



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

Guide to the

Constituency for Africa collection

1986-1995

Sc MG 641

Processed by Lauren Stark, June 2022.

Summary

Creator: Constituency for Africa

Title: Constituency for Africa collection

Date: 1986-1995

Size: 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of Gloria Dickerson, 1998.

Abstract: The Constituency for Africa (CFA) collection mostly consists of subject files; there are a few CFA-generated materials, including a proposal for establishing a 501(c)(3) organization, a position paper on U.S. policies in Africa, a draft proposal for an organizational structure and budget, printed matter (flyers and a press release), and correspondence. The rest of the material, arranged alphabetically, includes printed matter (press releases, clippings, and speeches) and some correspondence on various African organizations (such as the African National Congress, Boeing, and Citibank), individuals (such as F. W. de Klerk and Alan Boesak), programs (including the White House Conference on Africa and a Duke University symposium on Africa), and topics (such as apartheid and disinvestment). Most of the subject files are about the political situation in South Africa and cover the years 1989-1990. It is unclear if CFA participated in the events described in some of these files; there are handwritten notes in a few, including the Duke University symposium on Africa and the Association of American Publishing book boycott folders, so it is possible that they were involved in some way. The original folder titles for the subject files have been retained.

Preferred citation: [Item], Constituency for Africa collection, Sc MG 641, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Lauren Stark, June 2022.

Creator History

The Constituency for Africa (CFA) was founded in 1990, when a group of concerned Africanists,

interested citizens, and Africa-focused organizations developed a strategy to build organized support for Africa in the United States. Since its founding, the Constituency for Africa (CFA) has established itself as the foremost organization in the United States committed to educating and mobilizing the U.S. public on matters pertaining to Africa. CFA has become a leader in shaping U.S.-Africa policy in key areas, including curbing the AIDS pandemic in Africa and increasing trade between the U.S. and Africa. CFA regularly meets with ambassadors and officials from Congress, the White House, the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank, regarding U.S.-Africa policy issues. CFA also conducts town hall meetings, which cover topics such as business, trade and investment, human rights, culture, governance, media, democracy, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. These meetings have been held in more than thirty cities and have attracted nearly 15,000 participants.

CFA also founded and sponsors the annual Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series which is held in conjunction with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Legislative Week each September. The series honors the late U.S. Commerce Secretary for his accomplishments in building strategic political, economic, and cultural linkages between the United States and Africa. Additionally, CFA conducts an award winning college/university intern program on African policy issues. CFA has been credited with fostering grassroots mobilization to spur the successful passage of two historic pieces of American legislation affecting the continent of Africa: the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which has assisted the economies of sub-Saharan Africa and improved economic relations between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa, and the Global AIDS Trust Fund.

Scope and Content Note

The Constituency for Africa (CFA) collection mostly consists of subject files; there are a few CFA-generated materials, including a proposal for establishing a 501(c)(3) organization, a position paper on U.S. policies in Africa, a draft proposal for an organizational structure and budget, printed matter (flyers and a press release), and correspondence. The rest of the material, arranged alphabetically, includes printed matter (press releases, clippings, and speeches) and some correspondence on various African organizations (such as the African National Congress, Boeing, and Citibank), individuals (such as F. W. de Klerk and Alan Boesak), programs (including the White House Conference on Africa and a Duke University symposium on Africa), and topics (such as apartheid and disinvestment). Most of the subject files are about the political situation in South Africa and cover the years 1989-1990. It is unclear if CFA participated in the events described in some of these files; there are handwritten notes in a few, including the Duke University symposium on Africa and the Association of American Publishing book boycott folders, so it is possible that they were involved in some way. The original folder titles for the subject files have been retained.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American college students
African diaspora
HIV infections -- Prevention
International relations
International trade
Nonprofit organizations

Geographic Names

United States -- Foreign relations -- Africa

Names

African Union

Constituency for Africa

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 "Expanding the Constituency for Africa: An Outline for the Organizational Structure, Programs, and Budget of CFA" draft 1993 February
- b. 1 f. 2 CFA policy paper, "U.S. Policy toward Africa: An African-American Agenda," State Department briefing 1993 April 15
- b. 1 f. 3 Fields, Nate. Prospectus for Establishing the Constituency for Africa as a Viable 501(c)(3) Organization 1993 October 21
- b. 1 f. 4 CFA correspondence and notes 1993-1995
- b. 1 f. 5 CFA printed matter 1993
Subject files
- b. 1 f. 6 Africa Watch 1989
African National Congress (ANC)
- b. 1 f. 7 Freedom Charter 1995 June
- b. 1 f. 8 Government talks 1990 May-August
- b. 1 f. 9 Leaked intelligence report by Conservative Party 1990 April 18
- b. 1 f. 10 Peace pact with Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) 1990 June-August
- b. 1 f. 11 Plans on law, business, and emancipation of women 1990 May-September
Includes speech by Nelson Mandela.
- b. 1 f. 12 78th Anniversary Statement 1990 January 8
- b. 1 f. 13 Slovo controversy 1990 August 6
- b. 1 f. 14 Tambo, Oliver 1990 January
- b. 1 f. 15 Amnesty International 1988-1989
- b. 1 f. 16 Anglo American Corporation of South Africa 1990 June-July
- b. 1 f. 17 Apartheid 1989 February
- b. 1 f. 18 Association of American Publishers book boycott, South Africa 1988-1989
Includes handwritten notes.
- b. 1 f. 19 Biographies 1990
Includes biographies of Carole Collins, Nicholas Haysom, Tsietsi Mashinini, and Willies Mehunuu.
- b. 1 f. 20 Boeing 1986-1990
- b. 1 f. 21 Boesak, Alan 1990
- b. 1 f. 22 Carnegie Corporation study on poverty in South Africa, Duke University symposium on strategies for change ca. 1989
Includes script outlines for what was segment two of a TV or film series.
- b. 1 f. 23 Clinton administration, "Building a Full Partnership" 1993 September
- b. 1 f. 24 Citibank 1988-1989
Includes handwritten notes.
- b. 1 f. 25 Coetzee, Dirk Johannes 1989
- b. 1 f. 26 Conference for a Democratic Future, South Africa 1989 December
- b. 1 f. 27 De Klerk, F. W 1990 February-May
Includes reactions to his February speech and information on his tour of Europe and the U.S., the latter of which was cancelled.
- b. 1 f. 28 Defiance Campaign, South Africa 1989 July-October
- b. 1 f. 29 Disinvestment 1989-1990

Subject files (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 30 Domestic workers, South Africa 1989
- b. 1 f. 31 *Durban News* 1989 June-July
Includes correspondence.
- b. 1 f. 32 Eastern Europe and South Africa 1990
- b. 1 f. 33 Fassie, Brenda 1990
Songwriter and niece of Nelson Mandela; her song, "Black President," was banned by the South African government. Includes a handwritten transcript of an interview.
- b. 1 f. 34 Mahlathini and the Mahotella Queens (South African music group) 1988-1989
- b. 1 f. 35 Namibia election assignment 1989 October
Includes schedule and interview questions.
- b. 2 f. 1 Organization of African Unity (OAU) and African American membership 1989
Includes correspondence.
- b. 2 f. 2 Papers and speeches 1993
Includes papers and speeches by Kwame Ansah, George B. N. Ayittey, Chakufwa Chihana, and Etienne Tshisekedi wa Mulumba.
- b. 2 f. 3 Qoboza, Percy 1988
South Africa
- b. 2 f. 4 Crossroads camp ca. 1989-1990
- b. 2 f. 5 Editorials 1990
- b. 2 f. 6 Elections '89 1989-1990
- b. 2 f. 7 Elephant massacre 1989
- b. 2 f. 8 Environment 1990
- b. 2 f. 9 Exiles 1991
- b. 2 f. 10 South Africa Financial Sanctions for Democracy Amendment Act of 1989
1990
Includes summary and guide.
- b. 2 f. 11 South African Council of Churches (SACC) 1990
- b. 2 f. 12 South African Defence Force survey on national service 1987
- b. 2 f. 13 Sullivan, Leon H undated
- b. 2 f. 14 White House Conference on Africa 1994 June
Includes statements, schedule, and printed matter.