



Ford Foundation records, Latin America and the Caribbean, Office Files of James A. Gardner

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English

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Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Summary Information | 3 |
| Biographical / Historical | 3 |
| Scope and Contents | 8 |
| Arrangement | 9 |
| Administrative Information | 9 |
| Related Materials | 10 |
| Collection Inventory | 10 |
| Subject Files | 10 |
| Correspondence Files | 11 |

Summary Information

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| Repository: | Rockefeller Archive Center |
| Creator: | Ford Foundation |
| Title: | Ford Foundation records, Latin America and the Caribbean, Office Files of James A. Gardner |
| ID: | FA629 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1971-1977 |
| Physical Description: | 0.88 Cubic Feet |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | The Latin America and Caribbean Papers of James A. Gardner document his activities and those of the International Division primarily for the period Gardner served as the Program Officer/ Coordinator for the Caribbean from 1974 to 1977. They were transferred to the Foundation's Archives in July 1982. These papers consist of correspondence, and reports which were retained in the office of James Gardner when he served in New York as the Program Officer/ Coordinator for the Caribbean. |

Preferred Citation

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

James A. Gardner, Ford Foundation Representative for the Latin America and Caribbean office of the International Division, was a member of the Foundation staff from 1969 until 1981. During this period, he held the following positions: • February 1977, Representative, LA&C, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, ID • September 1974, Program Officer, LA&C, Coordinator for the Caribbean, New York, ID • September 1973, Program Officer, LA&C, on one year study leave at the Harvard Law School, ID • February 1972, Program Officer and Assistant to Head, LA&C, ID • August 1971, Assistant Program Officer and Assistant to Head, LA&C, ID • July 1969, Assistant to the Representative, LA&C, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, ID James Gardner was born July 22, 1943. He received his B.A. degree in 1965 from Harvard University. In 1968, he earned

the J.D. degree from the Yale Law School. Prior to Gardner's career with the Ford Foundation, he held the following positions: • 1966 - 1968 Resident Counselor and Advisor, Yale University • 1968 - 1969 Assistant Director of Admissions and Tutor in Social Sciences and Law, Harvard University After his departure from the Ford Foundation, Mr. Gardner accepted the position of President of Lewis and Clark College of Portland, Oregon.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

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

In the 1960s, the Ford Foundation Trustees began to rethink the role of the Foundation in the context of the era's dramatic political and cultural changes. For instance, the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act created a domestic policy context in which the Foundation could more deeply engage with issues

of rights and social justice. Events overseas starting in the late 1960s would extend the rights agenda to international affairs and development operations at the Foundation -- all advanced by the leadership of McGeorge Bundy (president, 1966-1979).

McGeorge Bundy was appointed president in 1966, following a significant career in national security and academic administration. During World War II, he worked with the Army's intelligence division, and in the early post-war years was a political analyst at the Council on Foreign Relations. Even without a postgraduate degree, at the age of thirty-four he became dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at Harvard University. In 1961, President Kennedy appointed Bundy to be Special Assistant to the President for National Security - a position he held for five years under both Kennedy and Johnson. Those significant years saw the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the beginnings of the Vietnam War.

When Bundy arrived at the Foundation, he initiated a restructuring that modeled government departments rather than the academic ones President Henry Heald had established in the 1950s. At the same time, he had to contend with serious financial constraints due to Ford's overspending in the prior periods and to economic downturns in the global economy. The Board of Trustees mandated an annual spending of over \$100 million.

These economic constraints meant that Foundation programs had to be more selective across the range of its programs. Nonetheless, international activities remained prominent with the new president and trustees. President Bundy and key trustees such as Eugene Black (1960-1968, former head of the World Bank) and Robert S. McNamara (1968-1986, former U.S. Secretary of Defense and then head of the World Bank, 1968-1981) reflected a commitment to the international activities. Bundy also added to the board in 1972 the first trustee from a developing country, the Indonesian activist and scholar, Dr. Soedjakmoto, the former Ambassador to the United States from his country and then Special Adviser on Social and Cultural Affairs to the Chairman of Indonesia's National Development Planning Agency.

To create economies of scale, Bundy unified US-based international and overseas activities under one division: the International Division (using the name for the first time). That division comprised Resources for Development (area studies, languages, and exchanges), Population, International Relations, Planning and Evaluation, and the country programs. David Bell, an economist and the first administrator of the US Agency for International Development (1962-1966), was named vice president and served in that capacity until the end of Bundy presidency.

In 1966, Bundy terminated the long-standing internationally oriented but domestically based International Training and Research Program. Several large domestic programs -- including support of centers of international studies - were phased out in the 1970s. Instead, Ford launched under its international affairs efforts a focused but robust program in security and arms control. Over Bundy's tenure, the overseas offices were reduced from twenty in 1966 to twelve in 1979, when he retired.

The Foundation increasingly turned its attention to different set of international issues including human rights and working in repressive societies, such as South Africa. The military coups in Latin America during the late 1960s and early 1970s led the Foundation to initiate in 1976 a human rights program housed in Vice President Bell's office.

In 1979, Franklin Thomas was named president of the Ford Foundation (1979-1996). In contrast to Bundy's international and defense policy background, Franklin Thomas brought to the Ford Foundation

his experience in law, housing, and community development. Prior to joining the Foundation, Thomas, a lawyer, was a Foundation trustee. He chaired the Rockefeller Foundation-funded Study Commission on U.S. Policy towards South Africa and led the Ford-funded Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation in New York from its beginning in 1966 until he left in 1979. Earlier, he had been deputy police commissioner of NYC.

In the first decade of Thomas' tenure, the international work was still framed using the post-war East-West dichotomy. Several trustees brought to the board active engagement in international issues: Donald F. McHenry (trustee over the period 1981-1993) had served as ambassador to the U.N. and was active in the anti-apartheid movement; and General Olusegun Obasanjo (trustee over the period 1987-1999) had been Nigerian head of state from 1976-1979, and was then president of the African leadership Forum. Along with McNamara and Soedjakmoto, Rodrigo Botero, an internationally renowned economist from Colombia and former Colombian Minister of Finance and Credit from 1974 to 1976, remained on the board over the period 1978-1989.

During the early years of the Thomas presidency, the scope and strategies of the Foundation's activities were also influenced by economic and global pressures, leading to reduced assets and further financial stringencies. Thomas' board-mandated reductions resulted, for example, the firing of twenty senior staff at the same time. To achieve more effective and efficient programs, Thomas had a vision of Ford as one foundation, linking the domestic and overseas activities under new program themes: Urban Poverty, Rural Poverty and Resources, Human Rights and Social Justice, Governance and Public Policy, Education and Culture, and International Affairs.

The restructured Foundation comprised two programmatic divisions led by vice presidents: U.S. and International Affairs Programs (USIAP) headed by Susan Berresford; and Developing Countries Program (DCP), headed by William Carmichael. Berresford had been at the Foundation since 1970, coming from the U.S. Manpower Career Development Agency. She served in the National Affairs area, first as program assistant and then program officer (1972-1980), becoming head of women's programs in 1980. The main international efforts under USIAP were housed in Rural Poverty and Resources, Human Rights and Governance, and International Affairs. The other programs - Urban Poverty, Education and Culture, and Program-Related Investments - also addressed a scattering of international issues related to their main themes.

Carmichael had joined the Foundation in 1968 as Representative in Brazil. In July 1971, he was named Head of the Office of Latin America and the Caribbean, and in September of 1977, he became Head of the Middle East and Africa Office. The DCP program was responsible for all the Field Offices: Andean and the Southern Cone, Brazil, Mexico and Central America, Bangladesh, India, Southeast Asia, West Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and Middle East and North Africa.

When the Foundation initiated a Human Rights and Governance program (HR&G) in 1981, it was the first instance of a Ford program explicitly entitled "human rights," despite the fact that human rights grantmaking had started officially in 1976. International Affairs remained separate from HR&G. In 1987, however, the Board conceptually linked three programs, creating a Trustee committee called Human Rights, Governance, and International Affairs, which existed until 1992. Operationally, however, the programs relating to these fields did not often work together.

International governance remained a commitment under Thomas. The Foundation, for example, had a long-established relationship with the United Nations: from 1951 until 1988, the United Nations received ninety grants from the Foundation (it received another 198 over the period 1989-2009).

In these early years of the Thomas presidency, dramatic changes were occurring in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Under President Mikhail Gorbachev's leadership since 1985, the USSR was opening up to the international community, the rule of law in society was taking prominence there, and press freedoms were spreading. The foundation developed new programs in the region, drawing on the \$60 million already spent to promote human rights and free expression and increase Western understanding of developments there.

Given the continuing economic constraints facing the Foundation and rising debt in developing countries, the Foundation shifted support under DCP to smaller scale community-based initiatives in the field offices. Thomas was also charged by the Board to increase the diversity of grantees, especially to favor populations "most affected" by the problems of concern to the Ford Foundation. The Foundation built on earlier efforts and sharpened its focus on women's issues throughout the world, including shifting the focus of the population program to women's reproductive health and child survival.

In the 1980s, Carmichael and others, with strong support from Thomas and the board, continued the 1970s' support of South African grantees for training large numbers of black lawyers and litigating sensitive cases in the South African legal system. Recognizing the multifaceted nature of discrimination in South Africa, the Foundation not only advanced the rule of law, but also strengthened civic organizations, women's groups, and educational institutions. Further, it supported a number of activist organizations in the United States that were energetically advocating US governmental sanctions against South Africa and for private disinvestment. The Foundation also played a role in shaping US policy on apartheid through the role Thomas played from 1985 to 1987 chairing the US Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on South Africa.

The Foundation's overseas staff also sought to improve the economic situation in poor, marginalized communities through targeted loan programs particularly to women head of households, beginning with the innovative work in Bangladesh of Professor Mohammed Yunus, the founder of the Grameen Bank. The results led the way to establish the field of microfinance with the aim of empowering women living in poverty conditions, such as through a microfinance network in Latin America starting 1980 and a global lending program for women starting in 1987.

Thomas encouraged staff to share results at worldwide meetings. During those meetings, Ford staff in the country offices and in New York tried to follow the mandate to work as "one foundation." The persistent challenge toward meeting that goal, however, was that initiatives emerging from the New York-based programs, or indeed any program developed in one country, were not always adaptable, relevant or acceptable in other countries or regions. It remained a challenge to develop a unified program, despite the commitment at the highest level of foundation leadership.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The two boxes of correspondence and reports which constitute the LAC Papers of James A. Gardner, document his activities and a number of those of the International Division for the years 1971 to 1977.

The papers contain material on the subject of human rights, including the Foundation's policy statement regarding biomedical research and the use of human beings as subjects.

The files discuss the subject of law and its social obligations. In particular, they illuminate such topics as law and development, social change, and how it relates to the development of human talent; the future of public interest law; and Gardner's work, "The Legal Profession and the Third World," which deals with American assistance to legal education in Latin America in the 1960's.

The papers also contain related correspondence between LAC staff members and individuals who applied for the FY76 Foundation sponsored Caribbean Fellowship Fund, but whose applications were incomplete.

The Correspondence Files document the day-to-day program activity of Gardner during his New York based tenure as the Program Officer/Coordinator for the Caribbean.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The Latin America and Caribbean Papers of James A. Gardner, are divided into two series:

I. Subject Files

II. Correspondence Files

Arrangement within the series corresponds as closely as possible to the original order established by Gardner's office.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Use

Completion of a use agreement is required prior to providing scholarly access. See RAC Head of Reference (or applicable designee) for details.

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The Rockefeller Archive Center has authority to grant permission to cite and publish material from the collection for scholarly purposes. Permission to publish extensive excerpts, or material in its entirety, will be referred to the Ford Foundation.

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Separated Materials

Staff and consultant reports and publications have been pulled and accessioned into the FF Archives. A cross-reference sheet located within the folders denotes accessioned reports. A list of titles removed from the papers is appended to this register. Papers not related to Ford Foundation activities have been removed.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Subject Files, 1971-1976

Scope and Contents

Series I, Subject Files (1971-1976), are the most substantive. They contain material on the following: human rights; law and development; law and social sciences; law and social change; public interest law; and FY76 Caribbean fellowship fund (incomplete) application requests. The material consists of correspondence, inter-office memoranda, and reports.

Arrangement

The files are arranged in reverse calendar order. Within each folder, the files are arranged in reverse chronological order.

| Title/Description | Instances |
|-------------------|-----------|
|-------------------|-----------|

| | | |
|---|-------|--------------|
| Human Rights, 1974 - 1976 | box 1 | folder 1-20 |
| Law and Development, 1971 - 1976 | box 1 | folder 21-35 |
| Law and Social Sciences, 1972 - 1973; 1975 - 1976 | box 1 | folder 36-39 |
| Law and Social Change, 1976 October | box 1 | folder 40 |
| Public Interest Law, 1974 - 1976 | box 1 | folder 41-43 |
| FY76 Caribbean fellowship fund (incomplete) application requests, 1975 - 1976 | box 1 | folder 44-45 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Correspondence Files, 1974-1976

Scope and Contents

Series II, Correspondence Files (1974-1976), document the office activities of Gardner during his tenure as the Program Officer/Coordinator for the Caribbean. Recipients of his outgoing correspondence and interoffice memoranda include FF colleagues, grantee and membership organizations, and individuals and organizations seeking grants.

Arrangement

The files are arranged in reverse calendar order. Within each folder, the files are arranged in reverse chronological order.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1976, 1976 | box 2 | folder 46-55 |
| 1975, 1975 | box 2 | folder 56-67 |
| 1974, 1974 | box 2 | folder 68-79 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)