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McCONE

McCONE, JOHN A. (OH-396) 50 pages Open

Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), 1958-60.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. McCone's first association with Dwight D. Eisenhower; contact when DDE was at SHAPE (particularly re nuclear weapons); personal assessment of DDE; DDE's feelings on leaving the military to campaign for the presidency; how McCone got involved in the Eisenhower administration; Wriston Committee on foreign service; conditions leading up to McCone's appointment to AEC; McCone's opinion of Sherman Adams; Harold Talbott; major problems McCone dealt with as Chairman, AEC; Oppenheimer case; AEC relations with other executive departments; International Atomic Energy Agency; nuclear test cessation question; why McCone did not stay on as Chairman, AEC, under Kennedy; McCone's relationship with Killian and Kistiakowsky; space program; operations of NSC and Cabinet; DDE's use of Nixon; McCone's briefings of DDE on behalf of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson after DDE's retirement; Vietnam; DDE's relationship with Kennedy and Johnson as Presidents; McCone's estimate of DDE's performance as President; McCone's reflections on Truman, DDE, Kennedy and Johnson; DDE's announcement as candidate for presidency; DDE's editing of speech drafts.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, Interview by Thomas F. Soapes, July 26, 1976]