Inventory

Acc.13099

Gordon Wilson (b.1938), Scottish National Party Politician
Dr Gordon Wilson, Scottish Nationalist politician and lawyer, was born in 1938. He was co-founder of Radio Free Scotland and Secretary of the Scottish National Party during the 1960s. Dr Wilson was a Member of Parliament for the Dundee East constituency (1974-1987). He was senior Vice-Chairman of the SNP (1973-1974) and parliamentary energy spokesman. He was Vice-Chairman for Oil (1972-1973), Director of the 'It’s Scotland’s Oil’ Campaign (1972-1976), Senior Vice-Chairman of the SNP (1973-1974), Deputy SNP Parliamentary Leader (1974-1979) and Chairman and National Convener from 1979 to 1990, when he was succeeded by Alex Salmond. Dr Wilson was Rector of the University of Dundee from 1984 to 1986.

The fonds consists of political correspondence and papers documenting Dr Gordon Wilson’s long political career and activities in the Scottish National Party from 1964 to 2000. The first two series include his political correspondence from 1964 to 1990. There is also a small series of papers and correspondence concerning the ‘Scottish Oil’ campaign (1972-1978). The Scottish National Party Groups series includes papers and correspondence relating to ‘Siol Nan Gaidheal’ and the ’79 Group’, and the disbandment of these groups in 1982-1983. The Scottish National Party organisation files (1979-1990) complement other organisational records included in Acc.11987. The fonds also contains correspondence, papers and memoranda on electoral matters (1978-1990), publicity campaigns (1983-1988), broadcasting issues (1983-1990), and the SNP’s role in the Scottish Constitutional convention (1988-1989). Furthermore, there is a very complete series of papers relating to the SNP Parliamentary Group (1967-1990). This series includes agendas, minutes, correspondence, voting records and a nearly complete run of the Parliamentary group’s newsletter from 1975 to 1989. The last series consists of SNP publications and miscellaneous briefing documents (1986-1995).

All the papers donated by Dr Wilson have been retained. Duplicates have been weeded with permission of the donor.

The fonds has been arranged into twelve series which reflect the major political activities of the creator over the years:

15-16  Chairman’s correspondence, 1988-1990.
17-18  Oil correspondence, 1972-1978.

Data Protection principles apply to some files.


Presented 2009


22. Disbandment of groups, correspondence and related papers, 1983 [Access restricted, DPA principles apply].


35. Correspondence, reports, memoranda and clippings relating to SNP strategy, 1980–1981.

36. Correspondence, reports and memoranda relating to SNP’s strategy and to relations between the SNP and the SNP Parliamentary group, 1981–1982.


38. Correspondence, reports and papers relating to SNP organisational issues, 1988–1990.


44. General Election 1983 review, correspondence and related papers, June–August 1983.


49-51 **SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, 1983–1988.**

49. Publicity campaign, correspondence and related literature, 1983.


52-56 **SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY BROADCASTING, 1983–1990.**


57-58 **SCOTTISH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, 1988–1989.**


58. Correspondence chiefly from individuals in response to the SNP’s position on the Scottish Constitutional Convention, February 1989. [Access restricted, DPA principles apply].

59-67 **SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY MISCELLANEOUS FILES, c.1944–2000.**


64. SNP papers relating to strategy matters, 1999.

65. SNP general correspondence, 1999.

66. Memorandum, c. 1944-1945, and miscellaneous papers, 1995, relating to Arthur Donaldson’s detention by the police in May 1941 for his stance against conscription.


80. Papers and correspondence concerning the Queen’s Speech consultations, 1978.


94-109 PUBLICATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BRIEFING DOCUMENTS.

   (i) Inaugural lecture by Neal Ascherson, ‘Don’t be afraid and don’t steal!’, Dunoon, September 1986.


98. Scottish National Party Autumn Campaign 1989 briefing paper.


102. Scotland’s economic viability as an independent nation, n.d.

103. A presentation of main findings on a study of Scottish political attitudes, c.1986.

104. A tabulated report on Scottish political attitudes, October 1986.


