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Finding Aid - Anti-Apartheid Network fonds (RBSC- ARC-1867)

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Language of description: English

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Anti-Apartheid Network fonds

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Summary information

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| Repository: | University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections |
| Title: | Anti-Apartheid Network fonds |
| Reference code: | RBSC-ARC-1867 |
| Date: | [1981?]-[1997?] (date of creation) |
| Physical description: | 40.5 cm of textual records and other material |
| Language: | English |
| Dates of creation, revision and deletion: | Fonds was processed, arranged, and described by Gabriella J. Cigarroa in Summer 2024. |

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Anti-Apartheid Network (AAN) ran from 1985 to 1990 as an umbrella organization for British Columbian organizations addressing issues in Southern Africa to coordinate anti-apartheid action. Apartheid in South Africa and South West Africa (the latter now Namibia) was an institutionalized system of racial segregation imposed from 1948 to 1990s by a minority white population to execute political, social, and economic domination over the majority non-white population. It created a racial hierarchy which determined one's access to public facilities, events, housing, and employment opportunities. The ruling National Party's violent enforcement of apartheid caused thousands of deaths and detentions, as well as over three million forced evictions. Significant internal resistance from political movements African National Congress (ANC) and Pan African Congress (PAC), alongside extensive international condemnation and sanctions, eventually led to negotiations abolishing apartheid.

According to its by-laws, AAN's purposes included: working for an end to the apartheid system in South Africa; supporting sanctions against South Africa, including the severing of diplomatic relations between Canada and South Africa; supporting the peoples of Southern Africa in their struggles against apartheid and racial oppression; organizing non-partisan activities to support the aforementioned purposes; and providing a communication network for anti-apartheid activities in B.C.

According to AAN's by-laws, its member organizations fell into the following categories: unions, including union federations, individual unions, and union locals; religious organizations, including provincial "umbrella groups," social concerns organizations within churches, and individual churches; officially registered international development NGO's; and community organizations, such as registered political parties, women's organizations, student groups registered with their university, professional organizations, ethnic and cultural groups, and solidarity groups. Member organizations included the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, B.C. (IDAFSA), the International Development Education Resources Association (IDERA), the New Democratic Party Vancouver Point Grey and

Vancouver South Constituencies, and OXFAM, among others. Individuals could also become members if they had a valid reason for not representing an organization and agreed to attend regular meetings.

AAN was run by a committee known first as the Steering Committee, then as the Executive Committee.

This committee consisted of the following seven offices elected at annual meetings: Chairperson, Co-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Director, Membership Secretary, and one to three Members-At-Large. The committee was authorized to act on behalf of AAN membership between meetings, with all decisions subject to review at regular meetings held once a month.

AAN's central focuses included educational activities and workshops, as well as campaigns and actions aimed at keeping the anti-apartheid movement in the public eye. It curated and promoted materials for K-12 educators, coordinated and participated in various conferences and workshops aimed at anti-apartheid activists and teachers, and organized several boycotts and protest campaigns. The AAN's anti-apartheid actions usually addressed South Africa, but some also targeted other Southern African countries including Mozambique and Namibia.

Custodial history

Records were stewarded by Larry Kuehn, the Chairperson of the Anti-Apartheid Network from 1985 to 1990, until their donation to UBC RBSC in 2024.

Scope and content

Fonds documents the Anti-Apartheid Network's (AAN) operations from 1985 to 1990, including its meetings, coordinated activities and campaigns, and communications with other anti-apartheid organizations. It consists of memoranda, correspondence, news clippings, newsletters, meeting minutes, flyers, posters, pins, and other material produced as the AAN coordinated anti-apartheid action undertaken in B.C.

Fonds is arranged into three series: Administration; Activities; and Publications, readings, and other materials.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the contents of the fonds

Immediate source of acquisition

Fonds was donated by Larry Kuehn in 2024.

Arrangement

Archivist maintained previous order.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Physical description:** Fonds consists of 40.5 cm of textual records, 25 pins, 16 photographs, 2 negatives, 2 video cassettes, 1 audio cassette, and 1 banner.

Access points

- Kuehn, Larry, 1944- (subject)
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Communications (subject)
- Cultural groups (subject)
- Education (subject)
- Organizations (subject)
- Politics (subject)
- Vancouver (B.C.) (place)

Series descriptions

Administration

Date: 1985-1990 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series documents the organizational structuring of and meetings held by AAN. Meetings were held monthly and were open to the public. At these meetings, members generally provided updates on ongoing campaign and protest actions, planned future activities, evaluated previous events, suggested targets for action, reviewed finances and grant applications, and addressed any other business relevant to AAN's activities.

Series consists of meeting minutes, memoranda, notes, by-laws, and other material arising from AAN's monthly and annual meetings.

Physical description: 2.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

| File / item list | | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-02 | File - AAN - Organization Structuring/ By-Laws | [1987?]-1988 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-03 | File - Anti-Apartheid Network - Minutes (folder 1 of 3) | 1988-1990 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-04 | File - Anti-Apartheid Network - Minutes (folder 2 of 3) | 1987 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-05 | File - Anti-Apartheid Network - Minutes (folder 3 of 3) | 1985-1986 | | |

Activities

Date: 1985-1997 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series documents the Anti-Apartheid Network's (AAN) anti-apartheid activities and campaigns from 1985 to 1990. Particularly represented in the series are: the Shell boycott, which included pickets at Shell stations and a successful proposal for the Vancouver City Council to boycott the City buying Shell products for its vehicles; and AAN's purchase of a billboard at the intersection of Broadway and Cambie for Nelson Mandela's 70th birthday, as well as a birthday party that shut down the streets with its several hundred attendees. Other actions undertaken by AAN are also represented, including boycotts, protests, letter-writing campaigns, speaker events, and workshops.

Series consists of newspaper clippings, memoranda, flyers and leaflets, notes, posters, pins, photographs, reports, and other material created as part of organizing AAN activities and evaluating the public response.

Physical description: 22.5 cm of textual records and other material

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Series consists of 22.5 cm of textual records, 22 pins, 16 photographs, 1 negative, 1 audio cassette, and 1 banner.

| File / item list | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-01 | File - Mandela 70th Birthday DEMO + Billboard, May 1988 [July 1988] | 1988 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-01-PH-01 to 06 | Item - Protests/Strikes (Misc.): Mandela Birthday Billboard [photographs and negative] | 1988 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-06 | File - National Anti-Apartheid Network | 1989-1990, predominant 1990 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-07 | File - 1990 Activities | 1990 | | |

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|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-08 | File - 1989 Activities | 1989 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-08-PH-07 | Item - ZIAD DEMO ACST. S.A. WINE [photograph] | [1989?] |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-09 | File - 1988 Activities | 1988 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-09-PH-08 to 14 | Item - [South African Women's Day, Vancouver : photographs] | [1988?] |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-10 | File - Activities 1987 | 1986-1987, predominant 1987 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-11 | File - Parallel Commonwealth Conference | 1987 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-12 | File - Activities 1986 (folder 1 of 2) | 1986 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-13 | File - Activities 1986 (folder 2 of 2) | 1985-1986, predominant 1986 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-14 | File - Activities 1985 | 1985, 1987 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-01-15 | File - Press Council Complaint | 1987-1988 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-01 | File - Boycott Lists - South Africa | [1989?]-1991 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-02 | File - Shell Boycott - Actions/Publicity (folder 1 of 2) | 1987-1990 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-03 | File - Shell Boycott - Actions/Publicity (folder 2 of 2) | 1987-1990 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-04 | File - Shell - Vancouver City Council | 1988-1991 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-05 | File - Shell's Propaganda Package | 1986-[1989?] |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-06 | File - Shell Boycott - Other Groups' Actions | [1987?]-1990 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-07 | File - Shell Boycott Ads | 1987 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-08 | File - Shell - Pledge Card | [1988?] |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-09 | File - Shell Boycott - Year 1 Report | Sep. 1988, 1989 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-10 | File - [Shell Boycott Radio Ads and Demonstration Photographs, Mandela and Anti-Apartheid Buttons] | [1987?]-1997 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-10-SPC-01 | Item - Shell Boycott Education Project: Celebrity Public Service Announcements | [between 1987? and 1991?] |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-10-PH-15 to 17 | Item - [Shell Boycott Demonstration : photographs] | [between 1987? and 1991?] |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-11 | File - Regional Wkshp. / National Conference Montreal | 1986-1987 |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-03-05 | File - CTF Wksp. For Union Editors - June/July 1990 | 1990 |

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|---------------------|--|------------------------------|
| RBSC-ARC-1867-05-01 | File - Anti Apartheid Posters | [between 1985? and 1990?] |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-06-01 | File - International Program table (Larry K.) / South Africa Posters | [between 1985? and 1990?] |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-07-01 | File - [Banner] | [between 1985? and 1990?] |

Publications, readings, and other materials

Date: [1981?]-[1997?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of material collected by AAN to inform its activities and keep up to date on the anti-apartheid movement. It includes newsletters, reports, and correspondence from other anti-apartheid groups, such as Canada–South Africa Cooperation, the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa (IDAFSA), and the South Africa Network. It also includes files with materials collected around particular subjects, such as education in South Africa or the Black Consciousness Movement.

Series consists of newspaper clippings, articles, newsletters, leaflets, reports, correspondence, video cassettes, and other material collected by AAN to stay apprised of the anti-apartheid movement's focuses, successes, and activities.

Physical description: 15.5 cm of textual records and other material

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Series consists of 15.5 cm of textual records, 3 pins, 2 video cassettes, and 1 negative

File / item list

| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| RBSC-ARC-1867-SPVT-01 | Item - Colouring in Our Classrooms - Education in South Africa | [1992?] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-SPVT-02 | Item - Colouring in Our Classrooms, Part II | [1997?] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-12 | File - South Africa - File copies/articles, misc. | 1987-1991 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-13 | File - South African Women's Day | [1981?]-1991 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-14 | File - Student Materials | [1985?]-[1987?] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-15 | File - IDAFSA - Canada, Vancouver Activity | 1986-1989 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-16 | File - IDAFSA Publications | 1989-1991 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1867-02-17 | File - Canada-South Africa Cooperation | 1991-1994 | | |

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|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| RBSC- ARC-1867-02-18 | File - ANC/PAC Divisions | [1986?]-1987 |
| RBSC- ARC-1867-02-19 | File - ANC/Black Consciousness - Readings | [copied 1985? (originally created 1955-1979?)], 1985-1988 |
| RBSC- ARC-1867-03-01 | File - South African Propaganda + Counter | 1985-1990 |
| RBSC- ARC-1867-03-02 | File - South Africa - Education Clippings | 1990 |
| RBSC- ARC-1867-03-03 | File - South Africa News Clippings | June-July 1990 |
| RBSC- ARC-1867-03-04 | File - Southern Africa Network Bulletin | 1988-1990 |
| RBSC- ARC-1867-03-06 | File - Namibia | [1988?]-[1989?] |
| RBSC- ARC-1867-03-06- PH-18 | Item - [Negative] | [1989?] |
| RBSC- ARC-1867-03-07 | File - Mozambique Materials | 1987-1990 |
| RBSC- ARC-1867-03-08 | File - South Africa Archive Materials - Misc. | 1990-1991 |