Cobb, Tyrus W.: Files, 1983-1988

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

European and Soviet Affairs Directorate, NSC, 1983-1988

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Record Type

Textual

Related Information

Tyrus W. Cobb has a second collection at the Reagan Library: Cobb, Tyrus W.: Files, 1988-1989 (International Programs/Technology Affairs)

Biography

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 three series: SERIES I: Country File; SERIES II: Subject File; and SERIES III: Chronological File.

Additional Cobb material may be found in the [European and Soviet Affairs Directorate](#), [Peter Sommer](#), [Nelson Ledsky](#), and [Joan Vail](#) collections.

Cobb has a small personal papers collection at the [University of Reno, Nevada](#).

Series List

SERIES I: COUNTRY FILE

SERIES II: SUBJECT FILE

SERIES III: CHRONOLOGICAL FILE

Last Modified Date
2024-12-10

SERIES I: COUNTRY FILE
RAC Box 1

Status	Title
CLOSED	Arctic 1984-1985
CLOSED	Arctic 1986
OPEN	Austria 1985 (1)(2)
CLOSED	[Austria – 1985 (Interfile)]
OPEN	Austria 1986 (1)-(5)
CLOSED	Bermuda (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Bermuda 1985 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Bermuda 1986 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Bermuda 1987 (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Bermuda 1988 (1)(2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (01/01/1985-01/31/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (02/01/1985-02/21/1985)](#)

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (02/22/1985-03/05/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (03/06/1985-03/07/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (03/08/1985-03/13/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (03/14/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (03/15/1985-03/28/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (03/29/1985-03/31/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (04/01/1985-04/30/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (05/01/1985-06/09/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (06/10/1985-06/21/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (06/22/1985-07/24/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (07/25/1985-08/31/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (09/01/1985-09/30/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (10/01/1985-10/08/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (10/09/1985-10/31/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (11/01/1985-12/05/1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1985 (12/06/1985-12/31/1985)](#)

RAC Box 2

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1986 (1982-November 1985)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Canada 1986 (November 1985-02/11/1986)](#)
OPEN	Canada 1986 (02/26/1986) (1)(2)
OPEN	Canada 1986 (03/27/1986-05/29/1986)
OPEN	Canada 1986 (05/30/1986-06/07/1986)
OPEN	Canada 1986 (06/09/1986-07/17/1986)
OPEN	Canada 1986 (07/25/1986-09/04/1986)
OPEN	Canada 1986 (09/09/1986-11/13/1986)
OPEN	Canada 1986 (11/14/1986-11/21/1986)
OPEN	Canada 1986 (11/21/1986-12/01/1986)
OPEN	Canada 1986 (12/05/1986-12/15/1986)
OPEN	Canada 1986 (12/17/1986-12/31/1986)
CLOSED	Canada January 1986-June 1986 (1)-(14)

Status	Title
CLOSED	Canada January 1987-June 1987 (1)-(10)
CLOSED	Canada (General) 1987 (1)-(6)
CLOSED	Canada January 1988-March 1988 (1)-(6)
OPEN	Canada April 1988 (1)-(8)
OPEN	Canada: Acid Rain (1985-02/05/1987)
OPEN	Canada: Acid Rain (02/17/1987-03/09/1987)
OPEN	Canada: Acid Rain (03/10/1987-03/16/1987)
OPEN	Canada: Acid Rain (03/18/1987-06/09/1987)
OPEN	Canada: Acid Rain (07/17/1987-08/07/1987)
CLOSED	Canada Arctic Sovereignty (NW Passage) (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Canada: Film Distribution (1)(2)
CLOSED	Canada SSN Program (1)-(3)
OPEN	Canada Summit 04/05/1987-04/06/1987 (1)-(9)
OPEN	Visit of Vice President Bush to Canada 06/10/1986-06/13/1986 (1)-(7)
CLOSED	Denmark 1985 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Finland 1985 [1984]
CLOSED	France 1985 (1)-(9)

RAC Box 3

Status	Title
CLOSED	France 1986 (1)-(10)
CLOSED	France 1987 (1)-(13)
CLOSED	France 1988
CLOSED	Iceland
CLOSED	Italy 1985 (1)-(8)
CLOSED	Italy 1986 (1)-(6)
CLOSED	Italy (General) Tab: Goria (1)(2)
CLOSED	Italy (General) Tab: Spadolini
CLOSED	Italy (General) Tab: Andreotti
CLOSED	Italy (General) Tab: Fanfani

Status	Title
CLOSED	Italy (General) Tab: Correspondence/Cables Reports: January 1987-December 1987 (1)-(3)

RAC Box 4

Status	Title
CLOSED	President's 06/06/1987 Trip Rome, Italy – City Maps
CLOSED	President's 06/06/1987 Trip Rome, Italy – Memos/Cables/Country Data (1)(2)
CLOSED	Italy June Trip – Miscellaneous (FRG) (1)-(6)
CLOSED	Italy June Trip – Public Diplomacy
CLOSED	Italy June Trip – Summit (1)-(6)
CLOSED	Italy – Nuclear Control (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Liechtenstein
CLOSED	Luxembourg 1985
CLOSED	Luxembourg 1986
CLOSED	Malta (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Malta 1986 (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Monaco
CLOSED	Monaco 1986
CLOSED	Netherlands 1985 (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Netherlands 1986 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Dutch Nuclear Control
CLOSED	Switzerland (1)-(6)
CLOSED	Switzerland 1986 (1)(2)
CLOSED	USSR (1)-(5)

RAC Box 4A

Status	Title
CLOSED	Malta (1984)
CLOSED	Malta (1985) (1)-(7)
CLOSED	Malta (1986) (1)(2)
CLOSED	Malta (1987)
CLOSED	Malta: Cables

Status	Title
CLOSED	Malta: Correspondence (1)-(3)
OPEN	Malta: Intelligence Data (1)(2)

RAC Box 5

Status	Title
CLOSED	USSR (6)-(13)
CLOSED	USSR 1985 (1)-(12)
CLOSED	USSR 1986 (1)-(6)
CLOSED	USSR 1987-1988 (1)-(3)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Soviet Union (Binder) (1)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Soviet Union (Binder) (2)](#)
CLOSED	Gorbachev Visit to U.S. (1)(2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Reykjavik Preparatory Meeting (1)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Reykjavik Preparatory Meeting (2)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Reykjavik Preparatory Meeting (3)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Reykjavik Preparatory Meeting (4)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Reykjavik Preparatory Meeting (5)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Reykjavik Preparatory Meeting (6)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Reykjavik Preparatory Meeting (7)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Reykjavik Preparatory Meeting (8)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Reykjavik Preparatory Meeting (9)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Reykjavik Preparatory Meeting (10)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Reykjavik Preparatory Meeting (11)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Background Papers for 10/10/1986-10/12/1986 Trip by President to Reykjavik, Iceland](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[President Reagan's Reykjavik, Iceland Trip – 10/10/1986-10/12/1986 (Background Book) (1)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[President Reagan's Reykjavik, Iceland Trip – 10/10/1986-10/12/1986 (Background Book) (2)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[President Reagan's Reykjavik, Iceland Trip – 10/10/1986-10/12/1986 (Briefing Book) (1)](#)

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[President Reagan's Reykjavik, Iceland Trip – 10/10/1986-10/12/1986 (Briefing Book) (2)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[President Reagan's Reykjavik, Iceland Trip – 10/10/1986-10/12/1986 (Briefing Book) (3)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Gorbachev-President's Meeting, Washington 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (Background Book) (1)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Gorbachev-President's Meeting, Washington 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (Background Book) (2)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Gorbachev-President's Meeting, Washington 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (Background Book) (3)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Gorbachev-President's Meeting, Washington 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (Background Book) (4)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Gorbachev-President's Meeting, Washington 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (Briefing Book) (1)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Gorbachev-President's Meeting, Washington 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (Briefing Book) (2)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Gorbachev-President's Meeting, Washington 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (Briefing Book) (3)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Gorbachev-President's Meeting, Washington 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (Briefing Book) (4)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Gorbachev-President's Meeting, Washington 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (Briefing Book) (5)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Background Book: Gorbachev/President's Meetings – Moscow 05/29/1988-06/02/1988 (1)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Background Book: Gorbachev/President's Meetings – Moscow 05/29/1988-06/02/1988 (2)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Air Force One President's Summit Briefing Book/NSC Action Items (1)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Air Force One President's Summit Briefing Book/NSC Action Items (2)](#)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Air Force One President's Summit Briefing Book/NSC Action Items (3)](#)

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Air Force One President's Summit Briefing Book/NSC Action Items (4)](#)
OPEN	Vatican 1985 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Vatican 1986 (1)-(3)

SERIES II: SUBJECT FILE
RAC Box 6

Status	Title
CLOSED	Access Lists 1986-1987 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Appointment Book 1986
CLOSED	Appointment Book 1987
OPEN	Biographic Materials
CLOSED	Arms Control (1)-(8)
CLOSED	Harry Chase
CLOSED	Crisis Management Center Nicholson-Berlin (1)(2)
CLOSED	Eureka
OPEN	European Defense Issues (1)-(10)
CLOSED	MBFR (1)-(6)
CLOSED	NSC Staff/Procedures (1)-(3)
CLOSED	PFIAB/CIA Review
CLOSED	[Publications – Returned to NSC]
CLOSED	SDI 84/85 (1)-(11)
CLOSED	Telephone Log (1)(2)
CLOSED	Weekly Reports
OPEN	1986 Geographic Area Presidential Correspondence: Austria
CLOSED	1986 Geographic Area Presidential Correspondence: Belgium
CLOSED	1986 Geographic Area Presidential Correspondence: Canada (1)(2)
CLOSED	1986 Geographic Area Presidential Correspondence: France (1)(2)

Status	Title
CLOSED	1986 Geographic Area Presidential Correspondence: Italy
CLOSED	1986 Geographic Area Presidential Correspondence: Malta

SERIES III: CHRONOLOGICAL FILE

RAC Box 7

Status	Title
CLOSED	Chron June 1986 (May 22)
CLOSED	Chron July 1986 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Chron August 1986 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Chron September 1986 (1)-(5)
CLOSED	Chron October 1986 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Chron November 1986 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Chron December 1986 (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Chron January 1987 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Chron February 1987 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Chron March 1987 (1)-(6)
CLOSED	Chron April 1987 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Chron May 1987 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Chron June 1987 (1)-(3)

RAC Box 8

Status	Title
CLOSED	Chron July 1987 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Chron August 1987 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Chron September 1987 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Chron October 1987 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Chron November 1987 (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Chron December 1987 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Chron January 1988 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Chron February 1988 (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Chron March 1988 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Chron April 1988 (1)-(5)
CLOSED	Chron May 1988 (1)(2)

Status	Title
CLOSED	Chron June 1988 (1)(2)