



Burns, William J.: Files, 1986-1988

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Near East and South Asia Affairs Directorate, NSC

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

Biography

William Joseph Burns (1956-) is an American diplomat and the eighth Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Burns was born at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in 1956. His father, William F. Burns, was a Major General in the U.S. Army. Burns earned a B.A. in history from La Salle University and M.Phil and D.Phil degrees in international relations from St. John's College, Oxford University, where he studied as a Marshall Scholar.

Burns entered the foreign service in 1982. Early in his diplomatic career, Burns was detailed to the White House and served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Near East and South Asian Affairs at the National Security Council. He was then appointed head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency from 1988-1989.

Returning to full duty at the State Department, his long diplomatic career includes service in the Moscow embassy and negotiations with former Soviet states on their denuclearization after the breakup of the Soviet Union. In addition, he was part of a negotiation team with Iran beginning in the later years of the George W. Bush Administration that ultimately led to the Iran Nuclear Agreement. Burns also served as a Special Assistant to both Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Madeline Albright.

From 1996-1998, Burns served as the Executive Secretary of the Department of State. He was appointed Ambassador to Jordan from 1998-2001. Returning to Washington, Burns became Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. He was then appointed Ambassador to Russia from November 2005 to May 2011.

Burns returned to the state Department as Under Secretary for Political Affairs from 2008 to 2011. In 2008, President George W. Bush nominated Burns as a Career Ambassador, the highest and rarest rank of diplomatic service to the United States. The Senate confirmed the nomination. Briefly in 2009, Burns served as Acting Secretary of State and then in 2011 until his retirement from the foreign service in 2014, Burns was Deputy Secretary of State.

Leaving government service, Burns served as President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2014-2021.

On January 11, 2021, President-elect Joseph Biden announced he planned to nominate Burns as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. On March 2, 2021, the Senate Intelligence Committee unanimously approved Burns' nomination and the full Senate confirmed his nomination on March 18, 2021. He was officially sworn in on March 23, 2021.

Burns is the recipient of multiple honors and awards from organizations, the Department of State and foreign governments. Ambassador Burns speaks four languages: English, Russian, French and Arabic.

Burns and his wife, Lisa Carty, a former U.S. diplomat and now UN diplomat have two daughters.

For more detail on Ambassador William J. Burns, please see his memoir published in 2019, *The Back Channel: A Memoir of American Diplomacy and the Case for Its Renewal*.

Scope and Content Note

The William J. Burns Collection consists of five series: SERIES I: Subject Files; SERIES II: Gulf Files; SERIES III: Speech Files; SERIES IV: Visit Files; and SERIES V: Chronological Files.

Series List

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILES

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Last Modified Date

2024-02-26

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILES

RAC Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN	Afghanistan 1987
OPEN	Afghanistan [1988] (1)-(7)
OPEN	Afghanistan, Pakistan, the USSR, and US Strategy
OPEN	Yunis Khalis (Afghan Resistance Alliance) Meetings
OPEN	NSDD on Afghanistan (1)(2)
CLOSED	Soviet Defectors [Afghanistan]
CLOSED	Algeria (1988)
CLOSED	Bangladesh [1988]
OPEN	Chad 1987
CLOSED	Egypt [02/28/1986-09/30/1986]
CLOSED	Egypt [10/07/1986-12/31/1986]
CLOSED	Egypt [01/01/1987-02/10/1987]
CLOSED	Egypt [02/11/1987-02/28/1987]
CLOSED	Egypt [03/01/1987-05/31/1987]
CLOSED	Egypt [06/01/1987-09/30/1987]
CLOSED	Egypt [10/01/1987-12/31/1987]
CLOSED	Egypt [01/01/1988-06/30/1988]
CLOSED	Egypt [07/01/1988-10/31/1988]
CLOSED	Egypt Economy [1986-1988]
CLOSED	FMS Debt [1986]
CLOSED	FMS Debt [1987]
CLOSED	Gottfurcht (Fred)
CLOSED	India [1986-1987]
CLOSED	India [1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Iran [1987-1988] (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Iran [1987-1988] (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Iran [1987-1988] (3)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Iran [1987-1988] (4)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Iran [1987-1988] (5)
CLOSED	Iran Air Incident (07/03/1988) [07/01/1988-07/05/1988]
CLOSED	Iran Air Incident (07/03/1988) [07/06/1988-07/07/1988]

Status	Title
CLOSED	Iran Air Incident (07/03/1988) [07/08/1988-07/19/1988]
CLOSED	Iran Air Incident (07/03/1988) [07/20/1988-07/21/1988]
CLOSED	Iran Air Incident (07/03/1988) [07/22/1988-07/31/1988]
CLOSED	Iran Air Incident (07/03/1988) [08/01/1988-09/02/1988]
CLOSED	Iran and Protection of Shipping [1987]
CLOSED	Iran and Protection of Shipping [1988]
OPEN	Iraq [1987-1988] (1)(2)
OPEN	Israel [1986]
OPEN	Israel [1987]
OPEN	Israel [01/01/1988-07/18/1988]
OPEN	Israel [07/19/1988-09/22/1988]
OPEN	Israel [09/23/1988-11/14/1988]
CLOSED	India [1986-1987]
CLOSED	India [1988]

RAC Box 2

Status	Title
OPEN	Jordan (1)-(6)
CLOSED	Kuwait [10/01/1986-07/17/1987]
CLOSED	Kuwait [07/18/1987-12/31/1987]
CLOSED	Kuwait [01/01/1988-03/20/1988]
CLOSED	Kuwait [03/21/1988-09/30/1988]
CLOSED	Kuwait F-18 Sale [01/01/1988-07/07/1988]
CLOSED	Kuwait F-18 Sale [07/08/1988-07/15/1988]
CLOSED	Kuwait F-18 Sale [07/16/1988-07/28/1988]
CLOSED	Kuwait F-18 Sale [07/29/1988-08/04/1988]
OPEN	Lebanon [1987-1988] (1)(2)
OPEN	Libya Background [1986-1988] (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Morocco [02/22/1985-02/25/1987]
CLOSED	Morocco [02/26/1987-04/08/1987]
CLOSED	Morocco [04/09/1987-10/02/1987]
CLOSED	Morocco [1988]
CLOSED	North Africa [1988]

Status	Title
CLOSED	Oman [1987-1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Pakistan (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Pakistan (2)
OPEN	PLO
OPEN	PLO Mission
OPEN	PLO Mission Closure (1)-(3)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Saudi Arabia (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Saudi Arabia (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Saudi Arabia (3)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Saudi Arabia (4)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Saudi Arabia (5)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Saudi Arabia (6)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Saudi Arabia (7)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Saudi Arabia (8)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Saudi Arabia (9)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Saudi Arabia (10)
OPEN	South Asia - General
CLOSED	Soviet Issues [1985-1987]
CLOSED	Soviet Issues [1988]
CLOSED	Soviets/Middle East
OPEN	Syria
CLOSED	Taba [05/21/1986-09/08/1986]
CLOSED	Taba [09/09/1986-03/15/1987]
CLOSED	Taba - Arbitration Award [1988]
CLOSED	Transition Documents
CLOSED	Tunisia [1986-1987]
CLOSED	Tunisia [02/01/1988-07/31/1988]
CLOSED	Tunisia [08/01/1988-08/31/1988]
CLOSED	Tunisia [09/01/1988-12/31/1988]

RAC Box 3

Status

Title

CLOSED	United Arab Emirates (UAE)/Bahrain [01/28/1987-10/31/1987]
CLOSED	United Arab Emirates (UAE)/Bahrain [11/01/1987-11/19/1987]
CLOSED	United Arab Emirates (UAE)/Bahrain [11/20/1987-12/15/1987]
CLOSED	United Arab Emirates (UAE)/Bahrain [1988]
CLOSED	UNGA [United Nations General Assembly] [1985]
CLOSED	UNGA [United Nations General Assembly] Meetings [1988]
OPEN	West Bank Gaza Aid
CLOSED	Western Sahara [1986-1987]
CLOSED	Yemen [1987-1988]

SERIES II: GULF FILES

RAC Box 3 cont'd

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Gulf War (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Gulf War (2)
CLOSED	Gulf: Congressional Action [11/18/1987-05/19/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf: Congressional Action [05/20/1987-06/23/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf: Congressional Action [06/24/1987-07/02/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf: Congressional Action [07/03/1987-08/12/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf: Congressional Action [08/13/1987-10/19/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf: Congressional Action [10/20/1987-11/18/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf: Public Diplomacy [01/23/1980 - 06/30/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf: Public Diplomacy [07/01/1987-07/20/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf: Public Diplomacy [07/21/1987-11/19/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf: Public Diplomacy [11/20/1987-10/06/1987]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Diplomatic Strategy [02/12/1987-05/31/1987]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Diplomatic Strategy [06/01/1987-06/18/1987]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Diplomatic Strategy [06/19/1987- 07/20/1987]

Status	Title
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Diplomatic Strategy [07/21/1987-07/31/1987]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Diplomatic Strategy [08/01/1987-08/31/1987]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Diplomatic Strategy [09/01/1987-10/25/1988]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Military Planning [05/13/1987-06/02/1987]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Military Planning [06/03/1987-06/17/1987]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Military Planning [06/18/1987-07/23/1987]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Military Planning [07/24/1987-10/22/1987]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Military Planning [10/23/1987-11/19/1987]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Military Planning [11/20/1987-04/20/1988]
CLOSED	Protection of Gulf Shipping: Military Planning [04/20/1988-09/15/1988]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [05/18/1987-05/22/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [05/23/1987-06/02/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [06/03/1987-06/30/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [07/01/1987-07/31/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [08/01/1987-08/26/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [08/27/1987-10/01/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [10/02/1987-10/19/1987]

Status	Title
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [10/20/1987-11/26/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [11/27/1987-11/30/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [12/01/1987-12/17/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [12/18/1987-12/31/1987]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [01/01/1988-01/25/1988]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [01/26/1988-05/31/1988]
CLOSED	Gulf Policy Meetings: Memoranda and Minutes [06/01/1988-09/14/1988]
CLOSED	Foreign Assistance [1986-1988]

RAC Box 4

Status	Title
OPEN	Hostages 1987
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Missile Proliferation
OPEN	Peace Process [11/15/1985-01/03/1986]
OPEN	Peace Process [01/04/1986-06/19/1986]
OPEN	Peace Process [06/20/1986-12/31/1986]
OPEN	Peace Process [01/01/1987-07/28/1987]
OPEN	Peace Process [07/29/1987-01/25/1988]
OPEN	Peace Process [01/26/1988-04/30/1988]
OPEN	Peace Process [05/01/1988-08/31/1988]
OPEN	Peace Process [09/01/1988-09/30/1988]
CLOSED	Peace Process [Miscellaneous]
OPEN	Peace Process 1988 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Regional Issues (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Roberts Mine Attack [1987]
CLOSED	Roberts Mine Attack [1988]
CLOSED	Secure Conference Call Notes [07/22/1987-08/19/1987]

Status	Title
CLOSED	Secure Conference Call Notes [08/20/1987-09/14/1987]
CLOSED	Secure Conference Call Notes [09/15/1987-10/09/1987]
CLOSED	Secure Conference Call Notes [10/10/1987-11/11/1987]
CLOSED	Secure Conference Call Notes [11/12/1987-03/09/1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	UNSC and Iran-Iraq War [01/06/1987-07/16/1987]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	UNSC and Iran-Iraq War [07/17/1987-09/30/1987]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	UNSC and Iran-Iraq War [10/01/1987-12/31/1987]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	UNSC and Iran-Iraq War [1988]
OPEN	VP's Trip to Israel, Jordan, Egypt July 1986

SERIES III: SPEECH FILES

RAC Box 4 cont'd

Status	Title
CLOSED	Speeches [02/03/1986-05/09/1986]
CLOSED	Speeches [04/01/1986-12/06/ 1986]
CLOSED	Speeches [01/23/1987-06/15/1987]
CLOSED	Speeches [08/10/1987-12/31/1987]
CLOSED	Speeches [03/24/1988-07/31/1988]
CLOSED	Speeches [08/01/1988-08/23/1988]
CLOSED	Speeches [08/24/1988-09/08/1988]
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SERIES IV: VISIT FILES

RAC Box 5

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OPEN	Mubarak Visit [01/22/1988-01/26/1988]
OPEN	Mubarak Visit [01/27/1988-02/01/1988]
OPEN	Mubarak Visit [02/02/1988-02/03/1988]
OPEN	Sa'ad Official Working Visit (07/12/1988): [01/27/1988-07/06/1988]
OPEN	Sa'ad Official Working Visit (07/12/1988): [07/07/1988-07/10/1988]

Status	Title
OPEN	Sa'ad Official Working Visit (07/12/1988): [07/11/1988-07/12/1988]

SERIES V: CHRON FILES

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Status	Title
OPEN	CHRON File [07/21/1986-08/13/1986]
OPEN	CHRON File [08/14/1986-10/14/1986]
OPEN	CHRON File [10/15/1986-10/31/1986]
OPEN	CHRON File [11/01/1986-11/30/1986]
OPEN	CHRON File [12/01/1986-01/31/1987]
OPEN	CHRON File [02/01/1987-02/28/1987]
OPEN	CHRON File [03/01/1987-08/31/1987]
OPEN	CHRON File [09/01/1988-09/08/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [09/09/1988-09/14/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [09/15/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [09/16/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [09/17/1988-09/19/1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	CHRON File [09/20/1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	CHRON File [09/21/1988-09/22/1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	CHRON File [09/23/1988-09/28/1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	CHRON File [09/29/1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	CHRON File [09/30/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [10/01/1988-10/04/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [10/05/1988-10/13/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [10/14/1988-10/18/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [10/19/1988-10/25/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [10/26/1988-11/07/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [11/08/1988-11/10/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [11/11/ 1988-11/15/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [11/16/1988-11/17/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [11/18/1988-11/22/1988]
OPEN	CHRON File [11/23/1988-11/30/1988]

Status**Title**

OPEN

CHRON File [December 1988] (1)-(4)

OPEN

CHRON File [January 1989]