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Date: 3/9/76

ALLEN

ALLEN, GEORGE V. (OH-280) 138 pages PRCQ to Colombia

Foreign Service officer and State Department official; U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia, 1950-53, India and Nepal, 1953, and Greece, 1956-57; Director, U.S. Information Agency (USIA), 1957-60.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. First contacts with the Eisenhower Administration: reporting to DDE about Tito and Yugoslavia; being appointed U.S. Ambassador to India. Service as Director, USIA: reporting the U-2 incident, and discussions with DDE about USIA handling of the story; his desire for USIA to be detached and objective in reporting news; dispute with Jerry Persons during 1960 election about USIA poll on U.S. prestige. Observations re John Foster Dulles: the DDE-Dulles relationship; Dulles' ability as Secretary of State. Problems for career Foreign Service officers and State Department officials during transitions between presidential administrations. Comment on soldiers from India overseeing the prisoner exchanges at the end of the Korean War. Handling the Cyprus question while Ambassador to Greece. Observations on why he replaced Arthur Larson as USIA Director. Contacts with Congress, especially Representative John Rooney.

Interview #2. Vice President Richard Nixon's visit to Moscow, and the "Kitchen Debate": videotaping of Nixon's initial exchange with Khrushchev; problems of U.S. networks later televising the debate; part played by RCA and the television networks in the videotape problems; Nixon's handling of the situation. Inspection trip for DDE of controversial U.S. exhibits at the Brussels World Fair. Observations on how some people looked for communist influence in all USIA programs. His relationship with DDE while Director of USIA, and the USIA's Moscow exhibition. DDE's interest in personal diplomacy, and the People-to-People program.

[Columbia University Oral History Project interviews by Ed Edwin, 1967]