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MERCHANT

MERCHANT, LIVINGSTON (OH-117) 87 pages PRCQ

Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, 1953-56, 1958-59; U.S. Ambassador to Canada, 1956-58, 1961-63; Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, 1959-61.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Entry into Foreign Service. Early relationship with John Foster Dulles. Service in Far East. European Defense Community (EDC). Nomination as Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs. Dulles' encouragement of differing points of view during the formulation of policy. Early contacts with General Eisenhower. World War II experience in European diplomatic affairs. Compares differences between employment in private business and service in policy making government positions. Involvement in personal diplomacy. Discusses U.S. relations with the Soviet Union; death of Stalin; Chance for Peace speech. Discusses rationale behind collective security system created during Eisenhower Administration; multilateral diplomacy. President Eisenhower's trips abroad. Discusses Bermuda Conference of 1953. Comments on Winston Churchill; failure of EDC; Atoms for Peace program. Berlin Conference of foreign Ministers, January-February 1954; Soviet negotiating tactics. Comments on Molotov; Merchant's involvement in speechwriting and drafting communiqués; Eisenhower's communications skills.

Interview #2. Interview devoted primarily to Berlin Conference of Foreign Ministers, January-February 1954: Roles of Merchant and Douglas MacArthur II as principal advisers to Secretary Dulles; negotiations with the Russians; description of Berlin; Winston Churchill, George Bidault, Molotov, Gromyko, and Troyanosky; British and French negotiating tendencies.

[Columbia Oral History Project – Interview #1 with John T. Mason, Jr. May 4, 1967; Interview #2 with Mason, May 13, 1968]