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Inventory for FOIA 2016-0094-F

Records on the Lead-up to the Iraq War

Extent

155 folders, approximately 15,414 pages; 425 email messages; and one electronic file

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Cheney Vice Presidential records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 USC 22, as amended) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 USC 552, as amended) and therefore may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Records in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States Government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, USC) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of the Richard Cheney vice presidency are in the custody of the Archival Operations Division in Washington, DC and are administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Processed By

Staff Archivists, February 2023. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Related Collections

2014-0043-F: Drafts of the Beginning of the Iraq War Speeches, George W. Bush Presidential Library

2014-0457-F: Records on Iraq within the Condoleezza Rice Files between January 2001 and March 2003, George W. Bush Presidential Library

Scope and Content

The materials in this series are a selective, not necessarily all inclusive, body of records responsive to the topic of FOIA case 2016-0094-F.

This series contains records related to Vice President Cheney's August 26, 2002 speech at the 103rd National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

The textual records found in this series are from the Office of Speechwriting collection of Speech Files and from two series within the Office of Staff Secretary collection: Miscellaneous Outbox and Topical Collection Project (TCP) Files. The Speech Files contain speech drafts from various events in which Vice President Cheney discussed Iraq and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) prior to the invasion of Iraq. The Miscellaneous Outbox files include documents related to Vice President Cheney's speech at the 103rd National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in August 2002 and documents seen by the Vice President from February 1, 2003 through April 1, 2003. These files contain: website and email printouts, cover sheets, document tracking sheets, photocopied news articles, press statements, memoranda, letters, factsheets, transcripts, notes, newsletters, publications, and speech drafts. The documents from this series relate to Vice President Cheney's statements and speeches about Iraq, discussions regarding United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, Colin Powell, Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei's prepared statements before the UNSC on the topic of inspections and weapons of mass destruction, public statements by foreign leaders in reaction to a potential invasion of Iraq by the United States, discussions on creating a communications framework for notifying the public about an invasion, and formulating responses for answers to media interview questions.

The textual records to be opened for this request from the TCP Files were assembled as subject files and span the entire administration. The records include notes, tab dividers, website, email and article printouts, memoranda, letters, cables, schedules, lists, factsheets, press releases, transcripts, cover sheets, speech drafts and statements, newsletters, talking points, maps, and charts. The topics covered within this series document Iraq's declaratory policy, history of UNSC resolutions related to Iraq and inspections, the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998, and other United States congressional actions, briefing materials for media interviews, meetings with academic experts and members of Congress, briefings with the Iraq provisional reconstruction team leaders, infrastructure support for the people of Iraq, coalition formation and an Interim Iraqi Authority. Due to national security restrictions, most of the TCP Files remain closed.

The email messages in this series that pertain to the 103rd National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars detail staff discussions regarding the administrative scheduling of Vice President Cheney's attendance at the event and deliberations regarding what to include in his speech. These email messages

are dated August 20, 2002 to August 28, 2002.

The email messages related to the invasion of Iraq in March 2003 are dated February 4, 2003 through April 1, 2003. These messages detail staff discussions regarding news articles, forwarded opinions regarding whether to invade Iraq, public opinion polling regarding a possible invasion of Iraq, draft remarks for statements and speeches given by Vice President Cheney in February and March 2003 that mention Iraq, forwarded transcripts of remarks given by Secretary of State Colin Powell, and discussions regarding overseas regional media reporting of events in the immediate aftermath of the invasion of Iraq. There are also email messages with attached draft memoranda and white papers exchanged between Department of Justice officials, the White House Counsel's Office, and Office of the Vice President staff. The senders and recipients include Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Shannen Coffin, Peter Keisler, Matthew Lepore, John Yoo, David Leitch, Theodore Ullyot, and David Addington. These email messages cover several topics such as justifications for a potential invasion of Iraq and court filings in response to litigation challenging presidential authority in the use of military force against Iraq prior to the invasion on March 20, 2003. Other correspondents within these email messages include Principal Deputy Assistant to the Vice President for National Security Affairs Eric Edelman, Assistant for Domestic Policy Cesar Conda, Senior Speechwriter John McConnell, Advance Director Daniel Wilmot, Counselor to the Vice President Mary Matalin, Public Affairs Deputy Assistant Catherine Martin, Scheduling Deputy Director Mary Lang, Newt Gingrich, and Elizabeth Cheney.

The electronic file is a compilation of public statements made by Vice President Cheney regarding Iraq and weapons of mass destruction from March 17, 2002 to October 25, 2004.

System of Arrangement

Records responsive to this FOIA request were found in Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Member and Office Files and the Cheney Vice Presidential Electronic Records collection which includes email messages and electronic files.

Staff Member and Office Files are the textual records created and/or maintained by White House staff members within their individual offices. These files document all levels of administration activity. Staff Member and Office Files are processed at the folder level, and the documents within are maintained in their original order. Since the files are processed at the folder level, individual documents contained within these folders may not be wholly responsive to the subject area of this FOIA request.

The Cheney Vice Presidential Electronic Records collection is maintained in the Executive Office of the President instance of the Electronic Records Archive (EOP ERA) which contains electronic records created or received by the administration of President George W. Bush. These electronic records are born-digital files and are primarily .eml, .pdf, .wpd, and .doc files.

The responsive electronic records retrieved from EOP ERA are saved in search results lists (SRLs) and are arranged chronologically by creation date.

The following is a list of folders and saved SRLs processed in response to FOIA 2016-0094-F:

Box 1

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Member and Office Files

Office of Speechwriting

Speech Files

Public Safety Officer Medals of Valor Awards Ceremony and National Lieutenant
Governors Association February 14, 2003 [OA/ID 00491]

Remarks to the Republican Members of Congress and Memorial for the Columbia
Astronauts February 6, 2003 [OA/ID 00491]

Semper Fidelis Awards Dinner March 1, 2003 [OA/ID 00491]

Veterans of Foreign Wars 103rd National Convention August 26, 2002 [OA/ID
00491]

Office of Staff Secretary

Miscellaneous Outbox

August 26, 2002 [OA/ID 00423]

August 27, 2002 [OA/ID 00423]

August 28, 2002 [OA/ID 00423]

February 1, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 3, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 4, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 5, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 6, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 7, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 9, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 10, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 11, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

Box 2

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Member and Office Files

Office of Staff Secretary

Miscellaneous Outbox

February 12, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 13, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 14, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 16, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 18, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 19, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 20, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 21, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 22, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 25, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]

February 26, 2003 [OA/ID 00465]
February 27, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
February 28, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
February 2003 - undated [OA/ID 00489]
March 3, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]

Box 3

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Member and Office Files

Office of Staff Secretary

Miscellaneous Outbox

March 4, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 5, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 6, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 7, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 9, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 10, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 11, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 12, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 13, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 14, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 16, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 17, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 18, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 19, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 20, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]

Box 4

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Members and Office Files

Office of Staff Secretary

Miscellaneous Outbox

March 21, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 22, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 23, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 24, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 25, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 26, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 27, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 28, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 29, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 31, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
March 2003 - undated [OA/ID 00489]
April 1, 2003 [OA/ID 00489]
Iraq PD [OA/ID 00489]

Topical Collection Project (TCP) Files

Iraq (1) [Folder 1] [OA/ID 016]

Iraq (1) [Folder 2] [OA/ID 016]

Iraq (1) [Folder 3] [OA/ID 016]

Box 5

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Members and Office Files

Office of Staff Secretary

Topical Collection Project (TCP) Files

Iraq (1) [Folder 4] [OA/ID 016]

Iraq (1) [Folder 5] [OA/ID 016]

Iraq (2) [Folder 1] [OA/ID 017]

Iraq (2) [Folder 2] [OA/ID 017]

Iraq (2) [Folder 3] [OA/ID 017]

Iraq (2) [Folder 4] [OA/ID 017]

Iraq (2) [Folder 5] [OA/ID 017]

Iraq - Al Qaida [OA/ID 016]

Iraq - Background [1] [OA/ID 016]

Iraq - Background [2] [OA/ID 016]

Iraq - Background [3] [OA/ID 016]

Iraq - Coalition [OA/ID 017]

Box 6

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Members and Office Files

Office of Staff Secretary

Topical Collection Project (TCP) Files

Iraq - Congress [OA/ID 017]

Iraq - Declaration Policy [OA/ID 017]

Iraq General [1] [OA/ID 279]

Iraq General [2] [OA/ID 279]

Iraq General [3] [OA/ID 279]

Iraq General [4] [OA/ID 279]

Iraq General [5] [OA/ID 279]

Iraq - Inspections [OA/ID 017]

Iraq Inspections [OA/ID 279]

Iraq - Intel [1] [OA/ID 018]

Iraq - Intel [2] [OA/ID 018]

Iraq - Interim Authority [OA/ID 018]

Iraq - Kurds [OA/ID 018]

Iraq Legal [OA/ID 279]
Iraq - Meet the Press [1] [OA/ID 018]

Box 7

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Members and Office Files
Office of Staff Secretary

Topical Collection Project (TCP) Files

Iraq - Meet the Press [2] [OA/ID 018]
Iraq - Meet the Press [3] [OA/ID 018]
Iraq - Meet the Press [4] [OA/ID 018]
Iraq - MEK [OA/ID 018]
Iraq - Misc. [1] [OA/ID 019]
Iraq - Misc. [2] [OA/ID 019]
Iraq - Misc. [3] [OA/ID 019]

Box 8

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Members and Office Files
Office of Staff Secretary

Topical Collection Project (TCP) Files

Iraq - Misc. [4] [OA/ID 019]
Iraq - Misc. [5] [OA/ID 019]
Iraq - NSC [1] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq - NSC [2] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq - NSC [3] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq - NSC [4] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq - NSC [5] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq - NSC Meetings [OA/ID 279]
Iraq - Opposition [1] [OA/ID 279]

Box 9

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Members and Office Files
Office of Staff Secretary

Topical Collection Project (TCP) Files

Iraq - Opposition [2] [OA/ID 279]
Iraq - Opposition [3] [OA/ID 279]
Iraq - PC (1) [Folder 1] [OA/ID 015]
Iraq - PC (1) [Folder 2] [OA/ID 015]
Iraq - PC (1) [Folder 3] [OA/ID 015]
Iraq - PC (1) [Folder 4] [OA/ID 015]
Iraq - PC (1) [Folder 5] [OA/ID 015]

Iraq - PC Meetings [1 of 2] [Folder 1] [OA/ID 279]
Iraq - PC Meetings [1 of 2] [Folder 2] [OA/ID 279]
Iraq - PC Meetings [1 of 2] [Folder 3] [OA/ID 279]
Iraq - PC Meetings [2 of 2] [Folder 1] [OA/ID 279]
Iraq - PC Meetings [2 of 2] [Folder 2] [OA/ID 279]
Iraq - Plan [1] [OA/ID 019]

Box 10

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Members and Office Files

Office of Staff Secretary

Topical Collection Project (TCP) Files

Iraq - Plan [2] [OA/ID 019]
Iraq Politics [OA/ID 279]
Iraq - POTUS [1] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq - POTUS [2] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq - POTUS [3] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq - POTUS [4] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq - POTUS [5] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq Powell Speech [OA/ID 279]
Iraq Saddam [OA/ID 280]
Iraq - Strategy (1) [Folder 1] [OA/ID 021]
Iraq - Strategy (1) [Folder 2] [OA/ID 021]

Box 11

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Members and Office Files

Office of Staff Secretary

Topical Collection Project (TCP) Files

Iraq - Strategy (1) [Folder 3] [OA/ID 021]
Iraq - Strategy (1) [Folder 4] [OA/ID 021]
Iraq - Strategy (2) [Folder 1] [OA/ID 021]
Iraq - Strategy (2) [Folder 2] [OA/ID 021]
Iraq - Strategy (2) [Folder 3] [OA/ID 021]
Iraq - Strategy (2) [Folder 4] [OA/ID 021]
Iraq Strategy [1 of 2] [Folder 1] [OA/ID 280]
Iraq Strategy [1 of 2] [Folder 2] [OA/ID 280]
Iraq Strategy [1 of 2] [Folder 3] [OA/ID 280]
Iraq Strategy [1 of 2] [Folder 4] [OA/ID 280]
Iraq Strategy [2 of 2] [Folder 1] [OA/ID 280]
Iraq Strategy [2 of 2] [Folder 2] [OA/ID 280]
Iraq Strategy [2 of 2] [Folder 3] [OA/ID 280]

Iraq Strategy [2 of 2] [Folder 4] [OA/ID 280]
Iraq Terrorism [OA/ID 280]
Iraq UN [1] [OA/ID 280]

Box 12

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Members and Office Files

Office of Staff Secretary

Topical Collection Project (TCP) Files

Iraq UN [2] [OA/ID 280]
Iraq VP Speech [OA/ID 280]
Iraq VPM (1) [Folder 1] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq VPM (1) [Folder 2] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq VPM (1) [Folder 3] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq VPM (1) [Folder 4] [OA/ID 014]
Iraq WMD [1] [OA/ID 280]
Iraq WMD [2] [OA/ID 280]
Iraq WMD [3] [OA/ID 280]
Iraq WMD [4] [OA/ID 280]

Cheney Vice Presidential Records: Electronic Records

ARMS Email - VFW Speech

This SRL contains 220 responsive email messages.

ARMS "Lead up to Iraq War" Search 1

This SRL contains 43 responsive email messages.

ARMS "Lead up to Iraq War" Search 2

This SRL contains 106 responsive email messages.

Exchange "Lead up to Iraq War" Search 1

This SRL contains one responsive email message.

Exchange "Lead up to Iraq War" Search 2

This SRL contains 55 responsive email messages.

OVP Share – Speech

This SRL contains one responsive electronic file.

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