

Series - McNamara notebooks

[Fonds] [Personal papers of Hollis B. Chenery](#)

[Series] [McNamara notebooks](#)

Identity area

Reference code	WB IBRD/IDA WB_IBRD/IDA_96-01
Title	McNamara notebooks
Dates	August 1970 - November 1979, January 1980 - June 1981 (Creation)
Level of description	Series
Extent and medium	1.25 linear feet of textual records

Context area

Name of creator	Chenery, Hollis B.
Repository	World Bank Group Archives
Immediate source of acquisition or transfer	The records in this series were originally contained in thirteen loose leaf binders that were known informally as the McNamara Notebooks which Hollis Chenery took with him when he retired from the World Bank in 1983. In July 1991, the binders were sent to Devesh Kapur, part of the Brookings Institution team working on the fiftieth anniversary history of the Bank. In 1993, after the Brookings team finished with the McNamara Notebooks, Chenery agreed to donate them to the World Bank Group Archives.

Content and structure area

Scope and content	<p>This series consists primarily of copies of Chenery's memoranda to McNamara, many of which were returned to Chenery heavily annotated with McNamara's handwritten notes and/or a red stamp indicating the President has seen. Some Chenery memoranda to McNamara are marked returned by McNamara's Office on a specific date with no notes or stamp. Also included are McNamara's memoranda to Chenery, memoranda sent to McNamara by other Bank staff (e.g. Ernest Stern) and copied to Chenery, letters and memoranda McNamara sent to Bank staff and copied to Chenery, and copies of letters Chenery drafted for McNamara's signature. Also included are Chenery's agenda for meetings with McNamara, Chenery's memoranda to the files summarizing discussions with McNamara, Chenery's handwritten notes from his meetings with McNamara, and copies of Chenery's memoranda to his managers summarizing either his discussions with McNamara or meetings that he attended of the President's Council.</p> <p>In May 1973, Chenery asked McNamara for time to finish his book, <i>The Developing Economy</i>. McNamara agreed that following Chenery's August vacation, he would be allowed to spend sixty percent of his time until December 31 on that book. To permit Chenery to do this, Ernest Stern took over most of the day-to-day direction of the Development Policy Staff, and many of the August to December 1973 memoranda in this series were sent to McNamara by Stern rather than Chenery.</p>
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The records cover a wide range of subjects including the work program, organization, budget, and staffing for the Economics Department and the Development Policy Staff; the recruitment and assignment of economists in the Bank Group; the preparation, format, review, and scheduling of country economic programs and sector program papers; ex-post project evaluation work in the Bank; topics for and draft content of the President's annual meeting speeches and the preparation of other speeches for the President; the 1972 Bank reorganization; Bank coordination with the Ford Foundation and the International Monetary Fund; the review of country program papers; the preparation of seminars led by external experts for high-level Bank management; the preparation and review of papers on development policy; the World Bank's research program and budget; drafting of policy papers prepared in response to specific requests from McNamara; comments on policy papers scheduled for discussion by the Executive Directors; policy planning and the role of the Policy Review Committee; economic projections generated by the Development Policy Staff; the coordination of statistical work in the Bank; background information on individuals (and their country's issues) who were scheduled to meet with McNamara; management of the World Development Report team and plans for WDR topics and content; the treatment of Taiwan in World Bank reports; the initiation of the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS); and the selection of Chenery's successor. Beginning in 1977, many memoranda concern the reports of the external Research Advisory Panels and the implementation of recommendations made by those panels.

System of arrangement Arranged chronologically.

Conditions of access and use area

Conditions governing access Records are subject to the World Bank Policy on Access to Information.

Conditions governing reproduction Records are subject to the Copyright Policy of the World Bank Group.

Allied materials area

- Related units of description
- See Records of the Office of the President -- Records of President Robert S. McNamara -- Correspondence of Economic Advisor Hollis Chenery ([WB IBRD/IDA EXC-10-4483S](#)).
 - See Records of the Office of the Chief Economist ([WB IBRD/IDA DEC](#)).
 - See Records of Individual Staff Members ([WB IBRD/IDA STAFF](#)) for the records of Benjamin B. King ('WB IBRD/IDA STAFF-05:<https://archivesholdings.worldbank.org/benjamin-b-king-files>) and Ernest Stern ('WB IBRD/IDA STAFF-09).
 - See the following oral histories: [Hollis B. Chenery](#); [Ernest Stern](#); [Jean Baneth](#); [Attila Karaosmanoglu](#); [Geoffrey Lamb](#); [Johannes F. Linn](#); [Anne O. Krueger](#); and [Dennis N. de Tray](#).
 - See Records of the Office of the Historian -- Records of the World Bank History Project -- Interviews ([WB IBRD/IDA HIST-01-10](#)) for: interview with Benjamin B. King; interview with Shankar N. Acharya; notes of an interview and interview with Nancy Birdsall; interview with Attila Karaosmanoglu; interview with Lyn Squire; notes of an interview and interview with Ernest Stern; interview with Suman Bery; and an interview with Gregory Ingram.
 - See Personal papers of Hollis Chenery, ca. 1960 - ca. 1993, are in the custody of the Harvard University Archives (accession numbers 12810 and 12858).

Description control area

Rules and/or conventions used	Internal World Bank Group Archives rules based on ISAD(G).
Dates of creation revision deletion	3 November 2011