

## COLLECTION DETAILS and FOLDER TITLE LIST

### Collection: Papers of George M. Elsey, 5/1968 - 1/1969 [NAID 55275671]

<http://discoverlbj.org/exhibits/show/loh/personal>

## PERSONAL PAPERS OF GEORGE M. ELSEY

**Creator:** Elsey, George McKee, 1918-2015

### Biographical sketch:

George McKee Elsey was a commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve and a staff member in the White House Map Room from 1941 to 1946. He was Assistant to the Special Counsel to the President and Administrative Assistant to President Truman. Elsey was the Director of the Mutual Security Agency from 1951 to 1953. He later served as President of the American Red Cross.

### Scope and content note:

This collection consists of papers of George Elsey covering his service as a special assistant to Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford. The papers contain correspondence, reports, transcripts, notes, and newspaper clippings on topics that include the Vietnam War, international crises, civil disturbances, protests, the 1968 election, and the transition to the Nixon Administration. The papers include transcripts of notes taken by Elsey during Secretary Clifford's staff meetings.

- Date range of collection:
- 3 linear feet, 9 linear inches
- Available for research. (Open 6/26/1998)
- 1 series

## FOLDER TITLE LIST

Box Number	Folder Title
1	[VanDeMark Transcripts 1 of 2]
1	[VanDeMark Transcripts 2 of 2]
1	CMC/GME May 1 - June 30, 1968
2	CMC/GME July 1 - August 31, 1968
2	CMC/GME Sept. 1 - Oct. 31, 1968
3	CMC/GME Nov. 1 - Dec. 31, 1968

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Box Number	Folder Title
3	CMC/GME January 1969
4	DOD Support for X Presidents & U.S. Secret Service
4	Transition

#### • Archivist's Notes

Boxes 1-3 contain Mr. Elsey's handwritten notes and related documents from Secretary of Defense staff meetings ("0830 group"), 5/68 - 1/69. Box 4 contains memos, correspondence, notes, and clippings pertaining to the folder titles. Most of the material is from 1968, but a few documents date from 1971-1974.

Prior to their donation to the LBJ Library, these papers were loaned by Mr. Elsey to Clark Clifford for use in writing Counsel to the President. During that time Brian VanDeMark, who assisted Mr. Clifford, made the typewritten transcripts now located in the first two folders of box 1. In processing the file, the archives staff compared a small sample of the VanDeMark transcripts with the original Elsey handwritten notes. In that sample, the VanDeMark transcripts were verbatim for those portions of the notes transcribed. However, not all of the notes are fully transcribed, and the transcripts contain no indications of where or how much material was skipped. Dr. VanDeMark's best estimate is that he transcribed 90% or more of the notes. Nevertheless, researchers are advised to check the original handwritten notes. In addition to untranscribed material there are often related documents filed with the original notes.

Many subjects are covered in the collection, including Vietnam (the largest), Czech crisis, Soviet Union, Israel, Defense Department budget, Pueblo seizure, various weapons acquisition programs (F-111, C-5A, Poseidon missile, Sentinel ABM, submarines), Non-Proliferation Treaty, Poor People's March, 1968 election, and transition to the Nixon administration. Many small topics occur once or twice, scattered throughout the collection. Examples include plans to build a command and control center (for civil disturbances) under the Mall in Washington, DC (5/15/68); the "Oxcart" reconnaissance program (5/15/68); a Mike Mansfield memo re: his trip to East and West Europe (8/19/68); and an incident of possible radiation leakage from a U.S. submarine in a Japanese port (8/12/68).

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#### **On using the collection:**

We have provided the VanDeMark transcripts in a bound form<sup>i</sup> so that researchers may compare the transcripts with the handwritten notes without violating our one-folder-out-at-a-time rule. In the transcripts Dr. VanDeMark used either brackets or ? to indicate uncertainty or indecipherable material. When making self service copies please use the unbound transcripts.



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