



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

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Summary Information

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:	3.28 Cubic Feet 8 LTR size and 1 Half-LGL size Hollinger boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	<p>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. He later transferred to the Middle East and Africa (MEA) Program in the early 1970s where he would serve as Deputy Head under William Fredericks. In 1973, he succeeded Fredericks as MEA Head. 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 comprise the files that Mr. Edwards kept as Head of the International Division's MEA 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 the year 1968 and the years between 1972 and 1977 are also available.</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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Biographical / Historical

The Ford Foundation was chartered by Henry and Edsel Ford in 1936 "to receive and administer funds for scientific, educational and charitable purposes, all for the public welfare", and initially served the Ford family's charitable interests in the Detroit area. Following the deaths of Edsel Ford (1943) and Henry Ford (1947), the Foundation was propelled to the forefront of philanthropy as the largest American foundation in terms of both endowment and yearly expenditures, and with an international scope to its major program areas.

During the Foundation's first twenty years its major programs were in international economic development, primary and higher education, educational and public broadcasting, behavioral sciences, civil liberties, urban development, fine arts and the humanities. The Ford Foundation also partnered with the Rockefeller Foundation in supporting agricultural development in South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Since the 1970s, the Foundation has also pioneered programs in women's rights, energy policy, micro-financing in under-developed countries, establishing human rights groups, and improving international HIV/AIDS education.

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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. He later transferred to the Middle East and Africa (MEA) Program in the early 1970s where he would serve as Deputy Head under William Fredericks. In 1973, he succeeded Fredericks as MEA Head.

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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Biographical / Historical

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 / Historical

Segment 1: 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 aspirational 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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Biographical / Historical

Segment 3. Period Summary - Transition and Restructuring 1966-1988

During this era, the Foundation's earlier interest in business and the economy evolved into a commitment to improving conditions for people living on the margins of society. The Ford Foundation promoted advancements in women's rights around the globe and introduced micro-lending into grantmaking. At the same time, the economic issues that were shaping program strategies also affected the Foundation's assets. Severe cuts resulted in a significant restructuring of country programs and reduced budgets across all programs.

Even with the cuts in country offices, in the 1970s Ford grantees in developing countries received approximately 80% of the International Division budget. The remaining fifth went to Population, Development Studies, and International Affairs. Although representing a much smaller piece, the International Security and Arms Control program from 1973 was the Foundation's most concerted effort to make meaningful inroads in disarmament and nuclear issues - those challenges most directly linked to the Foundation's historic concern for peace. By 1979, the Ford Foundation was the biggest funder of arms control as a field, both in the U.S. and overseas.

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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).

The chronological files in the collection were expanded by the addition of a later segment of Robert H. Edwards office files (Accession 2019:019). They contain correspondence and memoranda.

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Arrangement

Collection is arranged into 3 series.

The collection arrangement is as follows:

Series 1. Project Management Files, 1973-1976

Series 2. Subject Files, 1969-1977

Series 3. Chronological Files, 1968-1977

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Immediate Source of Acquisition note

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

A later set of Robert H. Edwards Staff Subject Files was transferred to the RAC in March 2019 and was ingested by the RAC as Accession 2019:019. This accession was incorporated into the collection during processing in April 2019.

Accessions continue as necessary.

Conditions Governing Access note

Open for research. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

Conditions Governing Use note

RAC users must abide by all applicable provisions of United States copyright law. Reproduction/duplication of archival items is routinely provided in accordance with "fair use". If the RAC does not hold copyright for an archival collection, or items within a collection, it is the users responsibility to contact the copyright holder, or make a fair effort to do so, prior to publication.

Processing Information Note

This collection was created by merging files that had been misfiled and stored under incorrect departments or divisions. The April 1968 to October 1968 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 2. Subject Files and have been physically separated from the other (letter-sized) subject files and placed in a longer box in order to accommodate their size. Within the finding aid, they have been intellectually arranged to appear alphabetically by folder title along with the other subject files to facilitate access.

Another run of Robert H. Edwards' chronological files were transferred to the RAC in March 2019. They filled an evident gap in the holdings of the established Ford Foundation records, International Division, Office Files of Robert H. Edwards collection and were incorporated into Series 3. Chronological Files during processing in April 2019.

Processing Information

Accession 2019:019 - Processing Level 3: Standard Processing

Processed by Darren Young, April 2019

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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
- Africa
- Africa, Eastern
- Africa, Southern
- Africa, West
- Bangladesh
- Botswana
- Egypt
- Israel
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Middle East
- Pakistan
- Saudi Arabia
- South Africa
- Agricultural development projects -- Africa
- Agricultural development projects -- Middle East
- Economic development
- Economic development -- Africa
- Economic development -- Middle East
- International relations
- Race relations

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 9
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 10
FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Discussion and Background Papers (1 of 5), 1974	box 2	folder 11
FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Discussion and Background Papers (2 of 5), 1974	box 2	folder 12

FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Discussion and Background Papers (3 of 5), 1974	box 2	folder 13
FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Discussion and Background Papers (4 of 5), 1974	box 2	folder 14
FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Discussion and Background Papers (5 of 5), 1974	box 4	folder 31
FF Seminar for OLAC/MEA Program Advisors in Agriculture -- Handwritten Notes, Apr 29-May 3, 1974	box 4	folder 32
Foundation-Grantee Relations -- Staff Memoranda and Papers for Discussion on Policy Formulation, 1970-1973	box 2	folder 15
Foundations -- "Private Foundations: In Search of a Purpose" (speech by Sen. Vance Hartke), Feb 8, 1974	box 2	folder 16
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 17
Gremillion, Joseph -- Re: Inter-Religious Colloquium in Bellagio, Italy, Tri-Faith Dialogue Panel in Egypt, Jul 1975-Jan 1976	box 2	folder 18
International Agricultural Centers -- Report on Discussions of 1975 Programs and Budgets, Jun 1974	box 3	folder 19
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 33
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 34
International Legal Center -- Research Advisory Committee on Law and Development Meeting, Feb 9-10, 1973 (2 of 2), 1973	box 4	folder 35
Law and Development -- Re: Law and Social Change in Latin America, OLAC In-House Foundation Meetings, etc., 1972-1973	box 3	folder 20
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 21
Television -- Re: Placing FF Staff on Local Interview Shows, Proposal for Research into Impact of Television in South Africa, 1973-1974	box 3	folder 22
Wells, Oris V. -- Re: Discussion on Improving World Food Situation Report -- Memoranda, Notes, Draft Report, 1973-1974	box 3	folder 23

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Chronological Files, 1968-1977

Physical Description: 2.09 Cubic Feet About 5.5 LTR size Hollinger boxes

Scope and Contents

This series consists of Robert H. Edward's chronological files of correspondence and memoranda. When the collection was first processed, it only contained the April to October 1968 chronological files. These files contain information about meetings with grantees or potential grantees, correspondence with grantees, grant recommendations, and some budget information.

A later run of Edwards' chronological files was incorporated into the series when another segment of Edwards' office files was transferred to the RAC from the Ford Foundation. These files primarily originate from between 1972 and 1977 and document Edwards' time as Deputy Head and Head of the Foundation's Middle East and Africa (MEA) Program. The correspondence and memoranda in the files concern the MEA's grant giving activities in the fields of agricultural development, economic development, education, race relations, and international relations in different countries throughout the Middle East and Africa. Administrative tasks such as setting up visits to the different MEA field offices, tracking data related to different grants, and managing the MEA budget are also documented in the records.

Program shifts in MEA organizational structure and grant giving activities due to and international political developments and budget constraints are discussed in much of Edwards' correspondence. Some materials in the Summer 1976 chronological files concern the transfer of the Middle East Regional Office headquarters from Beirut, Lebanon to Cairo, Egypt and the scaling back of the Foundation's programming in Lebanon following the recent changes in that country. Similarly, there are records in chronological files from the Spring of 1977 that regard the closing of a Foundation suboffice in Saudi Arabia as well as concerns of whether or not long-term involvement in the country would be practical. In regards to the impact of budget changes on MEA programming, there are many letters throughout the files that discuss the MEA's attempts to reexamine how it should support area studies for the Middle East and Africa.

A less featured aspect of MEA programming featured in Edwards' chronological files is the support of African literary projects. The series holds several letters that Edwards addressed to Nigerian author, Chinua Achebe. Other subjects that Edwards' correspondence and memoranda discuss include events in Pakistan and Bangladesh in the early 1970s (Edwards was Representative for Pakistan before transferring to MEA), Arab-Israeli relations, and the development of programming for Southern Africa. While many of the documents in Edwards' later chronological files regard his departure, there is also some significant memoranda such as his memo about program directions for South Africa.

Processing Information:

Processing Information

The 1972-1977 chronological files were processed into the series at a later date. These documents were transferred to the RAC in March 2019 and were ingested by the RAC as Accession 2019:019. They were added into the established Ford Foundation records, International Division, Office Files of Robert H. Edwards collection in April 2019 because they filled an obvious gap in the holdings of Series 3. Chronological Files.

Title/Description	Instances	
Chronological file, 1968 April	box 3	folder 24
Chronological file, 1968 May	box 3	folder 25
Chronological file, 1968 June	box 3	folder 26
Chronological file, 1968 July	box 3	folder 27
Chronological file, 1968 August	box 3	folder 28
Chronological file, 1968 September	box 3	folder 29

Chronological file, 1968 October	box 3	folder 30
Chronological file, 1972 March-November	box 5	folder 36-37
Chronological file, 1972-1973	box 5	folder 38-39
Chronological file, 1968-1973, bulk 1972-1973 (1972-1973)	box 5	folder 40-41
Chronological file, 1973 April	box 5	folder 42-43
Chronological file, alphabetical by addressee, 1968, 1973	box 6	folder 44-47
Chronological file, alphabetical by addressee, 1973-1974	box 6	folder 48-51
Chronological file, alphabetical by addressee, 1973-1974	box 7	folder 52-55
Chronological file, alphabetical by addressee, 1974 September-November	box 7	folder 56-57
Chronological file, 1974 November	box 7	folder 58
Chronological file, 1974 December	box 7	folder 59
Chronological file, 1975 January	box 7	folder 60
Chronological file, 1975 January-February	box 7	folder 61
Chronological file, 1975 March	box 7	folder 62
Chronological file, 1975 April	box 8	folder 63
Chronological file, 1975 April-May	box 8	folder 64
Chronological file, 1975 June	box 8	folder 65
Chronological file, 1974-1975	box 8	folder 66
Chronological file, 1975 August	box 8	folder 67
Chronological file, 1975 May-October	box 8	folder 68
Chronological file, 1975 September-October	box 8	folder 69
Chronological file, 1975 October-November	box 8	folder 70
Chronological file, 1975 November-December	box 8	folder 71
Chronological file, 1975-1976	box 8	folder 72
Chronological file, 1976 January-February	box 8	folder 73
Chronological file, 1976 February-March	box 8	folder 74
Chronological file, 1973-1976	box 8	folder 75
Chronological file, 1976 March-May	box 8	folder 76
Chronological file, 1976 March-June	box 8	folder 77
Chronological file, 1976 June-July	box 9	folder 78
Chronological file, 1976 August	box 9	folder 79
Chronological file, 1976 September-November		

	box 9	folder 80
Chronological file, 1976 October-November	box 9	folder 81
Chronological file, 1976 May-December	box 9	folder 82
Chronological file, 1977 January	box 9	folder 83
Chronological file, 1977 February-March	box 9	folder 84
Chronological file, 1977 April	box 9	folder 85
Chronological file, 1977 May	box 9	folder 86
Chronological file, 1977 June	box 9	folder 87
Chronological file, 1977 July	box 9	folder 88

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