

5 boxes

The collection contains material relating to activities of associations in South Africa, which promoted solidarity with Cuba. Records include: minutes of the meetings, reports, financial statements, information and reports on conferences, work brigades to Cuba, newspaper clippings, speeches, publications and photographs.

The collection was deposited with the Historical Papers Research Archive by the chairman of the Gauteng Branch of FOCUS Noel Stott. In 1998, Noel was awarded the Cuban Friendship Medal by the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba and the then President of Cuba, Fidel Castro. According to the citation, the award was presented "in recognition of his constant actions of political and material support with the Cuban Revolution and of condemnation of the imperialist blockade on Cuba'.

INTRODUCTION

The Friends of Cuba Society, (FOCUS) was founded in 1990. It is the collective name for a number of associations in South Africa which exists to promote solidarity with Cuba. They are a non-profit voluntary organizations which aim to: promote international solidarity through dialogue, exchange and action between Southern Africa and Cuba as well as organize activities to deepen the level of friendship and understanding between the peoples of South Africa and Cuba. Their common objectives are the following: to promote the development of economic, social, religious, cultural and political links between Southern Africa and Cuba, to build partnerships with social movements in Cuba around issues of common concern, to provide essential information on relevant issues related to the Cuban Government and peoples' situation, struggles and aspirations, to build partnerships with social movements in Cuba around issues of common concern. Membership of these groups is open to all persons and organizations who subscribe to their aims and objectives.

INVENTORY

- A THE FRIENDS OF CUBA SOCIETY (FOCUS)
- A1 General overview of the organization. 1 file
- A2 Constitution of Friends of Cuba Society, versions of 1995 - 1997.
- A3 Amendments of the FOCUS (Gauteng) Constitution adopted at the AGM on 20 April 1996.
- A4 FOCUS Standing Rules for 1995 & 1996.
- A5 Membership Form of FOCUS.
- A6 FOCUS (Gauteng) Media Strategy.
- A7 Cuban Solidarity Network contact numbers.
- A8 Brief history of The South African State's Relationship with Cuba.
- A9 Profile of Cuba.
- A10 Friends of Cuba Society membership address & mailing list.
- A11 Establishment of Fidel Castro Ruz Centre in South Africa, 26 July 1997.
- A12 South African Policy towards Cuba, April 1997.

- A13 Minutes of The Friends of Cuba Society Meetings, 1995 - 2000. 1 file
- A13.1 Minutes of FOCUS Meetings for 1995.

- A13.2 Minutes of the meetings for 1996.
- A13.3 Minutes for 1997.
- A13.4 Minutes of the Meetings for 1998.
- A13.5 Minutes of FOCUS Meetings for 2000.

- A14 Reports of the Annual General and Annual Meetings of The Friends of Cuba Society, 1996 - 2000.

- A15 Financial records of The Friends of Cuba Society, 1996 - 1999.

- A16 Records relating to trips of South African Brigades to Cuba. 5 files
- A16.1 Report on the Hatuey Work Brigade to Cuba, December 1994 - January 1995.

- A16.2 Southern African Brigade to Cuba in December 1996.
- A16.2.1 Information provided by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with People regarding an agreement between South Africa and Cuba towards sending a brigade to work in Cuba.
- A16.2.2 FOCUS Internal Discussion Paper on Work Brigade to Cuba.
- A16.2.3 Report on the activities of the Friends of Cuba Societies in South Africa and organization's perspective on the Brigade to Cuba in December 1996.
- A16.2.4 Role and objectives of the first African Brigade to Cuba in 1996.
- A16.2.5 FOCUS guidance on how to experience Cuban life with the South African Work Brigade, 1996.

- A16.2.6 FOCUS document providing practical guidance towards preparations for the Brigade.
- A16.2.7 The Southern African-Cuba Brigade Handbook, December 1996.
- A16.2.8 Application Form of the Southern African Brigade to Cuba.
- A16.2.9 List of the participants of the South African Brigade to Cuba, The Alex La Guma Brigade.
- A16.2.10 Work Schedule of the Southern African Brigade.
- A16.2.11 Summary of the Brigade Draft Programme, December 1996.
- A16.2.12 Brigade Preparation Weekend Information Pack, August 1996.
- A16.2.13 Messages of Support for the South African Brigade to Cuba.
- A16.2.14 Press Releases relating to the Southern African Brigade to Cuba, December 1996.
- A16.2.15 Correspondence relating to the trip of Southern African Brigade to Cuba, 1996.
- A16.2.16 Naming the first Southern African Brigade to Cuba, the Alex la Guma Brigade.

- A16.3 2nd Alex la Guma Work Brigade trip to Cuba in 1997.
- A16.3.1 Description of the 2nd Alex La Guma Work Brigade to Cuba for December/January 1997/98.

- A16.3.2 Document of the National Brigade Organizing Committee's providing guidance on the organizing Southern African Brigade to Cuba.
- A16.3.3 2nd Alex la Guma Brigade to Cuba Handbook , December 1997.
- A16.3.4 Programme's Project of the Second Brigade 'Alex la Guma' from Southern Africa.
- A16.3.5 Report of the Brigade Cuba Trip, 7 February 1997.
- A16.3.6 Western Cape Alex la Guma Brigadists' proposal for future Brigades.
- A16.3.7 Response to ' The Sunday Independent' article on Alex la Guma trip to Cuba.
- A16.3.8 Newspaper clippings on Cuba Brigade Trip.
- A16.3.9 Financial Statements & Details of the Alex la Guma Brigade for 1996/97.

- A16.4 Documents relating to the Alex la Guma Work Brigade trip to Cuba in September/October 1999.

- A16.4.1 Information and programme of the Work Brigade to Cuba in 1999.
- A16.4.2 List of Brigadistas to Cuba in September 1999.
- A16.4.3 Alex la Guma Brigade Progress Reports on their trip to Cuba.
- A16.4.4 Resource package for the Alex la Guma Brigade to Cuba, September 1999.
- A16.4.5 Letter of support and solidarity to participants in the Alex La Guma Brigade in 1999.

- A17 Conferences with participation of Friends of Cuba Society. 4 files
- A17.1 World Solidarity with Cuba Conference in Havana, November 1994.
- A17.1.1 Call to the World Solidarity Meeting with Cuba by Cuban organizations 1994.
- A17.1.2 Information on the participants of the World Solidarity with Cuba Conference and International Agreements towards solidarity with Cuba, November 21-25, 1994.
- A17.1.3 Programme of the Conference 'World Solidarity with Cuba' November 1994.
- A17.1.4 Welcoming Address by the president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with People.
- A17.1.5 Agreements of the Commission 1 'Actions against the Blockade'.
- A17.1.6 Adopted Agreements of the Commission 2 'Slander Campaigns and the Truth about Cuba'.
- A17.1.7 Action Plan of the Commission 3 'The Exchange of ideas and experiences for Solidarity with Cuba.

- A17.1.8 Declaration of the World Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba, November 1994.
- A17.1.9 Speech of Cuba Foreign Minister to the First World Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba.
- A17.1.10 Speech made by the Cuban President Fidel Castro during the closing session of the World Solidarity Meeting with Cuba.
- A17.1.11 Reports on the International Conference/World Meeting with Cuba, 21-25 November 1994.

- A17.1.12 Newspaper articles on the First Solidarity Conference with Cuba, November 1994.

- A17.2 Southern African Cuba Solidarity Conference, 6-8 October 1995.
- A17.2.1 General information and invitation to the Conference.
- A17.2.2 Background information on Cuba.
- A17.2.3 Draft Concept Paper No1 with call for Southern African Conference in Solidarity with Cuba.

- A17.2.4 Reports of the preparatory meetings for the Conference.
- A17.2.5 Plans for the Media/Press Conference before the Conference.
- A17.2.6 Cuban Friends Associations in South Africa official announcement about the date of the Conference.

- A17.2.7 Minutes of the Meetings of the National Preparatory Committee of the Southern Conference in Solidarity with Cuba, July & August 1995.
- A17.2.8 Conference Rules.
- A17.2.9 Solidarity messages to the organizers of the Conference, FOCUS.
- A17.2.10 Aims of the Conference.
- A17.2.11 FOCUS' contribution to the Southern African Conference in Solidarity with Cuba.
- A17.2.12 Protest message against blockade of Cuba sent to the U.S. Ambassador by the organizers of the Conference.
- A17.2.13 Budget for Cuba-Southern Africa Solidarity Conference.
- A17.2.14 Invitation to become a Patron of the Southern Africa Solidarity Conference with Cuba.
- A17.2.15 Official invitation to the opening of the Conference by President Mandela on 6 October 1995.

- A17.2.16 Letter to the People of South Africa from the chairman of South Africa-Cuba Friendship Association.

- A17.2.17 Programme of the Conference, 6-8 October 1995.
- A17.2.18 List of participants of the Conference.
- A17.2.19 Letter to the organizers of the Conference from the President of Zambia-Cuba Friendship Society.

- A17.2.20 Gratitude letter from Cuban President Fidel Castro to the participants of the Southern Africa Cuba Solidarity Conference.
- A17.2.21 Statement issued by the Cuba Solidarity Committee on the Southern African Cuba Solidarity Conference.
- A17.2.22 Opening Remarks by President Nelson Mandela to the Southern Africa-Cuba Solidarity Conference, Johannesburg, 6 October 1995.

- A17.2.23 Speech by Father Michael Lapsley, Chairperson of the Patrons of the Southern African Conference in Solidarity with Cuba.
- A17.2.24 Speech delivered by Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aziz Pahad at the South Africa/Cuba Solidarity Conference, Johannesburg, 7 October 1995.
- A17.2.25 Southern Africa-Cuba Solidarity Conference Resolutions.
- A17.2.26 Reports of the Conference Commissions.
- A17.2.27 Summary Publication on the Southern Africa Cuba Solidarity Conference, 6-8 October 1995.

- A17.2.28 Newspaper articles on the Solidarity Conference with Cuba, October 1995.

- A17.3 Africa-Cuba Solidarity Conference in Ghana on International Free Trade and National Sovereignty, 15-17 May 1997.
- A17.3.1 Invitation to the Africa-Cuba Solidarity Conference.
- A17.3.2 Programme of the Conference.
- A17.3.3 Message of Solidarity to the Africa-Cuba Solidarity Conference from the President Nelson Mandela, September 1997.
- A17.3.4 Conference Rules and Resolution, Message from President Fidel Castro, Plenary Sessions and Organizational Commission of the Conference in Ghana Report.

- A17.4 Declaration and Agreements at the Second World Meeting of Friendship and Solidarity with Cuba, 10 November 2000.

- A17.5 Inaugural National Congress/Conference for the Inauguration of the National Structure of Friends of Cuba Society, 23-24 November 2002.
- A17.5.1 Discussion Document of the Inaugural National Congress of FOCUS.
- A17.5.2 Programme of the Conference.
- A17.5.3 Speech by the President of the Cuban Institute at the Conference.
- A17.5.4 Statements by Cuban leaders at the Conference.

- A17.6 Speeches by the President of the Republic of Cuba during International Events in 2002.
- A17.7 Letter from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, 29 October 2002.
- A17.8 Summary of the Motion submitted to the Federal Court in Florida relating to the case against Cubans in prison in the USA.

- A18 Friends of Cuba Society Workshops.
- A18.1 Strategic Planning Workshop, January 1995.
- A18.2 National Workshop for Organization in Solidarity with Cuba, October 1999.

- A19 Friends of Cuba Society Statements, Press Releases, Memoranda, Notices, Circulars and Invitations to the Public Events, 3 files
- A19.1 Press Statements, 1994 - 1999.
- A19.2 FOCUS Messages, 1995 - 1999.
- A19.3 Memoranda, Notices and Announcements of FOCUS, 1996 - 1999.
- A19.4 Information and Invitations to public events organized by FOCUS, 1995 - 1999.

- A20 Judicial Demand: The Cuban People of Cuba VS The Government of the USA. Document to be submitted to the Civil and Administrative Court of Law at The Provincial People's Court in Havana City.

- A21 Speeches by Fidel Castro and other prominent people of Cuba, 1996 - 1999. 1 file
- A22 Miscellaneous documents on Cuba's history, education and political situation. 1 file

- B DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE 14th WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL, CUBA 1997 1 file
- B1 Information Bulletin on the World Youth festival in Cuba, November 1996.
B2 Proposal for the General Programme of the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students.
B3 Draft Working Paper on 14th World Festival for Youth and Students.
B4 Report of the Youth Organizations Meeting relating to the 14th World Youth and Students Festival held in Johannesburg on the 29 January 1997.
B5 regional Meeting on the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students in Windhoek, 13-14 March 1997.
- B6 The International Solidarity Fund and the Financial Guidelines for the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students.
B7 Final Declaration of the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba.
B8 Leaflets on the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students, Cuba '97.
- C CORRESPONDENCE, 1997 -1998, 1 file
Emails between the members of the Friends of Cuba Society in South Africa.
- D PAMPHLETS, BOOKLETS, LEAFLETS, POSTCARDS, 2 files
- E NEWSPAPER CLIPS, 1995 - 1996, 1 file
relating to the Cuban history, economy and political situation in the country
- F INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO CUBA, 1 folder
They include: newspapers and magazines.
- G SOUTH AFRICA -- CUBA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (SACFA), 1995 - 1996, 1 file
- G1 Draft Constitution of South Africa - Cuba Friendship Association (SACFA), 1996.
G2 Standing Rules of SACFA, 1996.
G3 SACFA Invitation to participate in a demonstration against the United States blockade on Cuba,
26 July 1995.
G4 Memoranda of South Africa - Cuba Friendship Association.
- H CUBA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN, 1 file
- H1 Constitution of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign.
H2 Briefing Paper on the United States' Economic Blockade of Cuba.
H3 Leaflets published on Cuba by the Cuba Solidarity Campaign.
H4 Memorandum presented to Representatives of the USA by South Government, July 1992.
H5 Annual General Meeting of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign in 1997.
H6 Correspondence relating to the launch of a new Cuban Solidarity Electronic News, 1998.
H7 List of contact numbers of organizations and projects involved in Cuba Solidarity affords, 1997.
- I Not filled.

- J SPEECHES AND ADDRESSES BY FIDEL CASTRO DURING HIS STATE VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA, 1998
- K PHOTOGRAPHS OF FIDEL CASTRO, 1959-1998, 1 file
High gloss prints of the photographs of Cuban President Fidel Castro and various public historical events in the history of Cuba.
Stored with photographs in Media room
- L MAGAZINES, 1996 & 1999
Providing information on: tourism and investment opportunities in Cuba
- M PHOTOGRAPHS RELATING TO ACTIVITIES, 1990s
Stored with photographs in Media room
- M1.1-37 Southern African Cuba Solidarity Conference in Johannesburg, 6-8 October 1995.
Photographs illustrate participants of the conference and major speakers including Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale, South African Ambassador to Cuba, John Nkadimeng and members of Friends of Cuba Society.
- M2.1 Centenary Commemoration of the death of Jose Maria Perez at the ANC Regional Office in Port Elizabeth, 19 May 1995.
- M3.1-2 SACP project for the youth on education, economy, Johannesburg 1996.
- M4.1-5 First South African Brigade to Cuba in 1996.
- M5.1 -7 Fidel Castro, President of Cuba visit to South Africa in 1998.
- M6.1-4 XII NAM Summit in Durban, 29 August - 3 September.
- M6.5 Nelson Mandela with Cuban President Fidel Castro at the XII Summit in Durban, 1998.
- M6.6 Fidel Castro giving a speech at the Summit in Durban.
- M6.7 Nelson Mandela with his wife Graca Machel and Fidel Castro at the XII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Durban, 29 August - 3 September 1998, folio item
- N AUDIO TAPES, 9 tapes
Containing speeches and the addresses presented during Cuba-Southern Africa Solidarity Conference in Johannesburg, October 1995
Stored in Media room
- N1 Audio- tapes with: message from Fidel Castro, address by President Nelson Mandela and Solidarity messages during Day One of the Conference.
- N2 Tapes containing addresses by: Father Michael Lapsley and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad, Solidarity Messages and Discussions on Day Two of the Conference.
- N3 Audio-tapes with Commission & Sectoral Reports and Resolutions and Final Remarks by Tokyo Sekwale during Day Three of the Conference.
- O VIDEO TAPES
Stored in Media room
- O1 "Cuba, A Caribbean Smile" video, English version, 1993.
- O2 "From Cuito Cuanavale to Healthcare", VHS.
- O3 "Ideas are worth more than weapons" May Day Celebration at Revolution Square in Havana,

1 May 2003, includes the closing speech of President Fidel Castro.
- O4 " Che Vive" , 240 minutes of documentary on Ernesto Che Guevara.

O5 "Brigada Venceremos" (PAL), VHS.

O6 "Gay Cuba", VHS.

P MEMORABILIA

P1 Calendar cards of 1996 & 1997.

P2 Badges commemorating Ernesto Che Guevara and the Cuban National Flag.

P3 Badge issued on the occasion of Cuba Solidarity Campaign to End the U.S. Blockade.

P4 Cuba-Southern Africa Solidarity Conference Attendance Card of the member of Co-ordinating Committee, Johannesburg 1995.

P5 Participant's Cap of the 2nd Alex La Guam Brigade in 1999.