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HILL

HILL, ROBERT C. (OH-296) 108 pages PRCQ (Columbia)

U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica, 1953-54, El Salvador, 1954-55, and Mexico, 1957-61;
Special Assistant to Under Secretary of State for Mutual Security Affairs, 1955-56;
Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, 1956-57.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background. Working with Robert A. Taft at the 1952 Republican national convention. Explanation of his appointment as U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica, and the assistance provided by Senator Styles Bridges. Short comment on service in Costa Rica and El Salvador. Appointment as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State. Service as Assistant Secretary of State for congressional relations: working with John Foster Dulles; observation on how Dulles became Secretary of State; the DDE-Dulles relationship; Dulles' running of the State Department; resignation of Herbert Hoover, Jr., as Under Secretary of State; the Aswan Dam loan to Egypt. Service as U.S. ambassador to Mexico: his appointment; DDE's feeling about U.S.-Mexico relations; DDE's visit to Acapulco in February 1959; comment on several incidents during visit to Washington by Mexican President Lopez Mateos. General assessment of DDE the man, and DDE the president. Observation on Fidel Castro in Cuba. Vice President Richard Nixon's relationship with DDE, and his use of DDE in the 1960 presidential campaign.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by John T. Mason, Jr., 1972]