



The New York Public Library
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Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Ralph Bunche FBI file

1940-1963

Sc MG 594

Compiled by Andre Elizee, 1996. Finding aid edited and adapted to digital form by Kay Menick in 2016.

Summary

Creator: United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation

Title: Ralph Bunche FBI file

Date: 1940-1963

Size: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by Marika Sherwood, 1996.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: This collection consists of photocopies of FBI documents related to Ralph Bunche, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. The files include the text of his Nobel Peace Prize address, a transcription of his statements to the FBI, and summaries of interviews with former colleagues at Howard University.

Preferred citation: [Item], Ralph Bunche FBI file, Sc MG 594, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Compiled by Andre Elizee, 1996. Finding aid edited and adapted to digital form by Kay Menick in 2016.

Related Materials:

Ralph Bunche letters, Sc MG 461, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library.

Ralph Bunche papers, Sc MG 290, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library.

Ralph Bunche papers: additions, Sc MG 439, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books, Schomburg

Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library.

Creator History

Ralph Bunche was an American political scientist, academic, and diplomat who received the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize for his late-1940s mediation in Israel. He was also involved in the formation and administration of the United Nations, and in 1963, he was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President John F. Kennedy. Bunche served as chair of the Department of Political Science at Howard University (1928-1950); as a member of the Board of Overseers of his alma mater, Harvard University (1960-1965); as a member of the board of the Institute of International Education; and as a trustee of Oberlin College, Lincoln University, and New Lincoln School.

Born in 1904 to working class parents in Detroit, Ralph Bunche graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1927, and Harvard Graduate School in 1928. Bunche taught in the Department of Political Science at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and worked with the Carnegie Corporation and the Department of State before joining the Permanent Secretariat of the United Nations in 1948. Investigations of Bunche's activities were conducted under the Hatch Act in 1940-1942, and the Loyalty Act in 1953-1954. During the 1930s and 1940s, he was associated with various organizations on the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations, among them the National Negro Congress (which he co-founded). In 1941, he was designated for custodial detention in the event of a national emergency by the FBI. He was cleared by the International Organizations Employees Loyalty Board in 1954.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

African American college teachers
African American intellectuals
African American political scientists
African Americans -- Civil rights
African Americans -- Political activity
Anti-communist movements -- United States -- History -- 20th century
Authors, Black
Communism and intellectuals
Internal security -- United States -- History -- 20th century
Subversive activities -- United States -- History -- 20th century

Names

Bunche, Ralph J. (Ralph Johnson), 1904-1971
Howard University
National Negro Congress (U.S.)

United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation