



Ford Foundation records, Overseas Development, Foreign Area Training and Research, Fellowship Files

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Overseas Development, Foreign Area Training and Research, Fellowship Files
ID:	FA670
Date [inclusive]:	1953-1955
Physical Description:	0.76 Cubic Feet 2 legal size document boxes.
Language of the Material:	English .

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Biographical / Historical

Segment One: 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 2. Period Summary - The Expansion Era 1950-1965

With the ever-increasing budget and trustee willingness to invade capital, presidents Hoffman, Gaither and Heald oversaw vast growth in the Foundation's international activities in the United States, other developed countries and developing countries. Activities crossed disciplines, institutions, and national boundaries, although few crossed intra-foundation boundaries. Under the three presidents, Foundation staff in various domestic and international offices from New York interacted with the regional and country offices headed by representatives. Usually in this period, however, these offices in fact worked more closely with local governments than with New York staff, reinforcing the commitment to locally led social and economic development in less-developed countries.

The shared values of this early period reflected as much the continuing competition between the Communist and capitalist worlds as the concerns about maintaining peace. The Cold War provided the contextual continuity for grantmaking on the core themes of increasing American understanding of the rest of the world, building and strengthening connections not only with European and Asian democracies but also with Eastern European countries, the Soviet Union, China, and Cuba.

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Scope and Contents

Highlighted by the Sargeant Survey, 1954.

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Arrangement

Arranged in 2 series:

1. University Visits.
2. Sargeant, Howland: Working Files.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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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

University Visits, 1953-1955

Title/Description	Instances
California -- Stanford University, 1954	box 1
California -- University of California Berkeley, 1954	box 1
Connecticut -- Wesleyan University, 1953	box 1
Illinois -- Northwestern University, 1953-1955	box 1
Illinois -- University of Illinois, 1953-1955	box 1
Illinois -- University of Chicago, 1953	box 1

Indiana -- Purdue University, 1953-1954	box 1
Indiana -- Indiana University, 1954-1955	box 1
Massachusetts -- Harvard University, 1953-1955	box 1
Massachusetts -- Smith College, 1953	box 1
Massachusetts -- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1954	box 1
Michigan -- University of Michigan, 1953-1954	box 1
Minnesota -- University of Minnesota, 1954-1955	box 1
New York -- Columbia University, 1953-1954	box 1
Ohio -- Antioch College, 1953	box 1
Ohio -- Oberlin College, 1953-1955	box 1
Ohio -- Ohio State University, 1953	box 1
Washington -- University of Washington (Seattle), 1954-1955	box 1

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Sargeant, Howland: Working Files, 1954

Title/Description	Instances
USSR and Eastern Europe, 1954	box 2
National Requirements, 1954	box 2
Miscellaneous, 1954	box 2
Material to Dig Up, 1954	box 2
General Correspondence, 1954	box 2
Appointments, 1954	box 2
Sargeant Survey -- Annex 1 -- List of Persons Interviewed, 1954	box 2
Sargeant Survey -- Annex 2 -- Bibliography, 1954	box 2
Sargeant Survey -- Annex 3 -- Views of People in Writing, 1954	box 2
Sargeant Survey -- Annex 4 -- Memoranda -- Progress of Survey, 1954	box 2
Sargeant Survey -- Annex 5 -- Memoranda to Survey Files	box 2

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