

# Guide to the Roland Arthur Paul Papers

MS 1417



compiled by Catherine Lawrence

October 1985

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1417

**CREATOR:** Paul, Roland A., 1937-

**TITLE:** Roland Arthur Paul papers

**DATES:** 1982-1983

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of two, unpublished manuscripts by Roland Paul. Both manuscripts are based on Paul's diaries and notes of his experiences with the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on U.S. Security Agreements, then chaired by Senator Stuart Symington and strongly influenced by Senator William Fulbright. The first, entitled "The Power of Arrogance: The Assault of the Senators on America's Military Commitments, 1969-70," was completed in 1982. It offers a Washington insider's perspective on the attitudes, circumstances, and institutional structures that would later cause U.S. foreign policy and actions in Vietnam to fail. The manuscript includes several pages from an earlier, longer draft that give Paul's personal reflections on the Vietnam War, as well as copies of letters from several scholars who reviewed the manuscript for publication. Paul's second manuscript "A Million Elephants," completed in 1983, is a shorter version of the first, written in the form of a screenplay.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1417>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1417>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box  
f.        folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Roland A. Paul, 1985.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Roland Arthur Paul Papers (MS 1417). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Roland Arthur Paul, Jr. was born January 19, 1937, in Memphis, Tennessee. He received his undergraduate degree from Yale University in 1958 and his LL.B. from Harvard Law School in 1961. From 1962-1964 Paul worked in the Pentagon, first in the office of International Security Affairs and then as Special Assistant to the General Counsel, John McNaughton. In 1965 he joined the Council on Foreign Relations, and from 1969-1970 he served as counsel of the Senate Subcommittee on U.S. Security Agreements and Commitments Abroad. In 1973 Rutgers University Press published Paul's first book, *American Military Commitments Abroad*, which details the international scene during the late 1960s. Paul began private legal practice in the early 1970s.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of two, unpublished manuscripts by Roland Paul. Both manuscripts are based on Paul's diaries and notes of his experiences with the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on U.S. Security Agreements, then chaired by Senator Stuart Symington and strongly influenced by Senator William Fulbright. The first, entitled "The Power of Arrogance: The Assault of the Senators on America's Military Commitments, 1969-70," was completed in 1982. It offers a Washington insider's perspective on the attitudes, circumstances, and institutional structures that would later cause U.S. foreign policy and actions in Vietnam to fail. The manuscript includes several pages from an earlier, longer draft that give Paul's personal reflections on the Vietnam War, as well as copies of letters from several scholars who reviewed the manuscript for publication. Paul's second manuscript "A Million Elephants," completed in 1983, is a shorter version of the first, written in the form of a screenplay.

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## Collection Contents

### Writings

b. 1, f. 1	"The Power of Arrogance: The Assault of the Senators on America's Military Commitments, 1969-1970" English  A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1982
b. 1, f. 2	"Million Elephants" English	1983

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

International relations -- 1950-1980  
Lawyers  
National security -- United States -- History --  
20th Century  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- United States

### Geographic Names

Asia -- Foreign relations -- United States  
Europe -- Foreign relations -- United States  
United States -- Foreign relations -- 1945-1953  
United States -- Foreign relations -- 1945-1989  
United States -- Foreign relations -- 1989-  
United States -- Foreign relations -- Asia  
United States -- Foreign relations -- Europe  
United States -- Military policy  
United States -- Military relations -- Asia  
United States -- Politics and government --  
1945-1953  
United States -- Politics and government --  
1945-1989

### Names

Fulbright, J. William (James William), 1905-1995  
Paul, Roland A., 1937-  
Symington, Stuart, 1901-1988

### Corporate Body

United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on  
Foreign Relations