

Inventory of the James H. Critchfield Papers 1941-2003

James H. Critchfield Papers 1941-2003

1941-2003

A Collection in the Special Collections Research Center Mss. Acc. 2004.09, 2009.367

Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary

2009

History

Processed By Special Collections Staff.

Title Statement

Inventory of the James H. Critchfield Papers 1941-2003

Subtitle: Critchfield, James

Collection: Mss. Acc. 2004.09, 2009.367

Publication Statement

Date: © 2009 By the College of William and Mary. All rights reserved.

Publisher: Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary

[Conditions of Use](#)

Profile Description

Creation: Finding aid created by Matthew Hopper, 2007

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Overview of the Collection

Identification:

01/Mss. Acc. 2004.09, 2009.367

Language of Materials

The papers are in: English German

Abstract:

Acc. 2004.09: (15 boxes): Documentation and drafts for James Critchfield's book, *Partners at the Creation the Men behind Postwar Germany's Defense and Intelligence Establishments*. Includes oral history transcripts and documents relating to the Berlin Crises (1958-1961), founding of the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), declassified Central Intelligence Agency documents (1945-1949), a German-English intelligence glossary, biographical files and correspondence.

Creator:

Critchfield, James H., 1917-2003 arrangement

Quantity:

16.00

Repository:

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open to all researchers.

Conditions Governing Use

Before publishing quotations or excerpts from any materials, permission must be obtained from the Special Collections Research Center, and the holder of the copyright, if not Swem Library.

Acquisition Information

The materials were acquired by Special Collections Research Center from Lois Critchfield on 00/00/2004.

Processing Information

Processed by Matthew Hopper during 2003-2004. Addition minimally described by Ute Schechter in August 2009.

Preferred Citation

James Critchfield Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Other Information

A PDF document of the inventory for Acc. 2004.09 is available online.

Additional information may be found at http://scrc.swem.wm.edu/findingaids/2004_9_Critchfield.pdf

Additional Information

Biographical Note

James H. Critchfield was a United States Army officer during World War II who remained in Germany and Austria as an army intelligence officer and joined the newly formed Central Intelligence Agency where he was the principal CIA officer working with the Gehlen Organization until its emergence as the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND). He was born January 30, 1917 and graduated from North Dakota State University. He retired from the CIA in 1974 and died April 23, 2003.

Scope and Contents

Acc. 2004.09: (15 boxes): Documentation and drafts for James Critchfield's book, *Partners at the Creation the Men behind Postwar Germany's Defense and Intelligence Establishments*. Includes oral history transcripts and documents relating to the Berlin Crises (1958-1961), founding of the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), declassified Central Intelligence Agency documents (1945-1949), a German-English intelligence glossary, biographical files and correspondence.

Acc. 2009.367 (1 box) consists of 2 copies of vol. 1 of a photocopy of "Foreign Intelligence and Partnership: CIA and the origins of the BND, 1945-49", and once copy of vol. 2; one bound and one loose-leaf set of copies of correspondence relating to Critchfield's post-war Intelligence tasks.

Index Terms

This Collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Genre/Form of Material:

Correspondence

Interviews

Manuscripts (document genre)

Publications

Speeches

Video recordings

Topical Term:

Germany. Bundesnachrichtendienst--History.

Intelligence service--Germany--History.

National security--Germany--History.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Addition (2009.367), 1945-1999,

Scope and Content

CIA and the Origins of the BND. CIA history of relationship with German Federal Intelligence Service.

Forging an Intelligence Partnership: CIA and the Origins of the BND, 1999,

Scope and Content

Volume I

Part I Firsthand Accounts

Part II Stunde Null (Zero Hour, June 1945)

Part III Vandenberg Report

Part IV Bossard Report

The report gives the history of the relationship between the CIA and the BND, beginning with General Gehlen, a German officer who started an organization during the war to preserve German intelligence records on the Soviet Union after Germany's defeat. The U.S. Army worked with Gehlen's organization after the end of the war, in a project called "Operation Rusty". The Vandenberg report was an evaluation by the CIA in 1947 of the merits of the CIA taking over this operation, which rejected the idea. The Bossard report was a later CIA follow up which was more favorable to the idea. In 1948 James Critchfield, head of the Munich Operations Based prepared the "Critchfield Report" which recommended the CIA take over Gehlen's operation , and this policy was put into effect in 1949. "Year of Decisions" the final section of the report consists of memos and reports between the CIA and the BND during 1949 as the policy was being carried out.

Forging an Intelligence Partnership, 1999,

Scope and Content

Bound copy of Item 1.

Forging an Intelligence Partnership, 1999,

Scope and Content

Volume II

Part V Critchfield Report

Part VI Year of Decisions

Documents relating to CIA-BND operations, 1948-1949,

Scope and Content

Bound book with copies of documents and reports relating to the CIA-BND operations, with a cover letter from Eberhard Blum, head of the BND from 1982-1985, to his "dear friend" James Critchfield

Documents relating to CIA-BND operations, 1948-1949,

Scope and Content

Looseleaf copy of Item 4