



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Samuel D. Berger Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 845



Collection Summary

Title	Samuel D. Berger Papers
Dates	1927-1996 (bulk: 1953-1972)
Collection Number	MS-845
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Berger, Samuel D., 1911 Berger, Graenum
Extent	2 linear feet (2 record cartons)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Samuel David Berger was an American diplomat, who enjoyed the highest rank and the longest tenure of any Jewish Officer in the United States Foreign Service at the time. He was born in Gloversville, New York on December 6, 1911 to an Orthodox Jewish family that immigrated from Vilna at the turn of the century.

Following graduate studies in economics at the University of Wisconsin and the London School of Economics, Berger entered government service in 1940 as a labor and manpower specialist. In 1942, he joined the Lend-Lease Mission to Great Britain, working under Averill Harriman, until 1943. Berger's Foreign Service career continued when he was recruited from the army, in which he served as a captain from 1944-1945, to fill the newly created position of Labor Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in London. He served in London until 1950. From that time until 1961, Berger served in various positions in Washington, D.C., Tokyo, Japan, Wellington, New Zealand and Athens, Greece.

Following the military coup in the spring of 1961, Berger was assigned as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea by President John F. Kennedy. Upon completion of his assignment, Berger became Deputy Commandant of the National War College in 1964. From 1965 to 1968, Berger was the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific affairs. In 1968, he was sent to Saigon, Vietnam as Deputy Ambassador under Ellsworth Bunker and helped coordinate the United States' withdrawal from Vietnam. Returning to the United States in 1972, Berger spent his last two years with the Foreign Service as coordinator of the Senior Seminar program and finally retired, after 34 years of service, in 1974.

Samuel David Berger died on February 12, 1980.

--Adapted from "The Samuel D. Berger Papers," Georgetown University Libraries Special Collections (<http://gulib.georgetown.edu/dept/speccoll/berger.htm>). Accessed November 28, 2011.

Scope and Content This collection consists primarily of correspondence, both personal and professional. Included is correspondence with various government officials and diplomats, along with official reports and documents from the US State Department. Personal correspondence with family and friends shows the informal side of diplomatic life. There is significant material on Berger's time in Korea (1961-1964) and Vietnam (1968-1972), arguably Berger's most important, and most difficult, assignments.

Arrangement This collection is arranged in two (2) series: A. Papers, 1927-1980; B. Biography Materials, 1980-1996.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Samuel D. Berger Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-849. Samuel D. Berger Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Graenum Berger, New Rochelle, N.Y., September 1994 and March 1997.

Processing Information Processed by Michelle Wirth Detroit, November 2011.

This collection was arranged and described according to minimal-processing standards. Funding, in part, for the arrangement and description of this collection was provided by the National Historical

Index Terms

Subjects	Ambassadors / Athens (Greece) / International relations / London (England) / Seoul (Korea) / Tokyo (Japan) / Vietnam War, 1961-1975 / Wellington (New Zealand)
Personal Names	Berger, Samuel D. (Samuel David), 1911-
Corporate Names	United States. Department of State
Media	Photographs

Series A. Papers, 1927-1980

Extent 1 linear foot (1 record carton)

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Papers, 1927-1952
- Box 1. Folder 2. Japan, 1953-1954
- Box 1. Folder 3. New Zealand, 1954-1958
- Box 1. Folder 4. Greece, 1958-1961
- Box 1. Folder 5. Korea assignment, 1961-1964
- Box 1. Folder 6. National War College, 1965-1967
- Box 1. Folder 7. Vietnam assignment, 1968-1972
- Box 1. Folder 8. Papers, 1971-1986
- Box 1. Folder 9. Writings, reports, lectures, 1940s-1960s
- Box 1. Folder 10. Miscellaneous reports and correspondence, 1940s-1970s
- Box 1. Folder 11. Household inventories, 1940s-1970s
- Box 1. Folder 12. Passports, 1960s-1970s
- Box 1. Folder 13. Postcards, 1938-1980
- Box 1. Folder 14. Unidentified minutes, undated

Series B. Biography Materials, 1942-1996

Extent 1 linear foot (1 record carton)

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 2. Folder 1. Photographs, 1940s-1960s
- Box 2. Folder 2. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1959, undated
- Box 2. Folder 3. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1952, undated
- Box 2. Folder 4. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1966, undated
- Box 2. Folder 5. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1950s-1960s
- Box 2. Folder 6. Samuel D. Berger Memorial Lecture [Georgetown University], 1980

Box 2. Folder 7. Biography material, 1980s

Box 2. Folder 8. Graenum Berger correspondence regarding Sam's biography, 1987-1990

Box 2. Folder 9. Graenum Berger correspondence regarding Sam's biography, 1989-1990

Box 2. Folder 10. Graenum Berger correspondence regarding Sam's biography, 1991-1992

Box 2. Folder 11. Graenum Berger correspondence regarding Sam's biography, 1993