

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR ARCHIVAL DESCRIPTION

- 1.1 Reference code** UNHCR 13, sub-fonds 1
1.2 Title Records of the High Commissioner
Sub Fonds 1: Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan
1.3 Dates of creation 1958-1991 (predominant 1966-1977)
1.4 Level Sub-fonds
1.5 Extent (quantity) 8 m.

2.2 Administrative/Biographical history

Sadruddin Aga Khan was elected the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by the General Assembly in December 1965. He was re-elected unanimously by the Assembly in 1968 and again in 1973 for five years.

From 1962 to 1965 he served as Deputy High Commissioner. He became associated with refugee work in 1959 as Special Envoy of the High Commissioner on several missions related to World Refugee Year, including the Stamp Plan.

Upon completion of his duties as High Commissioner, Sadruddin Aga Khan became special consultant and Chargé de Mission to the United Nations Secretary General. Acting in this capacity, in 1978 he played an important role in the negotiation of a cease-fire and humanitarian aid in Lebanon. In April of 1981, Sadruddin Aga Khan was appointed Special Rapporteur on the question of mass exoduses of populations.

- 2.3 Archival history** In May of 2003 UNHCR mourned the death of the former High Commissioner. In early 2004 the Princess Catherine Aga Khan conveyed to UNHCR Archives several linear meters of records originating in the offices of UNHCR during the career of the late Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan as High Commissioner. The records predominantly cover the period of 1963-1977 but include material dating back to 1959 as well as some additional material from the early 1980's when he served as Special Rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission (Series 7). Not all of the documents in this series relates to UNHCR. A small sub section of Subject Files (Fonds 13, sf 1, s 4) had remained at UNHCR headquarters.

- 3.1 Scope and content** The records provide documentation of the work of the High Commissioner during the 1960's and 1970's as the organization was faced with the changing nature of refugee crises throughout the world.

The unique importance of the country files can be illustrated in the contents of the "India/Pakistan/Bangladesh events 71-73". UNHCR played a central role in East Pakistani crisis that resulted in the emergence of Bangladesh. Named as Focal Point for the coordination of all UN assistance, the Office of High Commissioner took on responsibilities entirely distinct from its normal duties, including the mobilization of international support, procurement and extensive coordination with the Indian government of Indira Gandhi.

The records of this file trace the development of the Focal Point role through briefings, notes and correspondence between the High Commissioner and the Secretary General and his staff in New York.

In addition, the file includes correspondence with John Kelly, the UNHCR representative in Dhaka.

The records contain a good collection of the many speeches and addresses made as High Commissioner, Chargé de Mission and Special Rapporteur.

3.3 Accruals Accruals are not expected.

3.4 Arrangement Arranged in seven series:

1. Special Envoy and Deputy High Commissioner	1959-1965
2. Chronological files	1968-1978
3. Mission	1965-1979
4. Subject files	1963-1977
5. Receptions and Invitations	1965-1977
6. Speeches, interviews, press and publications	1962-1978
7. Chargé de Mission and Special Rapporteur	1978-1991

4.1 Conditions governing access

Records are subject to the UNHCR Archives Access Policy.

4.2 Conditions governing reproduction

Records are subject to the Copyright Policy of UNHCR

4.3 Language/scripts Principally English and French

4.5 Finding aids See List

7.2 Rules or conventions Internal UNHCR rules

7.3 Date of description 2004; 2008