Collection Summary
Title: W. Beverly Carter Papers
Span Dates: 1924-1997
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1924-1982)
ID No.: MSS85604
Creator: Carter, W. Beverly (William Beverly), 1921-1982
Extent: 3,600 items
Extent: 8 containers plus 2 oversize plus 2 classified and 1 top secret
Extent: 3.2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2011085604
Summary: Diplomat. Correspondence, news clippings, and photographs relating primarily to the various positions held by Carter during his tenure with the Department of State.

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

Organizations
Stanford University--Students.
United States. Department of State.

Subjects
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Liberia.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Tanzania.
Diplomatic and consular service, American.
Guerrillas--Zaire.
Human rights.
Kidnapping--Tanzania.
Political campaigns--Pennsylvania.

Places
Liberia--Foreign relations--United States.
Tanzania--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Liberia.
United States--Foreign relations--Tanzania.

Occupations
Diplomats.

Provenance
The papers of W. Beverly Carter, diplomat, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his son, William Beverly Carter III, in 2011 and converted to a gift in 2013. Additional material was given by Carter III in 2015.
Transfers

Audiocassettes containing interviews, speeches, conferences, and memorial services honoring the life of W. Beverly Carter have been transferred to the Library’s Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of W. Beverly Carter is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of W. Beverly Carter 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.

Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified materials.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921, Feb. 1</td>
<td>Born, Coatesville, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943-1945</td>
<td>Reporter, Philadelphia Tribune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945-1948</td>
<td>City editor, Philadelphia Afro-American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Married Rosalie Alice Terry (divorced, 1971)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Congressional campaign, Republican, 4th District, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955-1964</td>
<td>Publisher, Pittsburgh Courier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>President, National Newspaper Publishers Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-1966</td>
<td>Director, United States Information Service, Nairobi, Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-1969</td>
<td>Director, United States Information Service, and counsellor of embassy, Lagos, Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-1972</td>
<td>Deputy assistant secretary of state, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Married Carlyn Brown Pogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Member, Commission on Human Rights, United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-1975</td>
<td>Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-1976</td>
<td>Special assistant to the assistant secretary of state for Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-1979</td>
<td>Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-1981</td>
<td>Ambassador at large, Department of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-1982</td>
<td>Director, Development and International Affairs, Inter Maritime Group, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The papers of William Beverly Carter Jr. (1921-1982) span the years 1924-1997 with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period of 1924-1982. The collection consists primarily of correspondence, photographs, news clippings, and miscellaneous material from Carter’s tenure with the Department of State. The papers are organized in four series: Professional Files, Classified, Top Secret, and Oversize.

Carter began his civil service in 1965, serving in Nigeria and Kenya in several capacities before being named ambassador to Tanzania. During his tenure, three Americans and one Dutch student were kidnapped from a Stanford University research camp by Zairian terrorists. Carter aided the release of the students by working with intermediaries in order to meet the kidnappers' demand for ransom. Soon after, Carter was demoted for breaching diplomatic protocol, but the public outcry resulted in his appointment as the ambassador to Liberia. Later, he became the first African American to be named ambassador at large. The Professional Files from Carter's work with the Department of State contains correspondence, news clippings, and photographs covering a variety of events and duties, but highlighted are his various ambassador appointments, the kidnapping of Stanford University students, and his subsequent reassignment as the Tanzanian ambassador.

Carter also served as an independent member on the Commission on Human Rights for the United Nations. Material related to the United Nations includes primarily Department of State cables and correspondence. Prior to his diplomatic work, Carter ran a congressional campaign as a Republican for Pennsylvania’s 4th district. Material from the campaign includes a scrapbook of photographs and news articles. Carter’s personal file contains miscellaneous news clippings, an oral history interview, biographical sketches, passports, and obituary. Carter’s speech files contain transcripts of his speeches given in various settings.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- Professional Files, 1924-1997
- Classified, 1965-1981
- Top Secret, 1975-1978
- Oversize, 1924-1982
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1-8</td>
<td><strong>Professional Files, 1924-1997</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence, news clippings, and photographs relating primarily to Carter's tenure with the Department of State.</td>
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<td>BOX TS 1</td>
<td><strong>Top Secret, 1975-1978</strong></td>
<td>Documents containing top secret classified information.</td>
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<td>BOX OV 1-OV 2</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1924-1982</strong></td>
<td>Campaign poster, elementary school class photograph, Philadelphia declaration honoring Carter, photographs with Gerald Ford, and certificates naming Carter to his various positions.</td>
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</table>
**Container List**

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| **BOX 1-8** | **Professional Files, 1924-1997**  
Correspondence, news clippings, and photographs relating primarily to Carter's tenure with the Department of State.  
Arranged by type of material or topic and thereunder chronologically. |
| **BOX 1** | Commission on the Organization of the Government for the Conduct of Foreign Policy, 1974-1975  
Congressional campaign, 1954 *See also Oversize*  
(3 folders)  
Personal file  
Biographical sketch and résumé, 1975-1982  
Correspondence  
Kidnap victims, 1975-1997  
Thank-you letters, 1966-1981  
Lincoln University, Oxford, Pa.  
Hall of fame, 1988  
Yearbook, 1943 |
| **BOX 2** | Miscellany, 1924-1982 *See also Oversize*  
News clippings, 1975-1976  
Obituary and related material, 1982  
Oral history transcript, 1981-1982  
Papers solicitation, 1975-1980  
Passports, 1952-1981  
Photographs, 1937-circa 1954 *See also Oversize*  
Publicity, 1952-1976 *See also Oversize*  
Speeches  
1969-1973 *See also Classified*  
(3 folders) |
| **BOX 3** | 1974-1980  
(4 folders)  
State Department  
Ambassador at large  
Appointment as ambassador, 1978-1979  
Chronological file, 1979-1981  
Miscellany, 1979-1981  
Photographs, 1979  
Publicity, 1979-1980  
Senate confirmation hearing, 1979 |
| **BOX 4** | Deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, 1969-1972  
Liberia  
Appointment as ambassador, 1976 *See also Classified*  
(2 folders) |
Professional Files, 1924-1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| BOX 5     | Publicity, 1976-1978  
Revolt, 1979-1980 See also Classified  
Miscellany  
African policy, 1973-1979  
Certificates, 1968-1981 See also Oversize  
Employee evaluations, 1965-1981 See also Classified  
Photographs, circa 1970-1980  
(2 folders)  
Special assistant to the assistant secretary of state for Africa, 1975-1976 See also Classified  
Tanzania  
Appointment as ambassador, 1972  
Chronological file  
1972-1974 See also Classified  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 6     | 1975 See also Classified  
(3 folders)  
Kidnapping, 1975 See also Classified  
(3 folders)  
Kidnapping fallout and reassignment, 1975 See also Classified and Top Secret  
(2 folders)  
Miscellany, 1972-1975 |
| BOX 7     | Publicity, 1972-1975  
Thank-you letters, 1975 See also Classified  
(2 folders)  
Visitors file  
United States Information Service 1965-1969 See also Classified  
United Nations  
1972-1975 See also Classified  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 8     | 1976-1981 See also Classified  
(7 folders) |
| BOX CL 1-CL 2 | Classified, 1965-1981  
Documents containing government-security information.  
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed. |
| BOX CL 1  | Speeches  
1971 (Container 2)  
State Department  
Liberia  
Appointment as ambassador, 1976 (Container 4)  
Chronological file, 1976-1978 (Container 4)  
Revolt, 1979-1980 (Container 5) |
Miscellany
  Employee evaluations, 1965-1981 (Container 5)
  Special assistant to the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, 1975-1976 (Container 5)

Tanzania
  Chronological file
    1972-1974 (Container 5)
    1975 (Container 6)
  Kidnapping, 1975 (Container 6)

BOX CL 2
  Kidnapping fallout and reassignment, 1975 (Container 6)
  Thank-you letters, 1975 (Container 7)
  Visitors file, 1972-1973 (Container 7)
  United States Information Service, 1965-1969 (Container 7)

United Nations
  1972 (Container 7)
  1976-1981 (Container 8)

BOX TS 1

Top Secret, 1975-1978
Documents containing top secret classified information.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

BOX TS 1
  State Department
  Liberia
    Chronological file, 1976-1978 (Container 4)
  Tanzania
    Kidnapping fallout and reassignment, 1975 (Container 6)

BOX OV 1-OV 2

Oversize, 1924-1982
Campaign poster, elementary school class photograph, Philadelphia declaration honoring Carter, photographs with Gerald Ford, and certificates naming Carter to his various positions.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

BOX OV 1
  Congressional campaign, 1954 (Container 1)
  Personal file
    Miscellany, 1924-1982 (Container 2)
    Photographs 1937-circa 1954 (Container 2)
    Publicity 1952-1976 (Container 2)

BOX OV 2
  State Department
  Liberia
    Miscellany, 1976-1978 (Container 4)
    Photographs, 1976-1979 (Container 4)
    Miscellany
      Certificates, 1968-1981 (Container 5)