



AL3112 - The Penelope Maysom Collection

Call Number: AL3112
Title: The Penelope Maysom Collection
SubTitle:
Creator: Inventory prepared by Linda Duvenage in April 2005
Origination: Penelope Maysom
Inclusive Dates: 1955-1991
Bulk Dates:
Extent: 0.2 linear metres 2 archival boxes)
Language: English
Acquisition: Aquisition number: 03- 001
Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research
Use Restrictions: Copyright restrictions may apply. See SAHA copyright statement for Use Restrictions.
Copyright:
Abstract: The collection includes mission statements of a few of the service organisations that participated in the struggle against apartheid, together with official and unofficial publications by the International and Defence Aid Fund (IDAF).

Introduction

Liberation Service Organisations: Service organisations such as the UWC Historical and Cultural Centre, is found in this collection. This centre documented the history of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa by creating a space for museum exhibitions, cultural activities and by archival processing. Another organisation which actively participated in varied ways are the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom Charter College of which mission information is also recorded in this collection.

About IDAF: A treason trial fund was set up in 1956, when Canon John Collins of St Paul's Cathedral in London agreed to guarantee the defense costs of Chief Albert Luthuli, later to become a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and the other 155 political leaders on trial for treason after the historic Congress of the People in 1955 produced the Freedom Charter. The fund paid not only for the legal costs of the trial, which lasted for four years, but also assisted the dependents of the trialists. After the trial, which saw the dismissal of charges against all the accused, Defence and Aid was formed. In the days after Sharpeville and the bannings of the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress, the organisation continued its work of supporting trialists and their families. The Defence and Aid Fund had offices in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. When Nelson Mandela and his co-accused appeared in the famous Rivonia Trial in 1963/64, Defence and Aid procured an outstanding legal team which defeated the prosecution's call for the death sentence. The South African government responded in 1966 by banning the Fund. As a result, Canon Collins and others took the organisation which was renamed The International and Aid Fund for Southern Africa underground in South Africa, and new offices were set up at Amen Court, in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral. Later, IDAF national committees opened in Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Australia, Canada, the United States and Ireland, where the committees help to sensitize public opinion and put pressure on their governments to assist the struggle against racist South Africa. IDAF became the South African legal profession's most reliable employer, with more than 150 attorneys and 80 advocates on its books. Few of these legal eagles knew where the money was coming from.

Inventory

A1: Service Organisations, Papers, Journals and Correspondence

A1.1: Indexes to Journals, 1990

[1990]

A1.2: Manuscript: The smell of death, 1990



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[1990]

A1.3: Coming Home: Political Prisoner Release Package, 1990

[1990]

A1.4: University of the Western Cape: Historical and Cultural Centre Information, (including correspondence), 1991

[1991]

A1.5: Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College Information, Undated

A1.6: The Freedom Charter 1955, The Church and the Freedom Charter, Undated

[1955]

A2: International Defence and Aid Fund

A2.1: Listings of banned persons, political prisoners and clients, 1974-1989

[1974-1989]

A2.2: Focus on Political Repression in Southern Africa News Bulletin, 1976-1979

[1976-1979]

A2.3: Focus on Political Repression in Southern Africa News Bulletin, 1980-1989

[1980-1989]

A2.4: Focus on Political Repression in Southern Africa News Bulletin, 1990-1991

[1990-1991]

A2.5: IDAF Briefing Papers, 1981-1990

[1981-1990]

A2.6: Press Statement, 1990

[1990]