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## Charles L. Whipple Papers

Digital

1925-1991

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#### Read collection overview

Charles Lewis Whipple was a noted journalist, editor, and the first ombudsperson for the *Boston Globe*. As a student at Harvard in the 1930s, Whipple joined the Young Communist League, carrying his radical politics with him when he joined the *Globe* staff in 1936 and became an active member of the American Newspaper Guild. Although classified as unfit for military duty due to the loss of vision in one eye, Whipple joined the Red Cross during the Second World War, and served with distinction with over thirty months of overseas service. After returning to civilian life and severing ties with the Communist Party, he resumed his position at the *Globe*, rising steadily to become editor of the opinion page in 1962 and ombudsperson in 1975. An editorial he wrote in 1967 is considered the first editorial in a major American newspaper to oppose the war in Vietnam. Although he formally retired from the *Globe* in 1979, Whipple worked an additional three years with the Xinhua News Agency in Beijing as editor of the *Beijing Review* and the *China Daily*, China's first English-language daily. Whipple died in Northampton, Mass., in 1991, following complications from surgery.

A mixture of personal and professional correspondence, writing, and subject and clipping files, the Charles Whipple Papers document a long and exceptional career in journalism. The diverse roles that Whipple filled at the *Boston Globe* from the 1930s through 1970s resulted in rich documentation of his work as an organizer for the American Newspaper Guild on the eve of the Second World War; his writing and editorial work during the Vietnam War and as the *Globe's* Ombudsman in the 1970s; and the three years he spent in China setting up an English-language newspaper during the late 1970s and early 1980s.

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Political activism  
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World War II

## Background on Charles Whipple

A noted journalist with the *Boston Globe*, Charles L. Whipple earned national attention in 1967 as author of the first editorial at a major U.S. newspaper to oppose American involvement in the War in Vietnam. Born in Salem, Massachusetts, on May 18, 1914, the son of a successful dry goods merchant, Whipple had deep New England roots, claiming descent from both a Salem witch and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. A precocious student, he graduated from Lexington High School in 1930 at the age of 16, and being too young for college, prepped at Exeter for an additional year before entering his father's alma mater, Harvard.

Despite coming from privilege, Whipple was drawn to radical politics, joining the Young Communist League in his sophomore year in 1933 and remaining active as he continued on to the study of law, intending to become a labor attorney. Whether it was because of his politics or other matters, Whipple's career plans took a sharp turn in 1936 when he ran afoul of a professor in property law, who failed him for skipping a class, resulting in dismissal from school. After recovering from the "horrible shock," Whipple spent the summer selling Realsilk hosiery door-to-door before landing a position as a copy boy at the *Boston Globe* in September. He quickly found his niche in journalism. A talented writer with a keen intellect, Whipple moved up to become a cub reporter, earning bylines for covering local and national politics.

Although he later claimed that his drift away from Communist sympathies began when he started as a newspaperman, Whipple appears to have remained true to his radical politics. At the *Globe*, he joined the American Newspaper Guild, a union which had been organized three years previously by the left-wing journalist Heywood Broun and which in 1937, shifted affiliation from the



Charles L. Whipple, ca. 1935

AFL to the more radical CIO. A part of a small Communist study group within the union, Whipple rose quickly to become Secretary for the Boston chapter.

As the threat of entry into the Second World War loomed over the United States in 1940, Whipple left the *Globe* to become a full-time international representative for the American Newspaper Guild. Although he later claimed that he moved to the Pittsburgh area to break ties with the Communist Party over its agitation to keep the U.S. out of the conflict (a stance it held before the German attack on Russia), Whipple was actually charged by the union with directing the 1941 strike against the *Aliquippa Daily Gazette*.

Whatever his political views had become, Whipple was eager to join in the struggle. Classified IV-F (unfit for active duty) due to the loss of sight in one eye, he nevertheless managed to enlist with the Red Cross in September 1942, serving thirty months in Europe and earning a Purple Heart for minor wounds sustained while evacuating soldiers soon after the invasion of Normandy. By the middle of 1945, Whipple was serving as a Red Cross Field Director with the rank of Captain, working with the 21st Army Group to supply liberated American Prisoners of War while they awaited transfer home.

When he returned to civilian life in 1946, Whipple resumed his old job with the *Globe*. His talent and dedication earned him an appointment as editor of the newspaper's opinion page in 1962, and after he resigned that position in 1975 to make way for a woman editor (Anne Wyman), he became the paper's first Ombudsperson. Having turned against the war in Vietnam early on, he editorialized regularly against American involvement and traveled there in 1968 to report on the war firsthand.

After more than forty years' at the *Globe*, Whipple stepped down in 1979, although he did not fully retire. With his second wife, Priscilla, he moved to Beijing, China, to work with Xinhua News Agency and the *Beijing Review* to establish China's first English-language daily, the *China Daily*, in 1981. Three years later, the Whipples returned to Massachusetts and settled into full retirement in Leverett, Mass. Charles Whipple died at Cooley-Dickinson Hospital in Northampton on May 12, 1991, following complications from surgery.

## Scope of collection

A mixture of personal and professional correspondence, writing, and subject and clipping files, the Charles Whipple Papers document a long and exceptional career in journalism. The diverse roles that Whipple filled at the *Boston Globe* from the 1930s through 1970s resulted in rich documentation of his work as an organizer for the American Newspaper Guild on the eve of the Second World War; his writing and editorial work during the Vietnam War and as the *Globe's* Ombudsman in the 1970s; and the three years he spent in China setting up an English-language newspaper during the late 1970s and early 1980s.

As a writer, Whipple left not only copies of many original articles he wrote for the *Boston Globe*, but essays dating during his undergraduate years at Harvard, short stories and poetry, and a copy of his book, "War in Vietnam." His correspondence can be quite revealing of his attitudes toward his profession, contemporary politics, and the people he encountered along the way.

## Series descriptions

### Series 1. Biographical material

1930-1991

1 box

The biographical files in the collection contain scattered material pertaining to Whipple's childhood and family life, his time as a student at Harvard, including his membership in the Young Communist League and the Harvard Liberal Club, and his later career in journalism. Of particular note are two folders containing documentation of Whipple's military service during the Second World War and several (incomplete) chapters from an autobiography that Whipple worked on late in life. Three folders from the autobiography were found empty upon transferal to SCUA.

### Series 2. Writings

1931-1989

2 boxes

Whipple's diverse writing ranges from poems to personal reflections, and short stories, some of which reflect Whipple's left-leaning politics. Among the more interesting works are a large essay entitled "The Non-partisan league: An agrarian revolution in North Dakota," and a political piece about the left-wing student movement entitled, "The Man with the Beard". The most substantial works in the series are Whipple's small book, "The War in Vietnam," and "Dirty Money", a popular article on Massachusetts political life that appeared in the March 1961 issue of *The Atlantic*.

### Series 3. Correspondence

1926-1990

6 boxes

Whipple's correspondence with family, friends, and colleagues spans nearly his entire adult life, from his entry in Harvard through his final work in newspapers in the People's Republic of China in the late 1970s. Somewhat scattered, the series

includes both incoming and outgoing letters with Harvard friends, his family, and professional colleagues, touching on subjects ranging from his experiences with the Red Cross while attached to the 8th Infantry Division to his relationship with a woman named Margaret Newman, his work with the *Beijing Review*.

#### Series 4. American Newspaper Guild

1939-1991

2 boxes

An active member of the Boston branch of the American Newspaper Guild from 1936-1941, Whipple gathered an eclectic assortment of dues letters, drafts of meeting minutes and proceedings, agenda lists, drafts of new rules, correspondence between members, and copies of the *American Newspaper Guild Gazette*, concentrated especially during the two years he worked as a fulltime organizer in 1940-1941. The ANG correspondence includes an interesting series of letters with Milton Murray of the *Detroit Times*, who like Whipple, drew away from his commitment to the Communist Party, in which the two discussed their careers, life, and new issues with their jobs.

#### Series 5. Subject files

1925-1990

7 boxes

The subject files in the Whipple papers were apparently kept to support Whipple's research and writing on topics ranging from the Federal Communications Commission, to Channel 5, and a controversial poem published in the Chelsea School District. of articles on Cuba and President Fidel Castro. Materials include manuscripts, drafts, clippings, articles, poetry, and reports.

#### Series 6. News clippings

1950-1990

4 boxes

Series 6 contains a wide-ranging collection of news clippings and articles, either written by or about Whipple.

## Inventory

### Series 1. Biographical material

1930-1991

1 box

Autobiographical statements

1978

Box 1: 1

Autobiography, 1st draft

undated

Box 1: 2

Autobiography: The civics lesson

undated

Box 1: 13

Autobiography: Harvard and the Niemans

undated

Box 1: 9

Autobiography: Law School/ Brandeis (folder empty upon arrival)

undated

Box 1: 10

Autobiography: Cub reporter at the Globe (folder empty)

undated

Box 1: 6

Autobiography: A little case of espionage

undated

Box 1: 3

Autobiography: Aliquippa

undated

Box 1: 4

Autobiography: Globe stories

undated

Box 1: 8

Autobiography: Channel 5 and Ike (folder empty)

undated

Box 1: 5

Autobiography: Red baiting

undated

Box 1: 11

Autobiography: Salem days

undated

Box 1: 12

Autobiography: Cuba

undated

Box 1: 7

Bills and notes

1941-1950

Box 1: 14

Boy Scout items

1931

Box 1: 15

China maps and stamps

undated

Box 1: 16

Cuba trip

1959

Box 1: 17

Globe travel expenses

1952

Box 1: 18

Harvard class of 1935

1978-1988

Box 1: 18

Harvard days

1931-1935

Box 1: 19

Health matters

1979-1982

Box 1: 20

New England AP Merit Award

1956

Box 1: 21

News clippings

1967-1986

Box 1: 22

Obituaries

1991

Box 1: 23

Photographs

1930-1971

Box 1: 24

Reporter's notebook

1975-1979

Box 1: 15a

Telegrams

1940

Box 1: 27

Vermont burglary

1976

Box 1: 29

War years

1943-1946

Box 1: 30  
Washington notebooks (early)  
undated  
Box 1: 31  
Yankee Quill Awards  
1978  
Box 1: 32  
Series 2. Writings  
1931-1989  
2 boxes  
Arnold Arboretum story  
1955  
Box 2: 45  
Atlantic Monthly: Dirty money in Boston  
1961  
Box 3: 52  
Barkley  
undated  
Box 2: 43  
China: Books reviews, notes, article  
1981-1982  
Box 3: 60a  
Common trench (re: African American Civil War soldiers)  
undated  
Box 3: 56  
Editorials: Uncle Dudley  
1957  
Box 2: 50  
End of Fraternity Row  
undated  
Box 2: 38  
Exeter thesis  
1931  
Box 2: 33  
Frankfurter, Felix  
1955  
Box 2: 46  
Globe anecdotes: personalities  
ca.1936  
Box 2: 36  
Globe articles  
Box 2: 42  
Globe articles: CIA and media  
1976  
Box 3: 57  
Globe articles: Credo cornerstone  
1972-1978  
Box 3: 60  
Globe articles: Cuba  
1959  
Box 2: 51  
Globe articles: Horror chamber; FTC and Globe  
1977  
Box 3: 58  
Globe articles: Ombudsman articles: Bruno/Stillman  
1978  
Box 3: 59  
Globe articles: Ombudsman collection  
1973-1979

Box 3: 55

Globe articles: Red probe

1954

Box 2: 44

Globe articles: Tough but not brutal; and Morgenthau diaries

1956

Box 2: 49

Globe articles: Vietnam, including correspondence

1966-1989

Box 3: 54

Globe articles: Worcester case

undated

Box 3: 53

Globe: My first news story

1936

Box 2: 35

Globe: South articles

1956

Box 2: 48

Harvard days

1932-1935

Box 2: 34

Home is where the star burns (short story)

1944

Box 2: 37

Miscellaneous writings

1948

Box 3: 60b

Non-Partisan League

1935

Box 2: 34a

Notebook re: plot

undated

Box 2: 41

Poetry

1959

Box 2: 40

War years: poetry

1944

Box 2: 39

Williams, Ted: articles

1955

Box 2: 47

Series 3. Correspondence

1926-1991

6 boxes

Personal correspondence

1926-1988

Personal: Correspondence

1926

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Trip west

1930

Box 4: 62

Harvard days

1932-1935

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Correspondence

1940

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Christmas cards  
1940-1941

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Correspondence with friends  
1942-1945

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Correspondence with family  
1942-1945

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War years  
1942-1946

Box 4: 68  
War years: American Red Cross  
1944-1945

Box 4: 69  
Correspondence: "For action"  
1944-1945

Box 4: 70  
End papers  
1975

Box 4: 71  
China: family correspondence  
1979

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China: correspondence  
1980-1984

Box 4: 73  
China: family correspondence  
1980

Box 4: 74  
China: family correspondence  
1980

Box 4: 75  
China: family correspondence  
1982

Box 4: 76  
Contact and correspondence  
1971-1972

Box 4: 77  
Precious notes  
1980

Box 4: 78  
Professional correspondence  
1940-1991  
Anderson, Peter  
1988

Box 5: 79  
Atlantic Monthly  
1961

Box 5: 80  
Bernard, Laura Pincus  
1975

Box 5: 81  
Boston's Newspaper Benevolent Association  
1940

Box 5: 82  
Brooke, Edward  
1976



Box 5: 83  
Bronner, Ethan  
1990  
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Burns, James McGregor  
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1959  
Box 5: 86  
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Columbia University Press  
1982-1983  
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Commager, Henry Steele  
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Cutler, Sam  
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Box 5: 93  
Damon, Marjorie  
1991  
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De Weese, H.  
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Driscoll, Edward  
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1984  
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Globe correspondence  
1959-1960  
Box 5: 105  
Globe correspondence  
1962-1975  
Box 5: 106  
Globe memoranda and anecdotes  
1945-1954  
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Globe memoranda  
1954-1961  
Box 5: 108  
Globe memoranda  
1974  
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Globe memoranda  
1975  
Box 5: 110  
Globe memoranda  
1976  
Box 5: 111  
Globe: Ombudsman memoranda  
1975-1979  
Box 5: 112  
Globe: Ombudsman memoranda  
1978-1986  
Box 5: 113  
Globe: Ombudsman Bruno and Stillman memoranda  
1978  
Box 5: 114  
Globe: Ombudsman Bruno and Stillman correspondence  
1978  
Box 5: 115  
Globe: Channel 5 hearings  
1958  
Box 6: 116  
Globe: Chile correspondence  
1972-1976  
Box 6: 117  
Globe: Chile  
1972  
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Globe: CIA and media  
1976  
Box 6: 119  
Globe: Cuba  
1959-1990  
Box 6: 120  
Globe: Hiss, Alger  
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Globe: Swan Song  
1979  
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Globe: Viet Cong memoranda  
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Box 6: 123

Globe: Worcester case  
1960-1962  
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Golden, Louis  
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undated  
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Kennedy, Edward M.  
1964  
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Lukas, Anthony J.  
1986  
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McAdoo, R. B.  
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McCord, David  
undated  
Box 6: 135  
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Box 6: 136  
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MacLeish, Archibald  
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Box 6: 138  
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undated  
Box 6: 139  
Mangold, William (New York)  
undated  
Box 7: 140  
Markham, George  
1976, 1984  
Box 7: 141  
Monro, John  
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Morgan, James  
1954-1958

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Morgenthau, Mimi  
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Nolan, Marty  
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Price, Lucien  
1952  
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Hueng, Qing  
1983  
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1986  
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Schirmer, Boone  
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Schuman, J.  
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1980-1983  
Box 8: 181  
Wyman, Anne  
1970-1989  
Box 8: 182

Wyoming: University of Wyoming archives

1971-1980

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Wyzanski, Charles E.

1961-1986

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Zhang, Jining

1985

Box 8: 185

Zheng, Tau

1982-1983

Box 8: 186

Zou, Jie Lan

1981-1985

Box 8: 187

Series 4. American Newspaper Guild

1939-1991

2 boxes

Agendas, annual convention programs

undated

Box 9: 188

Agreements and manuals

undated

Box 9: 189

Aliquippa

1942-1991

Box 9: 189a

Committee reports

1940-1941

Box 9: 194

**American Newspaper Guild: Correspondence**

1940 Feb.-Dec.

Box 9: 195

**American Newspaper Guild: Correspondence**

1941 Jan.-May

Box 9: 196

**American Newspaper Guild: Correspondence**

1941 June

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**American Newspaper Guild: Correspondence**

1941 July

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**American Newspaper Guild: Correspondence**

1941 Aug.

Box 9: 200

**American Newspaper Guild: Correspondence**

1941 Sept.

Box 9: 201

**American Newspaper Guild: Correspondence**

1941 Oct.

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**American Newspaper Guild: Correspondence**

1941 Nov.

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**American Newspaper Guild: Correspondence**

1943-1963

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**American Newspaper Guild: Campaign**

1945

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**American Newspaper Guild: Campaign correspondence**

1945

Box 9: 205

**American Newspaper Guild: Campaign**

1945

Box 9: 207

**American Newspaper Guild: Campaign statements**

undated

Box 9: 210

**American Newspaper Guild: Campaign handouts**

undated

Box 10: 209

**American Newspaper Guild: Vote tabulations**

undated

Box 10: 222

**American Newspaper Guild: List of supporters**

undated

Box 10: 212

**American Newspaper Guild: Handouts**

undated

Box 10: 211

**Guild Reporter**

1939-1942

Box 10: 219

**Guild Reporter**

1945

Box 10: 220

**Newsclippings**

undated

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**Boston Guild literature**

undated

Box 10: 208

**Newspaper Guildsman**

undated

Box 10: 214

**New York Guild Paper**

1943-1945

Box 10: 221

**Publications of Locals**

undated

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**Whipple, Charles L.: travel recommendations**

undated

Box 10: 223

**Whipple, Charles L.: personal documents**

undated

Box 10: 216

**Notes**

undated

Box 10: 215

**Printed materials**

undated

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**Series 5. Subject files**

1925-1990

7 boxes

**Miscellaneous**

undated  
Box 11: 219  
Anti-Semitism  
undated  
Box 11: 220  
Aronson, Jim and Grambs Miller Aronson  
1983-1988  
Box 11: 221  
Auden  
undated  
Box 11: 222  
Book notes  
undated  
Box 11: 223  
Boston Globe  
undated  
Box 11: 224  
Boston Globe newsclippings  
1947-1954  
Box 11: 225  
Burchett, Wilfrid  
1977  
Box 11: 226  
Canham, Erwin Dain  
undated  
Box 11: 227  
CBS-Braestrap  
undated  
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Channel 5 hearings  
1959  
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Channel 5 hearings: Proceedings  
1959  
Box 11: 230  
Channel 5 hearings: Newsclippings  
1959  
Box 11: 231  
Channel 5 hearings: Photographs  
1959  
Box 11: 232  
Channel 5 hearings: Writings  
undated  
Box 11: 233  
Chelsea poem  
1977  
Box 11: 234  
Chile: AP release  
undated  
Box 11: 235  
Chile: Newsclippings  
undated  
Box 11: 236  
China: Big character posters  
1980  
Box 12: 237  
China: Books  
undated  
Box 12: 238



China Daily  
undated  
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China: Newsclippings  
undated  
Box 12: 240  
China: Reforms  
ca.1970-1989  
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Sun Guozhen  
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Box 12: 245  
CIA and Media: Globe notes  
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Cuba: Notes, story  
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Editorial: newsclippings  
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Hiss, Alger: Newsclippings  
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Hiss, Alger: Notes  
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