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J P NIEHAUS PAPERS

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Annette le Roux
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JACQUES PIERRE DE MOWBRAY NIEHAUS (1910 – 2008)

Jacques Pierre de Mowbray Niehaus was born in Clanwilliam in 1910. He was educated at the Rondebosch Boys High School and at the University of Cape Town where he had by the age of twenty graduated with a BA LLB degree. In 1931 he received the degree LLM from London University. Two years later, Mr Niehaus (also known as Percy) became Assistant Attorney-General of South West Africa (now Namibia) and from 1939 to 1941 he was acting Attorney-General for the Territory.

During World War II, Percy Niehaus joined the Pretoria Regiment and saw service in Egypt and Italy. He later played an important part in the demobilisation and rehabilitation of returning soldiers. After the war, Niehaus started his own legal practice in Windhoek.

In 1945 he represented the United National South West Party (UNSWP) in the SWA election and was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly for Okahandja, becoming a member of the Executive Committee and Leader of the UNSWP in 1950. From 1955 to 1966 Percy Niehaus represented the Windhoek East constituency in the Legislative Assembly of South West Africa.

Mr Niehaus also served in the South African Parliament as a nominated United Party senator for Natal during the period 1970 to 1974. In 1973 he was the leader of the Parliamentary delegation to France, Belgium and Luxembourg. He, however, continued to be active in South West African politics, becoming chairman of the SWA Action Group in 1976 and he also took part in the Turnhalle Convention the following year. He represented AKTUR (Action for the Retention of the Turnhalle Principles) in the National Assembly from 1978 onwards. Towards the middle of the eighties, Mr Niehaus retired from active politics.

After his retirement, he and his wife Anna lived in Somerset Strand. He continued to visit Namibia regularly for his business and farming interests. Mr Niehaus died in December 2008.

South West Africa

This was the former name of the modern day Namibia. It was a German Colony from 1884 to 1915. In 1915 it was invaded by the Forces of the then Union of South Africa (now Republic of South Africa) at the request of the Allied Forces during the First World War. It became a Mandate Territory of the United Nations and was administered by South Africa until independence in 1990.

THE J P NIEHAUS PAPERS (3.2 linear metres)

The Niehaus Papers were donated to the United Party Archives in 1991 and reflect the distinguished political and legal career of a man who played an important part over several decades in the development of South West Africa. The papers comprise of correspondence, memoranda, pamphlets and press cuttings which would be of great interest to students of history and political science. The subject material ranges from agricultural, economic, labour and constitutional matters to legal affairs, with the accent always on South West Africa. One of the most interesting files dates from Mr Niehaus's time as Attorney-General of South West Africa. This file contains information on Nazi activities in the Territory prior to World War II as well as the original telegramme of September 1939 from the German Consul in Pretoria informing his counterpart in South West Africa that Germany and South Africa were at war with each other. The Niehaus Papers are an important addition to the United Party Archives as they provide an overview of many of the events that brought about constitutional development and changes in South West Africa/Namibia.

J P NIEHAUS PAPERS (3.2 linear metres)

1.	Biographical information	
1.1	press cuttings	1945-1983
2.	Speeches : see Subject files	
3.	Photographs	
4.	Correspondence and notes	1945-1983
4.1	Incoming correspondence	1945-1983
4.2	Letters to editors	1959-1964;1980;1983
4.3	Notes	c1953-1981

Subject Files

5.	Action for the Retention of the Turnhalle principles (AKTUR)	1978-1982
5.1	minutes, agenda and notes of meetings	1978-1982
5.2	constitution and drafts	
5.3	party statements and policy	1978-1982
5.4	manifesto, pamphlets	
5.5	press cuttings	1978-1982
6.	Administrator General	1977-1983
6.2	correspondence	1981
6.2	proclamation 180 of 1977	1977
6.3	press cuttings	1977-1983
7.	Afrikaans Deutsche Kulturgemeinschaft (ADK)	1978
7.1	pamphlets	
8.	Afrikaner interests	1962-1980
8.1	pamphlet	
8.2	press cuttings	1962-1981
9.	Afrikaanse Sakekamer van Windhoek	1981-1983
9.1	reports	1981-1982
9.2	newsletters	1982-1983
10.	Agriculture	1945-1982
10.1	official publications : report of controller general	1969-1978
10.2	cattle farming and meat industry : correspondence; report (incomplete)	1960
10.3	dairy products and margarine : correspondence; statistics	1947;1971
10.4	fishing : annual report	1970
10.5	karakul : report; circular	1948
10.6	press cuttings	1945-1982
11.	Aksie Red Blank Suid-Afrika and SWA	1984
11.1	pamphlets and circulars	1984
12.	Angola	1957-1972
12.1	report: visit of SWA study group to Southern Angola	1957
12.2	press cutting	1972

13.	Apartheid	1950-1981
13.1	<i>South Africa</i>	1950-1974
13.1.1	UN Information Centre for the United Kingdom London weekly summary on United Nations resolutions	1970
13.1.2	press cuttings	1950-1974
13.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	1951-1981
13.2.1	correspondence	1979
13.2.2	abolition of laws on racial discrimination & reaction of people	1979
13.2.3	press cuttings	1951-1981
14.	BOERSWA	1977
14.1	pamphlets	
14.2	press cuttings	
15.	Blacks : urban	1963-1974
15.1	press cuttings	
16.	Broederbond	1944-1978
16.1	paper by Dr AH Jonker, MP, on the Broederbond and Christian National Education	c1949
16.2	press cuttings	1944-1978
17.	Budget	1945-1983
17.1	<i>South Africa</i>	1973
17.1.1	press cuttings	
17.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	1945-1981
17.2.1	speeches	1948-1983
17.2.2	official publications: budget estimates & appropriation bills	1960;1981
17.2.3	tax scales	
17.2.4	press cuttings	1945-1973
17.2.5	official publications: estimates; reports of the controller and auditor-general; estimates of budget	1968-1980
18.	Censorship	1973
18.1	<i>South Africa</i>	
18.1.1	press cuttings	1973
18.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	
18.2.1	press cuttings	1973
9.	Christian Democratic Action (CDA)	1982
19.1	press cuttings	
20.	Church and politics	1971-1979
20.1	<i>South Africa</i>	1971
20.1.1	press cuttings	1971
20.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	1971-1979
20.2.1	pamphlets	
20.2.2	press cuttings	1971-1979
21.	Coloureds	1950-1979
21.1	<i>South Africa</i>	
21.1.1	correspondence : telegram	1950
21.1.2	press cuttings	1960-1979
21.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	
21.2.1	press cuttings	1963;1971;1978

22.	Commissions of Inquiry	1923-1963
22.1	Rebellion of the Bondelzwarts	1923
22.2	Interim report of the commission - water supply to Klein Windhoek	1950
22.3	Financial relations between the Union of SA and SWA	1952
22.4	Report of the long term agriculture policy -commission and draft	1949
22.5	Report of the commission of enquiry into South West Africa Affairs	1962-1963
22.6	Occurrences in the Windhoek location on	10/12/1959
22.7	Schlebusch Commission : press cuttings	1973
23.	Constituent Assembly in SWA	Dec 1978-May 1979
23.1	correspondence	1979
23.2	proposals by steering committee, memoranda and motions	1977
23.3	AG 63 of 1978 on the establishment, powers and elections of a Constituent Assembly	
23.4	set of rules; procedures, circulars	
23.5	proceedings, notices	1979
23.6	discussions between the SA Prime Minister and members of the Assembly	1979
23.7	press cuttings	1978-1978
24.	Constitutional issues	1948-1984
24.1	<i>South Africa</i>	1952
24.1.1	press cuttings	
24.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	1920-1984
24.2.1	correspondence	1979
24.2.2	proposals by SA Prime Minister	1948
24.2.3	report on future form of government	1920-1923;1936
24.2.4	constitution of SWA : official publications	1964;1968;1977
24.2.5	proposals and amendments	1977;1981
24.2.6	multi-party conference	1984
24.2.7	resolution 435 : discussions	
24.2.8	judicial opinion on self determination and citizenship by Mr W H Olivier	1984
24.2.9	printed answer of the Administrator General on the question of nationality and citizenship	1984
24.2.10	meeting	
24.2.11	memoranda, notes	
24.2.12	press cuttings	1948-1984
25.	Corruption in government circles	1964-1982
25.1	<i>South Africa</i>	1971-1982
25.1.1	press cuttings	
25.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	1964-1971
25.2.1	press cuttings	
26.	Defence force	1973-1982
26.1	<i>South Africa</i>	1973
26.1.1	white paper on defence and armament production	1973
26.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	1974-1982
26.2.1	press cuttings	
27.	Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)	1978-1982
27.1	propaganda : manifesto, constitution and pamphlets	
27.2	anti DTA propaganda	
27.3	DTA magazine	1982
27.4	press cuttings	1978-1982

28.	Destabilisation in southern Africa	1983
28.1	photocopy of article in <u>The Economist</u>	
29.	Economic affairs	1949-1984
29.1	Common Market	1962
29.1.1	press cutting	
29.2	<i>South Africa</i>	1956-1984
29.2.1	press cutting	
29.3	<i>South West Africa</i>	1949-1982
29.3.1	fishing industry : correspondence	1969
29.3.2	press cuttings	1956; 1971-1984
30.	Education	1972-1982
30.1	<i>South Africa</i>	1972
30.1.1	Blacks : article from	
30.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	1980-1982
30.2.1	circular re symposium	1980
30.2.2	press cutting	1982
31.	Elections	1933-1983
31.1	<i>South Africa</i>	1948-1981
31.1.1	circular from Prime Minister	1974
31.1.2	United Party speaker's notes	1969
31.1.3	United Party candidate dispute	1974
31.1.4	United Party organisation	
31.1.5	statistics	1953, 1958/1959
31.1.6	press cuttings	1948-1981
31.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	1933-1983
31.2.1	ballot paper	1978
31.2.2	National Party pamphlets	
31.2.3	UNSWP:correspondence, circulars, pamphlets & speeches	1942-1971
31.2.4	United Party pamphlets	1974
31.2.5	press cuttings	1933-1980
32.	Federal Party	1976-1980
32.1	pamphlets, circulars and newsletters	
32.2	press cuttings	1967-1977; 1980
33.	Germans in South West Africa	1921-1982
33.1	correspondence	1928-1941
33.2	political research section: reports and memoranda	1939-1943
33.3	political situation: reports	1938-1940
	elections	1926-1940
33.4	Nazi's in SWA : correspondence	1932-1939
	(Original war telegram, 6 Sept '39, received by the German Consul in Windhoek, from the German Ambassador in Pretoria is included in this file)	
33.5	documents compiled by Niehaus on SWA questions	
	(The report to the Permanent Mandates Commission in Geneva 1938 and Niehaus advice are in file 40.4)	
33.6	language question: status of German in SWA	1955
33.7	future form of government in SWA	1920-1923
33.8	<u>Der Kreis</u>	1955
33.9	press cuttings	1922; 1945-1980; 1982
33.10	memorandum on the activities of the NSDAP and the Hitlerjugend in SWA	1934

34.	Hardap Settlement Scheme : problems	1971
34.1	correspondence	1971
34.2	memorandum; notes	
35.	Herstigte Nasionale Party	1969-1981
35.1	<i>South Africa</i>	1969
35.1.1	press cuttings	
35.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	1969-1981
35.2.1	correspondence	1981
35.2.2	pamphlets	
35.2.3	press cuttings	1969-1981
36.	Homelands	1950-1982
36.1	<i>South Africa</i>	1950-1979
36.1.1	general : press cuttings	1950-1974
36.1.2	Bophuthatswana : press cuttings	1979
36.1.3	Kwa-Zulu : press cuttings	1972-1974
36.1.4	Transkei : press cuttings	1973
36.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	1960-1982
36.2.1	general : correspondence	
36.2.2	bill : development of self-government for native nations in SWA, amendment bill	1968/1973
36.2.3.1	Odendaal Commission : reaction, notes, speeches, memorandum	
36.2.3.2	press cuttings	1962-1968
36.2.4.1	Damara : circular and speech	1972
36.2.4.2	press cuttings	1972-1973
36.2.5.1	Herero : pamphlet	
36.2.5.2	press cuttings	1967-1980
36.2.6	Kavango : press cuttings	1972-1980
36.2.7	Nama : report on Hoachanas	c1959
36.2.8.1	Ovambo : speech, budget, Ovamboland Newsletter	1971
36.2.8.2	press cuttings	1967-1982
36.2.9	Tswana : press cuttings	1981
36.2.10	<u>Kontak</u>	1980-1982
36.2.11	press cuttings : general	1960-1974; 1982
37.	International Court of Justice	1950-1971
37.1	memoranda, notes and information	
37.2	cv's of SA Team	1971
37.3	press cuttings	1950-1971
38	Judicial issues	1970-1973
38.1	annual reports : police	1971;1972
	Dept of Justice	1970;1972
38.2	press cuttings	1971-1973
39.	Labour affairs	1948-1973
39.1	International Labour Organisation: press cutting	1973
39.2	<i>South Africa</i>	1946-1973
39.2.1	general : press cuttings	1946-1951;1971-1973
39.2.2	go-slow strike : press cuttings	1951
39.2.3	Alusaf strike : press cuttings	1973

39.3	<i>South West Africa</i>	1948-1973
39.3.1	labour agreements between SWANLA and WENLA	1949;1954
39.3.2	draft ordinance to establish SWANLA; questions in the House	1952
39.3.3	publication on the contract system: <u>Kontrak soos die Ovambo dit sien</u>	1972
39.3.4	press cuttings	1948-1955; 1971
39.3.5	Ovambo strike : press cuttings	1971-1973
39.3.6	Master Builders and Allied Trades Association of SWA AGM minutes	1953
40.	League of Nations	1919-1939
40.1	published report "Correspondence between the Secretary of State for the colonies and the Governor-General on the subject of the mandate for SWA and draft conventions"	1919
40.2	mandate for SWA	1921
40.3	photocopy of extracts of the minutes of the 20 th session of the Permanent Mandates Commission	1931
40.4	reports of SA to Permanent Mandates Commission, correspondence and notes	1938-1939
40.5	official publications : reports of SA to The Council of the League of Nations	1928; 1935-1938
40.6	minutes of the 36 th session of the Permanent Mandates Commission	1939
41.	Legislative Assembly : <i>South West Africa</i>	1946-1978
41.1	minutes, motions, votes, questions and answers	
41.2	draft ordinances and official gazette	
41.3	breach of privilege-cases : correspondence, reports and notes	1966;1971
41.4	notes	
41.5	press cuttings	1949-1975
41.6	standing rules and orders	1926;1959
41.7	debates of the Legislative Assembly	1964-1969
42.	Multi-Racial Advisory Board in <i>South West Africa</i>	1973
42.1	report on first meeting	23/03/1973
42.2	press cuttings	
43.	Namibia Democratic Coalition (NDC)	1981
43.1	press cutting	
44.	Namibia National Convention (NNC)	1975
44.1	press cutting	
45.	Namibia National Front (NNF)	1978-1979
45.1	manifesto	
45.2	press cuttings	1978-1979
46.	Namibia People's Liberation Front (NPLF)	1979
46.1	press cutting	
47.	National Assembly	1979-1982
47.1	memoranda to the Administrator-General and requests to the National Assembly	
47.2	set of rules	
47.3	notes	

47.4	minutes, circulars, motions, questions and answers	1979-1981
47.5	bills, amendment bills and comments	
47.6	official publications	1979-1980
47.7	second tier government: concept, amendments, draft bill, notes	
47.8	press cuttings	1979-1980
48.	National Party	1945-1984
48.1	<i>South Africa</i>	1958-1982
48.1.1	pamphlet	
48.1.2	press cuttings	1962-1982
48.2	<i>South West Africa</i>	1945-1980
48.2.1	executive committee : minutes and statements	
48.2.2.1	congresses : agenda, report	1945,1964;1980-1984
48.2.2.2	press cuttings	
48.2.3	pamphlets, newsletters and circulars	
48.2.4	press releases	
48.2.5	press cuttings	1945-1984
49.	National Union of Students (NUSAS) and other student activities	1971-1974
49.1	press cuttings	
50.	National Unity Democratic Organisation (NUDO)	1973
50.1	press cutting	
51.	Native Labourer's Commission	1945-1948
51.1	working papers	
51.2	notes	
51.3	press cuttings	1945-1948
51.4	printed report	
52.	Onafhanklike Ekonomie Party van SWA	1955
52.1	correspondence	
53.	Progressive Party : <i>South Africa</i>	1962; 1971-1974
53.1	press cuttings	
54.	Referendum : <i>South Africa</i>	1960;1983
54.1	speech by Niehaus	1960
54.2	press cuttings	1960
54.3	press statement	1983
55.	Referendum : <i>South West Africa</i>	1977-1981
55.1	Turnhalle Constitutional Proposals : pamphlets and press cuttings	1977
55.2	NP resolution	1981
56.	Rehoboth Bastards	1958-1975
56.1	correspondence and notes	
56.2	history of the Rehoboth Bastards	1958
56.3	report of the controller and auditor-general of the Rehoboth Bastard Community Fund	1969-1972
56.4	press cuttings	1969-1975
57.	Republic Party (RP)	1977-1980
57.1	pamphlets	
57.2	press cuttings	1979-1980

58.	Rhodesia	1972-1980
58.1	press cuttings	
59.	South Africa (general)	1945-1979
59.1	press cuttings	
60.	South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR)	1973
60.1	papers delivered at the forty-third council meeting	
61.	South West Africa Action Group	1976-1977
61.1	correspondence	
61.2	statements, circulars and notes	
61.3	press cuttings	
62.	Southern African Solidarity Congress (SASCON)	1975
62.1	pamphlet	
63.	South West Africa (general)	1918-1982
63.1	pamphlets	
63.2	information service files	
63.3	report of the Administrator	1918,1923,1976
63.4	<u>Namibia Report</u>	1983-1984
63.5	press cuttings	1961-1983
64.	South West Africa National Union (SWANU)	1977-1980
64.1	press cuttings	
65.	South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO)	1972-1980
65.1	pamphlets	
65.2	press cuttings	
66.	South West Africa People's Organisation-Democrats (SWAPO-D)	1979
66.1	press cutting	
67.	<u>Die Stryder</u>	1982-1985
67.1	correspondence	
67.2	<u>Die Stryder</u>	1982-1984
68.	Suidwes Party	c1958
68.1	pamphlet	
69.	Tourism	1971;1981
69.1	press supplement and press cutting	
70.	Transport	1946-1958; 1972
70.1	Roads : budget 1949 and report of the commission	1956
70.2	Railways : press supplement and press cuttings	1946,1958,1972
71.	United National South West Party (UNSWP)	1956-1972
71.1	correspondence	
71.2	national executive : minutes, agenda, notices	
71.3	constitution, manifesto and pamphlets	
71.4	speeches, notes	
71.5	<u>Onwards/Voorwaarts</u>	1970-1972
71.6	press cuttings	1945-1973

71.7.1	congresses : programme, speeches, resolutions and financial report	1956-1971
71.7.2	congress : press cuttings	1948-1971
72.	United Nations Organisation condemn South Africa's racial policies	1945-1973
72.1	press cuttings	
73.	United Nations and other International participants in the constitutional development of SWA	1945-1983
73.1	correspondence	1946,1967,1979
73.2	speech by Sir De Villiers Graaff	1966
73.3	Dr Escher's visit : notes, memoranda	Oct 1972
73.4	Dr Waldheim's visit : comments by UP	1972
73.5	Western Five : proposals and reactions	1978
73.6	high level consultations on Namibia in Genève list of participants and notes	1979
73.7	summaries of correspondence between SA and the United Nations resolutions and reports	1979
73.8	Pre-Implementation Conference, Genève	7-14/01/81
73.9	Clark Mission, June 1981, and Western Contact Group	Oct 1981
73.10	Western Five contact group : AKTUR reaction	1982
73.11	statement by NP to secretary-general of the United Nations and addendum	1983
73.12	reports by secretary-general	1972-1973
73.13	report on UN assistance to SWAPO	1978
73.14	press release, memorandum, notes	
73.15	press cuttings	1945-1982
74.	United Party : <i>South Africa</i>	1945-1974
74.1	correspondence and speeches	
74.2	correspondence and memorandum of agreement re negotiations for merger between the UP and UNSWP	1969-1971
74.3	aims, principles and constitution of UP	1964
74.4	UP central committee : minutes, agenda, statement	1967-1973
74.5.1	congress : agenda	1971
74.5.2	congress : press cuttings	1946; 1967-1973
74.6	H Schwartz and Buthelezi agreement; text and press cuttings	1974
74.7	pamphlets, circulars and newsletters	
74.8	press cuttings	1945-1974
75.	United Party : <i>South West Africa</i>	1970-1975
75.1	correspondence	1974
75.2	speech by Sir De Villiers Graaff in Windhoek	1970
75.3.1	congress : correspondence, speeches and programme	1972-1973
75.3.2	press cuttings	1972-1973
75.4	federal plan for SWA : proposals, notes, pamphlets	1973
75.5	press cuttings	1970-1975
76.	Vereniging van Oranjewerkers	March 1983
76.1	<u>Oranje</u>	
77.	World War II : Demobilisation and assistance to returned soldiers	1944-1951
77.1	correspondence and Report on the ex-volunteers and Discharged Soldiers' Assistance Board	1945-1948
77.2	press cuttings	1944-1951

Files on People

78.	Buthlezi, G. M., Chief press cuttings	1974
79.	Du Plessis, A. H. press cuttings	1982
80.	Hamman, J. N. memorandum on the future of SWA	1982
81.	Jonathan, L. Dr press cuttings	1967
82.	Louwrens, C. P. A. press cuttings	1949
83.	Rupert, A., Dr speech delivered at the African Affairs Society of America	1962