



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Republic of New Africa collection

1972-1980

Sc MG 167

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Republic of New Africa (Organization)

Title: Republic of New Africa collection

Date: 1972-1980

Size: 0.01 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Edwards, Larry L, 1980Edwards, Mercer Donahue, 03/29/86

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

Abstract: The Republic of New Africa (RNA; also spelled Republic of New Afrika) was an African American separatist group founded in 1968. The Republic of New Africa collection includes a photocopy of the proposal "Anti-Depression Program of the Republic of New Africa to end Poverty, Dependence, Cultural Malnutrition, and Crime among Black People in the United States and Promote Inter-Racial Peace," letters written by Larry L. Edwards, a map, and two flyers.

Preferred citation: [Item], Republic of New Africa collection, Sc MG 167, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

The Republic of New Africa (RNA; also spelled Republic of New Afrika) was an African American separatist group founded in 1968. Among its demands was that the United States Government should set aside five southern states—Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana and South Carolina—for the establishment of an African-American republic. The first African community was established in 1970 in Jackson, Mississippi. Iman Abubakari Obadele was named president of the republic. In 1971, a 20-acre tract of land in Hinds County, Mississippi, was proclaimed the capital of the nation. A police and Federal Bureau of Investigation raid on the headquarters in 1971 left the group in disarray. It later moved its headquarters to Washington, D.C. In 1984, the national membership was between 5,000 and 10,000 individuals.

Scope and Content Note

The Republic of New Africa collection includes a photocopy of the proposal "Anti-Depression Program of the Republic of New Africa to End Poverty, Dependence, Cultural Malnutrition, and Crime among Black People in the United States and Promote Inter-Racial Peace. Presented for enactment to both Houses of the United States Congress, March 1972." There are also eleven letters (1979-1980) written by Larry L. Edwards, consulate captain of the Brooklyn, New York office of the RNA to the following individuals: the U.S. Secretary of State demanding reparations from the U.S. Government for the RNA; the Consul of the Iran Mission to the United Nations regarding the American hostages in Iran and requesting foreign aid for the RNA from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries; the Consulate of Egypt concerning the Shah of Iran; the Consulate of Israel regarding an Israeli nuclear test in Africa; and the Consulate of South Africa pertaining to the unionization of South African Black workers. A map illustrating the consolidation of Africa as proposed by the RNA and two flyers complete the collection.

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Politics and government
African Americans -- Societies, etc
Black nationalism -- United States

Geographic Names

United States -- Race relations

Names

Edwards, Larry L.
Republic of New Africa (Organization)