



Ford Foundation records, Office of Reports, Office Files of Richard Magat

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 22, 2020.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	6
Collection Inventory	6
Inter-office Memoranda	6
General Inter-office Memoranda	7
McGeorge Bundy	8
Howard Dressner	9
Franklin Thomas	10
Brock Brower	10
Chronological Files	10
Press Files	13
New York Times Press Files	13
General Press Files	14
Mayor's Panel on Decentralization of NYC Schools	14
Publications & Printed Material	16

Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Magat, Richard
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Office of Reports, Office Files of Richard Magat
ID:	FA728
Date [inclusive]:	1961-1982
Physical Description:	7.6 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	<p>The Office of Reports, Office Files of Richard Magat were transferred to the Ford Foundation Archives with Office of Reports files in at least five separate sections between 1982 and 1986. Because there was no discernible distinction between Mr. Magat's office files and Office of Reports records, the decision was made to define as his office files only those files that were clearly created and maintained by Mr. Magat. Additional "Magat files" are interspersed in Office of Reports records. Mr. Magat also served as Special Assistant to the Mayor's Panel on Decentralization of New York City Schools. In 1979 Mr. Magat donated his Panel papers to the Ford Foundation Archives. These papers are included in this collection (Series IV). The Office Files of Richard Magat cover the years 1961-82 and consist of chronological files, inter-office memoranda, correspondence and some printed material. The files measure 9.25 linear feet.</p>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Richard Magat was a member of the Ford Foundation staff from 1957 until 1982. Throughout his career at the Foundation Mr. Magat worked in the Office of Reports. He held the following positions:

April 1957, Writer

October 1957, Program Assistant

May 1958, Director

March 1968, Director and Editor

January 1982, Director (part time)

As Director and Editor, Mr. Magat was responsible for: preparing press releases, writing notes to editors and drafting letters to congressmen; writing and editing Foundation publications and articles including the Annual Report, Current Interests, and Ford Foundation Letter; recommending public reports on Foundation activity; responding to media inquiries and arranging press conferences; and administering the Office of Reports.

Mr. Magat also held the following positions:

1947-51, Dayton Daily News, Ohio, The Binghamton Sun, New York, Reporter

1951-52, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Editor in Technical Writing Service

1952-53, Paramount News, Script Writer

1953-57, New York University, Senior News Writer, Office of Information Services

1967, Mayor's Advisory Panel on Decentralization of NYC Schools, Special Assistant

1969, SUNY (Mount Vernon) Cooperative College, Instructor

1975, Joint Committee for the Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross, Editor

1979, SUNY (New York) Fashion Institute of Technology, Instructor

Mr. Magat was born January 1, 1927. He received his A.B. degree in 1947 from New York University. Mr. Magat took additional courses at Columbia University, New York University and the New School. Mr. Magat is the author of Ford Foundation at Work, New York: Plenum (1979), and As Others See Us, Geneva: Henry Dumant Institute (1975). He also wrote articles for Saturday Review, Consumer Reports, Trans-action and other magazines and journals. Mr. Magat left the Ford Foundation in September 1982 to become President of the Edward W. Hazen Foundation.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The Office Files consist of 9.25 linear feet of correspondence, memoranda, chronological files, and printed material. They document the activities and concerns of Mr. Magat between 1961 and 1982 in his position as Director and Editor of the Office of Reports.

The Office Files of Richard Magat not only reflect the administrative aspects of the Office of Reports but also Mr. Magat's concern for accurate media reporting for Foundation activities and the areas of interest of the Foundation between 1961 and 1982. Some of these areas of interest include: the Patman Committee hearings, the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the Mayor's Panel on Decentralization of NYC Schools, "l'affaire F.O.R.D." [Families Opposing Revolutionary Donations], a proposed communications satellite, and retrenchment at the Foundation. The people with whom Mr. Magat corresponded include: Foundation officers Howard Dressner, Harold Howe II, Mitchell Sviridoff and McGeorge Bundy; literary agent Rick Balkin; press contacts Jeff Birnbaum, Herbert Mitgang and Ted Slate; and individuals at the Council on Foundations, Russell Sage Foundation, Grants Magazine and Foundation News.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

It was not possible to reconstruct the original order of the files. Series arrangement is artificial and includes the following four series:

- I. Inter-office Memoranda, 1961-1982
- II. Chronological Files, 1970-1980
- III. Press Files, 1965-1982
- IV. Mayor's Panel on Decentralization of NYC

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

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

Speeches, articles, and staff and consultant reports relating to Ford Foundation activities were removed from Mr. Magat's office files and transferred to the appropriate record group. For each removed item a cross-reference sheet was inserted. Drafts of letters, reports, and press releases were removed except in cases where no final copy could be found or where they differed substantially from the final copy.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Inter-office Memoranda, 1961-1982

Scope and Contents

Series I, Inter-office Memoranda, documents Mr. Magat's administrative duties in the Office of Reports. The memoranda also show some of Mr. Magat's concerns: the potential for conflict of interest by employing journalists as Foundation consultants; "flaps"--controversial issues with which the Foundation was involved; and the relationship between the Ford Foundation and the Ford Motor Company. The series is divided into five subseries: general memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, Howard Dressner, Franklin Thomas, and Brock Brower. There is some duplication between the first subseries and the four others.

Arrangement

This series is divided into the following five subseries which are arranged chronologically:

A. General Inter-office Memoranda, 1961-1982

B. McGeorge Bundy, 1966-1979

C. Howard Dressner, 1972-1982

D. Franklin Thomas, 1979-1982

E. Brock Brower, 1981-1982

Within each folder the material is arranged chronologically.

General Inter-office Memoranda, 1961-1982

Scope and Contents

Subseries A, General Inter-office Memoranda, 1961-1982, consists of Richard Magat's outgoing memoranda. The memoranda are addressed to the Office of Reports staff and the other individuals in the Ford Foundation. There is some duplication between this subseries and the following subseries.

Title/Description	Instances	
1961-1964	box 1	folder 1
1965-1966	box 1	folder 2
1967	box 1	folder 3
1968	box 1	folder 4
1969	box 1	folder 5
1970	box 1	folder 6
1971 January - July	box 1	folder 7
1971 August - December	box 1	folder 8
1972 January - June	box 1	folder 9
1972 July - October	box 2	folder 10
1972 November - December	box 2	folder 11
1973 January - February	box 2	folder 12
1973 March - April	box 2	folder 13
1973 May - June	box 2	folder 14
1973 July - August	box 2	folder 15
1973 September - October	box 2	folder 16
1974 January - February	box 2	folder 17
1974 March - April	box 2	folder 18
1974 May - June	box 3	folder 19

1974 July - August	box 3	folder 20
1974 September - October	box 3	folder 21
1974 November - December	box 3	folder 22
1975 January - February	box 3	folder 23
1975 March - April	box 3	folder 24
1975 May - June	box 3	folder 25
1975 July - August	box 3	folder 26
1975 September - October	box 3	folder 27
1975 November - December	box 3	folder 28
1976 January - February	box 3	folder 29
1976 March - April	box 3	folder 30
1976 June - July	box 3	folder 31
1976 August - September	box 3	folder 32
1976 October - December	box 3	folder 33
1977 January - February	box 4	folder 34
1977 March - April	box 4	folder 35
1977 May - June	box 4	folder 36
1977 July - September	box 4	folder 37
1977 October - November	box 4	folder 38
1977 December	box 4	folder 39
1978 January - March	box 4	folder 40
1978 April - July	box 4	folder 41
1978 August - October	box 4	folder 42
1978 November - December	box 4	folder 43
1979 January - March	box 4	folder 44
1979 April - July	box 4	folder 45
1979 August - October	box 4	folder 46
1979 November - December	box 4	folder 47
1980 January - December	box 5	folder 48
1981 January - December	box 5	folder 49
1982 January - December	box 5	folder 50

Scope and Contents

Subseries B, McGeorge Bundy, 1966-1979, contains Magat's outgoing memoranda addressed to President Bundy. Also included in this subseries is "Bundy's Out of Town Appearances (1972-1974), itineraries, appointment schedules and arrangements with public relations firms for Bundy's visits to cities.

Title/Description	Instances	
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1966	box 6	folder 51
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1967	box 6	folder 52
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1968	box 6	folder 53
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1969	box 6	folder 54
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1970	box 6	folder 55
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1971	box 6	folder 56
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1972	box 6	folder 57
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1973	box 6	folder 58
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1974 January - July	box 6	folder 59
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1974 August - December	box 6	folder 60
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1975	box 6	folder 61
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1976	box 7	folder 62
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1977	box 7	folder 63
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1978	box 7	folder 64
Inter-office Memoranda, McGeorge Bundy, 1979	box 7	folder 65
Bundy's Out of Town Appearances, 1972	box 7	folder 66
Bundy's Out of Town Appearances, 1973	box 7	folder 67
Bundy's Out of Town Appearances, 1974	box 7	folder 68

Howard Dressner, 1972-1982

Scope and Contents

Subseries C, Howard Dressner, 1972-1982, contains Magat's inter-office memoranda addressed to Howard Dressner, Secretary and General Counsel (1971-1984).

Title/Description	Instances	
1973	box 8	folder 69
1974	box 8	folder 70
1975	box 8	folder 71
1976	box 8	folder 72

1977	box 8	folder 73
1978	box 8	folder 74
1979	box 8	folder 75
1980	box 8	folder 76
1981	box 8	folder 77

Franklin Thomas, 1979-1982

Scope and Contents

Subseries D, Franklin Thomas, 1979-1982, contains Magat's inter-office memoranda addressed to Franklin Thomas, President of the Ford Foundation (1979-1996).

Title/Description	Instances	
1979	box 8	folder 78
1980	box 8	folder 79
1981	box 8	folder 80
1982	box 8	folder 81

Brock Brower, 1981-1982

Scope and Contents

Subseries E, Brock Brower, 1981-1982, contains Magat's memoranda addressed to Brock Brower, who served as Advisor to the President and who was responsible for external dissemination of the results of Ford Foundation programs (1981-1983).

Title/Description	Instances	
1981	box 8	folder 82
1982	box 8	folder 83

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Chronological Files, 1970-1980

Scope and Contents

Series II, Chronological Files, shows Mr. Magat's activities with non-Foundation individuals. This series includes the outgoing correspondence addressed to literary agents, media and publishing contacts, freelance writers, copy editors, and colleagues at other foundations. The series also includes some of Mr. Magat's responses to requests for information from interested individuals and a small amount of incoming correspondence.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in chronological order. Within each folder the items are in reverse chronological order.

Title/Description	Instances	
1970 October - December	box 9	folder 84
1971 January - February	box 9	folder 85
1971 March - April	box 9	folder 86
1971 May - June	box 9	folder 87
1971 July - August	box 9	folder 88
1971 September - October	box 9	folder 89
1971 November - December	box 9	folder 90
1972 January - February	box 9	folder 91
1972 March - April	box 9	folder 92
1972 May - June	box 9	folder 93
1972 July - August	box 9	folder 94
1972 September - October	box 9	folder 95
1972 November - December	box 10	folder 96
1973 January - February	box 10	folder 97
1973 March - April	box 10	folder 98
1973 May - June	box 10	folder 99
1973 July - August	box 10	folder 100
1973 September - October	box 10	folder 101
1973 November - December	box 10	folder 102
1974 January - February	box 10	folder 103
1974 March - April	box 10	folder 104
1974 May - June	box 10	folder 105
1974 July - August	box 10	folder 106
1974 September - October	box 10	folder 107
1974 November - December	box 11	folder 108
1975 January - February	box 11	folder 109
1975 March - April	box 11	folder 110
1975 May - June	box 11	folder 111
1975 July - August	box 11	folder 112

1975 September - October	box 11	folder 113
1975 November - December	box 11	folder 114
1976 January - February	box 11	folder 115
1976 March - April	box 11	folder 116
1976 May - June	box 11	folder 117
1976 July - August	box 11	folder 118
1976 September - October	box 11	folder 119
1976 November - December	box 11	folder 120
1977 January - February	box 11	folder 121
1977 March - April	box 11	folder 122
1977 May - June	box 11	folder 123
1977 July - August	box 11	folder 124
1977 September - October	box 11	folder 125
1977 November - December	box 11	folder 126
1978 January - February	box 11	folder 127
1978 March - April	box 12	folder 128
1978 May - June	box 12	folder 129
1978 July - August	box 12	folder 130
1978 September	box 12	folder 131
1978 October	box 12	folder 132
1978 November	box 12	folder 133
1978 December	box 12	folder 134
1979 January	box 12	folder 135
1979 February	box 12	folder 136
1979 March	box 12	folder 137
1979 April	box 12	folder 138
1979 May	box 13	folder 139
1979 June	box 13	folder 140
1979 July	box 13	folder 141
1979 August	box 13	folder 142
1979 September	box 13	folder 143
1979 October	box 13	folder 144

1979 November	box 13	folder 145
1979 December	box 13	folder 146
1980 January	box 13	folder 147
1980 February	box 13	folder 148
1980 March	box 13	folder 149
1980 April	box 13	folder 150
1980 May	box 14	folder 151
1980 June	box 14	folder 152
1980 July	box 14	folder 153
1980 August	box 14	folder 154
1980 September	box 14	folder 155
1980 October	box 14	folder 156
1980 November	box 14	folder 157
1980 December	box 14	folder 158

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Press Files, 1965-1982

Scope and Contents

Series III, Press Files, demonstrates Mr. Magat's contact with the press: "responding fully to media inquiries.... [and calling] media attention to significant work supported by the Foundation." (Magat to Heard, 1979 Jan. 24, Chronological Files.) The files contain Mr. Magat's outgoing correspondence to his press contacts, often suggesting a story which might be written. The series is divided into two subseries: New York Times press contact files and general press contact files.

Arrangement

This series is divided into the following two subseries:

A. New York Times Press Files, 1965-1982 B. General Press Files, 1973-1981 (press contacts except the NYT)

Both subseries contain Mr. Magat's outgoing correspondence to press contacts. The subseries are arranged in chronological order. Within each folder the material is in reverse chronological order.

New York Times Press Files, 1965-1982

Title/Description	Instances	
1965	box 15	folder 159
1966	box 15	folder 160

1967	box 15	folder 161
1968	box 15	folder 162
1969	box 15	folder 163
1970	box 15	folder 164
1971	box 15	folder 165
1972	box 15	folder 166
1973	box 15	folder 167
1974	box 15	folder 168
1975	box 15	folder 169
1976	box 15	folder 170
1977	box 15	folder 171
1978	box 15	folder 172
1979	box 15	folder 173
1980	box 15	folder 174
1981	box 15	folder 175
1982	box 15	folder 176

General Press Files, 1973-1981

Title/Description	Instances	
1972	box 15	folder 177
1973	box 15	folder 178
1974	box 16	folder 179
1975	box 16	folder 180
1976	box 16	folder 181
1977	box 16	folder 182
1978	box 16	folder 183
1979	box 16	folder 184
1980	box 16	folder 185
1981	box 16	folder 186

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Mayor's Panel on Decentralization of NYC Schools, 1961-1969

Scope and Contents

Series IV, Mayor's Panel on Decentralization of New York City Schools, contains the materials distributed to the Mayor's Panel for which Mr. Magat served as Special Assistant. The series consists of meeting dockets, reports, correspondence, publications and pamphlets of the Panel for which Magat served as Special Assistant. It is suggested that the researcher use this series in conjunction with the Archives' other holdings on the Mayor's Panel.

Arrangement

The material in this series was divided by type and arranged chronologically. The list of the original order, "Panel Document File" is in folder 187a of this series.

Title/Description	Instances	
Panel Document File, n.d.	box 17	folder 187a
Meeting Dockets, 1967 May 11	box 17	folder 187
Meeting Dockets, 1967 June 13	box 17	folder 188
Meeting Dockets, 1967 July 12	box 17	folder 189
Meeting Dockets, 1967 July 17	box 17	folder 190
Meeting Dockets, 1967 July 20	box 17	folder 191
Meeting Dockets, 1967 August 3	box 17	folder 192
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, n.d.	box 17	folder 193
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, n.d.	box 17	folder 194
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, n.d.	box 17	folder 195
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, 1961 November 8	box 18	folder 196
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, 1963 June 17 - 1967 February 28	box 18	folder 197
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, 1967 March 1 - May 31	box 18	folder 198
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, 1967 June	box 18	folder 199
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, 1967 June 5-30	box 18	folder 200
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, 1967 July 17 - September 5	box 18	folder 201
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, 1967 November 15	box 18	folder 202
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, 1967 December	box 18	folder 203
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, 1968 February	box 18	folder 204
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, 1968 February 7-March 29	box 18	folder 205
Reports, Proposals, & Statements, 1968 July 30	box 19	folder 206
Correspondence & Press Releases, n.d.	box 19	folder 207
Correspondence & Press Releases, 1963 October 18-25	box 19	folder 208
Correspondence & Press Releases, 1967 February 6-May 15	box 19	folder 209

Correspondence & Press Releases, 1967 June 1-August 22	box 19	folder 210
Correspondence & Press Releases, 1967 September 7 - December 30	box 19	folder 211
Correspondence & Press Releases, 1968 January 8-December 12	box 19	folder 212

Publications & Printed Material

Title/Description	Instances	
Community News Service - "Educating the Young," Tom Brooks (photocopy); "Schools and Politics in the Big City," Robert H. Salisbury (photocopy), n.d.	box 19	folder 213
Citizens Committee for the Public Schools, Inc. (newsletters), n.d.	box 19	folder 214
"50,000 Teachers Are Standing Up for ... " UFT (leaflet), n.d.	box 19	folder 215
"Decentralization within Urban School Systems," John W. Polley (photocopy); "Telling the School Story is Not Enough," Dr. Fusco, 1962	box 19	folder 216
"The Education of Minority Group Children," Harlem Parents Committee, 1965	box 19	folder 217
"Educational Survey Report for the Philadelphia Board of Public Education", 1965	box 19	folder 218
"Facts and Figures 1966-67," New York City Public Schools, 1966	box 19	folder 219
"The Living End," Roger Starr (photocopy); National Center for Citizens in Education (newsletter), 1966	box 19	folder 220
"Performance & Promise: New York City's Local School Board Revisited," Women's City Club of New York, 1966	box 19	folder 221
"Governing the Public Schools," Marilyn Gittell (photocopy); "The Issues at I.S. 201: A View From the Parent's Committee," Dorothy C. Jones (photocopy), 1966	box 20	folder 222
"Report on the Merger Issue to the Louisville Public School System and the Jefferson County Public School System", 1966	box 20	folder 223
"Developing New York City's Human Resources," Institute of Public Administration. Vol. I and II., 1966 June	box 20	folder 224
"Participants and Participation," Marilyn Gittell, 1967	box 20	folder 225
"A Brief Look from Another Perspective," Mary Lela Sherburne (photocopy); "Morgan Community School Annual Report to the Community", 1967	box 20	folder 226
"Feasibility of Devising New School Districts," CONSAD Research Corporation; "Innovation at Rough Rock," Estelle Fuchs (photocopy); "Know Your Schools Fact Sheet," National Committee for Support of the Public Schools; "No More Nonsense About Ghetto Education," Joseph Alsop; "Population	box 20	folder 227

Characteristics," Bureau of Census; "Problems of School Decentralization in NYC," Marilyn Gittell (photocopy), 1967

"Summary of Proposed Programs," 1967-68, Dr. Bernard Donovan, 1967	box 20	folder 228
Mr. Bundy's Bundle (leaflet); "The Constitutional Right of Negro Freedom Revisited," Arthur Kinoy (photocopy); "CSA Response to the Lindsay-Bundy Proposal" (pamphlet); Citizen Planning (bulletin); "Agenda," Women's City Club of New York; Special Report, National Committee for Support of Public Schools; "Decentralization for What?", Irving Kristol (photocopy); "We are Fighting for All New Yorkers" UFT (leaflet); "The Burden of Blame: A Report...", NYCLU (pamphlet), 1968	box 20	folder 229
"Community Institute for Community Studies" (newsletter); "Community Issues," Institute for Community Studies; "Compact," Education Commission of the States; "Race Relations Reporter," Race Relations Information Center; "New Detroit Now" (newsletter), 1969	box 20	folder 230
Misc. Panel Material, n.d. - 1968	box 20	folder 231

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)