

Findaid 2/050

A.0617

Sydow Newspaper Cuttings: Independence

1989-1990

National Archives of Namibia

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Described by Silke Neunsinger, 1994 (translated by W. Hillebrecht, 2018)

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Private Accession A.0617

Sydow newspaper cuttings: Independence

Introduction

Provenance and biographical note:

These newscuttings were collected by Wolfgang Sydow who donated them to the National Archives in 1994.

Wolfgang Sydow (1912-1998) was born at Berlin-Spandau, Germany. Immigrated to Namibia in 1936 to work as a farm manager. War internment in South Africa, 1940-1944. Repatriated to Germany in 1944. Returned to Namibia in 1951 to work as a farm manager, then from 1957-1977 for the CSIR. Served as a Secretary of the SWA Scientific Society 1978-1980. As a keen amateur historian and paleontologist, Sydow researched about Namibian prehistory and collected a wealth of documentary material on ethnography and historical subjects. The National Archives received several private accessions from him (*A.0299, A.0323, A.0343, A.0431, A.0494, A.0499, A.0531, A.0557, A.0617, A.0790, A.0849*).

Description of the material

The collection of newscuttings comprises of six boxes which can be divided in two groups.

The larger group (Boxes 1-4) covers the period of March 1989 to March 1990, until the independence celebrations. The material originates largely from Namibian newspapers, covering the entire press spectrum with a day-by-day overview of political developments.

It also contains articles from German newspapers (and, to a smaller extent, South African newspapers). The spectrum of German newspapers covers several leftwing, liberal, and mostly conservative and rightwing papers. This is a welcome addition to the other newscuttings collections covering the transition to independence available at the National Archives (*IDAF newscuttings A.0670, Facts and reports JZ/0218, United Nations Council for Namibia pressclippings AACRLS.048 B.4*).

Somewhat incongruently, the newscuttings also contain articles on German-Namibian festivities and traditions. Sydow appears to have selected everything affecting the situation of German-speaking Namibians.

The other two boxes (boxes 5-6) contain articles between 1984-1991 and are a medley of various political topics. They range from political developments in Namibia to the situation in South Africa and the fall of the Berlin Wall. They also contain articles about the Namibian children returned from the GDR ("GDR-kids"), the Gulf War, tourism, German carnival in Windhoek, the German private school (DHPS), year-end reviews of German newspapers and portraits of personalities.

Silke Neunsinger (1994)
adapted translation by W. Hillebrecht (2018)

Listing

Storage Unit 1

March 1989-June 1989

Namibian newspapers (articles about independence and elections)

Foreign newspapers, magazines and publications:

- Afrika Post
- Arbeitsgruppe Südliches Afrika
- Badische Zeitung
- Die Welt
- Die Zeit
- Hamburger Abendblatt
- Neue Zeit
- Neue Zürcher Zeitung
- Rheinischer Merkur
- Scope
- SWAPO Nachrichten Rundbrief (Bonn)

Storage Unit 2

July 1989-September 1989

Namibian newspapers (articles about independence and elections)

Foreign newspapers, magazines and publications:

- Afrika Zeitung
- Badische Zeitung
- Deutsche Aktion
- Die Welt
- Morgenpost
- Rheinischer Merkur
- SWAPO Nachrichten Rundbrief (Bonn)

Storage Unit 3

September 1989 – October 1989

Namibian newspapers (articles about independence and elections)

Foreign newspapers, magazines and publications:

- Afrika Post
- Die Welt
- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
- Hamburger Abendblatt
- Morgenpost
- Rheinischer Merkur
- Spiegel

Storage Unit 4
November 1989 – February 1990

Namibian newspapers (articles about independence and elections)

Foreign newspapers, magazines and publications:

- Afrika Post
- Badische Zeitung
- Die Welt
- Die Zeit
- Rheinischer Merkur
- Spiegel
- The Citizen
- The Star

Storage Unit 5
1984 - 1988

Namibian newspapers (articles about independence)

Foreign newspapers, magazines and publications:

- Badische Zeitung
- Deutsche Monatshefte
- Deutschland Magazin
- Deutsch-Südafrikanische Gesellschaft
- Die tageszeitung
- Die Welt
- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
- Globus
- Konservative Aktion Deutschland
- Rheinischer Merkur
- Spiegel
- SWAPO of Namibia Informations Bulletin (Bonn)
- Time

Storage Unit 6
1989 - 1991

Foreign newspapers, magazines and publications:

- Afrika Post
- Rheinischer Merkur

Namibian newspapers, articles i.a. about:

- Economy
- “GDR kids”
- German school
- German/Namibian relations
- German-Namibian folklore
- Independence
- Portraits
- Sport
- Tourism