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Inventory

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Scottish National Party Papers, 1963-1998

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Papers of the Scottish National Party
1963-1998
Fonds
3.58 m (31 boxes)

The Scottish National Party was formed in 1934 as a result of a merger between the National Party of Scotland and the Scottish Party. Throughout the 1930s the SNP was divided between rival factions which each sought to establish its preferred political objective (independence or devolution) and strategy (contesting elections or pressure group campaigning) as party policy. As a result the party was unable to contest more than a handful of seats. A collapse of party discipline in the mid-1930s meant that each section of the organization was more or less free to pursue its own agenda. The SNP faced an uphill struggle in the 1940s and 1950s. However, the trend was reversed in the mid-1960s. An influx of new and gifted members meant that the party was in better organisational shape than Labour, which had ossified into local government fiefdoms. Improvements in the numbers of seats contested in the general elections of 1964 and 1966, and good results in the Pollok by-election in March and the local elections of May 1967 showed that the SNP was growing in strength. The nationalist victory at the Hamilton by-election in November 1967 boosted the party's electoral prospects, which were confirmed when they achieved 30 per cent of the vote in the 1968 local elections. The party continued on the way up during the early 1970s. However, devolution remained a divisive issue, as evidenced by the 1979 referendum result and the fact that the SNP lost over a third of its vote in the general election of 1979. During the early 1980s the party came into a period of introspective infighting which damaged its electoral prospects at the 1983 general election. Although it had recovered by the late 1980s, the party was unable to improve its performance in the 1992 election. Under the leadership of Alex Salmond the SNP moved to promote a positive case for Scottish independence based on the nation's good economic performance. In 1997 the party increased its share of the vote. Proportional representation in the devolved Scottish Parliament ensured that the SNP became the principal opposition party in Scotland. In the 2007 May election the SNP obtained 47 seats in the Scottish Parliament, which enabled Alex Salmond to form a government.

The collection consists of agendas, minutes and organisation records of the Scottish National Party (1963-1998). It also contains Secretary's and National Convener's correspondence (1967-1981); papers and correspondence relating to the Oil Campaign (1971-1975); papers concerning the youth branch of the SNP (c. 1980s-1987); miscellaneous materials and newscuttings.

Duplicate material has been weeded and has been disposed of with permission from the SNP. Some annotated duplicate copies of minutes and agendas have been retained.

Written permission from SNP Headquarters will be required to access papers relating to the National Executive Committee, or any other internal party bodies or committees, if the material is less than ten years old (Edinburgh Headquarters, SNP, 107 MacDonald Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4NW; Tel: 0131 525 8900; Fax 0131 525 8901; www.snp.org). Some correspondence files are closed under Data Protection Act.

For any restrictions on reproduction of materials refer to Deposit Agreement in Manuscripts Division.

Deposited, 2001, by the Director of Administration of the SNP.

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1-26 NATIONAL COUNCIL, 1964-1979

1. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1964-March 1964
2. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1965-September 1965.
3. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1966-December 1966.
4. Agendas, minutes and related papers, February 1967-December 1967.
5. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1968-November 1968.
6. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1969-December 1969.
7. Agendas, minutes and related papers, April 1970-December 1970.
8. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1971-December 1971.
9. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1972-December 1972.

10. Agendas, minutes and related papers, April 1973-December 1973.
11. Agendas, minutes and related papers, April 1974-December 1974.
12. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1975-December 1975.
13. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1976-December 1976.
14. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1977-December 1977.
15. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1978-December 1978.
16. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1979-December 1979.
17. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1980-December 1980.
18. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1981-December 1981.
19. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1982-December 1982.
20. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1983-December 1983.
21. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1984-December 1984.
22. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1985-December 1985.
23. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1986-December 1986.
24. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1987-December 1987.
25. Index of minutes, June 1969-May 1976.
26. Index of minutes, June 1977-March 1979.

27-52 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1965-1988

27. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1965-December 1965.
28. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1966-December 1966.
29. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1967-December 1967.
30. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1968-December 1968.
31. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1969-December 1969.
32. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1970-December 1970.
33. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1971-December 1971.
34. Agendas, minutes and related papers. Includes a bundle of miscellaneous papers concerning meetings of the National Executive Committee, January 1972-December 1972.

35. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1973-December 1973.
36. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1974-December 1974.
37. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1975-December 1975.
38. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1976-December 1976.
39. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1977-December 1977.
40. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1978-December 1978.
41. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1979-December 1979.
42. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1980-December 1980.
43. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1981-December 1981.
44. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1982-December 1982.
45. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1983-December 1983.
46. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1984-December 1984.
47. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1985-December 1985.
48. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1986-December 1986.
49. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1987-December 1987.
50. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1988-December 1988.
51. Index of minutes, 1968-1974.
52. Index of minutes, 1977-1984.

53-63 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE ASSEMBLY, 1968-1971 and National Assembly, 1971-1982

53. Agendas, minutes and related papers, June 1968-October 1968.
54. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1969-December 1969.
55. Agendas, minutes and related papers, February 1970-November 1970.
56. Agendas, minutes and related papers, March 1971-October 1971.
57. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1972-September 1973.
58. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1975-November 1975.
59. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1976-November 1976.

60. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1977-November 1977.
61. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1978-December 1980.
62. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1981-December 1982.
63. Policy Committees, agendas, minutes and related papers, 1968-1969. Includes:
 - A) *Arts Policy Committee*, n.d. [c. 1968].
Agriculture and Horticulture Policy Committee, August 1968-May 1969.
Broadcasting Policy Committee, August 1968-June 1969.
Constitution Policy Committee, November 1968.
Defence and External Affairs Policy Committee, February 1969-August 1969.
Education Policy Committee, August 1968-February 1969.
External Affairs Policy Committee, August 1968-November 1968.
 - B) *Finance and Taxation Policy Committee*, June 1968-September 1969.
 - C) *Forestry Policy Committee*, July 1968-April 1969.
Health Services Policy Committee, October 1968-April 1969.
Housing Policy Committee, August 1968-September 1968.
Industrial Development Policy Committee, October 1968-March 1969.
 - D) *Local Government Policy Committee*, March 1967-April 1969.
Manpower and Employment Policy Committee, August 1968-November 1968.
Natural Resources Policy Committee, October 1968-February 1969.
 - E) *Transport Policy Committee*, August 1968-December 1968.
Welfare and Community Services Policy Committee, August 1968-December 1968.

64-73 GENERAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE, 1970-1998

64. Agendas, minutes and related papers, September 1970-December 1972.
65. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1973-December 1975.
66. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1976-December 1977.
67. Minutes and related papers, January 1980-December 1982.
68. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1983-December 1985.

- 69. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1986-December 1989.
- 70. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1990-November 1993.
- 71. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1994-June 1998. [Restricted until 1 January 2009]
- 72. Index of minutes, 1970-1976.
- 73. Index of minutes, 1977-1979.

74-77 PARTY COMMITTEES, 1963-1970

- 74. Memorandum concerning circulation of agendas, minutes and notices calling meetings of various party committees, December 1963.
- 75. Agendas, minutes and related papers, 1965-1968. Includes:
 - A) *Conference Committee*, November 1967.
Economics and Information Committee, includes signed minutes, September 1966-November 1967.
Election Committee, January 1967-December 1967.
Electoral Planning Committee, April 1967-December 1967.
Foreign Affairs Committee, October 1967-January 1968.
Foreign Affairs Department, December 1967.
 - B) *Organisation Committee*, includes signed minutes, February 1965-December 1967.
 - C) *Publicity Committee*, includes signed minutes, September 1966-December 1967
Vice-chairmen Meetings, November 1966.
- 76. Agendas, minutes and related papers. Includes:
 - A) *Economics and Information Department*, February 1968. Includes Balance of Central Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland, 1964-1965.
Election Committee, January 1968-March 1968.
Electoral Planning Committee, December 1967-March 1968.
Foreign Affairs Committee, January 1968-April 1968.
 - B) *Land Use and Agriculture Committee*, March 1968.
Organisation Committee, January 1968-May 1968.
Publicity Committee (Central Belt, North-East, North), January 1968-April 1968.
- 77. Agendas, minutes and related papers. Includes:
 - A) *Appeals Committee*, May 1969.
Campaigns Department, September 1968-January 1970.

Committee on Submissions to the Constitutional Commission,
December 1969.

Election Committee, July 1968-April 1970.

Electoral Planning Committee, July 1968-December 1969.

- B) *Finance Committee,* August 1968-March 1970.
Demonstrations Committee, September 1969-April 1970.
- C) *Organisation Committee,* May 1968-November 1970.
- D) *Publicity Committee (Central Belt, North, South),* July 1968-May 1969.
Party Political Broadcasts Sub-committee, August 1968.

78 STANDING ORDERS AND AGENDA COMMITTEE, 1990-1995

78. Agendas, minutes and related papers, January 1990-July 1995.

79-85 COMMISSION OF INQUIRY COMMITTEE, 1983-1985

79. Agendas, minutes and related papers, October 1983-September 1985.
80. Correspondence concerning meetings in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Perth, Inverness and Ayr, February 1984-March 1984.
81. Written submissions, 1983-1984.
82. Correspondence and Related Papers, 1983-1985.
83. Report of the Commission of Inquiry, 15 August 1984.
84. Report of the Commission of Inquiry for the Special National Conference, 23 February 1985.
85. Report of the Special National Conference 1985 concerning the outcome of business of the agenda. Includes recommended amendments to the Report of the Commission of Inquiry, 12 March 1985.

86-91 NATIONAL SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE, 1967-1971 [*All files closed under Data Protection Act until 1 January 2072*]

86. Letter B, 31 July 1967-27 April 1971.
87. Letter D, 4 January 1968-11 May 1971.
88. Letter G, 10 January 1967-27 April 1971.
89. Letter H, 10 January 1967-12 May 1971.
90. Letter M, 5 January 1967-12 May 1971.
91. Letter Mc, 4 January 1968-12 May 1971.

92-95 CHAIRMAN AND NATIONAL CONVENER'S CORRESPONDENCE, 1988-1989 [*All files closed under Data Protection Act*]

92. Chairman's correspondence, January 1988-June 1988 [*closed until 1 January 2089*].

- 93. Chairman's correspondence, July 1988-December 1988 [*closed until 1 January 2089*].
- 94. National convener's correspondence, January 1989-April 1989 [*closed until 1 January 2090*].
- 95. National convener's correspondence, May 1989-December 1989 [*closed until 1 January 2090*].

96-102 OIL CAMPAIGN, 1971-1975 [*All files closed under Data Protection Act*]

- 96. Correspondence and related papers, 1971-1975 [*closed until 1 January 2076*].
- 97. Correspondence, papers, news cuttings and ephemera, 1971-1975 [*closed until 1 January 2076*].
- 98. Correspondence and related papers, 1972 [*closed until 1 January 2073*].
- 99. Correspondence and related papers, 1972-1973 [*closed until 1 January 2074*].
- 100. Correspondence, 1973 [*closed until 1 January 2074*].
- 101. Correspondence and related papers, 1973-1974 [*closed until 1 January 2075*].
- 102. Correspondence and related papers, 1975-1976 [*closed until 1 January 2077*].

103-105 YOUNG SCOTTISH NATIONALISTS/CLANN ALBA, c. 1980s-1987 [*Some files closed under Data Protection Act*]

- 103. Constitution rules, c. 1980s.
- 104. Correspondence, reports, lists of branch contacts and ephemera, 1981-1983 [*closed until 1 January 2084*].
- 105. Correspondence, reports and ephemera, 1984-1987 [*closed until 1 January 2088*].

106-114 MISCELLANEOUS, 1963-1987

- 106. Report on organisation of the National Executive Committee, 1963.
- 107. Correspondence and reports concerning internal organisation of the Scottish National Party, 1966-1969.
- 108. Constitutional Commission for Scotland, correspondence, reports and related papers, 1966-1972.
- 109. Special National Conference, correspondence and related papers, 23 February 1985.
- 110. Research Department, bulletins and discussion papers, 1969-1974.
- 111. Association of Scottish Nationalist Trade Unions, correspondence and related papers, 1977-1982.
- 112. Plaid Cymru and Scottish National Party joint meetings, correspondence and related papers, 1976-1987.
- 113. Printed report of the Plaid Cymru Commission of Inquiry, 1981.
- 114. Annual National Conference, programmes, 1965-1968.

115 PRESS CUTTINGS, 1966-1972

115. Press cuttings relating to Scottish nationalism, 1966-1972.