

Guide to the Strobe Talbott Papers

GEN MSS 2103



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February 2026

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 2103

CREATOR: Talbott, Strobe, author

TITLE: Strobe Talbott papers

DATES: circa 1950-2019

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 16.02 linear feet (27 boxes)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.26 Gigabytes 2 CDR-Ws (1.22 gigabytes) and 2 3.5 inch floppy disks (0.002 gigabytes)

LANGUAGE: Chiefly in English. Some materials in Russian.

SUMMARY: The papers include Talbott's diaries, correspondence, speeches, research materials, notebooks, photographs, audiovisual recordings, and computer media, that together provide extensive insight into Talbott's evolving views of post-Cold War diplomacy, including sanctions, missile proliferation, the Helsinki Summit, and NATO expansion.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.talbott>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.talbott>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Strobe Talbott, 2024.

Conditions Governing Access

This material is open for research. Boxes 25-26 (computer media and audiovisual material): restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Strobe Talbott papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Strobe Talbott Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit. These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Yale Archival Processing Manual. The collection was put into its current arrangement during processing in 2025.

Processing Information

Most folder titles have been devised by the archivist. The creator's original folder titles have been enclosed in quotation marks.

Biographical / Historical

Nelson Strobridge "Strobe" Talbott III is an American foreign policy analyst, diplomat, and former deputy secretary of State, serving from 1994 to 2001. Talbott was born on April 25, 1946, in Dayton, Ohio to Helen Josephine (Large) and Nelson Strobridge "Bud" Talbott II. He graduated from Yale University in 1968, where he was the chairman of the *Yale Daily News*. Talbott was a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, where he befriended future President Bill Clinton and translated Nikita Khrushchev's memoirs into English. Talbott worked as a journalist for *Time* magazine before becoming ambassador-at-large at the State Department from 1993 to 1994. He served as deputy secretary of state from 1994 to 2001. After leaving government service, Talbott was president of the Brookings Institute from 2002 to 2017.

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the diplomatic, political, and scholarly career of Strobe Talbott, including his government service, journalism career, and writings, particularly related to Russia. The papers include diaries, correspondence, speeches, research materials, photographs, audiovisual recordings, computer media, and notebooks that together provide extensive insight into Talbott's evolving views of post-Cold War diplomacy, including sanctions, missile proliferation, the Helsinki Summit, and NATO expansion.

Arrangement

Organized into six series: I. Early life and career, 1963-1993. II. Government career, 1991-2001. III. Post-government career, 2001-2019. IV. Writings, 1968-2003. V. Personal and family papers, 1950-2004. VI. Computer media and sound recordings.

Collection Contents

Series I: Early life and career, 1963–1993

Organized into subseries: Hotchkiss School, Yale and Oxford and *Time* magazine.

	Hotchkiss School, Yale, and Oxford Arranged chronologically.	1963–1993
b. 1, f. 1	Hotchkiss School	1963–1964
b. 1, f. 2	Yale College papers	1965–1968
b. 1, f. 3	Yale notebook	1965–1968
b. 1, f. 4	<i>Yale Daily News</i>	1967
b. 1, f. 5	Other Yale material	circa 1968
b. 1, f. 6	Rhodes admissions essay	circa 1968
b. 1, f. 7	"Gullible's Travels: A Letter to My Friends About My Month in Moscow"	1969
b. 1, f. 8	Oxford certificate A document, dated 1993, certifying that Talbott received a master's degree from Oxford. The original diploma is not present in the collection.	1993
	<i>Time</i> magazine Arranged chronologically.	1979–1993
b. 1, f. 9-11	<i>Time</i> correspondence	circa 1979-1993
b. 1, f. 12	Other <i>Time</i> files	circa 1984-1993
b. 1, f. 13	Richard Nixon framed letter	1981
b. 2, f. 1-2	"Great Counter Revolution"	circa 1987-1992
b. 2, f. 3	Talbott and Holbrooke Baltics trip	1989
b. 2, f. 4	<i>Time</i> deposition	1992
b. 2, f. 5	"Who Won the Cold War"	1992
b. 2, f. 6	"Reaction to <i>Time</i> column Clinton and the draft"	1992–1993
b. 2, f. 7	"Toby Gati"	1992–1993
b. 2, f. 8	Clippings on Yeltsin, Bush, START II signing	1992–1993
b. 2, f. 9	"Frederick Starr"	1993

Series II: Government career, 1991–2001

Organized into five subseries: Diaries, Speeches and public remarks, Correspondence and memoranda, Working files, research materials, and notes, and Photographs.

Diaries 1991–2000

Talbott's diaries log his daily activities, relate the proceedings of meetings, and record his thoughts and ideas about U.S. diplomatic policy. They are often formatted as letters to his parents, particularly his father. Talbott organized his diaries into nine volumes: Volume I (August 1991-June 1994), Volume II (June 1994-April 1995), Volume III (April 1995-January 1996), Volume IV (January 1996-January 1997), Volume V (January 1997-February 1998), Volume VI (February 1998-December 1998), Volume VII (December 1998-April 1999), Volume VIII (April 1999-December 1999), and Volume IX (December 1999-November 2000). Each volume begins with a heading listing the dates covered in the entries.

Talbott maintained his diaries in a digital format and later printed them out and placed the hard copies in binders. Binder dividers have been retained.

Some journal entries contain an incorrect date of May 2, 2022 due to an encoding error, possibly because that was the date Talbott printed the hard copies of the diary entries. Researchers should be aware that certain timestamps may be missing, misaligned, or encoded inconsistently with surrounding materials.

Arranged chronologically.

b. 2, f. 10	Early diaries and ambassador-at-large diaries	August 1991-March 1993
b. 2, f. 11	Ambassador-at-large diaries	April 1993-August 1993
b. 2, f. 12	Ambassador-at-large diaries	September 1993-January 1994
b. 3, f. 1	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	January 1994-June 1994
b. 3, f. 2	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	June 1994-August 1994
b. 3, f. 3	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	August 1994-September 1994
b. 3, f. 4	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	September 1994-December 1994
b. 3, f. 5	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	December 1994-January 1995
b. 3, f. 6	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	January 1995-April 1995
b. 3, f. 7	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	April 1995-May 1995
b. 3, f. 8	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	May 1995-July 1995

Diaries (continued)

b. 3, f. 9	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	July 1995- September 1995
b. 4, f. 1	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	September 1995- December 1995
b. 4, f. 2	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	December 1995- January 1996
b. 4, f. 3	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	January 1996- March 1996
b. 4, f. 4	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	March 1996- June 1996
b. 4, f. 5	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	June 1996- August 1996
b. 4, f. 6	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	August 1996- November 1996
b. 4, f. 7	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	November 1996- January 1997
b. 4, f. 8	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	January 1997
b. 4, f. 9	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	January 1997- March 1997
b. 4, f. 10	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	March 1997-May 1997
b. 4, f. 11	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	May 1997- August 1997
b. 5, f. 1	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	September 1997- October 1997
b. 5, f. 2	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	October 1997- December 1997
b. 5, f. 3	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	December 1997- February 1998
b. 5, f. 4	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	February 1998- May 1998
b. 5, f. 5	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	May 1998-July 1998
b. 5, f. 6	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	July 1998- August 1998
b. 5, f. 7	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	August 1998- September 1998
b. 5, f. 8	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	September 1998-December 1998

Diaries (continued)

b. 5, f. 9	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	December 1998
b. 5, f. 10	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	December 1998- February 1999
b. 6, f. 1	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	March 1999- April 1999
b. 6, f. 2	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	April 1999-May 1999
b. 6, f. 3	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	June 1999-July 1999
b. 6, f. 4	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	July 1999- October 1999
b. 6, f. 5	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	October 1999- December 1999
b. 6, f. 6	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	December 1999- January 2000
b. 6, f. 7	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	January 2000- March 2000
b. 6, f. 8	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	March 2000- May 2000
b. 6, f. 9	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	June 2000-July 2000
b. 7, f. 1	Deputy Secretary of State diaries	July 2000- December 2000
	Speeches and public remarks Arranged chronologically.	1994-2001
b. 7, f. 2	Speeches and public remarks	1994
b. 7, f. 3	Speeches and public remarks	1995
b. 7, f. 4	Speeches and public remarks	1996
b. 8, f. 1	Speeches and public remarks	1997
b. 8, f. 2	Speeches and public remarks	1998
b. 8, f. 3	Speeches and public remarks	1999
b. 8, f. 4	Speeches and public remarks	2000-2001
	Correspondence and memoranda Organized into two groupings: Outgoing and Incoming, and chronologically therein.	1992-2001
	Outgoing	
b. 9, f. 1	Talbott to Warren Christopher re: State appointment	1992-1993

Correspondence and memoranda > Outgoing (continued)

b. 9, f. 2	Outgoing correspondence Includes a letter Talbott wrote to Bill Clinton shortly before the 1992 presidential election.	1992-1998
b. 9, f. 3	Talbott memo to Warren Christopher and Bill Clinton	1993
b. 9, f. 4	Talbott memos to Warren Christopher	1993-1994
b. 9, f. 5	Talbott memos to Warren Christopher	1995
Incoming		
b. 9, f. 6	Incoming correspondence	1993
b. 9, f. 7	Incoming correspondence	1994
b. 9, f. 8	Incoming correspondence	1996
b. 9, f. 9	Incoming correspondence	1997
b. 9, f. 10	Incoming correspondence	1998
b. 9, f. 11	Incoming correspondence	1999
b. 9, f. 12	Incoming correspondence	2000
b. 9, f. 13	Incoming correspondence	2001
b. 9, f. 14	Incoming correspondence	undated
Working files, research materials, and notes Arranged chronologically.		1991-2001
b. 9, f. 15	"Ukenukes - nuclear proliferation within the USSR"	1991
b. 9, f. 16	"Islam"	1991-1992
b. 9, f. 17	Global Protection System	1992
b. 10, f. 1	Research material and notes on Russia	1992-2001
b. 10, f. 2	State dinners and funerals	1993-2000
b. 10, f. 3	Confirmation statement	1994
b. 10, f. 4	House and Senate hearings with Defense personnel	1994
b. 10, f. 5	Change in President Clinton's Washington	1994
b. 10, f. 6	Clinton and Yeltsin meetings	1994-1997
b. 10, f. 7-9	"Plane reading"	1994-2000
b. 10, f. 10	Mexico	1995
b. 10, f. 11	Haiti, Aristide	circa 1995-1998
b. 10, f. 12	U.S.-Russian Relations: Terms of Engagement	1996

Working files, research materials, and notes (continued)

b. 11, f. 1	Eric Edelman's notes Eric Edelman was Talbott's executive assistant at the State Department.	1996-1997
b. 11, f. 2	Press coverage and interviews	1996-2000
b. 11, f. 3	House International Relations Committee hearing on Russian crisis	1998
b. 11, f. 4	Talbott and Mamedov dinner	1999
b. 11, f. 5	Security Council resolution on Iraq	1999
b. 11, f. 6	Putin	1999-2000
b. 11, f. 7	"Unpublished book by Dr. Stephen Keininger"	1999
b. 11, f. 8	Timelines of Bosnia/Serbia meetings	undated
b. 11, f. 9	Rusten-Shokhin non-proliferation talking points	undated
b. 11, f. 10	Drafts with comments	undated
b. 11, f. 11	"Ambassador's Diary in Quarter of Century"	undated
b. 11, f. 12	Bonn ambassador's residence placard	undated
	Photographs Arranged chronologically.	1992-2000
b. 12, f. 1	Clinton/Gore campaign	1992
b. 12, f. 2-3	State Department	1993
b. 12, f. 4-7	State Department	circa 1993-1994
b. 12, f. 8	Deputy Secretary of State	1994
b. 12, f. 9	Zou Jiahua	1994
b. 12, f. 10	Deputy Secretary of State	1995
b. 13, f. 1-3	Deputy Secretary of State	circa 1995-1996
b. 13, f. 4	Deputy Secretary of State	1996
b. 13, f. 5	Deputy Secretary of State	1997
b. 13, f. 6	Deputy Secretary of State	1998
b. 13, f. 7	G8 Economic Summit	1998
b. 13, f. 8	Photo album	1998
b. 13, f. 9	Deputy Secretary of State	circa 1998-1999
b. 13, f. 10	Deputy Secretary of State	1999
b. 13, f. 11	Deputy Secretary of State	2000
b. 13, f. 12	Japan	undated

Photographs (continued)

b. 13, f. 13	Martti Ahtisaari	undated
b. 13, f. 14-15	State Department	undated
b. 14, f. 1-4	State Department	undated
b. 14, f. 5	Yekaterinburg visit	undated
b. 15, f. 1	State Department	circa 1993-1996
b. 15, f. 2-4	Official White House photographs	circa 1995-1996
b. 16, f. 1-2	State Department	1995-1996
b. 16, f. 3	Barents Euro-Arctic Region Ministerial Council	1999
b. 16, f. 4-5	State Department	undated
b. 17, f. 1	Photo album	1999
b. 18, f. 1-5	State Department	undated

Series III: Post-government career, 2001–2019

Arranged chronologically.

b. 19, f. 1	Clinton Yale tercentennial speech	2001
b. 19, f. 2	Brookings dinners	2002–2004
b. 19, f. 3	Joung Hoo Lee Brookings photo album	2009
b. 19, f. 4	Correspondence	2009–2019
b. 19, f. 5	8th Yalta annual meeting photograph	2011
b. 19, f. 6	Aspen Strategy Group lecture	2014
b. 19, f. 7	Brookings notebook	circa 2016
b. 19, f. 8	“Reading Russia”	circa 2017
b. 19, f. 9	Notes and research on Russia	circa 2018
b. 19, f. 10	Foreign Service Institute Library event sign	undated

Series IV: Writings, 1968–2003

Arranged chronologically.

b. 20, f. 1	<i>Fedor Tjutčev, Poet of Privacy</i>	1968
b. 20, f. 2	<i>Khrushchev Remembers</i>	1970
b. 20, f. 3	<i>Khrushchev Remembers</i> reviews	1970
b. 21, f. 1	Poetry	circa 1970-1986
b. 21, f. 2	<i>Mayakovsky Agonistes: The Myth of the Self in the Poetry of Vladimir Mayakovsky</i> (Oxford dissertation)	1971
b. 21, f. 3	Short works	1972–1997
b. 21, f. 4	Correspondence	circa 1984-2003
b. 21, f. 5	<i>At the Highest Levels</i> reviews	1993
b. 21, f. 6	<i>The Russia Hand</i> chapter draft with Warren Christopher's comments	2001
b. 27, f. 1	<i>Khrushchev Remembers in Life</i>	1970

Series V: Personal and family papers, 1950–2004

Arranged chronologically.

b. 22, f. 1	Personal and family correspondence	1950s
b. 22, f. 2-3	Personal and family correspondence	1960s
b. 22, f. 4-6	Personal and family correspondence	1970s
b. 22, f. 7	Family photograph	circa 1970s
b. 22, f. 8-10	Brooke Shearer papers	circa 1973-1996
b. 23, f. 1-3	Brooke Shearer papers	circa 1973-1996
b. 23, f. 4	Personal and family correspondence	1980s
b. 23, f. 5	"Kugel's poems"	1986
b. 23, f. 6	Personal and family correspondence	1990–2004
b. 23, f. 7	Passports	1993–2000
b. 23, f. 8	Hotchkiss School alumni award	1996
b. 24, f. 1	<i>Yale Daily News</i> reunion collage	1981
b. 24, f. 2	"Around the World" scrapbook	1987 July

Series VI: Computer media and sound recordings

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Computer media

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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|-------|---|
| b. 25 | Sun Valley Writers Conference The World in 2010: Clear and Present Dangers Strobe Talbott
2025.genam.0004_001
1 CD-RW 663922604 bytes (663.92 Megabytes.) |
| b. 25 | Sun Valley Writers Conference A Talk by the Author and Diplomant Strobe Talbott
2025.genam.0004_002
1 CD-RW 599054444 bytes (599.05 Megabytes.) |
| b. 25 | Putin95.doc
2025.genam.0004_003
1 3.5_floppy_disk 1474560 bytes (1.47 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.) |
| b. 25 | 40_Talb_0375507140_art_r1
2025.genam.0004_004
1 3.5_floppy_disk 1492992 bytes (1.49 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.) |

Sound recordings

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

- | | | |
|-------|---|------------------|
| b. 26 | Clinton's foreign policy in Russia, Anne Garrels NPR
1 Audiocassette | January 17, 2001 |
|-------|---|------------------|

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Occupations

Diplomats -- United States
Journalists

Subjects

Diplomats

Geographic Names

United States -- Foreign relations -- 1989-
United States -- Foreign relations -- Russia

Corporate Body

United States. Department of State

Acquired From

Talbott, Strobe , donor