

**GUIDE TO THE
MICROFILM EDITION OF**

**RECORDS OF THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RELATING TO U.S.
POLITICAL RELATIONS
WITH LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN
1945-1959**

Decimal Files 711 and 611

Primary Source Media



Primary Source Media



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INTRODUCTION

Scholarly Resources has published on microfilm the U.S. Department of State Decimal Files of records relating to U.S. political relations with Latin America and the Caribbean for the years 1945-1949, 1950-1954, and 1955-1959. Through 1949 these files were designated 711; after 1950 the files were indicated by the number 611.

The materials in these Decimal Files have been microfilmed in the exact order and condition in which they are found in the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration. Those documents that have not yet been declassified were removed prior to filming and replaced with notices identifying the item and the reason for its removal.

The documents found in these files are predominantly instructions to—and despatches from—diplomatic and consular officials and are often accompanied by enclosures. Notes between the Department of State and foreign diplomats in the United States, memoranda prepared by State Department officials, and correspondence with officials of other government departments, as well as with private businesses and persons, are also included.

Decimal Files 711 and 611 are part of the General Records of the Department of State, National Archives Record Group 59.

The Decimal Filing System

From 1910 to 1963 the State Department used a decimal filing system to organize its central files, which subsequently became known as the “Decimal Files.” This filing system is designed to permit access to the documents by using a numerical-subject organization that employs three categories: **Class**, **Country**, and **Subject**.

Class. Until 1950 there were 9 classes (numbered 0-8) in the decimal filing system, each of which designated a broad subject area:

Class 0:	General, Miscellaneous
Class 1:	Administration, U.S. Government
Class 2:	Extradition
Class 3:	Protection of Interests
Class 4:	Claims
Class 5:	International Conferences, Multilateral Treaties, Disarmament, League of Nations, and Interparliamentary Union
Class 6:	Commerce, Customs Administration, and Trade Agreements
Class 7:	Political Relations of States
Class 8	Internal Affairs of States

In 1950 the system was reorganized to meet the changing needs of the State Department. The classes were expanded to 10, and the subject areas were redefined:

- Class 0: Miscellaneous
- Class 1: Administration of the U.S. Government
- Class 2: Protection of Interests (Persons and Property)
- Class 3: International Conferences, Congresses, Meetings, and Organizations; United Nations, Organization of American States, Multilateral Treaties
- Class 4: International Trade and Commerce, Trade Relations, Treaties, Agreements, Customs Administration
- Class 5: International Informational and Educational Relations, Cultural Affairs and Programs
- Class 6: International Political Relations, Other International Relations
- Class 7: Internal Political and National Defense Affairs
- Class 8: Internal Economic, Industrial, and Social Affairs
- Class 9: Communications, Transportation, and Science

The records reproduced in this *Guide* are from Class 7 for the period 1945-1949 and from Class 6 for the periods 1950-1954 and 1955-1959.

Country. The decimal filing system continues by assigning a number to each country, as well as to some larger geographical areas. The United States is always represented by the number 11, which follows the class number on the documents in this *Guide*; for example, Bolivia is designated by the number 24, which appears on these documents following the decimal point (see page ix for a complete list of country numbers).

Subject. The two classes covering Political Relations are organized according to a subject classification system in which each subject is assigned a number. The Numerical-Subject Listing of Documents in Classes 7 and 6 begins on page 1 of this *Guide*.

Periodization of Files

The State Department divided its Decimal Files into arbitrary sections by years: 1910-1929, 1930-1939, 1940-1944, 1945-1949, 1950-1954, 1955-1959, and 1960-1963. Each section is treated as a separate filing unit, organized by the numerical-subject classification system. Within each section, all the documents pertaining to a particular subject are filed together. It is important to note that the Decimal Files cannot be accessed by individual years.

Document File Numbers

In the decimal filing system, each document is assigned a file number that provides four pieces of information. An example, using a document in Decimal File 711.24 is shown below:

7 11 . 24 2 / 13
(1) (2) (2) (3) (4)

- (1) **Class Number.** This document is part of Class 7 and pertains to Political Relations of states.
- (2) **Country Number.** Each document includes two country numbers indicating the two countries between which the relationship exists. In this document, number 11 indicates the United States, and number 24 signifies Bolivia.
- (3) **Subject Number.** The number following the second country number refers to the subject of the document. In this example, the number 2 denotes that the topic of the document involves matters of commerce and navigation. The numerical-subject classification of Classes 7 and 6 begins on page 1 of this *Guide*.
- (4) **Document Number.** From 1910 until 1949 the number following the slant (/) indicated the sequence number of the document in the particular file. In the example above, this would be the thirteenth document in the sequence of documents on the subject of commerce and navigation within this particular period. The documents are generally, but not always, filed in chronological order.

With the reorganization of the decimal filing system in 1950, the form of the document number changed and became a two-part number indicating the date on which the document was created. For example, a document originating on March 8, 1950, would have a document number ending /3-850; the number following the slant denotes the month, the one immediately after the hyphen shows the day, and the final two numbers signify the year.

USING THE MICROFILM

At the beginning of each microfilm roll the researcher will find:

- The numerical-subject classification of Class 7 or 6 records
- The roll contents of the entire section

Locating a Document by File Number

- Go the roll contents for the appropriate section, either in this *Guide* or at the beginning of the microfilm. The roll contents provides the file number of the first and last document on each roll. Using this information, determine the appropriate roll.
- Place this roll on the microfilm reader. Remembering that the documents are filed in numerical order, turn to the desired document.

Locating a Document by Subject

Use the following steps to examine documents addressing a particular subject:

- Refer to the Subject Index for Classes 7 and 6 (pages 5-14) in this *Guide* to determine the file number of the topic to be researched.
- Consult the microfilm roll contents of the appropriate section to find the roll(s) of film on which documents with this file number appear.
- Place the roll of film on the reader and turn the roll to the material to be examined.

Citation of Documents

[Sender] to [recipient], [date], Department of State, Decimal File 711.24, General Records, Record Group 59, National Archives, Washington, DC.

COUNTRY NUMBERS

	The United States	11		
The Argentine Republic	35	Guatemala		14
Bolivia	24	Haiti		38
Brazil	32	Honduras		15
Central America	13	Mexico		12
Chile	25	Nicaragua		17
Colombia	21	Panama		19
Costa Rica	18	Paraguay		34
Cuba	37	Peru		23
The Dominican Republic	39	Uruguay		33
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El Salvador	16	The West Indian Republics		36

ROLL CONTENTS

Records of the U.S. Department of State relating to U.S. Political Relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, 1945-1959

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	Brazil
1	711.322/4-2346—711.329/12-1649 611.32/2-1953—611.324/4-650
2	611.324/4-650(cont'd)—611.325/2-251 611.32/1-755—611.3297/12-2359
	Chile
1	711.25/7-3045—711.2527/4-1949 611.25/3-2850—611.2595/10-1951 611.25/1-3155—611.256/12-3157
	Colombia
1	711.21/1-245—711.2127/5-949 611.21/1-1950—611.2194/12-1054
2	611.214/1-1955—611.2197/6-1456
	Costa Rica
1	711.18/4-846—711.189/2-1049 611.18/1-455—611.1897/6-2457 611.18/1-2450—611.1896/8-151
	Dominican Republic
1	711.39/3-1745—711.394/10-2248 611.39/1-1150—611.399/11-2751 611.39/7-2855—611.3997/12-555

Roll No.	Country/Decimal File
	Ecuador
1	711.22/2-145—711.228SAIPAN/10-2649 611.22/6-1250—611.226/3-1753
2	611.226/3-1853—611.226/5-2953 611.224/1-355—611.2297/11-2657
	Guatemala
1	711.14/1-545—711/142/3-2348 611.14/2-1655—611.1497/4-2457 611.14/1-1350—611.1496/12-1354
	Haiti
1	711.38/1-545—711.3827/8-1248 611.38/2-950—611.3894/2-653 611.38/4-1855—611.384/1-1155
2	611.384/1-1155(cont'd)—611.3897/8-656
	Panama (1950-1959)*
1	611.19/1-550—611.19/10-853
2	611.19/10-953—611.191/12-158
3	611.1913/5-2853—611.196/7-2353
4	611.1913/9-254—611.1994/6-952 611.19/1-1055—611.19/11-1358
5	611.19/11-1358—611.1913/8-1856
6	611.1913/8-2056—611.1997/6-2459
	Paraguay
1	711.34/3-1645—711.34/5-1348 611.34/5-950—611.3494/3-3150 611.34/7-2855—611.3494/12-1157

*Panama, 1945-1949 guide published separately

Roll No.	Country/Decimal File
	Peru
1	711.23/12-2945—711.2327/6-1048 611.23/11-1053—611.23/8-1754
2	611.23/3-3155—611.2397/12-2359
	Uruguay
2	711.33/2-545—711.33/12-2749 611.33/4-350—611.3394/7-1051 611.33/3-855—611.3397/2-1457
	Venezuela
1	711.31/1-2246—711.31/10-2649 611.31/4-2650—611.311/10-1651 611.31/1-3155—611.31/10-2359 Addendum: 611.31231/5-356—611.31A/7-1756

NUMERICAL-SUBJECT LISTING OF DOCUMENTS
IN CLASS 7 RECORDS
1945-1949

- 700 Political relations of states

- 701 Diplomatic representation (diplomatic privileges, immunities, etc.)
 - .01 Right of residence, transit, etc.
 - .02 Protection of person, dwelling, etc.
 - .03 Freedom of communication and inviolability of correspondence
 - .04 Confinement of correspondence to official channels
 - .05 Exemption from judicial process
 - .06 Exemption from taxation
 - .07 Duty to observe police regulations
 - .08 Abstention from politics
 - .09 Other privileges, immunities, etc.
 - ** Diplomatic service of country **
 - **†† Diplomatic representation of country ** in country ††
 - .00†† Diplomatic corps in country ††

- 702 Consular representation (consular privileges, immunities, etc.)
 - .01 Right of residence, transit, etc.
 - .02 Protection of person, dwelling, etc.
 - .03 Freedom of communication and inviolability of correspondence
 - .04 Free exercise of functions
 - .05 Amenability to judicial process
 - .06 Amenability to taxation
 - .07 Amenability to police regulations
 - .08 Abstention from politics
 - .09 Other privileges, immunities, etc.
 - ** Consular service of country
 - **†† Consular representation of country ** in country ††
 - .00†† Consular body residing in country ††

- 703.**†† Representation of interests of United States by diplomatic and consular officers of country ** in country ††

- 704.**†† Representation of interests of country ** by American diplomatic and consular officers in country ††

- 705.**†† Representation in the United States of interests of country ** by diplomatic and consular officers of country ††

- 706.**†† Representation in foreign countries of interests of country ** by diplomatic and consular officers of country ††

- 707.**†† Relations of diplomatic and consular officers of country ** with diplomatic and consular officers of country ††

- 710 Relations of American states
 - International conferences of American states
 - 710.A Washington, 1889
 - 710.B Mexico, 1902
 - 710.C Rio, 1906
 - 710.D Buenos Aires, 1910
 - 710.E Santiago, 1923
 - 710.F Habana, 1928
 - 710.G Montevideo, 1933
 - 710.H Lima, 1938
 - .001 Pan American Union
 - .11 Relations of United States with other American states
- 713 Relations of Central American states
 - .001 Central American Court of Justice at Cartago
- 7**.*†† Relations; bilateral treaties
 - .††0 General
 - .††01 International law, diplomacy
 - .††1 Political
 - .††11 War, peace, friendship, alliance, nonaggression
 - .††111 Neutrality
 - .††112 Neutral commerce (freedom of the seas, civil warfare, contraband of war, blockade, trading with the enemy)
 - .††112a United States list of contraband and trading with the enemy list
 - .††113 Enemy property
 - .††113a United States property in enemy countries
 - .††114 Prisoners of war
 - .††114a United States prisoners of war
 - .††115 Civil prisoners, enemy noncombatants
 - .††116 Illegal and inhumane warfare (prohibited acts, bombardment of unfortified areas)
 - .††117 Hospital ships
 - .††118 Military observers, civilian observers
 - .††119 Termination of war (mediation, armistice)
 - .††12 Arbitration, Conciliation, Kellogg Antiwar Pact
 - .††13 Limitation of armaments
 - .††14 Cession of territory, disputed sovereignty over noncontiguous territory
 - .††15 Boundary questions, composition of differences
 - .††151 Delimitation of boundary
 - .††152 Demarcation, boundary commission (proceedings, journals)
 - .††153 Appropriations, their disbursement
 - .††154 Supplies, facilities
 - .††155 Boundary waters (pollution)
 - .††156 Navigation (ferries)
 - .††157 Improvement of navigation (bridges, removal of obstructions)
 - .††158 Boundary fences
 - .††16 Diversion of boundary waters
 - .††18 Neutral rights and duties
 - .††2 Commerce and navigation
 - .††21 Consular functions
 - .††22 Workmen's compensation
 - .††24 Regulation of corporations
 - .††27 Aerial navigation
 - .††28 Canal

NUMERICAL-SUBJECT LISTING OF DOCUMENTS
IN CLASS 6 RECORDS

Post-1949

(Smaller country symbol always precedes the decimal point unless specifically stated otherwise.)

- 600 International relations (general)
- 601 Diplomatic representation; diplomatic privileges, immunities, transit, taxation, judicial process, etc.
 - .** Diplomatic service of country **
 - .**## Diplomatic representation of country ** in country ##
 - .00## Diplomatic corps in country ##
- 602 Consular representation; consular privileges, immunities, transit, taxation, judicial process, etc.
 - .** Consular service of country **
 - .**## Consular representation of country ** in country ##
 - .00## Consular body residing in country ##
- 603.**## Representation of interests of United States by diplomatic and consular officers of country ** in country ##
- 604.**## Representation of interests of country ** by American diplomatic and consular officers in country ##
- 605.**## Representation in the United States of interests of country ** by diplomatic and consular officers of country ##
- 606.**## Representation in foreign countries of interests of country ** by diplomatic and consular officers of country ##
- 607.**## Relations of diplomatic and consular officers of country ** with diplomatic and consular officers of country ## (Use smaller number of country for **.)
- 6**.# # Political relations between country ** and country ##
 - ##01 International law
 - ##1 Peace, friendship, alliance, nonaggression
 - ##11 Arbitration, conciliation
 - ##12 Limitation of arms (including atomic weapons, poison gas, bacteriological warfare, etc.)
 - ##13 Transfer of territory, disputed sovereignty over noncontiguous territory
 - ##2 War, hostilities
 - ##21 Neutrality, declarations of neutrality, internment of military personnel
 - ##22 Neutral commerce, blockade
 - ##221 Arming, armed guards, convoy, attacks on neutral merchant ships and planes
 - ##222 Proclaimed lists, blacklists, trading with the enemy by neutrals

6**.**## Political relations between country ** and country ##—cont.

- .##23 Enemy property
- .##231 Funds, credits, stocks, bonds, "freezing" regulations, blocked funds, safe haven
- .##232 Real property, real estate
- .##233 Patents, trademarks, copyrights
- .##24 Prisoners of war (enemy prisoners)
- .##241 U.S. military and naval personnel taken prisoner by the enemy
- .##25 Civil prisoners, enemy aliens
- .##251 U.S. civilians interned by the enemy
- .##26 Illegal and inhumane warfare, war crimes
- .##27 Hospital ships
- .##28 Military and naval observers
- .##29 Armistice, mediation, termination of war

- .##3 Boundary questions
- .##31 Land boundary, markers, fences
- .##311 Boundary commission, composition, membership, expenses, supplies
- .##32 Water boundary
- .##321 Navigation on international boundary waters
- Obstructions, bridges, dams, power lines, gas mains, cables, tunnels
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- .##323 Improvement of international waterways
- .##33 Air boundary
- .##331 Air pollution
- .##34 Public health problems

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- .##8 Whaling

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- .##92 Financial treaties and agreements
- .##921 Double taxation (income and other taxation)
- .##93 Postal treaties and conventions
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- .##95 Literary, artistic, and industrial property
- .##96 Military service treaties
- .##97 Peaceful uses of atomic energy

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