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Date: 9/18/97

WASHBURN

WASHBURN, MR. & MRS. ABBOTT (OH-124) 91 pgs. PRCQ (m)

Organization Director for Citizens for Eisenhower, 1952; Deputy to the Special Assistant to the President, 1953; Deputy Director of USIA, 1954-1961.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background; first interest in politics working on Stassen for Governor campaign; work on presidential campaign for Stassen in 1948; Dewey debate in Oregon during 1948 campaign; interest in Eisenhower presidential campaign through General Lucius D. Clay; Thomas Stevens and Henry Cabot Lodge; discusses becoming organization chairman of Citizens for Eisenhower; Radio Free Europe; speculation on Eisenhower/Clay relationship; Eisenhower/Cabot Lodge relationship; Bill Burnham; General Omar Bradley as head of Veteran's Administration; first impressions of Eisenhower as a General; comments on Eisenhower's potential candidacy for president in 1952; activities in Citizens for Eisenhower Organization; amount of mail after Eisenhower received the Republican nomination and Eisenhower's reaction; Mrs. Washburn comments on her work for the Eisenhower campaign; South Dakota primary and problems with negative campaigning by Taft; discussion of interregnum; Sherman Adams; C.D. Jackson and Cold War committee; USIA; American National Exhibition in Moscow; Stalin's death; trade fairs around the world; cultural events during Eisenhower's administration as compared to the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, April 20, 1967]

Interview #2. General Zhukov; Eisenhower's response to documentary in which Khrushchev criticized Eisenhower; Eisenhower's relationship with Zhukov; U-2 plane crash over USSR; subsequent cancellation of meeting between Eisenhower and Khrushchev; Lebanon; USIA opinion polls abroad; Eisenhower's techniques for understanding mood of the people; comments on whether or not Washburn believed Eisenhower would have been interested in a third or fourth term if possible; People to People; Eisenhower's phraseology and whether or not Eisenhower was intentionally vague with the press; American National Exhibition in Moscow; Nixon-Khrushchev "kitchen debate;" discussion of Nixon as Vice President; more comments on Moscow exhibition.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, January 5, 1968]