National Archives and Records Administration



8601 Adelphi Road College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

RG 174: GENERAL RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR International Labor Affairs

The broadly-defined functions of the Department of Labor are to administer programs intended to monitor the economic and physical welfare of American wage earners, improve their working conditions, and advance profitable employment opportunities. Since shortly after World War II, a major organizational element of the Department has dealt with international affairs: Office of International Labor Affairs (1947-1959) and Bureau of International Labor Affairs (1959-present).

The mission of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) is to promote a fair global playing field for workers in the United States and around the world by enforcing trade commitments, strengthening labor standards, and combating international child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. Among other things, ILAB coordinates and facilitates U.S. participation in the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the labor components of other international organizations; provides expertise, research and advice on labor and employment trends and issues in foreign countries; and helps facilitate the sharing of information between specialized DOL agencies and other countries.

The National Archives holds the ILAB records described below. Some of these files have been processed and reviewed for release; others may require declassification or review for otherwise restricted information before use. Before visiting the National Archives to use any of these records, researchers should contact the Archives II Reference, Research Rooms and Augmented Processing Branch to find out the availability of records of interest <archives2reference@nara.gov>.

More information on the processed records is in the on-line Catalog. The Record Entry ID numbers for the processed records are included to facilitate searches in the Catalog. Note, however, that records should be cited and identified and are retrieved using the record group number, entry number, and other descriptive identifying information.

Processed Records (as of February 11, 2020)

Office of the Director and Assistant Secretary

◆General Correspondence of the Office of the Director, 1953-1957 (includes records from as early as 1934). RG 174 Entry A1-44. REID 218703. Arranged chronologically by year, and thereunder alphabetically by subject.

This series consists of letters, memorandums, reports, cablegrams, newspaper clippings, publications, and mimeographed minutes of ILO committee, conference, and governing body sessions. Subjects covered include a wide variety of topics relating to trade unions, trade reciprocity, fair labor standards, assisting non-Communist labor movements, and particularly the U.S. Mission to Aid Greece. Also included are records documenting efforts leading to the United States joining the ILO in 1934. (10 FRC boxes).

◆General Correspondence of Assistant Secretary J. Ernest Wilkins, 1954-1956. RG 174 Entry A1-45. REID 364126. Arranged by subject.

The files consist of correspondence, reports, memorandums, cablegrams, speeches, congressional and presidential documents, biographies, conference summaries, periodicals, newspaper clippings, and position papers. Subject covered include profiles on early labor attaches, labor attaché conferences, discussions with the Department of State on what standards should be set for the hiring of labor attaches, policies on trade and labor productivity, arrangements for training and housing foreign visitors, hearings on the International Labor Organization, budgetary matters, the Communist penetration of world labor organizations. (4 Archives boxes).

◆Security Classified Subject Files of Assistant Secretary J. Ernest Wilkins, 1954-1958. RG 174 Entry A1-45A. REID 218707. Arranged by subject.

The files consist of reports, correspondence, memorandums, airgrams, telegrams, minutes of meetings, and other types of documents. The records document the international activities of the Department of Labor. Specific topics include labor attachés, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Council on Foreign Economic Policy (CFEP), personnel, and security matters. (4 FRC boxes and 2 Archives boxes).

General Records

◆Foreign Service Subject Files, 1947-1995. RG 174 Entry P-36. REID HS1-559802230. Arranged chronologically by year, and thereunder alphabetically by subject.

This series consists of policy and program papers, annual labor reports, post reports, inspection reports, biographical data on labor attaches and labor reporting officers, directories, training materials, and evaluations. The files document Department of Labor contributions to the administration of the Foreign Service. (11 FRC boxes).

◆Trade Policy Subject Files, 1954-1996. RG 174 Entry P-33. REID HS1-543082276. Arranged by subject in no particular order, and thereunder arranged alphabetically by topic.

This series consists of policy papers, cables, correspondence, working papers, and reports related to trade negotiations, international organizations,

international investment, foreign country economic data and trade interests, international labor standards, interagency committees, and the Generalized System of Preferences. (26 FRC boxes).

♦ Vocational Training and Construction (VOTRAKON) Group Project Program Files, 1974-1985. RG 174 Entry UD-06W-6. REID 498652. Arranged by subject.

This series consists of reports and other files relating to the Vocational Training and Construction (VOTRAKON) Group Project, which involved the Department of Labor supporting the creation of a vocational training program in Saudi Arabia. (48 FRC boxes).

Foreign Service Division

◆Labor Attachés and Labor Counselors Correspondence, Reports, Personnel Performance, and Backstopping Files, 1939-1958. RG 174 Entry A1-49A. REID 218713. Arranged in four parts. Each part is arranged roughly alphabetically by surname.

The records consist of correspondence, biographical sketches, Foreign Service despatches, memorandums, periodical and newspaper clippings, and detailed economic reports by attachés abroad. The records document the work and activities of Labor Attachés and Labor Counselors, technical assistance in the realm of labor organizing, management, and activities. (22 Archives boxes and 1 AUD-G box).

Office of International Economic Affairs. Division of Foreign Economic Research

Economic Research Project Files and Program Records, 1972-1996. RG 174 Entry P-30. REID HS1-527102781. Arranged chronologically by date and thereunder by subject.

The records largely consist of research reports prepared under contract to study the impact on and/or by various aspects of the United States economy and the various aspects of the international economy. Other files are various program records on various topics related to the similar matters. Topics of the reports include: matters concerning trade restrictions and tariffs; multinational corporations and offshore manufacturing; matters involving world trade; worker unemployment; international competiveness; impacts on U.S. manufacturing, businesses, and labor; matters concerning currency, currency manipulation, and exchange rates; trade treaties and its impact on U.S. workers and businesses; fiscal and monetary policies; and commodity prices. Further report topics include: dealing with the fallout of a shrinking manufacturing sector; consumer goods pricing and inflation; post-communist countries economic and trade changes and challenges; taxes; case studies of various nations on various subjects; impacts of technological change;

counterfeiting; migration and immigration; underground economies; and reports on the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) amongst many other economic research reports and program files. (15 FRC boxes and 1 Archives box).

Office of International Organizations

◆International Labour Organization (ILO) Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA) Complaint Case Files, 1979-1994. RG 174 Entry UD-14W-14. REID HS1-170214864. Arranged numerically by Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA) case file number and thereunder roughly chronologically by date.

The records consist of correspondence, court rulings, newspaper and magazine clippings, research material, and final case reports and conclusions. This series contains the case files initiated and investigated by the Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA) of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The cases involve accusations of trade union violations under the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention (1948) Number 87 and/or The Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (1949) Number 98, both International Labour Organization Conventions, and a part of international labor law. These cases were filed against the United States of America by the CFA for parties based in the United States who have already gone through U.S. courts or went through arbitration, either of which resulted in decisions that ruled against those parties. (3 FRC boxes and 1 Archives box).

Office of International Organizations and Technical Assistance

◆Records Relating to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Industrial Committee Meetings, 1966-1978. RG 174 Entry UD-UP-3. REID 338943. Arranged in reverse chronological order by year (1978 to 1966) and thereunder by subject.

This series contains files concerning meetings involving the Industrial Committee of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Industrial Committee coordinated the work of related sub-committee sessions. (1 FRC box and 1 Archives box).

◆International Labour Organization (ILO) Annual Conferences and Governing Body General Records, 1960-1978. RG 174 Entry UD-UP-4. REID 338945. Arranged by subject and thereunder chronological by date.

This series consists of files relating to the International Labour Organization's (ILO) annual conferences with the bulk of the records covering issues concerning its governing body. (2 FRC boxes).

Technical Cooperation Division

◆Subject Files, 1947-1955. RG 174 Entry A1-46. REIS 218709. Arranged roughly alphabetically subject.

These records consist of reports, correspondence, airgrams/cablegrams, memorandums of understanding, publications, brochures, photographs, press releases, and newspaper and magazine clippings relating to the planning and establishment of the exchange of foreign visitor programs for occupied countries (Germany, Japan, and Austria); financial planning for Office of International Labor Affairs (OILA) programs; and some reflections on labor training efforts done in Latin America during the 1940's. Additionally, this series includes documents concerning the reactions of the Department of Labor to the beginning of Marshall Plan aid to Western Europe, particularly to Greece and Turkey; files regarding the Point IV Program; and coordination of programming with universities, American and international trade unions, and with other branches of the Government. (5 FRC boxes and 9 Archives boxes).

◆Records of Chief Olen M. Warnock Related to the Exchange-Visitor Program for Labor Training, 1946-1959. RG 174 Entry A1-47. REID 364128. Arranged by subject.

The records consist of correspondence, airgrams, cablegrams, telegrams, reports, newspaper clippings, biographical materials, photographs, orders, background materials, meeting summaries, itineraries, courses of study, training prospectus documents, miscellaneous publications, memorandums, travel vouchers, budget sheets, and authorization and implementation forms. The files document Exchange-Visitor Program G-7 for the training of international visitors in labor matters by the Department of Labor as well as earlier international student exchanges and industrial trainee/apprenticeship efforts through the Fulbright Act of 1946. Visitors selected for training covered matters including labor-management relations, labor standards, industrial and apprenticeship training, labor statistics, women's employment, and employment services and unemployment compensation. (11 Archives boxes).

U.S. National Administrative Office

◆North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC) Activities Files, 2000-2002. RG 174 Entry UD-18W-6. REID HS1-409567390. Arranged chronologically by conference or meeting dates.

The files consist of correspondence, background materials, agendas, proceedings, reports, and other documents. The U.S. National Administrative Office was in charge of working with its Canadian and Mexican counterparts in collective activities to help organize meetings and conferences designed to undertake initiatives to address unresolved issues between these nations under the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC). Subjects the

these meetings and conferences covered included the right to organize and bargain collectively; occupational safety and health; treatment of migrant agriculture workers; promotion of dialogue between migrant workers, growers, and governments; workplace violence; pre-harvest migration and immigration; internet-based information systems; U.S. Mission report on U.S.-Mexico technical cooperation on workforce development; and a final joint declaration between the U.S. and Mexico. (1 FRC box).

Unprocessed Records (as of February 11, 2020)

Records Related to the International Labor Organization (ILO)

- •Program Files Relating to the International Labor Organization, 1970-1994. RG 174 Entry UD-14D-1. (5 FRC boxes).
- •International Labor Subject Files, 1965- 1994. RG 174 Entry UD-15D-2. (3 FRC boxes).

•Annual International Labor Organization (ILO) Program Subject Files, 1979-1997

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■1979-80 RG 174 Entry UD-06W-16 (1 FRC box).
1981
        RG 174 Entry UD-UP-15 (1 FRC box).
1982
        RG 174 Entry UD-UP-18 (1 FRC box).
        RG 174 Entry UD-04W-9 (1 FRC box).
1983
1984
        RG 174 Entry UD-05W-8 (1 FRC box)
1985
        RG 174 Entry UD-06W-15 (1 FRC box).
        RG 174 Entry UD-10W-5 (1 FRC box).
1986
1987
        RG 174 Entry UD-09D-2 (1 FRC box).
1988
        RG 174 Entry UD-10D-2 (1 FRC box).
        RG 174 Entry UD-10W-1 (1 FRC box).
1989
        RG 174 Entry UD-16W-4 (1 FRC box).
1990
        RG 174 Entry UD-14W-13 (1 FRC box).
1991
        RG 174 Entry UD-14W-16 (1 FRC box)
1992
1993
        RG 174 Entry UD-14W-15 (1 FRC box)
1994
        RG 174 Entry UD-16W-3 (1 FRC box)
        RG 174 Entry UD-16W-2 (1 FRC box)
1995
1996
        RG 174 Entry UD-17W-7 (1 FRC box)
1997
        RG 174 Entry UD-18W-3 (1 FRC box)
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Office of International Organizations

•General Records and Correspondence, 1950-1967, RG 174 Entry A-57B (33 FRC boxes).

- •Committee and Conference Files of the Division of International Labor Organizations, 1947-1964, RG 174 Entry A1-55 (15 FRC boxes).
- •Security Classified Committee and Conference Files, 1947-1964, RG 174 Entry A1-54 (67 FRC boxes)
- •Subject Files, 1945-1962, RG 174 Entry A1-56 (less than 1 FRC box)

Foreign Service and Related

- •Comprehensive Economic Reporting Program (CERP) Evaluations, 1952-1958, RG 174 Entry A1 48 (9 FRC boxes)
- •Secret Messages and Dispatches Concerning Country Assignments, 1958-1961, RG 174 Entry A1-50 (33 FRC boxes)

Records Related to Trade Policy

•Trade Agreements Committee Records, 1959-1962. RG 174 Entry A1-53. (8 FRC boxes).

Research Services August 2020