

Ford Foundation records, International Division, Office Files of Robert H. Edwards

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Rockefeller Archive Center

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | Rockefeller Archive Center |
| Creator: | Ford Foundation |
| Title: | Ford Foundation records, International Division, Office Files of Robert H. Edwards |
| ID: | FA566 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1968-1977 |
| Physical Description: | 1.4 Cubic Feet |
| Physical Description: | (4 Hollinger document boxes) |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | Robert H. (Hazard) Edwards joined the Ford Foundation as a program officer for the International Division in 1965. In 1968, Mr. Edwards served as the Foundation's Representative in Pakistan and, in 1971, became Head of its Middle East and Africa (MEA) Program. Mr. Edwards left the Foundation in 1977 to accept an appointment as President of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. The Office Files of Robert H. Edwards span from 1968 to 1977 and comprises the files that Mr. Edwards kept as Head of the International Division's Middle East and Africa Program. The collection is organized into three series: program management files, subject files, and chronological files. The program management files primarily consist of memoranda but also correspondence, notes, reports and papers relating to the work of Mr. Edwards's program officer Lowell S. Hardin. Mr. Edwards's subject files contain memoranda, correspondence, papers, speeches, reports, meeting materials and background primarily pertaining to the Foundation's programs in the Middle East and Africa. His chronological files of correspondence and memoranda from April to October of 1968 are also available. |

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 Ford Foundation has been engaged in overseas work since the early 1950s. 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, which was commissioned by the Board of Trustees to chart the future. In 1951, the Foundation established two of its first grant programs, Overseas Development (OD) and Overseas Training and Research (OTR). The granting goals were to increase agricultural production, improve health and living conditions, and advance education. South and Southeast Asia were the initial focus, with India and Pakistan receiving the majority of grants. A more limited number of grants were issued in Indonesia and Burma. A program for smaller regional and national grants also was initiated for the Near East. In 1957, Overseas Development further expanded to include programs in Latin America.

As part of a Foundation reorganization in 1966, the Overseas Development Program, along with other international programs such as International Training and Research (ITR) and Population, became part of a single International Division (ID). A subsequent restructuring of the International Division occurred in 1980-1981 and led to the creation of the Developing Countries Program (DCP). DCP was again restructured in 1989, resulting in the separating of programs in Africa and the Middle East (AME, formerly MEA), Asia (ASIA), Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC/OLAC), Human Rights and Governance (HRG), Education and Culture (EC), Program-Related Investments (PRI), and International Affairs (IA) as independent program areas.

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Biographical Note

Robert H. (Hazard) Edwards was born on May 26, 1935 in London, England and was raised in Middleton, Ohio. In 1957, he received a B.A. in English from Princeton University. He subsequently read law at Cambridge University and received an LL.B. from Harvard Law School in 1961.

After graduation, Mr. Edwards served under the Queen's Commissioner in the Bechuanaland Protectorate from 1961 to 1963, where he assisted in its transition to independence as the Republic of Botswana. From 1963 to 1965, he worked for the U.S. State Department's Bureau of United Nations Affairs on matters relating to the newly independent African countries before joining the Ford Foundation as a program officer for the International Division in 1965. In 1968, Mr. Edwards served as the Foundation's Representative in Pakistan and, in 1971, became Head of its Middle East and Africa (MEA) Program.

Mr. Edwards left the Foundation in 1977 to accept an appointment as President of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. In 1986, he left Carleton College to join the Secretariat of His Highness the Aga Khan as Head of the Department of Health, Education and Housing in Karachi, Pakistan. From 1987 to

1990, he also served on the Board of Trustees of Aga Khan University. He returned to the United States in 1990, serving as President of Bowdoin College until his retirement in 2001.

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Scope and Content Note

The Office Files of Robert H. Edwards span from 1968 to 1977 and comprises the files that Mr. Edwards kept as Head of the International Division's Middle East and Africa Program. The collection is organized into three series: program management files, subject files, and chronological files.

The program management files primarily consist of memoranda but also correspondence, notes, reports and papers relating to the work of Mr. Edwards's program officer Lowell S. Hardin. As is reflected in the subjects covered in his files, Mr. Hardin's work primarily concerned agricultural research and rural development in the Middle East and Africa. His files include information on agricultural research centers, international efforts in aquaculture, the world food crisis, the difficulty in recruiting staff for Africa, the phasing out of advisory support for economic planning in Africa, and the possibility of Saudi support for agricultural research.

Mr. Edwards's subject files contain memoranda, correspondence, papers, speeches, reports, meeting materials and background primarily pertaining to the Foundation's programs in the Middle East and Africa. There are materials on the Foundation interest in and support for inter-faith dialogues in the Middle East, area studies and social science research in Africa, training for journalists in Africa, and international agricultural research and training centers. In addition, there are discussion and background papers as well as memoranda concerning the agenda and logistics for the Ford Foundation Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture held in Ibadan, Nigeria (1973). Some of the subject files pertain to the Foundation's work on legal development in Latin America and the International Legal Center (ILC) Research Advisory Committee on Law and Development. These files contain meeting materials for the ILC Research Advisory Committee and memoranda reporting on a series of in-house Foundation meetings on law and social change in Latin America (1972-1973).

A subject file on Foundation-grantee relations contains memoranda and discussion papers critiquing and reflecting on the how the Foundation interacts with grantees. Memoranda and papers address such issues as defining the limits of Foundation intervention in grantee organizations, the autonomy granted to grantees to execute projects, the responsibilities of program officers, and the status of Foundation employees hired through suballocations. These materials appear to be background for task force discussions addressing a lack of sensitivity toward grantees in Foundation policy formulation (1973).

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Arrangement

Collection is arranged into 3 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.

Conditions Governing Access note

Material more than ten years old is open for scholarly research.

Select individual files are restricted, as noted. Permission to access these files must be obtained from the Ford Foundation before scholarly access is permitted.

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.

Processing Information Note

This collection was created by merging files that had been misfiled and stored under incorrect departments or divisions. Mr. Edward's chronological files were originally filed among files belonging to the Higher Education and Research Division.

Box 4 contains legal-sized subject files. These files are part of **Series II. Subject Files** and have been physically separated from the other (letter-sized) subject files and placed at the end of the collection to accommodate their size. Within the finding aid, they have been intellectually arranged to appear alphabetically by folder title along with other subject files to facilitate access.

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Related Materials

Separated Materials Note

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.

Related Collections

FA547 Ford Foundation records, International Division, Office Files of Forrest F. Hill, 1952-1966 contain related subject files on agricultural development and the establishment of agricultural research and training centers. Dr. Hill served as Vice President of Overseas Development (later International Division) from 1955 to 1963.

FA503 Ford Foundation records, Africa and Middle East Programs (AME), Program Staff Files - contain other files of Robert H. Edwards. Also included in the collection are files of Dr. John D. Gerhart, Steven M. Riskin, and Anna Wadia. The bulk of the files are meeting and discussion group records from staff participation at internal Foundation meetings and discussion groups that brought together different philanthropies for common goals.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Ford Foundation

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Materials requiring specialized equipment for access (film, audio, video, slides) may be restricted from scholarly research dependent on availability of the applicable equipment. Brittle or damaged items, or materials otherwise in need of preservation care, may be restricted from scholarly research at the discretion of the RAC Head of Archival Services/RAC Head of Reference.

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Collection Inventory

Program Management Files, 1973-1976

Scope and Contents

This series consists of files kept by Mr. Edwards about the work of his program officer, Lowell S. Hardin. Arranged chronologically, the files contain memoranda concerning Mr. Hardin's management of grants for agriculture and rural development in the Middle East and Africa. They also report on site visits, meetings with grantees and potential grantees and conferences Mr. Hardin attended.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Hardin, Lowell S. -- Re: Phasing Out Advisory Support for Economic Planning in Africa, Update on World Food Situation, etc., Sep-Nov 1973 | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Hardin, Lowell S. -- Re: FF Agricultural Programs, Recruitment for International Development Work, etc., Nov 1973-Apr 1974 | box 1 | folder 2 |
| Hardin, Lowell S. -- Re: Encouraging Saudi Support for Agricultural Research, International Centers Week, etc., Jun-Sep 1974 | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Hardin, Lowell S. -- Re: International Agricultural Research Centers, UN World Food Conference, etc., Jun 1974-Jul 1975 | box 1 | folder 4 |
| Hardin, Lowell S. -- Re: Sudan Rural Development, Social Science Research and Competence Building in Africa, etc., Sep 1975-Dec 1976 | box 1 | folder 5 |

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Subject Files, 1969-1977

Scope and Contents

The files in this series document Mr. Edwards work as Head of the Middle East and Africa Program. His subject files contain information on agricultural and social science research in Africa, inter-faith dialogues in the Middle East, and debates over a Soviet-sponsored declaration introduced at the 1976 UNESCO conference concerning the roles of the state and mass media operating within its borders. There are also files for the Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture held in Ibadan, Nigeria from February 9-10, 1973.

A few subject files pertain to the Office of Latin America and the Caribbean (OLAC) and the Foundation's policy making generally. These include files on the Foundation's law and development work in Latin America and efforts to increase sensitivity in the formulation of policies governing Foundation-grantee relationships. The files are arranged alphabetically.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Area Studies -- Re: MEA Luncheons/Meetings to Review Area Studies and Social Science Research, 1969-1973 | box 1 | folder 6 |
| Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies -- 1974 Program Activities, Summary Report, 1974-1975 | box 1 | folder 7 |
| Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies -- Re: Consultation and Comments on Future of the Peace Corps Study, 1976-1977 | box 1 | folder 8 |
| Bundy, George -- "Towards An Open Foreign Policy" and "Private Institutions in the Public Service" (speeches), Oct-Nov 1973 | box 2 | folder 1 |
| FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Agenda, Logistics, Overview of FF Agricultural Programs, Background Articles, Feb 1974-May 1975 | box 2 | folder 2 |
| FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Discussion and Background Papers (1 of 5), 1974 | box 2 | folder 3 |
| FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Discussion and Background Papers (2 of 5), 1974 | box 2 | folder 4 |
| FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Discussion and Background Papers (3 of 5), 1974 | box 2 | folder 5 |
| FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Discussion and Background Papers (4 of 5), 1974 | box 2 | folder 6 |
| FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Discussion and Background Papers (5 of 5), 1974 | box 4 | folder 1 |
| FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Handwritten Notes, Apr 29-May 3, 1974 | box 4 | folder 2 |
| Foundation-Grantee Relations -- Staff Memoranda and Papers for Discussion on Policy Formulation, 1970-1973 | box 2 | folder 7 |

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|---|-------|-----------|
| Foundations -- "Private Foundations: In Search of a Purpose" (speech by Sen. Vance Hartke), Feb 8, 1974 | box 2 | folder 8 |
| Germain, Adrienne -- Re: African Training and Research Center for Women (UN ECA), Final Report for Consultancy on Women in Bangladesh, etc., Dec 1975-Jan 1976 | box 2 | folder 9 |
| Gremillion, Joseph -- Re: Inter-Religious Colloquium in Bellagio, Italy, Tri-Faith Dialogue Panel in Egypt, Jul 1975-Jan 1976 | box 2 | folder 10 |
| International Agricultural Centers -- Report on Discussions of 1975 Programs and Budgets, Jun 1974 | box 3 | folder 1 |
| International Legal Center -- Research Advisory Committee on Law and Development -- Draft Report on Next Phase of Activities, Grant Action Report, Apr 1973 | box 4 | folder 3 |
| International Legal Center -- Research Advisory Committee on Law and Development Meeting, Feb 9-10, 1973 (1 of 2), Dec 1972-Jan 1974 | box 4 | folder 4 |
| International Legal Center -- Research Advisory Committee on Law and Development Meeting, Feb 9-10, 1973 (2 of 2), 1973 | box 4 | folder 5 |
| Law and Development -- Re: Law and Social Change in Latin America, OLAC In-House Foundation Meetings, etc., 1972-1973 | box 3 | folder 2 |
| Press in Africa -- Re: Nigerian Institute of Journalism and FF Support for Training of Journalists, Controversy Over Soviet-Sponsored UNESCO Declaration Re: Mass Media and the State, 1976 | box 3 | folder 3 |
| Television -- Re: Placing FF Staff on Local Interview Shows, Proposal for Research into Impact of Television in South Africa, 1973-1974 | box 3 | folder 4 |
| Wells, Oris V. -- Re: Discussion on Improving World Food Situation Report -- Memoranda, Notes, Draft Report, 1973-1974 | box 3 | folder 5 |

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Chronological Files, 1968

Scope and Contents

This series consists of Mr. Edward's chronological files of correspondence and memoranda date from April to October of 1968. The files contain information about meetings with grantees or potential grantees, correspondence with grantees, grant recommendations, and some budget information.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Chronological File April 1968, Apr 1968 | box 3 | folder 6 |
| Chronological File May 1968, May 1968 | box 3 | folder 7 |
| Chronological File June 1968, Jun 1968 | box 3 | folder 8 |
| Chronological File July 1968, Jul 1968 | | |

| | | |
|---|-------|-----------|
| | box 3 | folder 9 |
| Chronological File August 1968, Aug 1968 | box 3 | folder 10 |
| Chronological File September 1968, Sep 1968 | box 3 | folder 11 |
| Chronological File October 1968, Oct 1968 | box 3 | folder 12 |

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