



Cobb, Tyrus W.: Files, 1988-1989

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

International Programs/Technology Affairs, 1988-1989

Specialization Heading

Special Assistant to the President

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Record Type

Textual

Related Information

Tyrus W. Cobb has a second collection at the Reagan Library: Cobb, Tyrus W.: Files, 1983-1987 (European and Soviet Affairs Directorate, NSC)

Biography

Tyrus W. Cobb (April 15, 1940-December 7, 2024) was a United States Army officer (Colonel), a tenured professor at West Point, a member of the National Security Council staff during the Reagan Administration and an international security policy specialist at various "think tanks."

Cobb was born on April 15, 1940 to Olga Glusovich and Tyrus W. Cobb in Reno, Nevada. He spent his youth in Reno, attending high school and then college at the University of Reno, graduating in 1962. While serving in the army, Cobb received an M.A. from Indiana University and a Ph.D. from Georgetown University.

Cobb enlisted in the United States Army in 1963. He served in two tours of combat duty in Vietnam. As part of his second tour in Vietnam, Cobb was appointed to the American team negotiating the implementation of the Paris Peace Accords ending the Vietnam War. As part of his mission, he flew to Hanoi to negotiate for the release of the U.S. prisoners. Cobb also served in Germany and Italy as part of his Army tours.

Cobb then became a tenured professor at West Point from 1977-1983. Dr. Cobb had also lectured at numerous universities in the United States, USSR/Russia, and China on various international relations policies. At the start of the Reagan Administration, Dr. Cobb was on an exchange in the Soviet Union.

Cobb's relations with the National Security Council began in the second half of the Jimmy Carter Administration. Cobb served as a consultant on international energy issues for the Carter White House and the early Reagan Administration.

In 1983, when Robert "Bud" McFarlane took over as National Security Advisor to the President, Cobb was asked to submit strategy papers regarding the long-range strategic position of the United States *vis-a-vis* the Soviet Union. As a result of these papers, he was asked to join the NSC staff as a member of the European and Soviet Affairs Directorate to work on European issues, Canada, and provide some input to long-range strategic Soviet policy. Cobb worked very closely with Peter Sommer and they divided responsibility for 34 countries among themselves. Cobb was responsible for France, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Austria, the Vatican, etc. Due to his fluency in multiple languages including Russian, Cobb was the executive secretary for the Reagan's summits with Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva in 1985 and in Reykjavik in 1986.

In 1988, Cobb became the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director of the International Programs and Technology Affairs Directorate with responsibility for science & technology agreements, export policy, United Nations issues, and the environment.

Leaving the White House, Cobb became president and CEO of the Business Executives for National Security (BENS) in 1991. He left there to become president/CEO of the Yosemite National Institutes from 1995-2002. Returning to his hometown of Reno, Cobb headed the Northern Nevada Network and founded the National Security Forum. Cobb stepped down from this post in 2018.

In 2017, Cobb was named a Distinguished Nevadan by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents. Bestowed by the University of Nevada at Reno, UNR President Brian Sandoval called Cobb "a Nevada titan for whom I had so much respect and admiration." Cobb often interacted with the National Archives staff at the Reagan Presidential Library & Museum, sharing his observations of foreign policy in the 1980s with wit and wisdom.

Tyrus Cobb died December 7, 2024 from heart failure He is survived by his wife, Suellen Small Cobb. They had three children and five grandchildren.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of two series: SERIES I: Subject File and SERIES II: Chronological File.

Series List

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE

SERIES II: CHRONOLOGICAL FILE

Last Modified Date

2024-12-10

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE

RAC Box 1

Status	Title
CLOSED	Aircraft Sales to Bloc
CLOSED	Antarctic Mineral Resources (1)(2)
CLOSED	ACDA (Arms Control and Disarmament Agency)-PRC (People's Republic of China) Arms Control Talks, 1988
CLOSED	Canon Mask Aligner (1)-(3)
CLOSED	CASTAR (1)(2)
CLOSED	China Lib (1)(2)
CLOSED	China Missile Sales (1)-(3)
CLOSED	China Telecom (1)-(8)
OPEN	Clean Air Act
CLOSED	Combustion Engineering
CLOSED	COCOM (Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls) China Liberalization (1)-(5)
CLOSED	COCOM Computer Liberalization (1)-(4)
CLOSED	COCOM IL: Atomic Energy List
CLOSED	COCOM IL: Industrial List (1)-(6)
CLOSED	COCOM IL: Munitions List

Status	Title
CLOSED	COCOM-USSR
RAC Box 2	
Status	Title
CLOSED	Critical Materials
CLOSED	DOD Three Country Review (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Dispute Resolution - TTSG - India Cases (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Dispute Resolution - TTSG - India Cases II (1)(2)
CLOSED	Dispute Resolution - TTSG - Iran Cases (1)-(5)
CLOSED	Environment: General (1)(2)
OPEN	Environment - Ozone and Acid Rain (1)-(8)
OPEN	Export Control Regulations
CLOSED	Fisheries: General
CLOSED	Foreign Availability (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Forest Line
CLOSED	German Minisub
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Global Climate Change (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Global Climate Change (2)
CLOSED	Honeywell-Bailey Cases - No Exceptions Policy (1)(2)
CLOSED	India STI (1)(2)
CLOSED	Industry (1)(2)
CLOSED	IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)
OPEN	IIASA [International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis] (1)-(4)
OPEN	Iraq Cases

RAC Box 3

Status	Title
CLOSED	Long March
CLOSED	Meeting Clearances (1)(2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Missile Proliferation - Israel/Egypt
CLOSED	Missile Proliferation - NSDD 315
CLOSED	Missile Proliferation - Policy Directive (1)-(5)

Status	Title
CLOSED	Missile Proliferation – U.S.-China Bilaterals
CLOSED	Missile Proliferation – U.S.-Soviet Bilaterals (1)-(10)
CLOSED	MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) – General Info (1)-(4)
OPEN	Moscow Summit (Folder 1)
OPEN	Moscow Summit (Folder 2)
CLOSED	NAS (National Academy of Science)
CLOSED	National Bureau of Standards (1)(2)
CLOSED	NSDD – Strategic Trade Controls
CLOSED	NOx Protocol (1)(2)
CLOSED	NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons)
CLOSED	Nuclear Energy – General
OPEN	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) – South Africa (1)(2)
CLOSED	Nuclear Terrorism
CLOSED	OSTP (Office of Science and Technology Policy)
CLOSED	Reagan Record on S&T
CLOSED	Streamlining (1)-(5)
CLOSED	Streamlining – Socrates

RAC Box 4

Status	Title
CLOSED	Subseabed Disposal Program
CLOSED	Supercomputer – Brazil (1)(2)
CLOSED	Supercomputer – CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) (1)(2)
CLOSED	Supercomputer – China (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Supercomputer – India (1)(2)
CLOSED	Supercomputer – Policy Definition (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Superconductors
CLOSED	[Superconducting] Super Collider (SSC) (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Survival of Humanity Foundation
CLOSED	Territorial Sea (1)-(6)

Status	Title
CLOSED	Toshiba: Action (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Trade Bill
OPEN	US-Japan Nuclear - Ad Hoc Committee (1)-(3)
OPEN	US-Japan Nuclear - Congress (1)-(5)
OPEN	US-Japan Nuclear - General (1)-(4)

RAC Box 5

Status	Title
OPEN	US-Japan Nuclear Agreement - Text (1)-(5)
OPEN	US-Japan Nuclear Agreement - Transportation Issues (1)-(6)
CLOSED	US-Japan S&T Agreement (1)-(5)
CLOSED	US-PRC Nuclear Cooperation Agreement
OPEN	US-Soviet Space Cooperation
CLOSED	US-USSR - General
CLOSED	US-USSR Maritime Search and Rescue
CLOSED	US-USSR Radio Navigation (1)(2)
OPEN	Whales - Iceland (1)(2)
CLOSED	Whales - IWC (International Whaling Commission)
CLOSED	Whales - Norway
CLOSED	Whaling (1)-(8)

SERIES II: CHRONOLOGICAL FILE

RAC Box 6

Status	Title
CLOSED	Cobb Chron July 1988 (1)-(7)
CLOSED	Cobb Chron August 1988 (1)-(10)
CLOSED	Cobb Chron September 1988 (1)-(15)
CLOSED	Cobb Chron October 1988 (1)-(8)
CLOSED	Cobb Chron November 1988 (1)-(9)

RAC Box 7

Status	Title
CLOSED	Cobb Chron December 1988 (1)-(7)

Status**Title**

CLOSED

Cobb Chron January 1989 (1)-(3)