

## Finding Aid to the James Michel papers, 1968-2022

### Collection Overview

**Creator:** Michel, James (1939 – )

**Dates:** 1968-2022

**Extent:** 1.25 linear feet (1 box)

**Language:** English

#### **Abstract:**

James Michel served in multiple positions in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) between 1990 and 2000. This collection documents Michel's work in international development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Preferred Citation:** [Description of item or folder title, dates], James Michel papers, American University Archives & Special Collections, Washington, D.C.

#### **Custodial History**

This collection was donated to the AU Archives & Special Collections on date by James Michel in November 2022 as part of the USAID Alumni Association (UAA) collections.

#### **Processing Information**

Collection was processed by Isabella Panteledes between October and November 2024. Processing was completed in November 2024. During processing the original order was maintained as much as possible using donor provided documentation.

#### **Related Materials**

Related materials at AU Archives & Special Collections include other collections donated by members of the USAID Alumni Association (UAA).

Additionally, the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training provides access to their Oral History Collection with UAA members. [<https://adst.org/oralhistory/>]

## Collection Access & Use Information

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

### Conditions Governing Use

To the extent that they own copyright, the donor has assigned the copyright of this collection to American University. Contact AU Archives & Special Collections and Archives for more information.

## Administrative Information

**Finding Aid Date:** 2024-11

**Finding Aid Author:** Finding aid created by Isabella Panteledes, October-November 2024

**Description Rules:** Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

**Language of Description:** English

## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

James Michel (b. 1939–) served in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) between 1990 and 2000. After his departure, Michel worked as a private consultant in international development. Prior to working at USAID, Michel attended St. Louis University and earned a degree in Legal Studies; he also attended law school and earned his Juris Doctor.

Michel joined the U.S. State Department in the Office of the Legal Advisor in 1965. In 1970, he was moved to the field of political military affairs, where he worked as a lawyer for the State Department. In approximately 1972, Michel was promoted to Assistant Legal Advisor for Political-Military Affairs in the Office of the Legal Advisor. Michel also worked in the Office of the Under Secretary for Security Assistance between 1975 and 1977. Michel parted from both his position as Assistant Legal Advisor and Security Assistance in 1977 and began work in the Office of the Legal Advisor as a Deputy Legal Advisor. Michel was then promoted to Acting Legal Advisor in 1980. In 1982, he left the Office completely and began work in a different State Department branch as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs in 1983. After serving as Deputy Assistant until 1987, Michel then joined the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Affairs Division as an Ambassador to Guatemala between 1987 and 1989.

After his tour as an Ambassador, USAID reached out to Michel and offered him a position in their Latin American and Caribbean Bureau (LAC) as the Acting Administrator for Latin American Affairs. In this position, Michel set up offices within the Bureau on trade and investment and democratic initiatives with office directors. Michel served in this position until 1993, when he began his role as the U.S. Representative in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an international development organization. In this position, Michel worked with other representatives in Paris, France to stimulate economic progress and world trade. He held this position between 1994 and 1999 when he was promoted to the role of Counselor to the USAID. As Counselor, Michel contributed to administrative transition work, briefing books, and managed multiple bureaus. He left this role in 2000 and began work as an independent consultant for international development.

## Timeline of James Michel's Career

1965-1970	Office of the Legal Advisor, Management and Administration Division, U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C.
1970-1972	Office of the Legal Advisor, Political-Military Affairs, Lawyer, U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C.
1972-1977 (approximate)	Office of the Legal Advisor, Political-Military Affairs, Assistant Legal Advisor, U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C.
1975-1977	Office of the Under Secretary, Security Assistance, U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C.
1977-1980	Office of the Legal Advisor, Deputy Legal Advisor, U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C.
1980-1982	Office of the Legal Advisor, Acting Legal Advisor, U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C.
1983-1987	Office of Inter-American Affairs, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C.
1987-1989	Diplomatic Affairs Division, Ambassador, U.S. State Department, Guatemala
1990-1993	USAID, American and Caribbean Bureau (LAC), Latin American Affairs, Acting Administrator, USAID, Guatemala
1994-1999	OECD, DAC, U.S. Representative, France
1999-2000	Counselor to the Agency, USAID, Washington, D.C.
2000-circa 2021	Independent Consultant

### Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection documents James Michel's career as a USAID employee between 1990 and 2000 as well as his service in the OECD between 1994 to 1999 and his work as an International Development Independent Consultant starting in 2000. The collection includes publications, assessments, notes and statements, project papers, and action plans. Each series documents perspectives of working in different international development organizations.

The bulk of this collection contains materials related to Michel's documentation of USAID and its promotion of democratic governance and the rule of law. He both collected and produced materials that focused on the promotion of democracy, justice, and rule of law in Latin America and the Caribbean. The materials in this collection are textual and include books, studies, program assessments and proposals, presentations, and conference summaries.

### Arrangement

The collection is organized into three series according to original order.

1. Documentary Record of USAID, 1968-2015
2. Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, 1994-2005
3. Evolution of International Development Cooperation, 2000-2021

## Series Descriptions and Collection Contents

### Series 1: Documentary Record of USAID, 1968-2022

The Documentary Record of USAID series (1968-2022) includes collected materials documenting USAID's decades of work in Latin America and the Caribbean trying to promote democratic practices, good governance, and the rule of law. The Agency worked on generating better systems of justice across these regions as well as getting citizens more involved with politics and voting. Through programs such as The Democratic Initiative, Michel and USAID focused their efforts on strengthening democratic institutions, integrating democracy into the USAID program, rewarding progress in democratization, and establishing rapid-response mechanisms to enable timely responses to democratic breakthroughs and unanticipated needs. Materials in this series include books, action plans, project assessments, and research studies collected and produced by James Michel.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
1	1	Michel's Narrative Description of Collection Materials	2022
1	2	"Title IX of the Foreign Assistance Act"	1968
1	3	"Action Plan for Administration of Justice and Democratic Development"	June 2, 1986
1	4	"A Retrospective of AID's Experience in Strengthening Democratic Institutions in Latin America, 1961-1981"	September 1987
1	5	"AID's Experience with Democratic Initiatives"	February 1990
1	6	"AID and Democratic Development"	May 1992
1	7	"Strengthening Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean: USAID's Experience to Date and Plans for the Future"	November 1990
1	8	Talking Points, Tidewater Conference	July 20, 1991-July 23 1991
1	9	"Participatory Development and Good Governance, Development Cooperation Series"	1995
1	10	"Final Report of the DAC Ad Hoc Working Group on Participatory Development and Good Governance"	1997
1	11	"Sub-Saharan Africa: From Crisis to Sustainable Growth" Study	October 1989
1	12	"Governance and the External Factor"	April 1991
1	13	"The Democracy Initiative"	December 1990
1	14	Democracy and Governance Policy	November 1991
1	15	Latin America and Caribbean Bureau Democratic Initiatives Program	April 1993
1	16	"Constituencies for Reform: Strategic Approaches for Donor-Supported Civic Advocacy Programs"	February 1996
1	17	"Democracy and Governance: A Conceptual Framework"	November 1998
1	18	"Decentralization and Democratic Local Governance Programming Handbook"	May 2000
1	19	"Conducting a DG Assessment: A Framework for Strategy Development"	November 2000
1	20	"Promoting Democratic Governance in the Face of Weak Political Will, with Emphasis on Experience in Latin America"	December 2000

1	21	"At Freedom's Frontiers: A Democracy and Governance Strategic Framework"	December 2005
1	22	Legal Reform in Central America	November 1, 1983
1	23	Central America--The Rule of Law as an Instrument of Policy	April 7, 1984
1	24	Hemispheric Cooperation in the Administration of Justice	November 4, 1986
1	25	The Administration of Justice Program in Latin America and the Caribbean	1990
1	26	"Project Catalog: Administration of Justice Activities"	February 1991
1	27	"LAC Regional Administration of Justice Support Project"	March 1991
1	28	Remarks at the Inter-American Development Bank's Seminar on Latin American and Caribbean Justice in the 1990s	February 3, 1993
1	29	"USAID, Economic Security, and the Rule of Law"	September 2000
1	30	Regional Synthesis: USAID Rule of Law Achievements in Latin America	November 2002
1	31	"Achievements in Building and Maintaining the Rule of Law"	November 2002
1	32	Surveying the Landscape and Learning the Lessons of Past Rule of Law Efforts	October 1, 2015
1	33	"International Assistance to Latin American Justice Programs: Toward an Agenda for Reforming the Reformers"	2000
1	34	"What is the Role of Legal and Judicial Reform in the Development Process?"	June 13, 2000
1	35	"Executive Summary: Panama Sector Assessment"	October 1986
1	36	"Executive Summary: Costa Rica Sector Assessment"	October 1986
1	37	"Executive Summary: Honduras Justice Sector Assessment"	May 1987
1	38	"Executive Summary: El Salvador Justice Sector Assessment"	October 1987
1	39	"Executive Summary: Guatemala Sector Assessment"	December 1987
1	40	"Executive Summary: Dominican Republic Justice Sector Assessment"	May 1988
1	41	"La Justicia Penal en Costa Rica"	1988
1	42	"La Justicia Penal en Guatemala"	1989
1	43	"La Justicia Penal en Honduras"	1989
1	44	"Independencia Judicial en America Latina"	1990
1	45	"Carrera Judicial en America Latina"	1990
1	46	"Political Transition and the Administration of Justice in Nicaragua"	1991
1	47	"The System of Justice in Bolivia"	1991
1	48	"The Administration of Justice in Ecuador"	1993
1	49	"La Prevencion Comunitaria del Delito"	1997
1	50	"El Delito de Legitimacion de Capitales"	1998

## Series 2: Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, 1994-2005

The Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee series (1994-2005) documents the work Michel did with USAID while he oversaw the Committee. The documents indicate his experience and perspective on the work of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Development Assistance Committee (DAC) during the period when he chaired the Committee (1994-1999). This series consists of remarks, statements, and reports on a variety of issues and themes on which the DAC Chair offered views. These documents address coordinated approaches to development cooperation that emphasize ownership by local partners, participatory development and good governance, and attention to key goals of broadly based economic well-being, inclusive social development, and environmental sustainability. Materials in this series include Michel's remarks, statements, notes, publications, presentations, and meeting briefings.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
1	51	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 1994	1994
1	52	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 1995	1995
1	53	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 1996	1996
1	54	"Shaping the 21st Century: The Contribution of Development Co-operation"	May 1996
1	55	Briefing Notes by James Michel	1996-1999
1	56	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 1997	1997
1	57	Press Briefing, Release of the 1996 Development Co-Operation Report	February 5, 1997
1	58	"A New Approach to Development"	March 1997
1	59	"Efforts and Policies of the Members of the Development Assistance Company"	1998
1	60	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 1998	1998
1	61	A Reflection on Past Accomplishments, Current Frustrations, and Remaining Challenges	March 1999
1	62	"2000, A Better World for All: Progress Towards the International Development Goals"	2000
1	63	"Leading the Emerging Development Agenda: From Consensus to Action"	2005

### **Series 3: Evolution of International Development Cooperation, 2000-2021**

The Evolution of International Development Cooperation series (2000-2021) details James Michel's perspective on a variety of topics relating to the evolution of international development cooperation. This series documents Michel's career post-USAID as an international development independent consultant. Materials include publications, assessments, remarks, and statements.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
1	64	"The Value of Development Experience For Building Trade Capacity"	undated
1	65	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2000	2000
1	66	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2001	2001
1	67	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2002	2002
1	68	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2003	2003
1	69	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2005	2005

1	70	"Part 1: Leading the Emerging Development Agenda: From Consensus to Action"	2005
1	71	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2006	2006
1	72	"Integrating Anticorruption Objectives in Development Cooperation Programs"	November 2, 2006
1	73	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2008	2008
1	74	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2009	2009
1	75	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2010	2010
1	76	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2011	2011
1	77	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2012	2012
1	78	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2014	2014
1	79	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2015	2015
1	80	Remarks and Statements by James Michel, 2021	2021