



Near East Foundation records

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Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Near East Foundation
Title:	Near East Foundation records
ID:	FA1586
Date [inclusive]:	1915-2005
Physical Description:	222 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .

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Biographical / Historical

The Near East Foundation (NEF) traces its history to 1915 when prominent New Yorkers formed the "Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief" to raise money for Armenian, Syrian, Greek and other refugees from the Ottoman Empire. Chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1919 as "Near East Relief," the organization was designated as the primary channel for U.S. postwar aid in the region. It undertook major nationwide campaigns to raise funds for its relief work and operated orphanages and other relief agencies in the region. In 1930 the organization was reorganized as the Near East Foundation and altered its focus from providing relief to providing technical assistance in agriculture and public health in rural communities. In *American Philanthropy Abroad* (1963), Merle Curti argues that "no agency did such effective pioneering in the improvement of community life as a whole and in developing the total personality of its inhabitants as the Near East Foundation did in 48 Macedonian villages in the 1930s and in its postwar programs in Syria, Eritrea, Iran and other countries." The foundation's technical assistance work influenced both President Truman's Point Four program and several U.N. operations. In 1964 the NEF expanded its geographic range of activity into Africa. While the NEF has been most closely identified in the public's mind with Armenian relief and some early material in the collection does relate to this early work, the bulk of the material in the collection deals with the NEF's global technical assistance programs after 1930.

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Scope and Contents

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Arrangement

Arranged in six record groups, each comprised of multiple series. The record groups and associated series numbers are primarily representative of when the materials were transferred to RAC, and do not imply an original order of the records. Several of the record groups are organized by record type. Within series, records are maintained in original order as received. Additional finding aids are created as records are processed and open for research.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC. Researchers interested in accessing digital media (floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, etc.) or audiovisual material (audio cassettes, VHS, etc.) in this collection must use an access surrogate. The original items may not be accessed because of preservation concerns. To request an access surrogate be made, or if you are unsure if there is an access surrogate, please contact an archivist.

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