

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 180 days after Dec. 22, 1987, see section 186(b) of Pub. L. 100-204, set out as a note under section 4741 of this title.

CHAPTER 53B—FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES HISTORICAL SERIES

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§ 4351. General authority and contents of publication**(a) Charter of publication**

The Department of State shall continue to publish the “Foreign Relations of the United States historical series” (hereafter in this chapter referred to as the “FRUS series”), which shall be a thorough, accurate, and reliable documentary record of major United States foreign policy decisions and significant United States diplomatic activity. Volumes of this publication shall include all records needed to provide a comprehensive documentation of the major foreign policy decisions and actions of the United States Government, including the facts which contributed to the formulation of policies and records providing supporting and alternative views to the policy position ultimately adopted.

(b) Editing principles

The editing of records for preparation of the FRUS series shall be guided by the principles of historical objectivity and accuracy. Records shall not be altered and deletions shall not be made without indicating in the published text that a deletion has been made. The published record shall omit no facts which were of major importance in reaching a decision, and nothing shall be omitted for the purpose of concealing a defect of policy.

(c) Deadline for publication of records

The Secretary of State shall ensure that the FRUS series shall be published not more than 30 years after the events recorded.

(Aug. 1, 1956, ch. 841, title IV, § 401, as added Pub. L. 102-138, title I, § 198(a), Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 685.)

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COMPLIANCE WITH DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION OF FRUS SERIES; NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ON FAILURE TO COMPLY; FINAL DEADLINE

Pub. L. 102-138, title I, § 198(c)(2), Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 691, provided that:

“(A) In order to come into compliance with section 401(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 [22 U.S.C. 4351(c)] (as amended by this section) the Secretary of State shall ensure that, by the end of the

3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 28, 1991], all volumes of the Foreign Relations of the United States historical series (FRUS) for the years that are more than 30 years before the end of that 3-year period have been published.

“(B) If the Secretary cannot reasonably meet the requirements of subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and describe how the Department of State plans to meet the requirements of subparagraph (A). In no event shall volumes subject to subparagraph (A) be published later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.”

§ 4352. Responsibility for preparation of FRUS series**(a) In general**

(1)(A) The Historian of the Department of State shall be responsible for the preparation of the FRUS series, including the selection of records, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(B) The Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation shall review records, and shall advise and make recommendations to the Historian concerning all aspects of preparation and publication of the FRUS series, including, in accordance with the procedures contained in section 4353 of this title, the review and selection of records for inclusion in volumes of the series.

(2) Other departments, agencies, and other entities of the United States Government shall cooperate with the Office of the Historian by providing full and complete access to the records pertinent to United States foreign policy decisions and actions and by providing copies of selected records in accordance with the procedures developed under section 4353 of this title, except that no access to any record, and no provision of any copy of a record, shall be required in the case of any record that was prepared less than 20 years before the date of a request for such access or copy made by the Office of the Historian.

(b) National Archives and Records Administration

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the requirement for the National Archives and Records Administration to provide access to, and copies of, records to the Department of State for the FRUS series shall be governed by chapter 21 of title 44, by any agreement concluded between the Department of State and the National Archives and Records Administration, and, in the case of Presidential records, by section 2204 of such title.

(Aug. 1, 1956, ch. 841, title IV, § 402, as added Pub. L. 102-138, title I, § 198(a), Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 685; amended Pub. L. 117-81, div. E, title LV, § 5504(1), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2376.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 117-81 substituted “20” for “26”.

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AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE

Except as otherwise provided, Secretary of State to have and exercise any authority vested by law in any