

Findaid 3/3/5

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**Archives of the Secretary of the
Commission of Enquiry
into South West Africa Affairs
(Odendaal Commission)**
Microfilm Copy

1962-1963

Compiled by C.E. Diamond, 1966
Translated and revised by W. Hillebrecht, September 2009

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**Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture
National Archives of Namibia
P/Bag 13250
Windhoek
Namibia****Tel. +264-61-2935211 (switchboard), 2935210 or 2935208 (reading room)****Fax +264-61-2935207****national.archives@nlas.gov.na****Note:****The code of this archival group in the National Archives of South Africa is K133.****The 16 mm-microfilm copy at the National Archives of Namibia consists of 8 rolls and is registered as Accession A.794.****The microfilm rolls are shelved as AMR/0022-0029.**

Introduction

The South African State President (at the time: Charles Robert Swart) instituted the Commission of Enquiry into South West Africa Affairs on 11 September 1962 in terms of the Commission Act (Act No.8 of 1947).¹

The aim of the Commission, usually referred to as “Odebdal Commission”, ostensibly was to “investigate the material and moral welfare as well as the social progress of the inhabitants of S.W.A., with special reference to the non-Whites”.²

The commission was also tasked to make recommendations for a five-year plan for the speedy development of the “non-whites”: their communal and economic upliftment, adequate health services, adequate education and raining, satisfactory work opportunities, suitable agricultural, industrial, and mining development. Finally the Commission should report on the participation of the natives in the administration and governance of their “own areas”.

The following persons were nominated as members: The Hon. Frans Hendrik Odendaal, Administrator of the Transvaal (chairman) and Dr Hendrik Johannes van Eck, Prof. Dr Hendrik Willem Snyman, Prof. Dr Johannes Petrus van Schalkwyk Bruwer, and Dr Petrus Johannes Quin. Dr. C.J. Claassen was designated as Secretary.³

In its deliberations the Commission made use of the testimony of private persons, as well as the information received from the departments of the R.S.A. and the Administration of S.W.A.

48 meetings were held, of which 43 took place in Pretoria, and 5 in S.W.A. All meetings were not attended by the entire commission. Individual members were taking care of certain aspects of the investigation.⁴ A detailed diary and itinerary of the Commission is published in the report, Part O: Addendum.⁵

In execution of its functions, the Commission held sessions,⁶ paid visits, received memoranda⁷ and heard witnesses.⁸ Questionnaires were prepared to be answered by persons and institutions who could not appear in person to testify.⁹ Announcements of sessions were made on the government gazette and in newspapers.

¹ Republic of South Africa. Government Gazette, vol.5, no.336 of 11.9.1962

² Terms of Reference, in: Report of the Commission of Enquiry into South West Africa Affairs, 1962-1963 (Pretoria 1964, R.P. 12/1964), p.3

³ Vol..3, Instructions

⁴ Vol.1, Minutes

⁵ Report of the Commission of Enquiry into South West Africa Affairs, 1962-1963 (Pretoria 1964, R.P. 12/1964), p.518-551

⁶ Vol.1, Minutes

⁷ Vol.3-25, Memoranda

⁸ Vol.26-31, Witnesses

⁹ Vol.32-38, Questionnaires

The Commission finalised its activities on Thursday, 12.12.1963, whereafter the final report was prepared.¹⁰

The report became generally known under the names “Odendaal Report” or “Odendaal Plan”. In essence, it is an attempt to plan for the further extension of the system of apartheid in Namibia by carving up the territory into a number of “self-governing homelands” while reserving the key economically viable sections to the “Whites”. It further provided for the subsequent transfer of more administrative functions from the Administration for South West Africa to Pretoria.

The actual process of implementation of the Odendaal Report, which not always followed the report’s recommendation, is still insufficiently researched. To date (Sep.2009), no detailed scholarly investigation into the process and its administrative, economic and social impact exists, although the creation of “homelands” – in particular the wide-scale resettlement and the fragmentation of education and social services - had far-reaching implications which can still be felt today.

The documents and their organization

The documents were in their entirety transferred to the Central Archives Depot of South Africa in 1964. With regard to correspondence files of no or little value, recommendations for destruction were made. The records, which occupy 24 linear feet in total, were described under the following headings: Minutes, Instructions, Memoranda, Witnesses, Questionnaires, Correspondence, Reports, and Annexures. Altogether they consist of 73 volumes.

To maintain proper control over the records, the Secretary of the Commission had made use of a filing system for each file and series. This was used as the guiding principle in arranging the records.

*Original Afrikaans text by C.E. Diamond
Central Archives Depot, 1966*

*Translated, updated and revised by
Werner Hillebrecht
National Archives of Namibia, 2009*

Note:

Three copies of the published report of the Commission are filed in the National Archives of Namibia: under reference numbers **AP 4/1/13**, **AP 5/7/4**, and in the Reading Room reference shelf under **REF/E/8**.

The report has also been digitised and is available in digital form as **ELFI-0280**. This digital copy currently [2017] still lacks the large-format maps.

¹⁰ Published as a Bluebook: Report of the Commission of Enquiry into South West Africa Affairs, 1962-1963 = Verslag van die Kommissie van Ondersoek na Angeleenthede van Suidwes-Afrika, 1962-1963. Pretoria : Government Printer, 1964 (R.P. 12/1964)

Table of Contents

I Minutes	p.6
II Instructions	p.6
III Memoranda	p.6
IV Witnesses	p.7
V Questionnaires	p.7
VI Correspondence	p.7
VII Report	p.8
Annexures	p.9

Inventory

Please note that the number in the “Film” column refers the AMR roll number in the National Archives of Namibia microfilm collection, and that the column “Unit” refers to the South African original and has no relevance to finding the material in the microfilm.

I. Minutes - *Notule*

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
22	1	-	Minutes of Proceedings Session 1-48 <i>Notule van Verrigtinge 1-48ste Vergadering</i>	17.9.1963 – 12.12.1963

II. Instructions - *Opdragte*

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
22	2	-	Dr. C.J. Claassen	
			Prof. Dr. H.W. Snyman	
			Prof. Dr. J.P. Bruwer	

III. Memoranda

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
22	3	S.W.A./K.C./7	Mnr. F.H. Odendaal	5.12.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./7	Prof. Dr. H.W. Snyman	5.12.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./7	Prof. Dr. J.P. Bruwer	5.12.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./7	Dr. C.J. Claassen	5.12.1962
	4	S.W.A./K.C./7c	Dr. C.J. Claassen	15.10.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./7c	Dr. P.J. Quin	15.10.1962
	5	S.W.A./K.C./7c	Prof. Dr. H.W. Snyman	15.10.1962
	6	S.W.A./K.C./7c/1	Dr. H.J. van Eck	28.6.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./7c/1	Prof. Dr. J.P. Bruwer	15.10.1962
	7	S.W.A./K.C./7c/2	Dr. P.J. Quin	15.10.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./7c/2	Dr. H.J. van Eck	15.10.1962
23	8	S.W.A./K.C./7c/2	Prof. Dr. J.P. Bruwer	15.10.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./7c/2	Prof. Dr. H.W. Snyman	15.10.1962
	9	S.W.A./K.C./7c/2	Dr. C.J. Claassen	15.10.1962
	10	S.W.A./K.C./7c/3	Dr. P.J. Quin	1962-1963
	11	S.W.A./K.C./7c/3	Dr. C.J. Claassen	1962-1963
	12	S.W.A./K.C./7c/3	Dr. H.J. van Eck	1962-1963
	13	S.W.A./K.C./7c/3	Prof. Dr. H.W. Snyman	1962-1963
24	14	S.W.A./K.C./7c/3	Prof. Dr. J.P. Bruwer	1962-1963
	15	S.W.A./K.C./7c/4	Prof. Dr. H.W. Snyman	1962-1963
	16	S.W.A./K.C./7c/4	Dr. H.J. van Eck	1962-1963
	17	S.W.A./K.C./7c/4	Dr. P.J. Quin	1962-1963
	18	S.W.A./K.C./7c/4	Prof. Dr. J.P. Bruwer	1962-1963
	19	S.W.A./K.C./7c/5	Dr. H.J. van Eck	1962-1963
		S.W.A./K.C./7c/5	Dr. P.J. Quin	1962-1963
	20	S.W.A./K.C./7c/5	Dr. C.J. Claassen	1962-1963
		S.W.A./K.C./7c/5	Prof. Dr. H.W. Snyman	1962-1963
25	21	S.W.A./K.C./7c/5	Prof. Dr. J.P. Bruwer	1962-1963
	22	S.W.A./K.C./7c/5	Dr. C.J. Claassen	1962-1963
		S.W.A./K.C./7c/5	Dr. P.J. Quin	1962-1963
	23	S.W.A./K.C./7c/5	Prof. Dr. J.P. Bruwer	1962-1963

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
25		S.W.A./K.C./7c/5	Prof. Dr. H.W. Snyman	1962-1963
	24	S.W.A./K.C./7c/5	Dr. H.J. van Eck	1962-1963
	25	S.W.A./K.C./7c/4	Dr. C.J. Claassen	1962-1963

IV. Witnesses - *Getuienis*

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
26	26	S.W.A./K.C./7E	Dr. H.J. van Eck, Book no.2	15.11.1962 – 8.2.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./7E	Prof. Dr. H.W. Snyman, Book no.2	15.11.1962- 8.2.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./7E	Dr. P.J. Quin, Book no.2	15.11.1962- 8.2.1963
	27	S.W.A./K.C./7E	Dr. C.J. Claassen, Book no.2	15.11.1962 - 8.2.1963
	28	S.W.A./K.C./7E	Witnesses, Book no.3	8.2.1963 – 2.3.1963
	29	S.W.A./K.C./7E	Witnesses, Book no.4	21.3.1963 - 3.4.1963
	30	S.W.A./K.C./7E/1	Dr. P.J. Quin	2.11.1962 – 14.11.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./7E/1	Prof. Dr. H.W. Snyman	2.11.1962 – 14.11.1962
27	31	S.W.A./K.C./7E/1	Dr. H.J. van Eck	2.11.1962 – 14.11.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./7E/1	Dr. C.J. Claassen	2.11.1962 – 14.11.1962

V. Questionnaires - *Vraelyste*

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
27	32	S.W.A./K.C./7F	Prof. Dr. H.W. Snyman	5.3.1963 – 11.3.1963
	33	S.W.A./K.C./7F	F.H. Odendaal	5.3.1963 – 11.3.1963
	34	S.W.A./K.C./7F	Prof. Dr. J.P. Bruwer	2.2.1963 – 14.3.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./7F	Dr. P.J. Quin	2.2.1963 – 14.3.1963
	35	S.W.A./K.C./7F	Dr. C.J. Claassen	5.3.1963 – 17.6.1963
	36	S.W.A./K.C./7F	Dr. H.J. van Eck	5.3.1963 – 17.6.1963
28	37	S.W.A./K.C./7F	-	23.3.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./7F/3	-	6.3.1963

VI. Correspondence - *Korrespondensie*

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
28	39	S.W.A./K.C.	Main file <i>Hofleer</i>	5.6.1962 – 2.8.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./1	Committee members and personnel <i>Kommissieleden en personeel</i>	24.9.1962 – 24.2.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./1/5	Dr. P.J. Quin	17-26.9.1962

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
		S.W.A./K.C./2/1	Travel plan <i>Reisplan</i>	1.-31.10.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./2/5	Fourth travel plan <i>Vierde Reisplan</i>	3.-7.12.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./2/6	Fifth travel plan <i>Vyfde Reisplan</i>	4-16.2.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./3	Report <i>Verslag</i>	4.6.1963 – 13.2.1964
28		S.W.A./K.C./3/1	Draft recommendations <i>Konsep Aanbevelings</i>	5.4.1963
	40	S.W.A./K.C./7	Information items: S.W.A. <i>Inligtingstukke: S.W.A.</i>	22.4.1963 – 21.1.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./7A	Agenda en Notule <i>Agenda and Minutes</i>	17.6.1963 – 20.5.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./7C	Memoranda	2.11.1962 – 26.1.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./7D	Documentary evidence <i>Dokumentêr gegewens</i>	21.1.1963 – 4.1.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./7D/2	Census and statistics <i>Sensus en statistiek</i>	
		S.W.A./K.C./7D/3	Bantu Authorities S.W.A. <i>Bantoe Owerhede S.W.A.</i>	
		S.W.A./K.C./7D/4	Education: S.W.A. <i>Onderwys: S.W.A.</i>	
		S.W.A./K.C./7D/5	Electrical schemes <i>Elektriese skema</i>	
		S.W.A./K.C./7D/6	Labour <i>Arbeid</i>	
29	41	S.W.A./K.C./7E	Evidence – Oral testimony <i>Gegewens – Mondelinge getuinenis</i>	14.11.1962 - 21.12.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./7F/1	Questionnaire Agriculture <i>Vraelyste Landbou</i>	23.12.1962 – 12.1.2.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./7F/ 4-5	Farm affairs Agriculture Dept. <i>Plaasaangeleenthede Landsdepartement</i>	25.1.1963 – 26.6.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./10	Interim Findings and Recommendations <i>Bevindings en Aanbevelings: Tussentyd</i>	29.11.1962
		S.W.A./K.C./10/2	Community Centres Ovamboland <i>Gemeenskapsentra Ovamboland</i>	22.7.1963
		S.W.A./K.C./10/3	Okatana Hospital	-
		S.W.A./K.C./10/5	Canal scheme in Ovamboland <i>Kanaalskema in Ovamboland</i>	8.8.1963 – 2.2.1961
		S.W.A./K.C./10/6	Transport <i>Vervoer</i>	-
		-	Press reports – Negative <i>Persberigte - Negatief</i>	14.9.1962
		-	Nutrition <i>Voeding</i>	1962

VII. Reports - *Verslae*

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
29	42		Report of the Commission of Enquiry into S.W.A. Affairs. Vol.1	1962-1963
	43		Report of the Commission of Enquiry into S.W.A. Affairs. Vol.2	1962-1963

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
	44		Report of the Commission of Enquiry into S.W.A. Affairs. Vol.3	1962-1963
29	45		Verslag van die Kommissie van Onderzoek na Aangeleenthede van S.W.A. Vol.1	1962-1963
	46		Verslag van die Kommissie van Onderzoek na Aangeleenthede van S.W.A. Vol.2	1962-1963
	47		Verslag van die Kommissie van Onderzoek na Aangeleenthede van S.W.A. Vol.3	1962-1963

Annexures - Bylaes

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
29	48		Post and Telegraphy: SWA annual report <i>Pos- en Telegraafwese: SWA Jaarverslag</i>	1959-1962
	49		White books S.W.A. <i>Witboeke S.W.A.</i>	1961-1962
	50		White books S.W.A. <i>Witboeke S.W.A.</i>	1962-1963
	51		White books S.W.A. <i>Witboeke S.W.A.</i>	
	52		Budget. S.W.A. <i>Begroting. S.W.A.</i>	1952-1957
	53		Budget. S.W.A. <i>Begroting. S.W.A.</i>	
	54		Budget. S.W.A. <i>Begroting. S.W.A.</i>	1958-1959
	55		Budget. S.W.A. <i>Begroting. S.W.A.</i>	
	56		Budget. S.W.A. <i>Begroting. S.W.A.</i>	1960-1962
	57		Budget. S.W.A. <i>Begroting. S.W.A.</i>	1963-1964
	58		Budget. S.W.A. <i>Begroting. S.W.A.</i>	1962
			Five-Year-Plan: Water and hydroelectric power S.W.A. <i>Vyf-jaarplan: Water en hidro elektriese krag S.W.A.</i>	1963
	59		Outjo 1885-1960: Development <i>Outjo 1885-1960: Ontwikkeling</i>	
	60		Boere se kooperatiewe Wol en Produkte Unie Bpk, Windhoek tak: Memoranda	20.5.1963
	61		-“-	
	62		Mines Division: Report December 1962	
			S.W.A. Native Labour Association Report – Financial Year ended 30 th June 1962	
	63		National Income and Expenditure S.W.A. (1920-1956) D. Krogh	
			Government Gazette R.S.A.	21.9.1962
			Official Gazette S.W.A.	30.6.1954 – 4.7.1962

Film	Unit	File number	File title	Period
			Memorandum submitted to Commission on S.W.A. in support of application of Etosha Petroleum Company for grant of coal concession	16.1.1961 – 29.1.1963
29	64		Nasionale Buro vir Opvoedkundige en Maatskaplike Navorsing	3.7.1963
			Maps: Fig.61 and 62 <i>Kaarte: Fig.61 en 62</i>	1963
			Ovamboland Canal Scheme: brochures <i>Ovamboland Kanaal Skema: Brosjures</i>	1961-1962
	65		Report on scheme to pump water from the Cunene to Ovamboland to distribute for human consumption and cattle <i>Verslag or skema om water uit Kunene in Ovamboland te pomp en versprei vir menslike gebruik en veesuip</i>	1.11.1962
			Water supply, (i) Okavango reconaissance, (ii) Martin A Krapohl water scheme, (iii) Southern Angola <i>Watervoorsiening, (i) Okavango Reconnaissance, (ii) Martin A Krapohl waterskema, (iii) Suid-Angola</i>	9.2.1957 – Nov.1959
	66		Maps and statistics on S.W.A. <i>Kaarte en statistieke or S.W.A.</i>	1963
			The peoples of S.W.A., memorandum by Prof. Dr. J.P. Bruwer	
			Health services in Africa south of the Sahara <i>Gesondheidsdienste in Afrika suid van die Sahara</i>	
			A malaria survey of S.W.A. by Botha de Meillon <i>'n Malaria-opname van S.W.A.</i>	1950
	67		Report on a plague survey of southern South West Africa	1950
			Report of the Long Term Agricultural Policy Commission	1948
			Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Non-European Education in S.W.A.	1958
			Travel of S.W.A. Commission to Angola <i>Reis van S.W.A.-Kommissie na Angola</i>	3.12.1962 - 12.12.1962
			Extracts from report of Rehoboth Commission	-
	68		Pamphlets <i>Pamflette</i>	-