



Ford Foundation records, Africa and Middle East Programs (AME), Program Staff Files

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 15, 2016.
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
Organizational History	4
Scope and Content Note	5
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	6
Related Materials	7
Controlled Access Headings	7
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note	7
Collection Inventory	7
Meeting and Discussion Group Records	7
Memoranda	9
Reports	10
Trustee-Related Records	10

Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Africa and Middle East Programs (AME), Program Staff Files
ID:	FA503
Date [inclusive]:	1965-1976, 1987-1994
Physical Description:	1.8 Cubic Feet
Physical Description:	(5 document boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	<p>The Africa and Middle East (AME) Program originated in 1958 as the Near East and Africa Program, a regional program area within Overseas Development. It became part of the International Division in 1966 when the Overseas Development Program, along with other international Foundation programs became part of one International Division. A subsequent restructuring of the International Division occurred in 1980-1981 and led to the creation of the Developing Countries Program (DCP). Three new regional offices serving Africa and the Middle East were created within DCP: Middle East and North Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and West Africa. In 1989, the AME Program was reconstituted as a full program and continued to administer programs in the three regions in addition to a fourth, newly created Study Group on South Africa. The Africa and Middle East Programs files span in date from 1965-1976 and 1987-1994. The collection consists of the combined office files of AME program staff members Robert H. Edwards, Dr. John D. Gerhart, Steven M. Riskin, and Anna Wadia. File contents include correspondence, memoranda, meeting and conference minutes and agendas, reports, briefing papers, and information about various trips of Foundation Trustees to Africa. The bulk of the files are meeting and discussion group records from staff participation at internal Foundation meetings and external discussion groups facilitating collaboration with other philanthropies for common goals. One highlight is the rapporteur notes documenting the Foundation's 1989 Human Rights Meeting in Dakar, Senegal. The notes contain an overview of the Foundation's work to date in the field of Human Rights.</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>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Organizational History

The Africa and Middle East (AME) Program originated in 1958 as the Near East and Africa Program, a regional program area within Overseas Development. It became part of the International Division in 1966 when the Overseas Development Program, along with other international Foundation programs became part of one International Division. A subsequent restructuring of the International Division occurred in 1980-1981 and led to the creation of the Developing Countries Program (DCP). Three new regional offices serving Africa and the Middle East were created within DCP: Middle East and North Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and West Africa. In 1989, the AME Program was reconstituted as a full program and continued to administer programs in the three regions in addition to a fourth, newly created Study Group on South Africa.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Robert H. Edwards joined the Foundation as a Program Officer in 1966, and rose to be Head of the Middle East and Africa Program. He left the Foundation in 1977 to serve as President of Carleton College.

Dr. John D. Gerhart received his M.P.A. from Princeton in 1969 and began his career at Ford Foundation as an Economic Advisor to the Government of Botswana. Over the next thirty years, he held a variety of positions at the Foundation. From Program Advisor for Rural Development in Kenya, he moved to Cairo in 1980 to work as the Ford Foundation Representative for North Africa and the Middle East. In 1985, he was named Deputy Vice President for Developing Countries, a position that he held until 1989 when he became Director for Africa and the Middle East. He worked as the Foundation's representative in South Africa from 1989 to 1993. He died in July 2003.

Steven M. Riskin worked for the Ford Foundation for eight years between 1985 and 1992, initially as an Assistant Program Officer for AME Programs and then as Program Officer.

Anna Wadia succeeded Mr. Riskin as Program Officer in 1992 and served until 1994.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content Note

The Africa and Middle East Programs files span 1965-1976 and 1987-1994. The collection is comprised of the combined office files of Robert H. Edwards, Dr. John D. Gerhart, Steven M. Riskin, and Anna Wadia. The largest group of records is Series I: Meetings and Discussion Group Records. The files consist of meeting-related records, memoranda concerning grants and politics, and reports. These document staff participation in Foundation meetings and in discussion groups that brought together representatives from different philanthropies to discuss common goals. A highlight from this series are the Rapporteur Notes from a 1989 Dakar Human Rights Meeting which provide an overview of the Foundation's work in the field of Human Rights.

Series III. Reports, 1965-1990 (bulk 1989-1990)

This series includes a 1965 report on "Planning the Receipt of Aid" and a 1990 program strategy paper on "Planning for Democratic Governance and Public Policy in Eastern and Southern Africa."

Series IV. Trustee-Related Records, 1991-1992

This series documents visits by several Foundation trustees to Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe. The files hold correspondence, notes, travel agenda, briefing material, and biographical information about the trustees.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 4 series.

[^ 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 note

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.

Provenance

This collection combines the office files of four Africa and Middle East Programs staff members: Robert H. Edwards (1965-1977), John Gerhart (1988-1992), Steven M. Riskin (1985-1994) and Anna Wadia (1993-1994). The Ford Foundation Archives received the office files in five accessions in 2004 and 2010. Ms. Wadia's files evidently were misattributed to Stephen Weissman and Mora Mclean when they later were packed and sent to storage by program staff.

Processing Information Note

The original volume of 8 cubic feet was reduced during processing to 1.8 cubic feet.

Duplicates, reference files, and chronological files primarily consisting of form rejection letters for unsolicited grant requests were not retained.

Conditions Governing Access note

Material more than ten years old is open for scholarly research.

Select individual files are restricted, as noted. Permission to access these files must be obtained from the Ford Foundation before scholarly access is permitted.

Conditions Governing Use note

Completion of a use agreement is required prior to providing scholarly access. See RAC Head of Reference (or applicable designee) for details. Ford Foundation holds title, copyright and literary rights in the collection, in so far as it holds them. 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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Separated Materials

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Ford Foundation

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Materials requiring specialized equipment for access (film, audio, video, slides) may be restricted from scholarly research dependent on availability of the applicable equipment. Brittle or damaged items, or materials otherwise in need of preservation care, may be restricted from scholarly research at the discretion of the RAC Head of Archival Services/RAC Head of Reference.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Meeting and Discussion Group Records, 1966-1976, 1987-1992

Scope and Contents

This series is comprised of correspondence, agenda, rapporteur notes and memoranda from Foundation staff who attended meetings and discussion groups. The records document internal Foundation meetings and working groups such as division conferences, as well as external meetings, conferences and working groups where Foundation staff met with representatives of other foundations or foreign governments. There also are files for the Donors in African Education working group and a file on the Ford Foundation's relations with the government of Sudan.

Title/Description	Instances	
Law and Development Conference -- reports (separated) and outline of possible topics, 1966-1968	box 1	folder 1
American Society of International Law -- Panel on U.S. Law Schools and Developing Countries by Robert H. Edwards, Feb 15, 1968	box 1	folder 2
International Legal Center -- Research and Training Committee (1 of 3), May 1968-Jan 1975	box 1	folder 3
International Legal Center -- Research and Training Committee (2 of 3), May 1968-Jan 1975	box 1	folder 4
International Legal Center -- Research and Training Committee (3 of 3), May 1968-Jan 1975	box 1	folder 5
Committee on Women -- memoranda, reports, notes re: the position of women at the FF, 1971-1974	box 1	folder 6
International Division Conference, Sep 1975 (1 of 2), Sep 9, 1975-Dec 1, 1975	box 1	folder 7
International Division Conference, Sep 1975 (2 of 2), Apr 4-Sep 4, 1975	box 1	folder 8
Committee on Women -- memoranda and discussion papers on women's programming at the FF, 1975-1976	box 2	folder 1
West Coast Trip -- Notes and Schedule, 1976	box 2	folder 2
Council on Foundations -- notes, correspondence and background for a meeting of the committee on international grantmaking, Dec 18, 1987-May 12, 1988	box 2	folder 3
World Conference on Philanthropy, Mar 1, 1988-Feb 20, 1989	box 2	folder 4
1989 Dakar Human Rights Meeting -- Rapporteur Notes, 1989	box 2	folder 5
Program Review 1989 -- Rapporteur Notes, Jan 1989	box 2	folder 6
Donors in African Education, 1989-1990	box 2	folder 7
Interview Skills Seminar, Oct 26, 1989-Jan 22, 1990	box 2	folder 8
Sudan Government Relations, 1990-1991	box 2	folder 9
Reproductive Health Meeting, Jun 28, 1990-Dec 6, 1990	box 2	folder 10
Sterling Forest/Tuxedo Governance Meeting, Jul 6, 1990-Oct 29, 1990	box 2	folder 11

African Development Finance Conference, Aug 18, 1990-Oct 18, 1991	box 2	folder 12
Africa LEIG Meeting, Dec 26, 1990-Oct 18, 1991	box 3	folder 1
Donors in African Education, 1991-1993	box 3	folder 2
African Museums Meeting, Mar 1, 1991-Aug 21, 1991	box 3	folder 3
MacArthur Foundation Meeting, Mar 4, 1991	box 3	folder 4
Council on Foundations, Chicago, IL, Mar 14, 1991-Apr 24, 1991	box 3	folder 5
Africa/Middle East Regional Program Review, Jul 8, 1991-Jan 16, 1992	box 3	folder 6
Reproductive Health Meeting, Aug 7, 1991	box 3	folder 7
Rural Poverty and Resources Meeting, Aug 24, 1991-Feb 3, 1992	box 3	folder 8
African Rural Poverty Meeting, Aug 18, 1991-Jan 20, 1992	box 3	folder 9
Bellagio Conference, Aug 26, 1991-Sep 19, 1992	box 3	folder 10
Nelson Mandela Luncheon, Oct 30, 1991-Dec 4, 1991	box 3	folder 11
Harvard Center for International Affairs -- Political Liberalization in Africa, Nov 20, 1991-Mar 8, 1992	box 3	folder 12
DAE Working Group on HE, Nov 25, 1991-Feb 8, 1992	box 3	folder 13
Africa Staff Meeting, Dec 10-12, 1991	box 3	folder 14
Worldwide International Affairs Program Meeting, Dec 28, 1991-Oct 26, 1992	box 3	folder 15
South Africa, Jan 13, 1992-Feb 22, 1992	box 3	folder 16
International Conference on Culture and Development, Feb 17, 1992-May 12, 1992	box 3	folder 17
Namibia/South Africa, Apr 21, 1992-Aug 6, 1992	box 3	folder 18
John Gerhart Meeting Correspondence 1992, May 19-Nov 18, 1992	box 3	folder 19
South Africa Visit, Sep 21-22, 1992	box 3	folder 20
South Africa Trip, Oct 15-Dec 14, 1992	box 3	folder 21

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Memoranda, Bulk, 1985-1994 1965-1968, 1985-1994 (bulk)

Scope and Contents

This series combines the files of three past program officers. Anna Wadia's memo files for 1992-1994 focus on grant proposals or grant-related meetings. Her files also contain correspondence between program staff. Robert Edward's files hold Foundation memoranda on the U.S. Balance of Payments (1965-1968), and Steven Riskin's files

describe the political situation and repercussions for ordinary Sudanese during the civil war in Sudan (1985-1992) and South African television and newspaper ownership (1992-1994).

Title/Description	Instances	
U.S. Balance of Payments, 1965-1968	box 4	folder 1
Sudan, 1985-1992	box 4	folder 2
Reflections on Foundation Programming Related to Disaster Preparedness and Response, Feb 10, 1989	box 4	folder 3
Higher Education in Africa, Apr 16, 1989-Jul 10, 1993	box 4	folder 4
7th United Nations North American Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, Jun 27-29, 1990, Jul 9, 1990	box 4	folder 5
South Africa Media, Sep 29, 1992-Jun 5, 1994	box 4	folder 6
Anna Wadia Memoranda File -- Meetings, Grant Updates (1 of 4), 1992	box 4	folder 7
Anna Wadia Memoranda File (2 of 4), Jan-Jul 1993	box 4	folder 8
Anna Wadia Memoranda File (3 of 4), Aug-Dec 1993	box 4	folder 9
Anna Wadia Memoranda File (4 of 4), 1994	box 4	folder 10

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Reports, Bulk, 1989-1990 1965-1990 (bulk 1989-1990) (bulk)

Scope and Contents

This series includes a 1965 report on "Planning the Receipt of Aid" and a 1990 program strategy paper on "Planning for Democratic Governance and Public Policy in Eastern and Southern Africa."

Title/Description	Instances	
"Planning the Receipt of Aid" by O. S. Knowles, Aug 1965	box 4	folder 11
"Programming for Democratic Governance and Public Policy in Eastern and Southern Africa: A Program Strategy Paper", Jan 2, 1990	box 4	folder 12

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Trustee-Related Records, 1991-1992

Scope and Contents

This series documents visits by several Foundation trustees to Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe. The files hold correspondence, notes, travel agenda, briefing material, and biographical information about the trustees.

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

Frances Fergusson Visit to Southern Africa, Sep 25, 1988-May 15, 1992	box 4	folder 13
Senegal, Aug 20-Oct 25, 1991	box 4	folder 14
Preiskel/Ridings Africa Visit, Sep 18-Nov 24, 1991	box 4	folder 15
Nigeria, Sep 25-Oct 16, 1991	box 4	folder 16
Zimbabwe, Sep 27-Oct 16, 1991	box 4	folder 17
Namibia Visit, Jan 9-Feb 14, 1992	box 4	folder 18

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)