

A3444 Jeremy Brown Shearer, Research papers, 1945-2007

Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2021

5 boxes

The collection contains research papers, mainly copies, into the history of the Department of Foreign Affairs (1945-1961), which were generated by Jeremy Brown Shearer for his degree Doctor of Law at the University of South Africa. The thesis is entitled "Against the world: South Africa and human rights at the United Nations 1945-1961", and was submitted in November 2007. He also published a book with the same title at UNISA Press in 2011. He had also previously, after his retirement from public service, completed the English version of the "History of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs 1927-1993", which was published in 2005.

The deposit of the papers was facilitated by former Ambassador Tom Wheeler, who later joined the South African Institute of International Affairs in 2003, after he retired from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Jeremy Brown Shearer was born on the 4 October 1931 in Queenstown, South Africa. He obtained his LLB at the University of Stellenbosch in 1953. Working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the 1950s, he was posted as a diplomat to a number of European countries and the US, and represented South Africa at a variety of international conferences. He became Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, where he presented his credentials to then Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in August 1988. He retired from the Department of Foreign Affairs on the 30 April 1994.

COLLECTION

A Doctor of Law, Thesis, 366 pages, November 2007

Bound thesis entitled "Against the world: South Africa and human rights at the United Nations 1945-1961", submitted in fulfilment of Doctor of Law, University of South Africa.

B Volumes, 1945-2004, 21 files

The volumes of lever arch files contain research material collected by JB Shearer, including correspondence, UN declarations and related documents. The content of the folders was retained in the order in which they were received.

B1 Volume 1, English and Afrikaans, 1945-1951, 4 files

Relating to the 1945 Ratification of the Charter of the United Nation; Correspondence with the South African delegation to the UN; The annexation of South West Africa (Namibia); Bill of Human Rights and concerns in the Union of South Africa; Letter by Mrs Roosevelt, condemning race relations in South Africa, October 1948; Treatment of Indians in the Union of South Africa; UN Draft Declaration concerning rights and duties of states; Letter re call by UN General Assembly to South Africa, to refrain from implementation of the Group Areas Act, 10 February 1951.

- B2 Volume 2, English and Afrikaans, 1950-1956, 4 files
Relating to the UN sessions regarding the treatment of Indians in the Union of South Africa, and related UN document A/2218; General Assembly regarding the situation in South Africa; South West African (Namibia) question; International drafts on Human Rights; Telegrams and other correspondence between the South African permanent delegation to the UN and Pretoria regarding the resolution against Apartheid amongst other topics; Legal position regarding interventions in domestic jurisdictions and the right of nations to self-determination; Statements by South Africa regarding the racial conflict in South Africa; Debates and Committee around forced labour; Position paper by the Union of South Africa "South Africa and the UN".
- B3 Volume 3, English and Afrikaans, 1954-1962, 5 files
Relating to Draft position paper regarding South Africa's participation in the UN; Union delegation's attitude at the UN; South Africa's response to UN Commission on racial situation in South Africa; Classified communication between Pretoria and the South African permanent delegation at the UN; Withdrawal of South Africa's permanent delegation from the General Assembly, 1955; Hansard copies regarding the withdrawal from the UN, 10 June 1957; question of self determination of nations; Apartheid debate in Special Political Committee; Prevention and Protection of Minorities; Freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile.
- B4 Volume 4, English and Afrikaans, 1955-1961, 4 files
Relating to Communication between the Department of External Affairs in Pretoria and the South African permanent delegation to the UN; new approach of moderation, 1958; reactions following the Sharpeville massacre on the 21 March 1960; Original news clips with pictures of Bernardus Fourie, UN delegate from South Africa; Discussions held between Dag Hammarskjold, UN Secretary-General and the South African delegation, 1960; South African response to a letter by the Soviet Union to the UN Security Council regarding developments in the Union of South Africa, May 1961; Sixteenth Session, Opening statement by Mr Eric Louw, the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs at meeting of the Special Political Committee, October 1961, original document; South Africa not to quit the UN.
- B5 History of the Department, English and Afrikaans, 1994-2004, 3 files
Containing research material and documentation for the book "History of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs 1927-1993", edited by Tom Wheeler, which was supported by Shearer for the English version.
- Including: print outs of chapters; correspondence with the Department; chapter outlines. Some of the material covering claims by the Union of South Africa of portions of the Antarctica, lying immediately South (Queen Maud Land), which was surveyed and placed under Norwegian sovereignty, 1947.