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RUBOTTOM

RUBOTTOM, ROY (OH-268) 95 pages PRCQ

Foreign Service officer; Director, U.S. Operations Mission, Madrid, Spain, 1954-1956; Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, 1957-60; U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, 1960-62.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1: Personal background and development of interest in Latin America; discusses his appointment as a career foreign service officer and relates his climb through various operational positions in the State Department; assignment in Spain with the U.S. Operations mission; appointment as Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs and his working relationship with President Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles; Dulles' interest in Latin America and relationship with Panamanian officials; Milton Eisenhower; lack of State Department officials knowledgeable in Latin American affairs; importance of Assistant Secretary and staff in Latin American matters; shift in US policy during Eisenhower's second term away from private enterprise and investments; support for Inter-American Bank; funding for social infrastructure projects; relationship between 1960 Bogota Conference and the Alliance for Progress; Douglas Dillon and Robert Anderson; change in policy as a vindication of Milton Eisenhower's recommendations; George Humphrey; President Eisenhower's 1960 trip to South America; policy toward Cuba; difficulties in identifying Castro's political orientation and direction.

Interview #2: Vice President Nixon's 1958 trip to South America; Cuba; planning Nixon's trip and working with his staff; decision not to go to Chile and timing of Venezuela visit; Nixon's stop at University of Montevideo; Nixon press conference statement on dictator ships; crowds and problems in Caracas and US Marines placed on alert; impact of incidents of Nixon's trip on U.S. Latin American policy; Milton Eisenhower's 1958 trip to Central America; compares working with Nixon and Milton Eisenhower; assessment of policy toward Cuba; background of Castro's movement; denial of arms to Batista; Arthur Gardner; Earl E. T. Smith; Jules DuBois; William Pawley; Herbert Matthews; Phil Bonsal; lack of skilled ambassadors in Cuba; efforts to deal with Castro; shift in policy to unmasking Castro; efforts to train Cuban exiles; criticism of publicity for anti-Castro efforts; Rio Treaty and fear of Cuban aggression; Cuba and Soviet missiles; Kennedy administration failure to support operations; Trujillo and the Dominican Republic; allegations of U.S. support for dictators; attitudes of Latin American countries toward Castro; 1951 Bracero Agreement with Mexico; 1952 trade agreement with Venezuela; formation of Inter-American Bank; John Foster Dulles and Milton Eisenhower; negative impact of President Johnson on Rubottom's career.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interviews by John Luter, 1969 and 1970]