

## **"Primary Source Materials on Foreign Policy Issues Contained within the John Glenn Archives"**

The John Glenn Archives located at The Ohio State University contains a substantial amount of previously untapped primary source materials on American foreign policy issues dating from the 1970s to the 1990s. First elected in 1974, John Glenn (D-OH) served in the U.S. Senate for twenty-four years, retiring in January 1999 at the end of his fourth term in office. During his time in office, Glenn's personal legislative interests and his committee assignments combined to place him in the forefront on such policy issues as nuclear non-proliferation, the use of chemical and biological weapons, arms control, and relations with the former Soviet Union, the Peoples Republic of China, Taiwan, and other countries in Southeast Asia.

In his first year in the Senate, John Glenn obtained assignments on the Government Operations Committee and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. He served on the Energy Research and Water Resources Subcommittee of the latter, and following the reorganization of Senate committees in 1977, chaired the Energy, Nuclear Proliferation, and Federal Services Subcommittee of the newly formed Governmental Affairs Committee. Glenn used his position as chairman of this subcommittee to introduce legislation to oppose the spread of nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 proved to be the first of six major pieces of legislation on nuclear non-proliferation that Glenn introduced during his career in the Senate. As chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee from 1986 to 1995, Glenn published a newsletter on the spread of nuclear weapons, focusing especially on India and Pakistan.

In 1978, Glenn became a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and obtained the chairmanship of the East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee. As chairman of this subcommittee, Glenn formulated, introduced, and helped pass the Taiwan Enabling Act of 1979. This legislation established the basis for continued relations between the United States and Taiwan in the wake of the recognition by the United States of the People's Republic of China.

During the Carter administration, Glenn opposed the SALT II Treaty due to doubts over America's technological capabilities to monitor and verify Soviet compliance with some of the treaty's provisions. In 1985, Glenn resigned his membership in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to take a place on the Senate Armed Services Committee. As a member of this committee Glenn became a leader in the Senate opposing the deployment of both the Strategic Defense Initiative and the MX missile. He also cosponsored legislation to halt production of the B-2 Bomber, favoring instead the proven technology of the B-1 Bomber. Glenn became a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in 1989, a position he retained until his retirement in 1999.

In keeping with his committee assignments Glenn took numerous fact-finding trips to foreign countries and attended various national and international conferences pertaining to foreign relations and arms control. These trips included the Shimoda Conference on Japanese-U.S. relations in 1977 and the Pacific Dialogue Conference at Penang, Malaysia in 1994. From 1989 through 1995, Glenn was a regular attendee of the Wehrkunde Conferences on arms control, NATO, and European security held in Munich, Germany. He also attended conferences on U.S.-Russian relations sponsored by the Aspen Institute in 1996 and 1997.

Materials documenting Glenn's activities in regards to foreign policy issues are located in a number of record series and sub-series of the John Glenn Archives. A detailed guide to the collection is located on-line at <http://library.osu.edu/sites/archives/glenn/glenn.php>.

Specifically, many foreign policy documents are found in the JHG's Office Files Sub-series and the Foreign Trips Sub-series of the Personal/Political Series. Within the JHG's Office Files Sub-series are two sets of subject files kept by Glenn's personal secretaries. The 1975 to 1984 set of files includes documentation on the sale of AWAC aircraft to Iran and Saudi Arabia, China-Taiwan relations, the MX missile, and the SALT II Treaty. Also included are numerous files pertaining to the energy crisis of the 1970s, nuclear non-proliferation, arms control matters, the nuclear freeze movement of the early 1980s, and the sale of nuclear fuel to India and Pakistan. Additional records on nuclear non-proliferation are located within the 1984 to 1998 set of subject files, as are materials pertaining to weapons procurement by the Department of Defense.

Included in the Foreign Trips Sub-series are the records of trips Glenn made to the People's Republic of China in 1976, 1979, 1981, 1994 and 1996. He also traveled to the Soviet Union in 1978, 1990 and 1994 and made trips to the Middle East or the Persian Gulf region in 1976, 1982, 1987, 1990 and 1991. Records kept from these trips include Glenn's personal notes, memoranda, correspondence, briefing books, and background materials.

Further information on these records is located in the scope and content notes for the sub-series available on-line at <http://library.osu.edu/sites/archives/glenn/collection/senate/senatepapers.htm>

A browse link on the scope and content note provides a listing of folder headings within each record box.

Other materials pertaining to foreign relations, especially on nuclear non-proliferation and arms control, are located within the Committee Files of the Legislative Series. The files contain a variety of reports, studies, background materials, correspondence, memoranda, and briefing books. Additional documents are found within of the papers of Patricia Buckheit, Donald Mitchell and Laura Beers located within the Legislative Aides Sub-series.

Scope and content notes for these record sub-series, along with browse links to folder heading listings, are available on-line at

<http://library.osu.edu/sites/archives/glenn/collection/senate/senatepapers2.htm>

All of the records listed above are available for public research in the reading room of the Ohio State University Archives Building located at 2700 Kenny Road in Columbus, Ohio. Reading room hours are from 9-12am and 1-4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

**Although not required, it is highly recommended that researchers make an appointment to use the collection.** To make an appointment or to obtain further information about the John Glenn Archives, contact Jeff Thomas at 614 688-8429 or [Thomas.1082@osu.edu](mailto:Thomas.1082@osu.edu).