposition movement against the communist-led Polish government, as well as with Catholic cardinals Stefan Wyszyński and Karol Wojtyła. The special relationship with Cardinal Wojtyła of Cracow, the future pope John Paul II, that Ambassador Davies helped establish turned out to be particularly valuable for the United States in the waning years of the cold war, during President Reagan's

showdown with the Soviets. Ambassador Davies's tenure in Warsaw also coincided with a successful penetration of Soviet defenses by U.S. intelligence, the result of the services rendered the United States, the West, and NATO by Colonel Ryszard Kuklinski, who during 1972-81 turned over to the Central Intelligence Agency some 30,000 Soviet documents containing the plans of the Warsaw Pact for the invasion of Western Europe and, in 1980-1981, its plans for the invasion of Poland to suppress Solidarity. Richard Davies retired as director of the State Department's human intelligence office in Washington in 1980.

After retirement, Ambassador Davies chaired the Solidarity Endowment, a U.S. group supporting the Polish workers' movement. From 1990 to 1998, he participated in Partners for Democratic Change, an international organization founded to foster civil societies and institutions in Central and Eastern Europe. He also contributed frequently to op-ed pages. Davies died in Washington in 2005.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Richard T. Davies Papers contain speeches and writings, interview transcripts, correspondence, printed matter, and photographs, relating to American foreign policy and especially to relations between the United States and Poland.

Included among the papers is an extensive transcript of an oral history interview that covers Davies' entire Foreign Service career. The papers also document Colonel Ryszard Kuklinski's achievements and Davies' efforts to assist him after his escape to the United States. Kuklinski turned thousands of critical Soviet documents over to the Central Intelligence Agency.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

United States--Foreign relations--Poland.

Poland--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--1945-1989.

United States--Foreign relations--1989-

United States. Dept. of State.

Occupations

Diplomats--United States.

General 1952-1996

Box 1	1952/1980
Box 2	1981-1982
Box 3	1983-1985
Box 4	1985-1987
Box 5	1988-1990
Box 6	1990-1993
Box 7	1994-1996
Box 8	Back to the Future Seminars
Box 8	Oral history transcripts 1947-1980
Box 9-10	Kuklinski, Ryszard
	Religion in Communist Dominated Areas 1982-1992
Box 11	1982-1987
Box 12	1988-1992
	Subject File
Box 13	Cold war
Box 13	Cuban missile crisis
Box 13	Ethics in government seminar
Box 13	Evergreen Society, 1980-1991
Box 13	Galanskov, case of
Box 14	Gore, Albert
Box 14	Kronstadt thesis
Box 14	NATO expansion
Box 15	Polish crisis, 1980-1982
Box 15	Solidarity

Box 15	Soviet Jewish emigration
Box 16	State and party
Box 16	Warsaw, 1977-1978
Box 16	Photographs
Box 17	Reviews
Box 17	Speeches