

ICS 109

University of Transkei, South Africa: Papers concerning student unrest

SUMMARY GUIDE

Repository	GB 101 Institute of Commonwealth Studies
Reference code	ICS 109
Dates of creation of material	1980-1984
Level of description	Collection
Extent	2 files
Name of creator	Possibly the University of Transkei Students' Representative Council.

Administrative history

The University of Transkei (UNITRA) was established in Umtata in 1976 at the request of the Government of the Transkei Homeland, initially as a branch of the University of Fort Hare. Its mission was to offer educational opportunities to the largely rural population, and to upgrade the qualifications of teachers and civil servants who hitherto had been denied the chance to attend higher education institutions by Apartheid policies. Legislation in 1976 provided for the establishment of an autonomous University, which officially opened in 1977. It experienced rapid expansion in the following decade.

During the 1980s, when resistance to the Apartheid regime was occurring throughout South Africa, there were several instances of demonstrations and unrest among the students at Transkei. The papers in this collection document some of these events.

Archival history

The files appear to originate from the Students' Representative Council at UNITRA, but the exact provenance is unknown.

Scope and content

Papers relating to student unrest at the University of Transkei in 1984, including documents produced by the administration and by student and staff representative organisations during the period of unrest, legal papers concerning court action brought by suspended students, and submissions to the ensuing Commission of Enquiry; and news cuttings relating to student unrest, 1980-1984.

System of arrangement	The papers have been retained in two files, as originally arranged
Access	Open
Copyright/copying conditions	Usual conditions
Language	English
Finding aids	A descriptive list is available in ICS Library
Date of description	16 Nov 2000

DESCRIPTIVE LIST

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| ICS 109/1 | Papers relating to a period of unrest at UNITRA in May 1984, including copies of correspondence and orders from the Principal and other members of the Administration, literature produced by the Students' Representative Council, and statements and other legal papers relating to court cases involving suspended students; together with copies of submissions to the ensuing Commission of Enquiry | 1984 |
| | <p>The events were triggered by the questioning of four students, and detention of two others, by security police. This led to the boycotting of classes by students in protest; all students were then ordered to leave the campus on 10 May 1984 and not to return until 14 May. Another boycott followed, as did further closures of the campus. Many students were arrested and detained, while several members of the SRC were suspended by the University, and four members of staff were deported from Transkei. Subsequent court cases involving some of the suspended students upheld their claims of wrongful suspension.</p> | |
| | 1 file | |
| ICS 109/2 | News cuttings relating to student unrest at UNITRA in 1980 and 1984 | 1980-1984 |
| | 1 file | |