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Guide to the

South Africa conspiracy trial decision collection

1984-1988

Sc MG 562

Summary

Title: South Africa conspiracy trial decision collection

Date: 1984-1988

Size: 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Unknown, but possibly from J. Wayne Fredericks or his wife, Anne Curtis Fredericks; the index includes his signature, so this document might have been his copy.

Abstract: In 1984-1985, during a State of Emergency in South Africa, the apartheid government banned AZAPO and other Black Consciousness movements for the second time. The apartheid government became notorious for its use of State of Emergencies in an attempt to exert complete control over Black, Colored, and Indian South Africans. The apartheid government's complete clamp-down of citizens' rights resulted in the numerous house arrests of influential anti-apartheid leaders, and the detaining of 2346 people under the Internal Security Act, in the attempts of ending internal resistance to the state's power. Under the State of Emergency, the apartheid government militarized and heavily policed all aspects of South African society-- which heightened feelings of mutual tension, paranoia, and distrust between South Africans. Though effective in disrupting a number of anti-apartheid organizations by arresting a number of their leaders, the State of Emergency was not effective in "governing the ungovernable" townships, as violent protests and fierce resistance continued against the state. The Delmas Treason Trial, held in December 1988 in South Africa, accused 22 individuals, including Baleka Kgositsle, Popo Molefe, Patrick "Terror" Lekota, and Moses Chikane, of treason. This trial was the longest running political trial in South Africa's history. It focused on the activities of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the largest organization in South Africa opposing apartheid by peaceful means. The convictions and harsh sentences delivered made it a "crime" to participate or take a leadership role in the movement of peaceful opposition to apartheid. This collection consists of a photocopy of the decision of the South Africa conspiracy trial in 1988. The records include references to, and police reports on the Release Mandela Campaign of the 1980s, Rivonia, and campaigns for the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners. The records also include state prosecution assessments of witness statements.

Preferred citation: [Item], South Africa conspiracy trial decision collection, Sc MG 562, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Related Materials:

See also Collection 107-South Africa Conspiracy Trial, Mandela materials, Nelson Mandela Foundation Archive, accessed August 21, 2020 <https://archive.nelsonmandela.org/index.php/za-com-mm-107>.

Creator History

In 1984-1985, during a State of Emergency in South Africa, the apartheid government banned AZAPO and other Black Consciousness movements for the second time. The apartheid government became notorious for its use of State of Emergencies in an attempt to exert complete control over Black, Colored, and Indian South Africans. The apartheid government's complete clamp-down of citizens' rights resulted in the numerous house arrests of influential anti-apartheid leaders, and the detaining of 2346 people under the Internal Security Act, in the attempts of ending internal resistance to the state's power. Under the State of Emergency, the apartheid government militarized and heavily policed all aspects of South African society-- which heightened feelings of mutual tension, paranoia, and distrust between South Africans. Though effective in disrupting a number of anti-apartheid organizations by arresting a number of their leaders, the State of Emergency was not effective in "governing the ungovernable" townships, as violent protests and fierce resistance continued against the state. The Delmas Treason Trial, held in December 1988 in South Africa, accused 22 individuals, including Baleka Kgositsle, Popo Molefe, Patrick "Terror" Lekota, and Moses Chikane, of treason. This trial was the longest running political trial in South Africa's history. It focused on the activities of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the largest organization in South Africa opposing apartheid by peaceful means. The convictions and harsh sentences delivered made it a "crime" to participate or take a leadership role in the movement of peaceful opposition to apartheid.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of a photocopy of the decision of the South Africa conspiracy trial in 1988. The records include references to, and police reports on the Release Mandela Campaign of the 1980s, Rivonia, and campaigns for the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners. The records also include state prosecution assessments of witness statements.

Arrangement: Organized according to the arrangement of the index (titles have been shortened, in some cases); more than one listing might be included in individual folders.

Key Terms

Subjects

Anti-apartheid movements
Apartheid
Political parties -- South Africa
South Africa -- Social conditions
Trials (Sedition) -- South Africa

Geographic Names

South Africa

Names

Lekota, Patrick

Mandela, Nelson, 1918-2013

Molefe, Popo Simon, 1952-

African National Congress

Azanian People's Organization

United Democratic Front (South Africa)

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Situation in the Republic of South Africa (cont.)

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Individual accused (cont.)

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