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HENDERSON

HENDERSON, LOY W. (OH-191) 58 pages PRCQ (Columbia)

State Department official and Foreign Service officer; Director for Near East and African Affairs, Department of State, 1945-48; U.S. Ambassador to Iran, 1951-54; Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration, 1955-61.

Interview #1. Personal background and summary of positions held during his career, 1918-61. Service as U.S. Ambassador to Iran, 1951-54: question of nationalization of British oil companies; U.S. position in the Iran-Great Britain dispute; Prime Minister Mossadegh—his pro-communist supporters, results for Iran of his fiscal policies; U.S. position towards the Shah of Iran; comments on his actions at the time (August 1953) when the Shah replaced Mossadegh as prime minister with General Zahedi; communist activities in Iran; comments on his freedom of action during administrations of both Truman and DDE; eventual settlement of the oil question. Service as Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration, 1955-61: his reaction to being asked to fill the position; reasons for low morale among State Department staff and Foreign Service officers, and how he combated it; work on “Wriston Program” of assimilating civil service personnel from the State Department into the Foreign Service. Impressions of John Foster Dulles, and his relationship with DDE. Milton Eisenhower advising DDE on Latin America—e.g., Castro and Cuba. Problems created because of part U.S. played in establishment of Israel. U.S. relations with Egypt: Dulles and the Aswan Dam project; Suez crisis of 1956. Attitudes of DDE and Dulles towards Vietnam. Christian Herter as Secretary of State, and his relationship with DDE.

[Columbia Oral History Project Interview by Don North, 1970]