



N E L S O N M A N D E L A
F O U N D A T I O N

Living the Legacy

MANIBEN SITA COLLECTION

TEXTUAL RECORDS

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1957 – 1964/65 [?]

ACQUISITION: Donated by Maniben Sita

ACCESS:

LANGUAGES: English

PHOTOGRAPHS: None

VISUAL MATERIALS: None

PRINTED MATERIALS: This collection consists of two publications, one leaflet and one personal diary donated by Maniben Sita as a birthday gift to Mr. Mandela for his 90th birthday. At Mr. Mandela's request it has been deposited permanently in the archive. The collection is contained in one folder – 1 archival box.

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RECORD GROUP: Nelson Mandela Associated Papers

SERIES: Maniben Sita Collection NMAP 2009/1

PROCESSED BY: Lucia Raadschelders

HISTORY

Maniben Sita was born into a family that was politically active. Her father Nana Sita, had been greatly influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and had joined the Transvaal Indian Congress in 1928. She was amongst the organisers of volunteers for the Passive Resistance campaign and was active during the Defiance Campaign. In December 1963 she joined the march to the Union Buildings in Pretoria against group areas relocations and the advisory body formed by the apartheid government – the South African Indian Council. Nana Sita refused to move from his home in Hercules, Pretoria because it was in a suburb designated for whites in terms of the Group Areas Act, and Maniben continued resisting the move after her father's death in 1969, However she was forced to move to Laudium in 1976 after being threatened with expropriation. She became an executive member of the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) when it was revived in May 1983, and addressed many TIC and UDF rallies. She has been detained on several occasions but continued to participate in protest activities against apartheid. She served as an ANC councillor for five years in the Centurion Town Council from 1995 – 2000.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection exists of the four items, donated by Maniben Sita as a birthday gift to Nelson Mandela for his 90th birthday.

Item 1

'I Accuse-Speeches to Court by Nelson Mandela', 24 pages; published after the trial. The origin is unknown.

Item 2

Leaflet: 'The South African Group Areas Act and Mr. Nana Sita'; issued by the South African Indian Congress, London Committee. Call to Act Now! Possibly issued in 1964

Item 3

Publication: South Africa's Treason Trial, 24 pages; published by "Afrika!" Publications Johannesburg in support of the 'Support the Treason Trial Defence Fund' to help pay the costs of legal defence and to bring relief to the dependants of the accused who are in need. The publication includes photographs. Published in 1957

Item 4

St. John's Ambulance Diary 1963 pocket diary of Maniben Sita

BOX 1 FILE 1

4 ITEMS

Item 1

Publication: 'I Accuse-Speeches to Court by Nelson Mandela', 24 pages. It consists of Mandela's two speeches made during the 1962-1963 trial (Black man in a white man's court). It published after the trial. The origin is unknown.

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Item 4

St. John's Ambulance Diary 1963 of M. Sita

Summary transcript of the diary:

Month	Day	Description
December '62	28	Case of Makki and others postponed to 5 Feb '63
	29	Visitors during afternoon
	30	Ba + Pranlal visit gaol: not allowed in. Adv. Mahomed visits gaol: not allowed in.
	31	Made a copy of Bapuji's case at court
January	1	Visitors all day
	5	Met P Nana at Silverton

	6	P Nana leaves for India. Ba and Pranlal visit prison, do not see Bapuji as he is not able to walk. Visitors at home
	7	Visit to prison.
	8	Inspector (Group Areas) visits our home
	11	Duma Nokwe and Moses Kotane leave country instructed by ANC
	12	700 Indians leave L.M. for India
	13	Togoland President shot. Many visitors at home
	14	Books to prison
	15	Mrs Turok, Hall and Anderson court arrest
	16	Letter from England from Chief
	17	Attempt to blow up petrol tank in Table Bay Harbour. Opening of Parliament
	18	Explosion wrecks building of Natal Nationalist Newspaper. Death Hugh Gaitskell
	22	Visit by friends of the Liberal Party. Requested info of our case. Group Areas inquiry at Machododorp: plan for removing Indians.
	23	Sisulu's case heard. Belfast + Machododorp decided they don't want Indians. Loud explosion at Tarlton, near Krugersdorp
	24	Mrs Hain to appear before Magistrate. Warning received. Sabotage attempt at Treason Trial Court
	27	Visit to Nigel. Papwas won Golf tournament
	28	Staff comes to school
	29	Chief warder said B is well, books not given
	30	Mrs Turok brought to court; Hall + Anderson as witnesses.
	31	Our family in court. Attempt at sabotage

February	1	Hastings Banda becomes PM of Nyasaland. Elsburg and Zeerust proclaimed white areas. Indian group area in Zeerust proclaimed
	2	De Wet Nel to meet Sabata. Luthuli's letters from Scotland missing
	3	Meeting with Sabata fails. Visitors to Bapuji. Indians in court for sabotage Benoni
	5	Makki and other families in court. 5 whites killed near Umtata
	7	Mrs Pixie Benjamin to jail
	8	Brakpan proclaimed white area.
	9	Dr Naicker refuses to apply for permit to live where he is. Nkomo and others arrested in Rhodesia
	10	Sabotage in Durban and Cape Town. Barberton Group Areas. All East Rand Indians to move to Benoni
	14	Fire at Union Buildings. Sabotage at Grahamstown
	15	Bapuji released.
	16	Visitors all afternoon. Liberal Party chairman of Cape banned. Sabotage
	17	Visitors all day. Visitors and reporters to see Bapuji. Sisulu's case postponed
	18	Visit to Johannesburg. Met Lord Russell
	20	Inspectors visit home. Request Bapuji to apply for permit. Michael Harmel arrested. Hodgson case
	22	Film strip done for television
	23	Sabotage Johannesburg
	24	Bapuji visits Jhb
	26	2000 Africans shifted from Besterspruit
	28	Death of Dr Rajendra Prasad. Deputy National President Liberal Party banned. The Slovos, Mrs Hodgson, Mrs Harmel and Mr Kodesh

		banned. Nylstroom Indian's permit expires.
March	1	Harmel granted damages against Special Branch sergeant.
	2	Visit to Jhb by Bapuji. Harmel arrested
	3	Sabotage Eastern Cape
	4	Sisulu gets six years. Slovo defence council
	5	Protest by three Methodist ministers in Durban
	6	Group Areas' inspectors visit home
	7	Our case to continue
	8	Judge orders magistrate to grant bail to Sisulu. AM Sujee and Makki sentenced. Justice Kuper shot
	9	Sisulu's bail paid. Explosion Modderfontein Dynamite factory
	10	Bantu administration building damaged in Durban
	11	Dr Motara's appeal heard
	12	Ministers brake fast. Sentences
	15	Sentencing took place today, not on the 12 th . Len's family ejected.
	17	Nokwe addresses anti-apartheid meeting in London
	20	Group Areas inspectors visit our home. Death Justice Kuper. 18 Africans sentenced for Paarl riot
	22	17 Africans sentenced to 20 yrs and two death sentences. Poqo suspects arrested in Pretoria
	23	Sabotage at Ferrierastown, administration office blasted. Bapuji receives summons to appear in court
	24	Dr Naicker receives summons to appear in court
	27	Blast at Welkom. Meeting with D etc to override decision of law courts in special cases

	28	Bapuji returns from Jhb
	31	Conference SA Federation of Women. Decision to defy unjust laws
April	1	Family appears in court, trials separated
	2	Lebello escapes in Basutoland. 3000 Indian war prisoners to be released by Chinese
	3	24 hour house arrest served on Sisulu. Mrs Joseph in court. Suggestion made not to admit Non-Europeans at University SA
	4	Bapuji appears in court, sentenced. 200 Poqo suspects rounded up
	5	Men that left country without passport sentenced. Dr Motala banned
	8	P.N. charged. Ventersdorp case. 100 Poqo suspects rounded up. Holland praises sabotage film on SA
	10	Mummy + Kanta did not have to appear
	14	Birth of P's baby. Bapuji visited by Mummy
	17	Five Indians caught for sabotage, including Shires + Indres (Jassat, Chiba, Vandeyar)
	19	Walter Sisulu goes underground. Five Indians brought before magistrate. Statements of police torture.
	20	Visit to Doornfontein, Fordsburg. Arthur Blaxall arrested
	22	3 people caught for possession of dynamite. 200 men and women arrested in Leslie
	23	Multiracial party by British ambassador. Voster explains clauses General Laws Amendment Bill. 15 Poqo suspects in court. Fort Hare lecturer sentenced for Alice sabotage. East Rand non-whites to be moved. Verwoerd's warning to nation
	26	Liberal Party meeting in Pretoria
	29	Harmel in court. More than 2000 arrests of Poqo suspects in court. Bill passed. Mrs Suzman only member to oppose. United party voted

		in favour
	30	Michael Harmel escapes to Lobatse. Five Indians in court for sabotage
May	1	Rica Hodgson + husband fled with Harmel
	2	Robert Sobukwe to be sent to Robben Island. Nelspruit Indians must leave
	3	Arthur Blaxall in court
	5	Visit Bapuji
	10	Niroo and I attend sabotage case. Mosie Moolla arrested
	13	3 Indians sentenced for sabotage
	16	Arthur Blaxall in court
	18	Our case remanded
	20	Jassat released and immediately re-arrested
	21	Chiba arrested
June	2	Ramlalbai sees Bapuji
	3	Arthur Blaxall in court
	11	Mamee passes away in India
	15	Our case postponed
	17	Wolpe arrested
	18	Mummy falls ill
	19	Arthur Blaxall in court
	21	Mrs Sisulu arrested
	24	Dhalamini and others held under '90 days'
July	4	Narsikaka taken to hospital
	7	Mummy + Niroo visit Bapuji

	8	Manoobhabhi's father passes away. Nchabaleng held under '90 days'
	9	Madikwane held under '90 days'
	10	Pranal's appeal heard
	11	Sisulu and 17 others arrested at Rivonia at Goldreich home
	17	Mabizela S held under '90 days'
August	3	Bapuji comes home.
	6	Mrs Sisulu released. 3 Africans sentenced for sabotage
	7	Isoo Chiba released. Moolla released and re-arrested. Mike Norton sentenced. Mrs Benjamin released
	8	Visit Khiba and others. Egypt bans SA airplanes from airspace. Several trade unionists released and re-arrested
	9	3 Group Area men visit our home. Ruth Slovo arrested
	10	Narsikaka passes away
	11	Goldreich, Wolpe, Moolla and Jassat escape from Marshall Square
	12	Visit exhibition in Jhb. Ncqukeva Somanza held under '90 days'
	15	4 Africans sentenced for sabotage.
	19	GI Hendriks and others held under '90 days'
	20	Elanor Anderson arrested for '90 days'
	21	James Kantor held under '90 days'
	23	Heidelberg + Rensburgdorp proclaimed white except for two African residential areas
	26	SA plane held in Niger for 24 hrs. Verwoerd meets Indians in Durban but not prepared to discuss
	28	Goldreich and Wolpe reach Bechuanaland. Moolla + Jassat to join them

	30	Marcus Ngani held under '90 days'
September	4	Alexander D and others held under '90 days'
	8	Fikile Bam and Marcus Solomons held under '90 days'
	9	Goldreich and Wolpe reach Elizabethville, later Dar es Salaam
	10	K Jordaan and others released and re-arrested
	17	Moolla + Jassat in Dar es Salaam
	18	Mrs Wolpe leaves for England
	23	Wolpe + Goldreich reach London. Mrs Arenstein placed under house arrest
	24	Greef (constable who helped Goldreich + Co.'s) sentenced to 6yrs
October	1	Mrs Goldberg held for 90 days. P goes to hospital. Tanganyika boycott SA good. SAA office closed in Nairobi. 7 Africans sentenced for sabotage
	2	Uganda and Kuwait boycott SA. Mr A Sachs detained
	3	Mrs Hain banned. Miss S banned
	4	Lenasia, Krugersdorp + Benoni to be Indian Areas. Uganda to ban entry of white South Africans
	5	Mr Mooloo died
	6	Mrs Goldreich released
	7	Mrs Viola Hashe banned. Rev Blaxall pleads guilty. 72 Africans appear for sabotage
	8	Rivonia trial was due to start, postponed for tomorrow. Crowd big. 31 Africans of PAC sentenced. Mr Rappoport, Mr Tinto, Mr F Neil detained for '90 days'
	9	Uganda celebrates first anniversary of independence. P operated. Blaxall case continues. Rivonia case opens, 11 accused charged for sabotage. Names of the accused. Under Suppression of Communism

		Act + Criminal Procedure Act. 222 Charges. Huge crowd. 4 Indians visited by Group Area people
	10	List of sentences of people for sabotage. Grahamstown attack on police station (King Williams Town). Phyllis Altman banned.
	11	Blaxall case continues. UN General Assembly passes resolution against Apartheid. Verbal notice served at Ismail Harrison by Group Area people
	12	Narsi Pema passes away. Victor Goldberg flies out on exit permit to Israel. Blaxall case continues
	13	N Pema Funeral
	14	Blaxall case ends, defence begins UN votes for arms embargo. Two Africans banned – Benoni
	15	Ronnie First released.
	16	Carolina Indian fined under Group Areas Act. Julius First + 2 others left for Tanganyika. First wanted by police. Kreels appears in court.
	17	Blaxall sentenced. Miss Neame arrested '90 days'. 2 Indians at Carolina sentenced
	19	Blaxall released on parole. JK Nugubane banned. Ban on meeting at City Hall steps. Brutus in court
	21	SA to abandon race discrimination in sport or must quit IO games
	25	Harun Moolla + another detained for putting up posters and handbills
	26	Harun badly assaulted by police. Harun released on bail
	(10)	UN Political Committee passes resolution
	29	Sabotage case opens in Pretoria. Huge crowd
	30	Dr Motara, Amodjee and Lalloo arrested under Group Areas Act. Indictment in sabotage case (Mandela etc) quashed. Indians close shops in 7 centres in Transvaal

November	1	Shop owners questioned. Mr S Nathie sends telegram to Voster
	3	Fed conference in Jhb well attended
	4	Visit by SB they come to look for me
	5	Mrs Mandela's case withdrawn
	12	Saboteurs appear to be charged
	13	100 children caned at Indian school. Landlords in Jhb served with notices. Maritzburg saboteurs threaten hunger strike
	15	Prayer day held in Natal against Group Areas Act. American television visits us. Diwali. SB's second visit for me
	16	SB take my name and address
	18	Dr Motara and others released. Mrs Joseph's appeal heard
	19	P's case postponed. SB visit home
	20	Mr S Nathie banned. 20 Indians at Ventersdorp served with summons. Transkei elections
	21	Yusuf Cachalia + Amina banned. 41 '90 day' detainees released
	22	President Kennedy killed. Assassin arrested
	24	Assassin Kennedy shot dead.
	25	Rivonia case continues. Application by defence to quash 2 nd indictment dismissed. Funeral President Kennedy and his assassin
	26	Rivonia case continues. Application by defence for postponement. Two families evicted at Laudium.
	27	Rivonia Trial postponed. Bob Hepple and wife escape to Dar es Salaam.
	28	SB visit at home to see Bapuji
	30	Miss Neame released. 18 summonses withdrawn at Ventersdorp. Burghersdorp asked to evict Indians from flats to make room for

		Chinese
December	2	3 Indian families' cases postponed. [?] Sabotage Trial at Synagogue
	3	Continuation of Rivonia Trial. State introduces evidence. Makki appears in magistrate court
	4	Continuation of Rivonia Trial. Synagogue trial continues
	5	Rivonia Trial cont. Mrs Joseph loses appeal. Mr Sisulu loses appeal. Synagogue Trial cont.
	6	Rivonia Trial Cont. Synagogue Trial cont.
	7	Rivonia Trial Cont. Synagogue Trial cont.
	8	Indians arrested in Fordsburg at bioscope.
	9	Rivonia Trial continues. Synagogue Trial continues. Zanzibar becomes independent
	10	Rivonia Trial continues in camera. Mr Motara's case postponed. Protest march by Indian women at Union Buildings. Maree meets stooges to form Indian National Council. Mr S Nathie loses appeal.
	11	Rivonia Trial continues in camera. Synagogue Trial continues. Maree's meeting continues. Zainub banned.
	12	Rivonia Trial continues in camera. Synagogue Trial continues. Kenya becomes independent. Indira Gandhi visits Nairobi
	13	Rivonia Trial continues in camera. Synagogue Trial continues. Mrs Joseph goes to jail. Mr S Nathie not allowed to attend funeral nephew. Jhb High School closes
	14	Mrs Joseph released. Rivonia Trial cont. In camera. Syng. Trial cont. Indira Gandhi visit Nyasaland.
		10 dogs were used to frighten Indian women from reaching Union Buildings. Women reached top struggling against dogs + police
	16	Govt. Wants to expropriate in Ventersdorp, belonging to Mr E Amodjee + Mr Rajah

	17	Rivonia Trial cont. In camera. Syn. Trial cont.
	18	Rivonia trial cont. In camera. Syn. Trial cont. Jomo Kenyatta orders Portuguese consul in Nairobi to close. UN stops work for '63. Indians arrested at bioscope discharged. Black Sash protested to Verwoerd about treatment of Indian women by police. 14 women to to Union Buildings to hand in letter of protest.
	19	Rivonia Trial cont. Syn. trial cont. Then postponed to next year.
	20	Rivonia Trial cont. Then postponed to next year. 23 '90 day' detainees in Cape
	21	Our case postponed. Our case withdrawn
	27	Shanti Naidoo banned
	30	Mrs Ditshego banned
Note pages at the back of the diary: 1962		Date of births of family members
		Dates of marriages of family members
		Address
		House arrest order served on Mrs Joseph – 13-10-'62 House arrest order served on Mr Sisulu – end of October
		1962: Sabotage wrecked part of 'V' building – Minister + Secr. Offices of Agriculture, Econ. + marketing
		Shop and house to be vacated by 31/10/63 or £ 100 or 6 months. 18/12/62
		29/09/62: notice served on N Sita + family to vacate residence. Notices served on Makki's, Channa's + Sujee's too.
		2/11/62: 2 inspectors visit home for another check up.
		19/11/62: summonses issued to 7 people in the home. All to appear

		in court on 10/12/62
		10/12/62: Defence NN Bhoolia, I Mahomed. Trials separated. Bapuji pleads guilty – others not guilty. B sentenced, imprisonment preferred.
		18/12/62: our case postponed
		19/12/62: order of execution served on B.
		25/12/62: visitors to B
		28/12/62: news received of B's illness. Medicine not acceptable to authorities
		29/12/62: visit to prison. Medicine not accepted. Further news of illness

NB: The Synagogue Trial entries most probably refer to the [?]