Collection Summary

Title: Loy W. Henderson Papers
Span Dates: 1918-1984
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1938-1957)
ID No.: MSS53314
Creator: Henderson, Loy W. (Loy Wesley), 1892-1986
Extent: 8,250 items
Extent: 29 containers plus 1 oversize
Extent: 12 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81053314
Summary: Diplomat; later professor of international relations, American University, Washington, D.C. Correspondence, memoir, speeches and writings, academic and subject files, engagement books, scrapbook, photographs, and miscellany pertaining primarily to Henderson's diplomatic career.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Davies, Joseph Edward.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955.
Kellogg, Frank B. (Frank Billings), 1856-1937.
Kennan, George F. (George Frost), 1904-2005.
Messersmith, George S. (George Straussner), 1883-1960--Correspondence.
Stalin, Joseph, 1878-1953.
Steinhardt, Laurence A. (Laurence Adolph), 1892-1950--Correspondence.
Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950.
Welles, Sumner, 1892-1961.

Organizations
American Red Cross.
American University (Washington, D.C.)--Faculty.
Germany. Treaties, etc. Soviet Union, 1939 August 23.
United States. Department of State.
United States. Foreign Service Act of 1924.

Subjects
Collectivization of agriculture--Soviet Union.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Baltic States.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--India.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Iran.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Iraq.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Soviet Union.
Diplomatic and consular service, American.
Humanitarian assistance.
Russo-Finnish War, 1939-1940.
Places
Baltic--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.
Germany--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.
India--Foreign relations--United States.
Iran--Foreign relations--United States.
Iraq--Foreign relations--United States.
Palestine--History--Partition, 1947.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--Baltic States.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--Germany.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Baltic States.
United States--Foreign relations--India.
United States--Foreign relations--Iran.
United States--Foreign relations--Iraq.
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

Occupations
Diplomats.
Educators.

Provenance
The papers of Loy W. Henderson, career diplomat and professor, were given to the Library of Congress by Henderson in 1981. Additional materials were received from his estate in 1987.

Processing History
The papers of Loy W. Henderson were arranged and described in 1983. Additional material received in 1987 was incorporated into the collection in 1992.

Transfers
Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Most photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Most maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Loy W. Henderson Papers.

Copyright Status
Copyright in the unpublished writings of Loy W. Henderson in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Loy W. Henderson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.
Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Loy W. Henderson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1892, June 28</td>
<td>Born, Rogers, Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>A.B. degree, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-1918</td>
<td>Student, University of Denver Law School, Denver, Colo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Member of Inter-Allied Commission to Germany for repatriation of prisoners of war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-1921</td>
<td>Member of American Red Cross Commission to Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Entered foreign service as vice consul in Dublin, Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Division of East European Affairs, Department of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Third secretary of legation, Baltic States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Division of East European Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married Elise Marie Heinrichson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>Second secretary of embassy, Moscow, U.S.S.R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Inspector, diplomatic missions and consular office, Department of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Ambassador to Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Director, Near Eastern and African Affairs, Department of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Ambassador to India and Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Ambassador to Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Deputy under secretary of state for administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Delegate to Baghdad Pact, Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Chief of mission to arrange new establishments in Africa, Department of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Retired</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961-1968</td>
<td>Professor, international relations, American University, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986, March 24</td>
<td>Died, Bethesda, Md.</td>
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Scope and Content Note

The papers of Loy Wesley Henderson (1892-1986) trace his brief time with the American Red Cross, his long career in the foreign service, and a brief academic career. Relatively little of his personal life is documented outside of the drafts of his memoirs. Although the papers span the years 1918-1984, they are concentrated in the period of the late 1930s to the late 1950s.

Included in the collection are correspondence, subject files, speeches and writings, academic papers, engagement books, and a manuscript of Henderson's extensive memoir detailing his early life, education, and career up to 1942. His professional life in the foreign service was divided between assignments in Washington, D.C., and overseas posts. The memoir comments on the background and implementation of the Rogers Act (Foreign Service Act of 1924), which combined the diplomatic and consular services. Problems in the Baltic states in the late 1920s and early 1930s resulting from Soviet threats to their independence are also discussed. Treated as well are American-Soviet negotiations leading up to the recognition of the Soviet Union in 1933, plus the many difficulties encountered in establishing and operating the American embassy in Moscow.

A highlight of Henderson's career was his service in Moscow (1934-1938) under William C. Bullitt, the first American ambassador to the Soviet Union, and Bullitt's successor, Joseph Edward Davies. Throughout the memoirs Henderson
notes his impressions of major figures in American diplomacy during the period between the wars, including William C. Bullitt, Joseph Edward Davies, Cordell Hull, Frank B. Kellogg, Laurence A. Steinhardt, Henry L. Stimson, and Sumner Welles. Others whose careers were just beginning are also mentioned, such as Charles Bohlen, George F. Kennan, George Messersmith, and John C. Wiley.

The Correspondence series includes significant correspondence with George S. Messersmith, Laurence A. Steinhardt, and John C. Wiley. For the years 1939-1941, letters from Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt in Moscow and John C. Wiley, Minister to the Baltic states, are mostly personal rather than official correspondence to Henderson, at that time assistant chief of the European Division. Both Steinhardt and Wiley record in some detail the internal problems of their posts, their difficulties in dealing with the Soviets, and observations on the Russo-Finnish War and the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact. They also speculate about future actions of the Soviet Union, Germany, and Japan.

Other correspondence is from scholars writing Henderson about events in his career. He was fastidious in answering these queries, and the responses in the Subject Files or the Correspondence series supplement his memoirs.

The Subject Files cover the breadth of his career. Although the files are not extensive, those on the Soviet Union, Israel, Palestine, and Near Eastern, African, and South Asian affairs are the most substantive.

Speeches and writings document various periods of Henderson's career. Dispatches from the American legation in Riga, Latvia, in 1930, the originals of which are in the National Archives, analyze Josef Stalin's collectivization of Soviet agriculture. Also in the file is Henderson's brief summary of his foreign service assignments from 1922 to 1961, part of which treats his tenure as ambassador to Iran from 1951 to 1954.

The Academic File consists of correspondence, course outlines and notes, reports, and student papers related to his teaching at American University. Biographical information, engagement books, oral history transcripts, and awards comprise the Miscellany series.

**Organization of the Papers**

The collection is arranged in six series:

- Correspondence, 1938-1974
- Subject File, 1918-1981
- Academic File, 1961-1968
- Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984
- Miscellany, 1950-1973
- Oversize, 1922-1982
## Description of Series

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>BOX 1-5</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1938-1974</strong></td>
<td>Letters received and copies of letters sent, including telegrams, memoranda, and miscellaneous attachments. Organized in two categories: special correspondence, including high-level State Department officials, secretaries of state, and presidents arranged alphabetically by name or office; and general correspondence, including routine letters from friends and acquaintances, arranged alphabetically by name or topic.</td>
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<td>BOX 5-16</td>
<td><strong>Subject File, 1918-1981</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence, memoranda, and reports. Arranged alphabetically by subject.</td>
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<td>BOX 16-18</td>
<td><strong>Academic File, 1961-1968</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence, administrative papers, and student papers accumulated by Henderson while director of the Center for the Study of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at American University. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 18-22</td>
<td><strong>Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984</strong></td>
<td>Draft of unpublished memoirs, copies of drafts of dispatches, and manuscripts of articles and speeches. Arranged by type of material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 23-29</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1950-1973</strong></td>
<td>Biographical material, awards and honors, engagement books, oral history transcripts, clippings, photographs and a scrapbook. Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically or alphabetically.</td>
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<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1922-1982</strong></td>
<td>Certificates.</td>
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## Container List

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Letters received and copies of letters sent, including telegrams, memoranda, and miscellaneous attachments.  
Organized in two categories: special correspondence, including high-level State Department officials, secretaries of state, and presidents arranged alphabetically by name or office; and general correspondence, including routine letters from friends and acquaintances, arranged alphabetically by name or topic. |
| BOX 1     | Special  
Benton, William, 1969-1973  
Haig, Alexander M., Jr., 1974  
Harper, Samuel, 1939-1943  
Messersmith, George S., 1938  
Steinhardt, Laurence, 1939-1941  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 2     | Wiley, John C., 1938-1961  
Presidents of United States, 1938-1961  
Secretaries of state, 1957-1969  
General  
A-L  
(9 folders) |
| BOX 3     | M-Z  
(9 folders)  
Congratulations  
1954 |
| BOX 4     | 1954-1958  
(3 folders)  
Retirement, 1961  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 5     | Death of former colleagues and friends |
| BOX 5-16  | **Subject File, 1918-1981**  
Correspondence, memoranda, and reports.  
Arranged alphabetically by subject. |
| BOX 5     | American Red Cross  
Correspondence, 1919-1924  
Instructions, 1918-1921  
Miscellany, 1919-1975  
Travel documents, 1918-1921  
Work in Europe  
(2 folders) |
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| BOX 6     | Africa trip, 1960  
(2 folders)  
Baghdad Pact, 1956-1957  
Baltic States, 1928-1976  
(2 folders)  
Bullitt, William C., 1936-1938  
Communism |
| BOX 7     | Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C.  
Delta Tau Delta  
Foreign service  
Appointments  
Blacks in foreign service, 1975  
Cemetery  
Changes  
Conferences  
Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa., 1963  
San Salvador, 1959  
Congressional comments  
Correspondence, 1962-1963  
Dawson, H. G., Jr. *See same Container, Blacks in foreign service*  
Draft report, 1961  
Entry into, 1921-1922 |
| BOX 8     | Printed material  
Greece  
(2 folders)  
India  
Appointment to position, 1948  
Exchanges with Indian officers, 1949-1950  
Ismail, Mirza, 1950-1951  
Miscellany  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 9     | Nehru, Jawaharlal, 1965-1967  
Social and ceremonial, 1949-1950  
(2 folders)  
Iran  
Background  
Correspondence, 1954-1978  
Colleagues  
Congratulations and condolence  
Personal  
Henderson, Elise (Mrs. Loy)  
Miscellany  
(1 folder) |
| BOX 10    | Trips, 1953-1954  
Zahedi, Ardeshir, 1962-1974 |
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<td>Correspondence, 1947-1977</td>
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<td>Nepal, King Mahendra's visit to Washington, 1960</td>
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<td>Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., 1951-1961</td>
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<td>Shigemitsu, Mamoru (Japan), 1937-1950</td>
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<td>Turkey, 1946</td>
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<td>Control of distribution of labor</td>
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<td>Oumansky, Constantine A., 1939</td>
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**Subject File, 1918-1981**

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<td>United States-USSR trade, 1939</td>
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<td>Zinoviev-Kamenev trial, 1936</td>
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<td>Wagner College, St. George, Staten Island, N.Y.</td>
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<td>Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs, Washington, D.C., 1974-1978</td>
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**BOX 16-18**

**Academic File, 1961-1968**

Correspondence, administrative papers, and student papers accumulated by Henderson while director of the Center for the Study of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at American University.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

**BOX 16**

- Correspondence, 1961-1968
- Problems in diplomacy

**BOX 17**

- Program reports, 1963-1964
  - (2 folders)
- Scholarship applications, 1962-1963
- Seminars, 1963-1965
  - (2 folders)

**BOX 18**

- (1 folder)
- Student papers
- Zambian students, 1963-1964

**BOX 18-22**

**Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984**

Draft of unpublished memoirs, copies of drafts of dispatches, and manuscripts of articles and speeches.

Arranged by type of material.

**BOX 18**

- Articles
  - (2 folders)

**BOX 19**

- Writings
  - Memoirs
    - (5 folders)
  - (4 folders)

**BOX 20**

- Summary of foreign service career, 1984

**BOX 21**

- Dispatches from Latvia, 1930
  - (6 folders)

**BOX 22**

- Speeches, 1945-1967, undated
  - (4 folders)

**BOX 23-29**

**Miscellany, 1950-1973**

Biographical material, awards and honors, engagement books, oral history transcripts, clippings, photographs and a scrapbook.

Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically or alphabetically.

**BOX 23**

- Biographical data
- Comments about Henderson
- Awards
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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| BOX 24    | Certificates See also Oversize  
            Honorary degrees  
            Honors  
            Engagement books  
            1950, 1952  
            (2 folders)  
            1953-1956  
            (4 folders)  
| BOX 25    | 1956-1958  
            (4 folders)  
| BOX 26    | 1958-1961  
            (5 folders)  
| BOX 27    | 1967-1968  
            Oral history interviews with Henderson (transcripts)  
            By Columbia University, New York, N.Y., 1970  
            By Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, Mo., 1973  
            (2 folders)  
| BOX 28    | Printed material  
            Clippings  
            Pamphlets  
            Poland, Katyn Forest Massacre  
            Reports  
| BOX 29    | Photographs  
            (6 folders)  
            Scrapbook of visit to India, 1950  
            (2 folders)  
| BOX OV 1  | Oversize, 1922-1982  
            Certificates  
| BOX OV 1  | Certificates, 1922-1982, undated (Container 23)  

Miscellany, 1950-1973