

# Ford Foundation records, Overseas Development (OD), South and Southeast Asia (SSEA), Burma Office Program Files

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archive@rockarch.org

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#### **Summary Information**

**Repository:** Rockefeller Archive Center

**Creator:** Ford Foundation

**Title:** Ford Foundation records, Overseas Development (OD), South and

Southeast Asia (SSEA), Burma Office Program Files

**ID:** FA585

**Date [inclusive]:** 1952-1964

**Physical Description:** 15.72 Cubic Feet 12 record storage boxes.

Language of the

**Material:** 

English.

### **Biographical / Historical**

The Ford Foundation's office in Rangoon, Burma (Yangon, Myanmar) operated between 1953 and 1962. By the time the office closed, the Foundation had spent \$7.7 million for programming in the country. Grantmaking primarily consisted of support for institution and capacity building in technical education and agriculture. The Burma program also issued some culture related grants.

Burma was part of the Ford Foundation's earliest efforts in overseas development in Asia. Together with India, Pakistan, and Indonesia, Burma was one of the first four country programs the Foundation established in Asia between 1952 and 1953. John Everton served as the Foundation's first Representative for Burma. Everton would later become the United States Ambassador to Burma and would serve in that position at the time that the Foundation left the country. Everton was succeeded in his post as Representative by Edwin G. Arnold (1956-1960) and then Walter A. Rudlin (1960-1962).

The Ford Foundation started to reduce assistance to Burma in 1960 and began shifting its overseas development efforts from a country approach to a regional program for Southeast Asia. Burmese General Ne Win took control of the Burmese Government in the 1962 Burmese coup d'etat. In April 1962, the Burmese Government informed the Ford Foundation that it had six months to remove its advisors from the country and that Burma no longer wished to receive assistance from the Foundation. The Foundation closed its Rangoon office by July 1962, and Rudlin relocated to Ford's office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Foundation had prepared for this move from before the Burmese Government issued its order. Several other foreign organizations were expelled from Burma at the same time as the Ford Foundation.

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- Information taken from Burma, Indonesia, and more Southeast Asia, a chapter in the Ford Foundation international history, Ford Foundation records, Catalogued Reports, Reports 11775-13948 (FA739E), Report 013648.

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#### **Scope and Contents**

Contains general correspondence, administrative records, accounting records, and documentation of program planning, program actions and payments.

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### Arrangement

As received.

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#### **Administrative Information**

#### **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**

Open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

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