



# **Ford Foundation records, Policy and Planning, Office Files of Eugene S. Staples**

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Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue  
Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Staples, Eugene S.
<b>Creator:</b>	Ford Foundation
<b>Title:</b>	Ford Foundation records, Policy and Planning, Office Files of Eugene S. Staples
<b>ID:</b>	FA675
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1963-1966
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.76 Cubic Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <https://rockarch.org/collections/access-and-request-materials/#citations>

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## Biographical / Historical

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Eugene "Rocky" Staples was a foundation program officer and executive, journalist, diplomat, and World War II veteran. He held numerous positions at the Ford Foundation between 1964 and 1981, primarily concerned with the Foundation's Asia programming. In 1992, he helped found the Eurasia Foundation, and he served as President of that organization until his retirement in 1997.

Staples joined the Ford Foundation in 1964 as Associate Director of Policy and Planning. In 1966, he started his work with the Foundation's Asia programs as Deputy Director of South and Southeast Asia. He occupied a number of different positions in the succeeding years. Some of his position title changes reflect the Foundation's reorganization and retitling of its programming for Asia. For example, he was Head of South and Southeast Asia and then Head of Asia and Pacific. In 1973, he became the Foundation's Representative for Southeast Asia, and in 1976, he became the Foundation's Representative for India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. He stayed in that last position until he left the Foundation in 1981. The Foundation later commissioned Staples to write a brief history about the Foundation's history of

programming in India. Staples' volume, "Forty Years: A Learning Curve, The Ford Foundation in India, 1952-1992" was published in 1992.

Prior to joining the Ford Foundation, Staples had a career in journalism and diplomacy as a United Press correspondent in Mexico, a United States Foreign Service press officer in Uruguay and Chile, and Cultural Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia. He also served as a U.S. Marine Corps fighter pilot in World War II.

After leaving the Ford Foundation, Staples joined the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 1981. He served in Pakistan from 1985 until he left the organization in 1988. Then, from 1992 to 1997, he served as President of the Eurasia Foundation which he helped establish.

Staples' education focused on foreign language learning. Fluent in Spanish and Russian, he graduated from the English-language Mexico City College and did advanced Russian language studies through the State Department and U.S. Army. Staples died in 2013.

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## Scope and Contents

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Memoranda, reports and general files.

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## Arrangement

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As received.

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## Administrative Information

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### 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. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
General Memoranda -- Negro -- File I, 1963-1965	box 1
General Memoranda -- Negro -- File II, 1966	box 1
Interview Memoranda -- Negro -- File I, 1965 April-June	box 1
Interview Memoranda -- Negro -- File II, 1965 July-December	box 1
Interview Memoranda -- Negro -- File III, 1966	box 1
Minority Problems Committee -- General, 1966	box 1
Negro Education Meeting -- Greyston Conference Center, 1963 September 12-13	box 1
Negro -- Ford Foundation Grants and Projects related to Development of the American Negro, 1966	box 1
Reports, 1964-1967	box 1
Negro Committee -- General, 1966	box 2
Informational Data and Miscellaneous Reports, 1963	box 2
Informational Data and Miscellaneous Reports, 1964-1965	box 2

Informational Data and Miscellaneous Reports, 1966

box 2