

WASHINGTON OFFICE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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RESOLUTION ON HISTORICAL RECORDS OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN RELATIONS

- WHEREAS,** The *Foreign Relations of the United States* has been published by the Department of State since 1861 and serves as a record of American foreign relations, as faithful as possible, given legitimate security concerns; and
- WHEREAS,** A linchpin of a democracy is its historical record; and
- WHEREAS,** The integrity of such historical records is essential for an informed citizenry in a democracy; and
- WHEREAS,** The reputation and integrity of recent volumes of *Foreign Relations of the United States* are affected by increases in the amount of incomplete and deleted documents which the State Department's Historical Documents Review Division and other government agencies have excised; and
- WHEREAS,** The American Library Association is dedicated to free access to information; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association support the systematic declassification of all 30-year-old State Department records to ensure access to these documents; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association support Congressional action to preserve the integrity and completeness of the historical record contained in *Foreign Relations of the United States*; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association urge its members to support these actions by contacting members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** That copies of this resolution be forwarded to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Atlanta, Georgia
July 3, 1991
(Council Document #77.2)