

**RECORDS RELATING TO SOUTH VIETNAM AMONG THE
CENTRAL FILE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE (RG 59) 1910-73:
A SELECTED LIST**

The following is an overview of the most important files pertaining to South Vietnamese international political relations and South Vietnamese political, military, and economic matters. It is not comprehensive and intended merely as a starting point for research. Researchers undertaking a major study of this topic should be certain to examine appropriate finding aids within RG 59 and other record groups for additional information.

THE CENTRAL DECIMAL FILE, 1910-63 [ARC ID: 302021]

Between August 1910 and January 1963, the Department of State's Central File was arranged according to a decimal classification scheme.

1910-49

In its original form, the Decimal File is divided into four segments for these years: 1910-29, 1930-39, 1940-44, and 1945-49. Because Vietnam did not gain independence until after World War II, files pre-dating 1945 will be slim. It is a filing quirk that the file designation for Indochina contains the largest amount of information on Vietnam; the files designated exclusively for Vietnam are less significant. **Note that records pertaining to North and South Vietnam are included in these files.** You should begin your research with file numbers:

	INDOCHINA	VIETNAM
Relations with the United States	711.51G	711.51K
Political Affairs	851G.00	851K.00
Military Affairs	851G.20 & 851K.30	851K.20 & 851K.30
Economic Affairs	851G.50	851K.50

Many of these records are available on microfilm. Researchers can examine the film in our microfilm research room during regular business hours.

THE CENTRAL DECIMAL FILE, (1950-63 SEGMENTS) [ARC ID: 302021]

In 1950 the Department revised the Central File and the numerical designations for Vietnam and Indochina change. The File is divided into three segments for these years: 1950-54, 1955-59, and 1960-63. As with the preceding file, the classification for Indochina is the most significant one for information pertaining to Vietnam. **Note that records pertaining to North and South Vietnam are included in these files.** You should begin your research with file numbers:

	INDOCHINA	VIETNAM
Relations with US	611.51G	611.51K
Political Affairs	751G.00	751K.00
Military Affairs	751G.5	751K.5
Economic Affairs	851G.00	851K.00

The Indochina files for the years 1950-59 are available on microfilm. Researchers can examine the film in our microfilm research room during regular business hours.

THE SUBJECT-NUMERIC FILE, 1963-73 [ARC ID: 580618]

In February 1963, the Department adopted a new filing scheme that is radically different from the preceding file. This filing scheme extended through July 1973. There are eight primary subject classes and each primary class has between 3 and 19 secondary subject classes. Within each secondary class the records are arranged by country. The entire File is divided into four segments: 1963, 1964-66, 1967-69, and 1970-73. With the introduction of this file, it is possible to concentrate on records pertaining exclusively to South Vietnam. You may wish to begin your research with these subject classes: U.S. Aid (AID (US)); Economic (E); Finances (FN); Labor (LAB); Defense (DEF); and Politics (POL). The following list provides the box numbers for these subject classes for each time segment.

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964-66</u>
AID (US)	3329	592-594
E	3396	785-786
FN	3445	932-933
LAB	-----	1339-1340
DEF	3740	1748-49 & 1752-53
POL	4046-50 & 4137-38	2916-3022

	<u>1967-69</u>	<u>1970-73</u>
AID (US)	497-499	586-588
E	681-684	801-803
FN	848-849	975-976
LAB	1300-1302	1435-1436
DEF	1708-1709	1872-73 & 1877-78
POL	2704-43 & 2746-2832	2745 & 2773-2832

<http://www.archives.gov/research/foreign-policy/state-dept/finding-aids/rg-59-svietnam.pdf>