



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Archival Operations Division

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Room G-7

Washington, DC 20408-0001

Phone: (202) 357-5200

Fax: (202) 357-5941

presidential.materials@nara.gov

Inventory for FOIA 2017-0029-F

Records on Climate Change and the 1997 Kyoto Protocol

Extent

17 folders, approximately 1,258 pages

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Gore 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 Albert Gore, Jr. 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

FOIA 2017-1093-F, William J. Clinton Presidential Library.

Scope and Content

The materials in this series are a selective, not necessarily all-inclusive, body of documents responsive to the topic of 2017-0029-F.

Vice President Gore played a major role in promoting global action on climate change during his vice presidency. In 1992, he chaired the U.S. Senate Delegation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the "Earth Summit" that established the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. His leadership on climate change was crucial to the signing of the Kyoto Protocol treaty in 1997, the first major international agreement that addressed the global problem of climate change and committed parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This series contains records related to the Clinton administration's climate change policy, the negotiations leading up to the signing of the Kyoto Protocol, and Vice President Gore's December 6-8, 1997, trip to Kyoto, Japan for the Climate Change Conference - Third Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), which resulted in the signing of the Kyoto Protocol.

This series includes memoranda, reports, papers, cables, correspondence, email printouts, news articles and publications, press releases, remarks, talking points, schedules, draft agendas, and briefing materials dated 1994-1998 related to climate change policy and issues. The bulk of the material consists of National Security Affairs staff files and trip files. There are also staff files from the Office of Domestic Policy and general files on climate change in the Office of the Staff Secretary series.

Climate change policy documents leading up to the Kyoto Conference represent a significant portion of this material. There are information and policy memoranda to Vice President Gore and President Clinton on various topics including climate change emissions, negotiations, climate change weekly reports, and international reactions to the Kyoto Protocol after the conference. Also included are climate change concept and position papers on greenhouse gases, growth targets, sinks, bilateral issues, and developing countries.

Vice President Gore communicated with foreign leaders and Congress on climate issues prior to the 1997 Climate Change Conference. The series includes letters from Vice President Gore to the UN and members of Congress discussing climate change negotiations and findings. There are also talking points and memoranda for phone calls with foreign leaders, and Vice President Gore's notes for congressional phone calls he made on Air Force II on the way to Kyoto, Japan.

Trip files and briefing materials for Vice President Gore's December 6-8, 1997, Kyoto, Japan trip are also represented in this series. The trip files include event planning documents such as schedules, general information about Japan, travel logistics, climate change pamphlets, publications, and meeting manifests. These files also consist of briefing materials compiled for the trip such schedules, background information on the U.S. position, and climate change reference materials compiled for Vice President Gore.

System of Arrangement

Records responsive to this FOIA request were found in Gore Vice Presidential Records: White House Staff Member and Office 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 following is a list of folders processed in response to FOIA 2017-0029-F:

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

National Security Affairs

Richard Brody Files

Climate Change [Box 047]

Subject Files

Climate Change [Box 051]

Michael Orfini Files

C.C. [Climate Change] [1] [Box 069]

C.C. [Climate Change] [2] [Box 069]

Climate Change [Box 069]

Trip Files

Kyoto: Memcons [Empty] [Box 084]

Kyoto: Miscellaneous [Box 084]

Kyoto: [Mike Robert's Package] [Box 084]

Kyoto: Reference Material [Box 084]

Kyoto: Speeches/Press Releases [Box 084]

Kyoto: VP Notes [Box 084]

The Vice President's Trip to the Climate Change Conference Kyoto, Japan, December 6-8, 1997 [1] [Box 084]

The Vice President's Trip to the Climate Change Conference Kyoto, Japan, December 6-8, 1997 [2] [Box 084]

The Vice President's Trip to the Climate Change Conference Kyoto, Japan, December 6-8, 1997 [3] [Box 084]

Office of Domestic Policy

Kristin Schneeman Files

Environmental Policy: Climate Change Action Plan [OA/ID 00355]

Office of Staff Secretary

General Files

Climate Change [1] [OA/ID 01437]

Climate Change [2] [OA/ID 01437]

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