



# Ford Foundation records, Developing Countries Program, Office Files of David Bonbright

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English

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Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Bonbright, David W.
<b>Creator:</b>	Ford Foundation
<b>Title:</b>	Ford Foundation records, Developing Countries Program, Office Files of David Bonbright
<b>ID:</b>	FA710
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1979-1987
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.93 Cubic Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Office Files of David Bonbright, Assistant Program Officer (1983-1986) and Program Officer (1986-1987) of the Ford Foundation's Developing Country Programs (DCP), document his oversight of grantmaking and administration of field offices throughout Africa, with an emphasis on his work in developing a Foundation portfolio in South Africa. The collection spans 1979-1987 and consists of correspondence and subject files. The records were transferred to the Ford Foundation Archives in 1991, and were fully processed in 2006. The arrangement of the collection follows the original order established by David Bonbright.

### Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <https://rockarch.org/collections/access-and-request-materials/#citations>

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## Biographical note

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David Bonbright was Assistant Program Officer (1983-1985) and Program Officer (1986-1987) of the Ford Foundation's Developing Country Programs. His areas of responsibility were South Africa, regional African grants, and New York support for African field offices. With DCP Vice President William Carmichael, Bonbright represented the Foundation at meetings of the Study Group on Southern Africa,

a committee of foundation and university executives convened by the Carnegie Corporation to promote better educational opportunities for black South Africans.

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## Organizational history

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The administration of Ford Foundation international programs was restructured in 1980-1981, and a new office for Developing Country Programs (DCP) was created. DCP coordinated the work of Foundation field offices overseas, and of New York-based staff responsible for grants to developing countries. David Bonbright oversaw DCP work throughout Africa during 1983-1987, and played a key role in the development of the Foundation's South Africa portfolio.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Office Files of David Bonbright document Developing Country Program grantmaking and program administration throughout Africa during the period 1979-1987. A substantial portion of the collection relates to Ford Foundation policies towards, and activities in, South Africa.

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## Arrangement

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The Office Files of David Bonbright are arranged in two series:

- I. Correspondence, 1979-1986
- II. Subjects, 1983-1987

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Processing Information

Level 1 Minimal Processing has been conducted to establish basic intellectual and physical control of the material and assess immediate preservation and conservation needs. Material remains as received, in original folders and storage boxes.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

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

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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## Collection Inventory

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### Correspondence, 1979-1986

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains incoming and outgoing letters, memoranda and attachments that document Ford Foundation program development, grantmaking, grantee activities and administrative matters throughout Africa, with an emphasis on South Africa. Letters exchanged by Bonbright with South African political figures, leaders of the anti-apartheid movement, Ford Foundation leadership and others concerned with South African social and political conditions illuminate the activities of the Foundation and other philanthropies operating in the region. Collectively,

these documents provide a vivid account of the political scene, current events, social and economic conditions, and philanthropic work across the region.

## Arrangement

The correspondence is arranged chronologically, and is further sorted alphabetically within each year. Letters are filed by the individual recipient's last name, not by institutional name.

Title/Description	Instances	
1983-1985	box 1 (SK 31085)	folder 1-21
1986-1987	box 2 (SK 31086)	folder 1-15

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## Subjects, 1983-1987

### Scope and Contents

Series contains records related to meetings of the Ford Foundation Board of Trustees held in South Africa during 1982 and 1983, including briefing papers, background readings and grantee information. Also filed here are minutes and related documents of the Study Group on Southern Africa, a regular convening of foundation leaders, NGO staff, academics, political figures and others concerned with international policy towards the apartheid regime in South Africa and regional political issues. Also included are reports on African social and political conditions prepared by the scholar Thomas Karis, the Institute of Current World Affairs, and others organizations.

### Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Title/Description	Instances	
Association for Guidance and Assistance to Pupils, 1983	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 1
Board of Trustees South Africa Trip, 1982	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 2-3
Board of Trustees South Africa Trip, 1983	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 4-6
Center for Applied Legal Studies, 1982	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 7
Conference in Solidarity with the Liberation Struggles of the Peoples of Southern Africa, 1981-1982	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 8
Institute of Current World Affairs, 1980-1983	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 9
Kairos Theologians, 1985	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 10
Karis, Thomas, 1979-1985		

	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 11
Labour Monitoring Group, 1984	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 12
Miscellaneous reports, 1979-1985	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 13
Study Group on Southern Africa, 1984-1986	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 14-19
Workshop on Africa, 1985	box 3 (SK 31084)	folder 20

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