



Finding Aid to the Carol Peasley papers, 1962-2013

Collection Overview

Creator: Peasley, Carol (1946 –)

Dates: 1962-2013

Extent: 2 linear feet (2 boxes)

Language: English

Abstract:

Carol Peasley served in multiple positions in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) between 1970 and 2005. This collection documents Peasley's work in international development in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Russia.

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

Custodial History

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

Processing Information

Collection was processed by Isabella Panteledes, Archives Student Assistant. Completed in November 2024. During processing the original order was maintained as much as possible using documentation provided by the collection creator.

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 University Archives & Special Collections and Archives for more information.

Administrative Information

Finding Aid Date: 2024-11-20

Finding Aid Author: Finding aid created by Isabella Panteledes (November 2024)

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

Language of Description: English

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Carol Peasley (b. 1946–) served in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) from 1970 until her retirement in 2005. After completing her bachelor's degree in economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1968 and her master's degree in development economics at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom in 1969, Peasley applied for the USAID International Development Intern Program. She began working in the USAID Intern Program in 1970 in Nepal for the South Asia Office. While there, she worked as a Program Economist in addition to rotating through several positions and contributing to a variety of programs, budget, economic analysis, project design, and evaluation work. During her five-year tour in Nepal between 1970 and 1975, Peasley contributed to projects covering a multitude of issues such as agricultural research and extension, public health and medical education, family planning, education, infrastructure, and economic development. In 1976, Peasley was assigned to a position as a Program Economist in the Costa Rica AID Affairs Office. She was then assigned to the USAID Technical Assistance Bureau in Washington, D.C. where she served between 1978 and 1979.

In 1979, Peasley was assigned to USAID's Latin America and Caribbean Bureau and their Development Resources Office (LAC/DR) where she worked in the finance wing and in the Central American Project Development Office. She was then promoted to division chief for the Central America Finance/Project Development division in the LAC/DR. During her work in LAC/DR, Peasley contributed to the growth of the Costa Rica program and designed new expanded program packages for the Nicaragua program after the Nicaraguan Revolution. Peasley's work also focused on El Salvador following the leftwing coup in October 1979. When she was assigned to El Salvador, Peasley returned to her previous position in the finance wing in the Central American Project Development Office. In this role, she designed a public works project that financed small infrastructure activities in marginalized communities with the objective of generating employment and increasing incomes. Between 1979 and 1980, Peasley worked with the Director of the USAID Central America Office to plan recommendations for a new USAID program in El Salvador. Peasley also focused on land reform and designed a public works project that financed small infrastructure projects in marginalized communities with the goal of generating employment and income for the area.

In 1981 Peasley enrolled in a 9-month program with the Stanford Sloan Program at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where she earned her second master's degree in management. Between 1982 and 1984, Peasley served the South Asia Office as Deputy Mission Director in Thailand. In 1984 Peasley returned to Washington, D.C. to work with the LAC/DR as the Assistant Director for Finance, and in 1985 she began work at the Africa Bureau Office of Project Development. Here, Peasley worked as an Office Director of the Project Development Office. In

1988, she began her role as the Africa Bureau as the Mission Director in Malawi. In this position, Peasley carried out a series of assessments and consultations focused on major issues facing Malawi, such as agriculture, education, economics, imbalanced power structure, and health crises. In 1993, Peasley returned to Washington, D.C. to be the Director of the Office of Development Planning in the Africa Bureau. Here, she managed the Bureau's strategic planning process, donor coordination, and budget processes. In 1999, Peasley worked as Mission Director for the Russia mission for the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia. The purpose of this assignment was to support Russia's transition to a free-market capitalist society. In this position, Peasley focused resources more strategically, shifted economic focus, improved family planning, assisted regional support centers, and created a program that focused on health education for the public to combat drug use and curb HIV/AIDS. Peasley's final position at USAID was in 2004-2005 as Counselor to the Agency.

Timeline of Carol Peasley's Career

1970-1975	South Asia Office, Nepal, Program Economist
1976-1978	LAC/DR, Costa Rica, Program Economist
1978-1979	USAID Technical Assistance Bureau, Washington, D.C., Evaluation Unit
1979-1981	LAC/DR, El Salvador, Development Resources Office-Finance Wing
1981	Stanford Graduate School of Business, Washington, D.C., Sloan Program, Student
1982-1984	South Asia Office, Thailand, Deputy Mission Director
1984	LAC/DR, Washington, D.C. Assistant Director for Finance
1985-1988	Africa Bureau, Office of Project Development, Washington, D.C. Office Director
1988-1993	Africa Bureau, Malawi, Mission Director
1993-1999	Africa Bureau, Washington, Director of the Office of Development Planning
1999-2003	Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, Russia, Mission Director
2004-2005	Counselor to the Agency, Washington, D.C.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection documents Carol Peasley's career as a USAID employee between 1970 and 2005. Materials include reports, publications, policy strategies, program evaluations, and intra-agency communications collected by Peasley.

The bulk of this collection contains materials related to Peasley's work as Mission Director in Malawi. She worked on issues such as agriculture, education, economics, imbalanced power structures, and health crises. Peasley reviewed the progression and results of these projects and revised her approach accordingly. This collection exhibits the day-to-day life of a USAID employee occupying different roles ranging from Foreign Service Officer to Counselor to the agency and items in the collection document different policies in various geographical contexts. The materials in this collection are mainly textual and include newspapers, field reports, project assessments, response strategies, mid-term and final reports, presentations, books, and economic analyses.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into seven series according to Peasley's career and employment with USAID. Each series documents a different country or region where Peasley was stationed with USAID. Series are arranged chronologically based on when she was assigned to each country.

1. The Nepal Files, 1964-1975
2. The El Salvador Files, 1974-1980
3. The Thailand Files, 1984
4. The Malawi Files, 1962-2006
5. The AID/Washington--Africa Files, 1989-1998
6. The AID/Washington-- Non-Africa Files, 1998
7. The Russian Federation Files, 2000-2013

Series Descriptions and Collection Contents

Series 1: The Nepal Files, 1964-1975

The Nepal Files series (1964-1975) marks the structural changes that helped become Modern-Day Nepal. Materials in this series include newspapers, government statements, economic reports, analyses of the government budget, seminar publications, and general reports. Some documents are from before Peasley's term.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
1	1	"External Trade and Payments Problems of Nepal"	undated
1	2	"Improving Tax Administration in Nepal, Short and Long-Range Recommendations"	April 22, 1964
1	3	"Planning for Development in Nepal, A Perspective for 1965-1980"	June 1966
1	4	"A Comparative Glimpse of the Progress Achieved in the King of Nepal Before and After December 15, 1960"	December 17, 1966
1	5	"Report of the USAID Consulting Team on Nepal's Development Strategy and USAID's Role in Support of that Strategy"	December 10, 1968
1	6	"Progress Report for the First Eighteen Months of Operation of the Centre for Economic Development and Administration"	July 1969-January 1971
1	7	"Nepal's Fourth Plan: A Critique"	1971
1	8	"Proceedings of the Seminar on Institute Building and Development"	June 26, 1971-June 30, 1971
1	9	"Proceedings of the Seminar on Population and Development"	July 28, 1971-July 30, 1971
1	10	"Caste and Caste Names in Nepal"	December 1971
1	11	"Analyses of Government of Nepal Budgets"	1971-1976
1	12	"U.S. Rupee Aid to Nepal and Related Issues"	January 14, 1972
1	13	The Rising Nepal Newspaper Mourning Deceased King and Celebrating His Life	February 1, 1972-February 13, 1972
1	14	The Rising Nepal Newspaper Tributes to Deceased King	February 12, 1972-February 17, 1972
1	15	Miscellaneous Economic Reporting	March 1972-August 1974

1	16	"Coronation Edition: original Rhymes and Recipes"	September 26, 1972
1	17	"Why Planning Fails in Nepal"	December 1972
1	18	"Impressing of Primary Schools in Kaski District"	May 1973
1	19	"Report of the Seminar on Resource Mobilization for Development in Nepal"	January 18, 1973-January 20, 1973
1	20	Nepal: The Fifth Plan (1975-1980) Pamphlets	February 1973-September 1974
1	21	"Statistical Pocket Book for Nepal"	1974
1	22	The Rising Nepal Newspaper Accounts of the Coronation of King Birenda in 1975	February 22, 1975-February 25, 1975
1	23	The Rising Nepal Newspaper Coronation Coverage in 1975	February 24, 1975-February 28, 1975
1	24	The Rising Nepal Newspaper Coverage of New King's First Declaration	February 25, 1975
1	25	"The Integration of Family Planning into the Basic Health Service Delivery System: A Useful Strategy for the Future?"	August 25, 1975-August 29, 1975

Series 2: The El Salvador Files, 1974-1980

The El Salvador Files series (1974-1980) document the specific mission activities involving Land Reforms and land efforts. The series intra-agency communications, strategy documents, and review papers.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
1	26	Papers on Early 1980's Land Reform Efforts in El Salvador	June 1974-July 1980
1	27	"Chronology of USAID Response to October 1979 Coup in El Salvador"	March 1980

Series 3: The Thailand Files, 1984

The Thailand Files series (1984) details USAID family planning programs. Materials in this series include communications and letters.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
1	28	"Exchange of Letters Between Vice President George H.W. Bush and Mechai Viravaidaya, secretary General of the Thai Population and Community Development Association"	May 1984-June 1984

Series 4: The Malawi Files, 1962-2006

The Malawi Files series (1962-2006) details Malawi's political transition from monarchy to democracy with USAID support. The Agency worked on generating conditions supportive of the transition as well as agricultural reforms. The series includes economic reports, strategy documents, program assessments, emails, review papers, books, intra-agency communication, letters, and government statements.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
1	29	"The Private Sector and the Economic Development of Malawi" - Background Economic Reports	March 1983

1	30	"Malawi: Promising Reforms, Bad Luck" - Background Economic Reports	July 1989
1	31	"1992 Economic Report" - Background Economic Reports	April 1, 1992
1	32	Strategy Development and Approval Documents	December 1989-June 1993
1	33	"Country Development Strategy Statement"- Strategy Development	December 1989
1	34	Project/Portfolio Review Documents	October 1988-November 1992
1	35	General Papers Related to the Agricultural Sector	March 1991-June 1991
1	36	"Monitoring the Effects of Grain Market Liberation on the Income, Food Security and Nutrition of Rural Households in Zomba South, Malawi" - Agricultural Sector	August 1992
1	37	Agricultural Sector Assistance Program (ASAP)	April 1991-April 1994
1	38	"Mid-term Evaluation of ASAP"	March 31, 1993
2	1	1992 Southern Africa Drought	July 1992-June 1994
2	2	"Successful Approaches to Integrating Gender in U.S. Development Assistance: USAID/Malawi" - General Papers	April 1994
2	3	"A Decade of Progress in Malaria Policy and Program Development in Malawi: 1984-1993" - General Papers	1995
2	4	"Final Report: Malawi AIDS Prevention Project" - General Papers	June 1995
2	5	"Focus on Girls: USAID Programs and Policies in Education, Malawi Case Study" - General Papers	April 1998
2	6	"Speech by the Governor of Nyasaland, Sir Glyn Jones, at the Opening of the Economic Symposium" - Political History and Timeline	July 18, 1962
2	7	"'Banda' by Philip Short, Photocopy of Book" - Political History and Timeline, Folder 1 of 2	1974
2	8	"'Banda' by Philip Short, Photocopy of Book" - Political History and Timeline, Folder 2 of 2	1974
2	9	"Amnesty International Publication, Malawi: A New Future for Human Rights" - Political History and Timeline	1994
2	10	"Religion in Malawi, An Annual Publication by the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Chancellor College" - Political History and Timeline	1995
2	11	"Traditional Authority and Democratic Governance in Malawi" - Political History and Timeline	April 1995
2	12	"Understanding the Past to Safeguard the Future" - Political History and Timeline	April 1997
2	13	"'Democratization in Malawi: A Stocktaking'" - Political History and Timeline	1998
2	14	"'Malawi's Lost Decade: 1994-2004'" - Political History and Timeline	2004
2	15	"Drivers of Change and Development in Malawi" - Political History and Timeline	January 2006
2	16	Documents Related to Malawi's Democratic Transition and USG Decision-making and Communication, Folder 1 of 3	January 1991-May 1996
2	17	Documents Related to Malawi's Democratic Transition and USG Decision-making and Communication, Folder 2 of 3	January 1991-May 1996

2	18	Documents Related to Malawi's Democratic Transition and USG Decision-making and Communication, Folder 3 of 3	January 1991-May 1996
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Series 5: The AID/Washington--Africa Files, 1989-1998

The Africa Bureau Files series (1989-1998) entails the colossal changes USAID and State department were making in terms of policy to help advance US-Africa relations and encourage democratic practices. Materials in the series include strategic planning documents, papers, project assessments, presentations, intra-agency communication, reports, trip reports, and articles.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
2	19	"Development Fund for Africa: Achieving Participation -- A Collection of the Africa Bureau's 'Best Practices'"	undated
2	20	"Design of Non-Project Assistance"	February 7, 1989
2	21	"The Development Fund for Africa (DFA): An Action Plan for FY 89 - FY 91"	May 1989
2	22	"Africa Governance in the 1990s"	March 1990
2	23	General Papers Related to USAID Democracy Support in Africa	1991-1996
2	24	"Implications of Political Change in Africa for SPA Donors"	April 5, 1993
2	25	"USAID Presentations at the African Studies Association Meeting"	November 3, 1994- November 6, 1994
2	26	"Status Report on Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa 1995: Incidence and Trends of Poverty"	October 1995
2	27	Allegations of Reverse Discrimination in USAID/South Africa	1995-1996
2	28	"Successful Negotiations: The Key to Privatization, Lessons from Zambia"	March 1996
2	29	"Innovation in Trying Times: The Success of the Mozambique AID Program and Why it May Fail (A Political Perspective)"	August 1, 1996
2	30	"Africa: U.S. Foreign Assistance Issues"	January 16, 1997
2	21	"Africa and U.S. National Interests"	March 1997
2	32	"U.S. National Interests and Africa"	March 13, 1997-March 16, 1997
2	33	"U.S. Development Assistance to Africa over the Next Decade: Anticipated Needs and Appropriate Responses"	May 1997
2	34	Commentary on August 4, 1997, New Yorker Article on "New Leaders in Africa"	August 28, 1997-September 25, 1997
2	35	"USAID and Africa in the Second Administration"	September 7, 1997
2	36	"A New Game: The Clinton Administration on Africa"	1998
2	37	"U.S. Development Assistance to Africa: The Application and Use if Non-Project Assistance"	March 16, 1998
2	38	"President Clinton Trip to Africa"	May 1998
2	39	"Program from the National Cathedral's Memorial Service for the Victims of the Bombings of the Embassies of the United States in Kenya and Tanzania"	September 11, 1998
2	40	Update Memoranda to USAID Africa Bureau Assistance Administrator	September 1998- December 1998

Series 6: The AID/Washington--Non-Africa, Files 1998

The Non-Africa AID/Washington Files series (1998) documents the 1998 global USAID Mission Directors' Conference, a conference held in Washington D.C. covering USAID's accomplishments in the fiscal year 1997. The series includes reports, agency statements, and intra-agency communication.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
2	41	"People for Development: Workforce Alignment -- A Report by the USAID Management Council"	October 1998
2	42	"Remarks by AID Administrator Brain Atwood at USAID Mission Directors' Conference"	November 1998
2	43	"Report on the 1998 Global USAID Mission Directors' Conference"	December 7, 1998

Series 7: The Russian Federation Files, 2000-2013

The Russian Federation Files series (2000-2013) provides a description of USAID work in Russia after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The series provides background information related to early discussions within the U.S. government regarding phasing out the USAID program. While the proposed "phasedown" was not implemented at the time, in 2013 the Russian government asked for USAID offices to be closed. Materials in this series include intra-agency communication, presentations, review papers, meeting summaries and reports, and program assessments.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
2	44	"Brochure on Siberian Civic Initiatives Support Center"	Undated
2	45	"Brochure on Republican of Lessons Learned (ROLL) Program"	Undated
2	46	"Private Sector Assistance to Russia from 1992 to 1996"	March 31, 2000
2	47	"An Overview of Six USAID/Russia Program Evaluations"	October 2000
2	48	"State Department Cable Reporting on Launch of American Corners Project at Novgorod Regional Library"	November 2000
2	49	"Why USAID Matters in Russia"	February 8, 2001
2	50	"USAID/Russia Presentation to Senate Appropriations Committee/Foreign Operations Staff"	February 20, 2001
2	51	"State Department Cable and Papers Related to Ambassador's Train Trip through Siberia and Tatarstan"	April 5, 2001
2	52	"Grassroots Civil Society Development"	July 8, 2002
2	53	"Notes from Europe and Eurasia Bureau Mission Director Conference"	October 7, 2002- October 10, 2002
2	54	Proposed Phase-out of Freedom Support Act Funding for Russia	December 2002-October 2003
2	55	"Presentation on USAID Program to Russia Federation Council"	March 23, 2003
2	56	"Russian-American Pacific Partnership"	July 15, 2003
2	57	"Preliminary History of USAID Program in Russia"	August 2013