



Ford Foundation records, Asia Programs, Regional Director, Office Files of Peter F. Geithner

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Asia Programs, Regional Director, Office Files of Peter F. Geithner
ID:	FA505
Date [inclusive]:	1990-1994
Physical Description:	0.8 Cubic Feet
Physical Description:	(2 document boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	<p>The Asia Programs office originated in 1958 as the Office for South and Southeast Asia, a subdivision of the Overseas Development Program. After a Foundation reorganization in 1966, the Office for South and Southeast Asia became part of the International Division, and in 1968, was renamed Asia and the Pacific. In 1981, the Office for Asia and the Pacific became part of the Developing Countries Program. In 1989, the Asia Programs was constituted as a full program area. Peter F. Geithner joined the Ford Foundation in 1966 and became Assistant Representative of the India Office in 1968. He served as Representative of the Southeast Asia office and later Representative in China before being appointed Regional Director of the Asia Programs in 1990, a position he held until 1996. The Office Files of Peter F. Geithner span in date from 1990 to 1994, during the time he served as Regional Director of the Asia Programs. The bulk of the files consists of correspondence concerning the Ford Foundation's work in assisting the economic development of Vietnam. Other files document the Foundation's relations with the government of Vietnam, including the process of seeking and obtaining permission from the Vietnamese government to operate within its national borders. There are also files containing materials from the Aspen Institute Indochina Policy Project (1991-1992) and the Vietnam Reconstruction Conference in Arlington, Virginia (1992).</p>

Preferred Citation note

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <http://www.rockarch.org/research/citations.php>

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Organizational History

The Asia Programs office originated in 1958 as a division of the Overseas Development program then called the Overseas Development/South and Southeast Asia. In 1966, South and Southeast Asia office shifted to the International Division program area as part of a Foundation reorganization and, in 1968, the office was renamed Asia and the Pacific. In 1981, the office became part of the Developing Countries Program. The Asia Programs became a full program area in 1989.

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Biographical Note

Peter F. Geithner joined the Ford Foundation in 1966 and became Assistant Representative of the India Office in 1968. He subsequently served as Representative of the Southeast Asia office and later Representative in China before being appointed Regional Director of the Asia Programs in 1990, a position he held until 1996.

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Biographical / Historical

Segment One: International Activities of the Ford Foundation: An Overview

The Foundation's aspiration to become a national and international philanthropy for the advancement of human welfare was first formally expressed in the seminal 1949 report of the Gaither Study Committee, *Report of the Study for the Ford Foundation on Policy and Program* (RAC Library, call letters 361.7 GAI), which was commissioned by the Board of Trustees to chart the Foundation's future. Foundation Trustees launched Ford's international grantmaking activities in 1950 when they approved the committee's report and its embrace of peace, democracy, and freedom. Since then, the Foundation has tackled these goals using a variety of strategies and responding to changing contexts, from the Cold War to the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall and beyond.

Toward the Foundation's aspiration#al goal, "the establishment of peace", its international activities have comprised a wide range of conceptual approaches and focus areas. These include international affairs, international studies, international understanding, arms control and disarmament, international law,

international economic concerns, and overseas development in nearly every region of the world. Three distinct periods emerge for the international grantmaking defined by external contextual changes and internal changes in Foundation leadership and structures: the expansion era of 1950-1965; the transition and restructuring years of 1966-1988; and the post-1989 shift away from Cold War dichotomies. During each of the distinct historical periods the consistent objectives were: 1) to ensure freedom and democracy in developed countries; 2) to foster education and international understanding in all countries; and 3) to contribute to the social, economic, and political development of less developed countries.

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Scope and Content Note

The Office Files of Peter F. Geithner span from 1990-1994, the period of the time Mr. Geithner was Regional Director of the Asia Programs. The bulk of the files consist of correspondence regarding the Ford Foundation's work in Vietnam.

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Arrangement

The files are arranged into 2 series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Ford Foundation archive was deposited at RAC in 2011. Ford Foundation records, correspondence, reports, program files and officers papers were transferred to, and accessioned by, RAC beginning in 2011. Accessions continue as necessary.

Processing Information Note

The original volume of 2 cubic feet accessioned by the Foundation Archives in 2011 was reduced during processing to two Hollinger document boxes.

Duplicates, reference files about non-Foundation related or personal interests, applications for fellowships and CVs, and rejected and unsolicited grant requests were not retained.

Conditions Governing Use note

Completion of a use agreement is required prior to providing scholarly access. See RAC Head of Reference (or applicable designee) for details. Ford Foundation holds title, copyright and literary rights in the collection, in so far as it holds them. The Rockefeller Archive Center has authority to grant permission to cite and publish material from the collection for scholarly purposes. Permission to publish extensive excerpts, or material in its entirety, will be referred to the Ford Foundation.

Conditions Governing Access

Records more than 10 years old are open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

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Related Materials

Separated Materials

Appendix A: Reports – Unpublished reports written by Ford Foundation staff and consultants were removed from their original folders, scanned and transferred to the Archives' collection of staff and consultant reports. See Appendix A for a list of these reports and their specific assigned number. The reports are listed in alphabetical order by author. The assigned number may be used to access reports in the online catalog.

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Collection Inventory

Conferences, 1991-1992

Scope and Contents

The Conferences series contains two folders. The first holds notes, background reading, the official conference report, and participant list for the Aspen Institute Indochina Policy Project (1991-1992). The second file consists of notes, agenda, background reading, and a speech by a Vietnamese official from the Vietnam Reconstruction Conference in Arlington, Virginia (1992).

Title/Description	Instances	
Aspen Institute Indochina Policy Project -- Correspondence, Notes, Participant List, Background, Sep 3, 1991-Aug 10, 1992	box 1	folder 1
Vietnam -- Reconstruction Conference, Arlington, VA -- Agenda, Notes, Background Papers, Speech, May 21-22, 1992	box 1	folder 2

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Correspondence, 1990-1994

Arrangement

Mr. Geithner's correspondence is organized by subject and arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

The files reflect a focus by the Foundation to assist in the economic development of Vietnam. The Foundation found it necessary to closely coordinate with and achieve the permission of the Vietnamese Government to operate within the borders of Vietnam. The file for the Vietnam Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1991-1993) holds internal Foundation memoranda as well as correspondence with grant partners about gaining necessary permissions from the Vietnamese Ministry for Foundation grant recipients to travel to and from Vietnam. It also contains correspondence with the Vietnamese Embassy intended to help develop a closer relationship between the United States and Vietnam. Another example is the file on Vietnam's National Economics University (1991-1992), which contains letters, memoranda and a newspaper clipping about Foundation support for a National Economics University in Hanoi.

Title/Description	Instances	
Vietnam -- National Center for Social Sciences -- Correspondence, Background, Proposal, Oct 3, 1990-Jan 5, 1993	box 1	folder 3
University of California, Berkeley -- Correspondence, Memoranda, Mar 19, 1991-Nov 16, 1993	box 1	folder 4
Vietnam / Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID) -- Correspondence, Memoranda, Reports, Apr 4, 1991-Aug 10, 1992	box 1	folder 5
Law and Legal Reform, General -- Correspondence, Memoranda, Clippings, May 6, 1991-Jul 6, 1992	box 1	folder 6

Vietnam Central Institute for Economic Management -- Correspondence, Notes, Jul 20, 1991-Jan 19, 1993	box 1	folder 7
Vietnam -- Volunteers in Asia -- Correspondence, Notes, Jul 29, 1991-Mar 31, 1992	box 1	folder 8
Vietnam -- Ministry of Foreign Affairs -- Correspondence, Memoranda, Aug 5, 1991-May 21, 1993	box 1	folder 9
Vietnam -- People's Aid Coordination Committee (PACCOM): Correspondence, Memoranda, Aug 5-6, 1991	box 1	folder 10
General Communications 1991 -- Travel, Government, Project LINK, Aug 7-Oct 16, 1991	box 1	folder 11
Vietnam Upland Management -- Correspondence, Memoranda, Background, Aug 8, 1991-Jun 7, 1992	box 2	folder 1
Economic Institute -- Correspondence, Program Discussions, Notes, Sep 24, 1991-Oct 19, 1992	box 2	folder 2
Vietnam -- National Economics University -- Correspondence, Memoranda, Clippings, Oct 11, 1991-Nov 4, 1993	box 2	folder 3
Vietnam -- Indochina Project -- Correspondence, Background, Notes, Nov 5, 1991-Mar 1, 1995	box 2	folder 4
Vietnam -- National Academy of Sciences -- Correspondence, Nov 22, 1991-Oct 13, 1992	box 2	folder 5
Vietnam -- London School of Economics -- Correspondence, Nov 25, 1991-Apr 29, 1992	box 2	folder 6
Vietnam -- Institute of Economic Research -- Correspondence, Memoranda, Notes, Clippings, Dec 2, 1991-Apr 9, 1994	box 2	folder 7
Australian National University -- Correspondence, Notes, Jan 10-Apr 10, 1992	box 2	folder 8
Vietnam -- The Asia Foundation -- Correspondence, Memoranda, Feb 14, 1992-Dec 8, 1993	box 2	folder 9
Vietnam -- Center for National Resources Management and Environmental Studies at Hanoi University: Correspondence, Memoranda, Mar 23-May 28, 1992	box 2	folder 10
Vietnam -- American Council of Learned Societies - Correspondence, Aug 3, 1992-Aug 2, 1993	box 2	folder 11
Vietnam -- National Endowment for Democracy -- Memoranda on Department of NED Representative, Nov 23, 1993	box 2	folder 12
Vietnam -- Ministry of the Interior -- Memoranda, Apr 25, 1994	box 2	folder 13

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