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ANC ARCHIVES

**BELGIAN MISSION**

RECORDS  
(1987-1994)  
119 Folders

ACQUISITION: ANC Archive Committee

ACCESS: The collection is open

PHOTOGRAPHS: In Box 7, Folders 63 and 64

VISUAL MATERIAL: Information on a film and video project is in Box 5, folder 37.

PRINTED MATERIAL: In box 14

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PROCESSED BY: Sadie Forman, June 1998

AMMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS BY: Xolani Malawana and Malefanye Mogale, June 2003

## **Belgian Mission**

### **History**

The Belgian Mission was among the earliest of the international offices opened by the African National Congress. As the site of the EEC (European Economic Community) or Common Market, and the Benelux (Belgium-Netherlands-Luxembourg) Economic Union, Brussels was seen to be an important location. The ANC mission formed close links early on with the ACP/EEC (African, Caribbean Pacific group of States) and the EEC.

However, in the absence of recorded information on the setting up of the Belgian Mission we have relied primarily on the report of Rose Motsepe, the ANC Women's representative in Western Europe who was based in Brussels from 1981-1987. Her report was presented to the ANC Women's Conference in Luanda, September 1987, and is located in Box 1 File 15 of the Belgian Mission. Her husband, Godfrey Motsepe, was appointed Chief Representative for the Benelux countries, based in Brussels. His work extended over Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and he worked closely with the Scandinavian countries, particularly Sweden, and with France. Godfrey became a central figure in ANC solidarity work in Europe, ably partnered by Rose.

Rose found her work in Belgium difficult at first due to the split between the Flemish and French speaking populations. This is reflected in the Anti-Apartheid Movement having two groups one of which was VAAK (Vlaamse Anti-Apartheidskoördinatie) as well as a very active Comité Contre Colonisation et l'Apartheid. The split affected women's groups, trade unions and political parties which led to each group operating separately and in turn complicated the work of the mission.

The conservative, reserved nature of Belgian people presented a challenge and the main support for the mission first came from CCCA and OXFAM.

Funding was extremely limited, as women's organisations were small and women were short of money. The missions were expected to raise funds **in situ** by building up support from sympathetic groups and individuals. Dutch solidarity was their mainstay.

However, with time, the work of the mission, much aided by the commitment of Rose Motsepe, bore fruit and requests for speakers, correspondence from organisations and individuals flowed into the office and diplomatic connections were built with the Embassies in the country. In December 1986 a "Seminar in Solidarity with South African Women and Children" was held in Brussels. The "Free the Children" campaign drew thousands of signatures which were handed into the South African Embassy in Brussels at a successful June 16th commemoration of the Soweto uprising; a gathering which brought together "both Flemish and French in an unusual display of cooperation.."

In 1989 Godfrey Motsepe left the mission. In November of that year, Ted Pekane took up his post as Chief Representative of the Belgian Mission. All the African Embassies in Belgium were included in the invitations to the reception. He held the post until 1991/92 when Sisa Ngombane took on the task of informing solidarity groups of the progress of negotiations towards democratic elections and the transformation of South Africa.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Belgian Mission papers of the ANC are stored in 15 boxes.

The papers are divided into 4 series: **Subject Files**, **Correspondence**, **Publications** and **Memorabilia**.

The **Subject Files** series I is the strongest in the collection consisting of 90 folders in Boxes 1 to 10. Subject matter reflected in this series includes ANC generated documents, reports of Conferences seminars, speeches as well as information from ANC and Belgian Mission connected organizations, miscellaneous papers from the European Community, COSATU, interviews, invitations and the like. It also has papers from the multi-party negotiations, NGO's, photographs, press cuttings, projects, reports and some United Nations documents.

The **Correspondence** series II is held in Boxes 11 to 13, folders 1 to 1 to 15. It consists of Mission letters to and from ANC offices in Africa, Anti-Apartheid movements, EEC institutions as well as faxes received and invitations.

**Publications** in series III, are held in Box 14. The series contains folders 1 to 15 and consists of miscellaneous Anti-Apartheid magazines and periodicals.

**Memorabilia**, comprising series IV, are contained in Box 15 (oversize) and consist of items such as flags, badges, stickers, ANC cloth and slides.

### **Box 1**

#### **Series I – Subject Files**

Folder

1. ACP (African, Caribbean, Pacific Group), 1988-1994
2. Agreement between the ANC and the Government, 1992
3. ANC Guidelines for a Democratic South Africa, 1992
4. ANC Memos/Circular (1), 1990-1992
5. ANC Memos/Circular (2), 1989-1993
6. ANC National Conference 1991, 1990-1991
7. ANC Policy/Discussion Documents (1), 1989-1991
8. ANC Policy/Discussion Documents (2), 1990-1992

### **Box 2**

9. ANC Seminars/Workshops, 1989-1990
10. ANC Speeches (1), 1989-1993
11. ANC Speeches (2), 1990-1993
12. ANC Statements/declarations, 1990-1992
13. ANC Women's League, 1991
14. ANC Youth League, 1991
15. Anti-Apartheid Movement Publications, 1989-1992
16. AWEPA, 1990-1992
17. Belgian Government, 1993

### **Box 3**

18. Broadcasting, n.d.
19. CODESA. 1989-1992
20. Commonwealth News Release, 1991-1993
21. Conferences (1), 1990-1991
22. Conferences (2), 1985-1993
23. Contracts/Agreements, 1991-1994
24. Constitutional Court, 1991
25. COSATU (1), 1988-1989

### **Box 4**

26. COSATU (2), 1987-1991
27. COSATU (3), 1987-1988
28. Council of European Communities, 1991-1993

- 29. Cultural Academic Boycott, n.d.
- 30. Directory, 1989-1990
- 31. Education, 1988-1992
- 32. Elections, 1994
- 33. European Community Observer Mission in South Africa, 1992-1993

#### **Box 5**

- 34. European Community, 1989-1994
- 35. European Community Statements/Declarations, 1990-1992
- 36. European Multilateral Conference, 1993-1994
- 37. Film/Video, 1988-1990
- 38. Finance Department, 1990
- 39. Groote Schuur/Pretoria Minutes, 1990
- 40. Hani, Chris, 1993
- 41. International Reception Committee, 1990
- 42. Interviews, 1990
- 43. Invitations, 1990-1991
- 44. Joint Statements, 1990-1991
- 45. Land Issue, 1991

#### **Box 6**

- 46. Levelling the Playing Field, 1993
- 47. LOME Convention, 1990-1992
- 48. Mandela, Nelson (1), 1990-1993
- 49. Mandela, Nelson (2), 1990-1993
- 50. Maps, n.d.
- 51. Mayibuye Centre, 1992
- 52. Minutes, 1990-1991
- 53. Miscellaneous, 1988-1994
- 54. Multi-Party Negotiations, 1991
- 55. NGO's, 1989-1991

#### **Box 7**

- 56. Nofomela, A, 1989
- 57. OAU, 1987-1989
- 58. Papers (1), 1989-1992
- 59. Papers (2), 1990-1993
- 60. Paris Statement, 1991
- 61. Patriotic Front, 1991
- 62. Peace, 1991-1993
- 63. Photographs/Postcard (1), 1989-1990
- 64. Photographs/Postcards (2), 1990-1993
- 65. Political Prisoners, 1991

#### **Box 8**

- 66. Press Cuttings (1), 1990-1991
- 67. Press Cuttings (2), 1989-1994
- 68. Programmes/Itinerary, 1990-1992
- 69. Projects (1), n.d.
- 70. Projects (2), 1990
- 71. Reports (1), 1989
- 72. Reports (2), 1990-1991
- 73. Reports (3), 1990
- 74. Reports (4), 1990-1993

75. Reports (5), 1989-1994

76. Reports (6), 1989-1990

77. Reports (7), 1989-1993

78. Research – Education, 1988-1989

79. Sanctions, 1990-1991

80. SA Government Publications, 1990

81. SANSKO, 1990-1991

82. SARDC, 1989-1991

#### Box 10

83. Speeches (1), 1990-1994

84. Speeches (2),, 1990-1993

85. Thebe, 1992

86. Trade, 1992

87. Trades Unions, 1974-1989

88. United Nations: Communique, 1991

89. United Nations: Elections. 1994

90. Zabalaza, 1990

#### Box 11

##### Series II – Correspondence

Folder

1. AAM/AWEPAA, 1990-1993

2. ANC to ANC (1), 1990-1994

3. ANC to ANC (2), 1990-1994

4. ANC to ANC (3), 1990-1991

5. Anti-Apartheid Movements, 1990-1993

6. Correspondence (1), 1990-1993

#### Box 12

7. Correspondence (2), 1990-1993

8. Correspondence (3), 1989-1992

9. Education, 1990

10. EEC Special Programme/SANAM (1), 1989-1990

#### Box 13

11. EEC Special Programme/SANAM (2), 1990

12. EEC Institutions, 1990-1992

13. Faxes Received (1), 1990-1993

14. Faxes Received (2), 1990-1993

15. Invitations, Embassies,, OAU, ACP, 1991-1993

#### Box 14

##### Series III – Publications

Folder

1. Africa Watch, 1991

2. Anti-Apartheid Beweging, 1990

3. AWEPA, 1991-1992

4. Financial Times Survey, 1993

5. International Mobilisation Against Apartheid, 1990

6. National Committee Against Removals (NCAR), 1990

7. Newsletter – Oil Embargo, 1991-1993

8. Non a l'Apartheid, 1992-1993

9. SASPU National, 1989

10. Southscan, 1991

11. SWAPO Publication, 1984

12. Umla, Focus, 1991

13. Discussion Documents (1), n.d.
14. Discussion Documents (2), 1990, 1992

**Box 15 (Oversize)**

**Series IV – Memorabilia**

Posters

Stickers

Badges

ANC printed cloths

Slides