DULLES, ELEANOR LANSING

Diplomat and economist; State Department official.

DESCRIPTION: INTERVIEW #1: Early family life; education; memories of life in Washington, D.C.; grandfather, John Foster (Secretary of State, 1892-1893); uncle, Robert Foster (Secretary of State); mother, Edith Foster; father, Allen M.; her pastor; her brothers, John Foster and Allen; her sisters Margaret (later Mrs. Deane Edwards) and Natalie (later Mrs. James S. Seymour); family life; sermons preached by her father; Sunday school and church services; life in Auburn, New York; Auburn Academic High School.

INTERVIEW #2: High school; college education at Bryn Mawr; M. Carey Thomas, president of Bryn Mawr; helping war refugees in Paris in 1917; working with 2 different agencies; John Foster and Allen Dulles travel to Paris with Robert Lansing who worked on peace negotiations; Lansing’s problems with Woodrow Wilson; life in Paris.

INTERVIEW #3: Robert Lansing’s resignation; Wilson and his second wife; Eleanor Dulles’ return to Bryn Mawr for graduate fellowship in industrial training; internship in factories; labor unionism in the 1920s; Norman Thomas; Allen’s engagement and marriage; working as payroll and employment clerk in a factory; teaching at Bryn Mawr; Hilda W. Smith and labor education.

INTERVIEW #4: Going to the London School of Economics in 1921; British labor in the 1920’s; study of wages in British industry; trip to Germany and Austria in summer of 1922; doctoral work at Radcliffe; Harvard professors; teaching at Simmons College; studying French in France in 1924-1925; economic and money theories.

INTERVIEW #5: Return to France in 1926 to turn thesis into a book; visited sister Natalie in Istanbul and trip through Greece; husband, David Blondheim; his Jewish heritage; his work in Romance-language philology; his efforts to produce a French dictionary; introducing Blondheim to her parents; problems in publishing The French Franc; teaching economics and social economy at Bryn Mawr, 1928-1930; German reparations; [Owen D.] Young Plan; transfer problem in Germany, 1930; Charles Lindbergh’s trans-Atlantic flight; river boating in Germany; Nazism and encounters with National Socialist Party members.

INTERVIEW #6: The Bank for International Settlements; interviewing Swiss bankers; publishing The Bank for International Settlements at Work; economic factors in Hitler’s rise to power; return to teaching at Bryn Mawr, 1932-1936; married life; another book, Business Cycles and International Depression; joining the Research Division of the Social Security Board; the Department of Industrial Relations at the University of Pennsylvania; Unemployment Insurance Report in 1931.

INTERVIEW #7: Office intrigue in Social Security Board; her assistants; study she conducted
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on the impact of public assistance grant and public assistance taxation; statistical inputs from old age insurance and taxation; income studies; opposition to Social Security program; Communism and Communists in Social Security program; represented US in Geneva on an international commission to study financing social insurance; John Winant and the International Labor Office; problems with the Board of Economic Warfare; writing papers on financing UNRRA; Quakers use of ‘counterpart’ money in relief work; Jesse Jones-Henry Wallace feud; intellectual life in Georgetown.

INTERVIEW #8: Worked under Leo Pasvolsky on post-war adjustments in 1942; group split into economic and political sections; emergence of the Morgenthau Plan; problem of unconditional surrender; Austrian problems; Committee on Displaced Persons; implications of and reasons for accepting the Oder-Neise line; State Department security leaks; use of the press by the State Department; John Maynard Keynes; Harry White; the International Bank; the Monetary Fund; Bretton Woods Conference.

INTERVIEW #9: Julian Wadleigh; Alger Hiss; departure for Austria; Dr. [John George] Erhardt; US civilian and military commands in Austria; problems in getting her children to Europe; Roosevelt’s death; V-E Day in London; journey to Austria; living in Austria; joint occupation problems; Austrian elections and Russian expectations; currency reform; Russian takeover of heavy industry in Austria; driving from Salzburg to Vienna; conditions in Vienna; Austrian black market; housing arrangements; problems getting mail and traveling to Switzerland; meeting of the Economic Counselors of the European Mission in Paris.

INTERVIEW #10: Details of the Austrian treaty negotiations; Berlin in 1947; failure of the U.S. to plan for post-war reconstruction in Germany; German black market; differences in attitudes towards Germany and Austria; Mark Clark’s attitude towards diplomats; divisions in the U.S. delegation negotiating the treaty; Austrian treaty negotiations; social life with Russians in Vienna; being detained by Russian soldiers while on a drive in the countryside with her children.

INTERVIEW #11: Chancellor Leopold Figl; kidnappings by Russia in Austria; problems traveling in occupied Austria; reaction to Marshall Plan in Austria by Austrians and by U.S. advisors; preparing lists of needs for Austria; Paris talks on Marshall Plan; Truman’s influence on Morgenthau Plan; Austrian economy; effects of the coalition government on the Social Democrats and the People’s Party in Austria; effects of the Austrian nationalization of industry; influence of the Roman Catholic church on Austrian politics; Austrian currency problems; black market; visit to Prague; Austria’s relations with Russia; Russian takeover of Czechoslovakia.

INTERVIEW #12: Vacation in U.S in March, 1948; John Foster Dulles’ visit to Vienna; Austrian reconstruction under the Marshall Plan; industrial development in Austria; Paul Hoffman’s abilities re: Marshall Plan funds; returning to the U.S.; expense problems for Foreign Service officers.

INTERVIEW #13: Prevented from participation in 1950 Austrian treaty negotiations; move to the international division of the National Production Authority on detail from the State
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Department; start of the Korean War; building her home in 1950; importance of the Korean War to the German economy; stockpiling by the National Production Authority; Joseph McCarthy; John Foster Dulles’ visit to Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952; Foster Dulles’s decision to back Eisenhower for President; Eleanor Lansing Dulles’ decision to vote for Adlai Stevenson; move back to the State Department before her brother took charge; Berlin as a symbol; German refugee problem.

INTERVIEW #14: Handling of refugees seeking asylum in West Germany; her schedule of work during visits to Berlin, influence over Berlin policy; economy, culture, education and industry in Berlin; dealing with German authorities; changes in cultural patterns caused by American programs; her job analysis; how she gained authority in her position; stockpiles in Berlin; refusal of an aid position offered to her outside the State Department; the stockpile as a guard against shortages in case of a blockade; June 1953 riots in Berlin.

INTERVIEW #15: Decision not to use the Radio in American Section [RIAS] to issue a call to freedom in June 1953; uncertainty over the Soviet leadership following Stalin’s death; East German reaction to the uprising; reaction of Ernst Reuter, mayor of Berlin, to the uprising; recorded broadcast covering the June uprising including message issued by Reuter and listing events leading up to the revolt; what she saw of the events; food package program for East Germany; Russian reaction to the food program; how aid packages made it into the East; importance of the Berlin stockpiles in the food package program; help from the Operations Coordinating Board; flood relief in Danube River area in 1954.

INTERVIEW #16: Improving the living conditions and cultural resources in Berlin; stockpiles; French and British attitudes toward Berlin; rumors that Allen Dulles and the CIA started Algerian generals’ revolt; air corridors to Berlin and lack of Western coordination between Western powers over altitude limits; four-power contacts in Berlin; contact and working agreements between divided parts of Berlin; gradual division of Berlin into two cities; building the Berlin Exposition Building Congress Hall; cultural exchange; rotating loans to German industry.

INTERVIEW #17: U.S. policy in Berlin; new Berlin hospital; labor problems and construction methods in Berlin; her work methods and philosophy toward the hospital project; push to maintain sufficient U.S. aid to Berlin; Berlin as a modern city; lack of French and British aid to Berlin; John Foster Dulles and Germany; his visit to Berlin; Khrushchev’s 1958 threat to Berlin; John Foster Dulles’ health in 1958; his final illness and death.

INTERVIEW #18: Move from the German desk following her brother’s death; trip to Berlin to dedicate a street to John Foster Dulles; Radio Free Europe trip; Africa trip; [Gamal Abdel] Nasser and Aswan Dam fund cut-off; Sudan; Ethiopia and Haile Selassie; differences in the way in which the Soviet and American governments allocate and distribute foreign aid; Nairobi; Uganda and racial problems; Tanganyika; Communist influence in Zanzibar; primitive conditions in Mozambique and the penetration of pro-Communist, anti-Portuguese elements.
INTERVIEW #19: Purpose of trips to Asia and Africa in 1960; Japanese economy; Taiwanese armament expenditures; pragmatism in U.S. aid program; Communist aid to underdeveloped countries; interview with Chiang Kai-Shek; Khrushchev’s visit to Indonesia; [Ahmed] Sukarno; Soviet and U.S. aid to Indonesia; women in Indonesia; effect of reports of upper-level State Department officials; British and American intelligence in Hong Kong; refugees in Hong Kong; Singapore; Vietnam; Cambodia.

INTERVIEW #20: Cambodia; lack of influence by Asian peasants on government policy; political awareness in Vietnam and Malaysia; Mekong River delta projects; problems in communication between Asians and Americans; Thailand; Burma and U Nu; Buddhist influence in Asia; Soviet aid to Burma; side trip to Tanguy; Calcutta and Bombay; observations on the economy of India; Nepal; meeting with [Jawaharlal] Nehru.

INTERVIEW #21: Nehru’s appearance before the Indian Parliament during the Chinese War; traveling through villages and countryside in India; Dehli; Bombay; problems in contract work done for U.S. foreign aid projects; inter-faith breakfast meeting in Bombay; Pakistan; U-2 incident; cancellation of Russian tour; Afghanistan; Russian road projects in Afghanistan; American-built airport in Kandahar; Iran; unrest in Turkey prior to the overthrow of Adnan Menderes; problems in aid to underdeveloped countries; effect of adverse press on U.S. aid programs; Russian aid methods; persuading developing nations of the benefits of representative government; abortive 1960 Paris summit meeting.

INTERVIEW #22: Official delegation trip to Germany for Adenauer’s funeral; historical sites in Germany; President [Lyndon Baines] Johnson’s meeting with [Chancellor Kurt Georg] Kiesinger in Germany re: U.S. troop cutback; non-proliferation treaty; how the Vietnam situation was affecting [Dean] Rusk and other government people; the funeral service; Lucius Clay’s reaction to the Berlin Wall; behavior of De Gaulle at funeral; assessment of Adenauer.

INTERVIEW #23: Her health in 1959-1960; women in the State Department; problems with being John Foster Dulles’ sister; Angola; Congo; African universities; Ghana; Guinea; opinion on how much authority U.S. ambassadors should have over foreign aid; resignation from State Department; problems in finding a job.

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