



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Inventory for FOIA 2017-0037-F

Records related to the December 11, 1996 Meeting of the Science Space Symposium with Vice President Gore

Extent

Two folders, approximately 369 pages; five contact sheets containing 122 photographs; and three email messages

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 Presidential Materials 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, November 2018. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Scope and Content

The materials in this series are a selective, not necessarily all-inclusive, body of documents responsive to the topic of FOIA request 2017-0037-F.

This series contains briefing materials and photographs related to the Science Space Symposium held by Vice President Al Gore and NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin on December 11, 1996 in the Indian Treaty Room of the Old Executive Office Building. This meeting of scientists and theologians was convened to discuss the discovery of ALH84001, a meteorite from Mars, and its impact on United States space policy. Included are records pertaining to a preparatory meeting held by Vice President Gore on December 3, 1996 in advance of the Symposium along with records related to George Washington University's Space Policy Institute Symposium. Unrelated to the Space Symposium, this series also includes photographs of Vice President Gore on December 11, 1996 in his West Wing office in briefings with White House staff and at a President's Council on Sustainable Development meeting.

The briefing materials consist of tabs, table of contents, background event memoranda, seating charts, biographies of participants, draft opening statements, discussion question lists, white papers, narrative discussion papers with charts generated by a joint National Research Council (NRC) and NASA workshop, photocopied press articles and articles by workshop participants, and a survey questionnaire. There are also email messages that document administrative discussions related to the Symposium. The inclusive date range for these records is 1991 to 1996, but the bulk of the records are dated 1996.

System of Arrangement

Records responsive to this FOIA request were found in Gore Vice Presidential Records: Automated Records Management (ARMS) email, White House Staff Member and Office Files and the Vice Presidential records of the White House Photograph Office.

The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains the unclassified email records of the Clinton White House including the Office of the Vice President. The ARMS dataset is comprised of seven sub-series of email records called "buckets" including the VPO bucket which holds the Gore Vice Presidential email. ARMS email is arranged by search result category, and thereunder chronologically by creation date.

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.

Photographs created by the White House Photograph Office were assigned a unique roll number for

each roll of 35mm film. The roll numbers for the Vice Presidential photographs begin with “V” in order to distinguish them from the Presidential photographs taken by White House photographers during the administration. The office created a contact sheet for each roll of film and organized them in binders by film type (color or black and white) and roll number. The contact sheets responsive to this request are arranged by binder book number, and thereunder, by roll number. The Photograph Office left gaps in the roll numbers for unexplained reasons. Archival processing of photographs is done at the contact sheet level.

The following is a list of email messages, folders and photograph contact sheets processed in response to FOIA 2017-0037-F:

Gore Vice Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email]

VPO [OA/ID 70000]

[Space Symposium]

[1/1/1996 to 12/31/1996]

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

Chief of Staff and Administration

Public Liaison Files

Space Science Symposium Background Briefing Book Draft [Binder] [1] [OA/ID 00826]

Space Science Symposium Background Briefing Book Draft [Binder] [2] [OA/ID 00826]

Domestic Policy

Eric Anderson Files

Space Science Symposium Briefing Book for the Vice President [OA/ID 00476]

Gore Vice Presidential Records: White House Photograph Office Vice Presidential Photographs

Book 117 (V13056-V13189)

V13141 December 11, 1996

V13142 December 11, 1996

V13143 December 11, 1996

V13144 December 11, 1996

V13145 December 11, 1996

Last modified: 04/19/2019