

INSTITUTE OF COMMONWEALTH STUDIES University of London

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference: Title: Dates: Level: Extent: Name of Creator: MS1290 Paul and Adelaide Joseph archive 1933-2022 fonds 6 folders Joseph, Paul (b1930) anti-apartheid activist, trade unionist Joseph, Adelaide (1932-2022) antiapartheid activist

CONTEXT

Biographical/Administrative History:

Paul Joseph was born in South Africa in 1930 to parents of South Indian heritage. He awoke to political activism as an Indian in the racially segregated schools and slums of Johannesburg, and aged just 15, committed himself to fight oppression. He became a trade unionist activist and a leading member of the Transvaal Indian Congress and the South African Communist Party. He participated in political campaigns from the passive resistance of the 1940s through to the armed struggle adopted by the African National Congress (ANC) in the 1960s. He was arrested and banned several times and, in 1956, was one of the 156 people accused of high treason by the Apartheid government - alongside Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Lilian Ngoyi, Ruth First and Helen Joseph. Paul was held in detention following the Sharpeville Massacre, the banning of the ANC and the imposition of the State of Emergency in 1960. One of the first recruits of uMKhonto we Sizwe (the armed wing of the ANC), he was put under house arrest and then solitary confinement in the Johannesburg prison known as The Fort. In 1958 Joseph he married Adelaide, an Indian South African and trained nurse, with whom he had four children, of whom the first were twins Zoya and Anand, born in 1959. Anand suffered brain damage at birth and needed constant care, and the difficulties of providing and caring for the family, especially after Joseph was banned from working in 1964, proved a heavy challenge. In early 1965 Adelaide left South Africa taking Anand for

treatment in East Germany and later that year, knowing that he was likely to be detained again soon, Joseph fled the country via Botswana and joined his family in London. The family lived initially in small flat in Notting Hill Gate, supported initially by other activists already in exile as well as UK antiapartheid supporters. He worked for Abbey Life (founded by South African lawyer Joel Joffe and South African-born British financier Mark Weinberg), which employed several South African political exiles and took on large numbers of African, Caribbean and Asian staff as it expanded. In 1968 the family moved to Mill Hill in Barnet where, with support of Labour councillor Albert Tomlinson, they founded a new Anti-Apartheid Movement branch which became one of the most active in the UK. When Abbey Life relocated to Bournemouth (in the 1970s?), Joseph left and for a while worked for Oxfam. Throughout his time in exile Paul Joseph campaigned ceaselessly for the liberation of South Africa. He worked particularly closely with Amnesty International, assisting them with South African issues and helping them raise support for the ANC's struggle against apartheid.

Adelaide Joseph was born in Boksburg near Johannesburg in 1932 and grew up in a deeply conservative Indian family living in Barberton. Joseph was politicised by her experiences of racial discrimination during her time as a nurse in Barberton hospital and had a sense of the injustice of apartheid from an early age. In 1957 she met prominent political activist Paul Joseph and, at his suggestion, attended Treason Trial hearings against anti-apartheid activists, where she became acquainted with many of the most active political leaders and their families, including the Mandelas. She married Paul Joseph in 1958 and became increasingly active in the liberation movement. Alongside her friend Winnie Mandela, Joseph was active in the South African Federation of Women and played a central role in keeping up the morale of prisoners' wives, sharing money and providing support for prisoners' families. She became a familiar figure outside prisons in Johannesburg and Pretoria and confronted prison officials about visiting rights of the spouses, mothers and sisters of prisoners. During Rivonia Trial in 1963 and 1964, Joseph accompanied Winnie Mandela to the trial in Pretoria and on at least one occasion she visited Nelson Mandela in prison. Her visits to anti-apartheid activists imprisoned by the South African regime were often traumatic. Over the years she worked with Nelson Mandela, Moses Kotane, J.B. Marks, Mac Maharaj and the Naidoo family. Some of the work was open; at other times she was asked to carry out tasks by some of the leaders and activists in the underground. She was skilled at smuggling messages from prisoners to activists still on the outside, warning them to evade arrests and reporting on police brutality inside. During the State of Emergency in 1960, when two thousand activists were arrested, Joseph acted as courier for Moses Kotane, general secretary of the South African Communist Party, and she arranged the removal of arms and documents at request of Communist lawyer Bram Fischer. Adelaide and Paul Joseph had four children together, of whom the first were twins Zoya and Anand, born in 1959. Anand suffered brain damage at birth and required constant support. Despite the help and support the Josephs received from family and friends, the main burden of care fell on Adelaide Joseph and living conditions in South Africa were very difficult. In early 1965 she and Anand left South Africa for the UK, from where she took

Anand for treatment in East Germany. Later that year the rest of the family joined her in London. Anand remained in East Germany in hospital until his death in 1970. In exile, as well as raising her children, and later running a catering business, Adelaide campaigned for the liberation of South Africa and maintained her life-long friendship with Winnie Mandela. She was active in Anti-Apartheid Movement, women's groups and the Workers Educational Association. After the legalisation of the ANC she visited South Africa in 1990 for the first time since going into exile in 1965. She died in 2022.

CONTENT

Scope and Content:

Correspondence, photographs and personal and official documents of Adelaide and Paul Joseph. The archive includes several letters sent to AJ from Nelson Mandela (dated 1962 and 1985), correspondence from Winnie Mandela and a letter from imprisoned anti-apartheid campaigner Wilton Mkwayi. It also contains photographs of activists in action in the anti-apartheid struggles of the 1950s and 1960s, such as the Defiance Campaign of 1952.

ACCESS AND USE

Language of Scripts:	English (language)
System of Arrangement:	Arranged in accordance with the order in which the material was presented on accession: File 1: Correspondence 1; File 2: Photographs 1; File 3: Photographs 2; File 4: Correspondence 2; File 5: Personal documents of Adelaide Joseph; File 6: Personal documents of Paul Joseph.
Conditions of Access:	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.
Conditions of Reproduction:	Copyright belongs to the (legal heirs of the) creators of this material. University of London does not hold or manage any of the copyright in this material.

MS1290/1 Correspondence (File 1 of 2)

undated [c1960-1989]

Letters and greetings cards mainly to Adelaide and Paul Joseph from various correspondents including Nelson Mandela, Winne Mandela, Wilton Mkwayi, and Molly Fisher. The authors and intended recipients of the letters are not always clear, as the correspondents often addressed each other using fake relationships (e.g. my dear son, my brother etc) to avoid censorship or the confiscation of the letters. The material was previously stored in standard file folder (now removed) with a label reading: 'Paul & Adelaide Joseph, Anand Bhavan, 30 Vineyard Avenue, Mill Hill, London NW7 1HR'.

1 folder (21 individual items)

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/1/1	Birthday card and letter from Nelson Mandela to Adie [Joseph] Marked with the Censor Office stamp of Robben Island Prison. Handwritten letter covering the verso and inner folds of the birthday.	1975 March 01
	1 leaf	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/1/2	Xmas greeting card with printed photo of Zindzi and Zeni Mandela A handwritten message to 'Aunt Adie, Uncle Paul, Zoya and Tanya' from 'Zami & kids' is on the verso.	[December] 1965
	1 leaf	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
	Xmas greeting card with printed photo of Zindzi	1965

and Zeni Mandela December

The message 'with all our love from Winnie Mandela' is on the verso. 1 leaf Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit. MS1290/1/4 Envelope (fragment) addressed to Adelaide undated Joseph, Fordsburg, Johannesburg [c1962] [The envelope may previously have enclosed one of the two letters sent to AJ by Nelson Mandela, see MS1290/1/6 and MS1290/1/7.] 1 envelope Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit. MS1290/1/5 Birthday card for Addie [Joseph] from Nelson 1969 Mandela November-December Marked with the Censor Office stamp of Robben Island Prison, dated 20 November 1969. 1 leaf Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit. MS1290/1/6 Letter to Adelaide Joseph from Nelson Mandela 1962 October 07 Handwritten letter marked with the stamp of Johannesburg Prison. Addressed to to AJ in Fordsburg [South Africa]. 2 leaves Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit. MS1290/1/7 Letter to Adelaide Joseph from Nelson Mandela 1962 October 30 Handwritten letter marked with the stamp of Pretoria Central Prison. Addressed to AJ in Fordsburg [South Africa]

1 leaf

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/1/8 Letter to Paul and Adie Joseph from Molly [Fischer?]

1962 November 11-12

With envelope. Handwritten letter on note paper. Envelope addressed to PJ in Fordsburg, Johannesburg.

1 leaf and 1 envelope

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/1/9 Letter to Adie [Joseph] from Nelson Mandela 1985

February 25

Handwritten on lined A4 paper. Annotated at the top of the first page 'Please pass the enclosed letter to Thembi's(?) mum'. The third leaf of this letter was previously catalogued as a separate item (MS1290/1/9B).

3 leaves

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/1/10 Letter addressed to 'Darling Son' from 'Ma' undated

[c1965-1975]

Handwritten A4 paper. On the verso is written: Mrs Joseph, 23 Hamilton Gardens, NW8, N. Thavee, UK.

1 leaf

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/1/1	 Letter (photocopy) from Nelson Mandela to Peter Joseph Photocopy of handwritten letter on A4 paper. Written from Pollsmoor Maximum Prison, Tokai, [South Africa]. Marked with the stamp of the Censor Office. Addressed to Peter Joseph c/o Yusuf Cachalia in Johannesburg. 	1985 June 04
	2 leaves	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/1/1	2 Letter from Wilton Mkwayi to Adelaide [Joseph]	1989 May
	Handwritten on lined A4 paper. Marked with the stamp of Censor Office of Pollsmoor Maximum Prison, Tokai. The third of the three leaves of the letter was previously catalogued as a separate item (MS1290/1/12B).	29-30
	3 leaves	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/1/1	3 Letter (photocopy) addressed to 'my darling brother and sister' [Paul and Adelaide Joseph?] from 'Sissi' [Winne Mandela?]	undated [c1960]
	2 leaves	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/2	Photographs (File 1 of 2)	undated [c1958-
	Photos of political activism and individuals dating from the Defiance Campaign 1952 onwards in South Africa and in London.	c2008]
	1 folder (18 items)	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	

MS1290/2/1 B/w photograph of Paul Joseph, J.B. Marks, L[ionel] Morrison and other anti-apartheid campaigners on the day of their release from Pretoria Central Prison Notes by PJ on the verso read: 'On the day we were released from Pretoria Central. We were detained for the whole of the State of Emergency -March to the end of August 1960. I recall the fotographer was Joe Gquabi for [the newspaper] 'New Age'.

1 item

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/2/2 Colour photograph of Nelson Mandela sitting in undated a chair at a hotel in London with Paul Joseph [c2008] standing to the left and Adie Joseph standing to the right

1 item

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/2/3	B/w photograph of Adelaide and Paul Joseph with Winnie Mandela at the Rivonia Trial	undated [1963 October- 1964 June]
	[Photograph taken outside the Palace of Justice in	-

[Photograph taken outside the Palace of Justice in Pretoria, where the trial took place.] Text on verso states that WM is wearing an Ethopian dress which Nelson [Mandela] had bought for her.

1 item Item catalogued by Emily Chu (under supervision by Sean Macmillan). Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/2/4	B/w photograph of Adelaide Joseph, Libby (sister of [Nelson] Mandela) and Winnie [Mandela] at the Rivonia Trial	undated [1963 October- 1964 June]
	[Photograph taken outdoors, possibly outside the Palace of Justice in Pretoria, where the Trial took place.]	1904 Juliej
	1 item	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/2/5	B/w photograph of Mary Benson, Winnie Mandela, Ruth Mompati, Mosey Moolla, Essop Jassat and two of Winnie Mandela's sisters	undated [c1960- 1965]
	1 item	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/2/6	B/w photograph of Winnie Mandela, Adelaide Joseph and others Text on the verso reads: 'Winnie Mandela in a saree and garland after opening a conference of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress in 1963. Nelson [Mandela] was elected Honorary Present of this youth delegation. Alongside her is Adelaide Joseph.	1963
	1 item	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/2/7	B/w photograph of all the Treason Trial defendants headed 'Treason Trial. The Accused. December 1956' Photograph taken by ANC photographer, Eli Weinberg	1956 December
	1 item	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	

MS1290/2/8	B/w photograph of a demonstration on the Red Square in Fordsburg [Johannesburg] Text on verso states that the demonstration was part of a build-up to the Defiance Campaign. Marked as the copyright of Drum Magazine, Johannesburg (founded 1951).	undated [c1952]
	1 item	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/2/9	B/w photograph of South African police subjecting black South African men in a truck to a pass check	undated [c1958]
	1 item	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/2/10	B/w photograph of a group of 13 anti-apartheid activists posing with thumbs up at a preparatory meeting of the Defiance Campaign. The meeting took place in a trade union hall in Johannesburg prior to the acts of defiance. Those depicted include Babla Salojee [Suliman Saloojee], Paul Joseph, Ahmed Tihry (Tirhy?), Ibrahim Moola [Ebrahim Moolla], Abu Dadoo, Henry Naude and Frank Kandia. Marked as copyright of newspaper African Drum, Johannesburg. 1 item Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	1952 June 26
MS1290/2/11	B/w photograph of the first batch of activists marching the Defiance Campaign in Boksburg (South Africa) Text on the verso reads: 'The first batch of defiers in the campaign against unjust laws in 1952. [] This was the first act of defiance in the country, led by Nana Sita, President of the Transvaal Indian Congress.' Amongst the activists depicted are	1952 June 26

Nana Sita, Abu Dadoo, Ahmed Tirhy (Tihry?), Henry Naude, "Babla" Salojee [Suliman Saloojee], Ibrahim Moola [Ebrahim Moolla], Paul Joseph, Frank Kandia and Sulieman Esakjee [Suliman Moosa Esakjee]. Marked as copyright of newspaper African Drum, Johannesburg.

1 item

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/2/12	B/w photograph of Dr Yusuf Dadoo	undated [c1960
	Photographer unknown. Marked as copyright of newspaper African Drum, Johannesburg.	
	1 item	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/2/13	Photograph of Walter Sisulu and Nana Sita	undated [c1960]
	Marked as copyright of newspaper African Drum, Johannesburg.	[01300]
	1 item	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/2/14	B/w photograph of Moses Kotane	undated [1960]
	Unknown photographer. Marked as copyright of newspaper African Drum, Johannesburg.	[1900]
	1 item	
	Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.	
MS1290/2/15	B/w photograph of Winne Mandela	undated [c1960]

Paul Joseph's name and address in Mill Hill, London, are handwritten on the verso.

1 item

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/2/16 B/w photograph of Nelson Mandela undated [c1960] Paul and Adelaide Joseph's names and address in Mill Hill, London, are handwritten on the verso.

1 item

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/2/17 B/w photograph of a gathering of members of the Indian Youth Congress at Park Station, Johannesburg, in solidarity with dock worker Mohamed Bhana, who was being banished Text on the verso reads: 'An act of solidarity: a dock worker from Cape Town was being banished to a remote part of the Transvaal. The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) saw him off and gave him a food parcel. IYC activists shown include Kista Moonsamy, Adelaide Joseph and Daso Iyer [Paul Joseph's brother].

1 item

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/2/18 B/w photograph showing four of the activists in 1952 June the Defiance Campaign greeting supporters from the back of a truck

Text on verso reads: 'Following the act of defiance 26 June 1952 approximately 50 defiers were arrested in Boksburg'. The activists show here are "Babla" Salojee [Suliman Saloojee], Ibrahim Moola [Ebrahim Moolla], Abu Dadoo and Ahmed Tirhy (Tihry?). Marked as copyright of newspaper African Drum, Johannesburg.

1 item

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/3 Photographs (File 2 of 2)

undated [c1939-1994]

Includes -1 photograph of Paul Joseph with his mother outside their home in Avenue Road, Fordsburg, South Africa; his older sister Chella is on the far right (c.1939); -1 photograph of Nelson Mandela given to the Josephs by Mary Benson, inscribed on the verso 'NM eating bread, London 1962'). [This is the same image as MS1290/2/16.] -1 photograph of a fellow activist known as 'General China', inscribed on the verso 'General China is wearing a sign advertising 'New Age' [the paper the PJ and other activists contributed to and distributed]. The headline reads 'Emergency Ends, Freedom is in Sight', Johannesburg (c. 1960); -1 photograph taken in Prague of PJ and others en route to the 3rd [4th?] World Youth and Student Festival in Bucharest; other South African attendees pictured include Henry Gordon 'Squire' Makgothi, Walter Sisulu, Duma Nokwe, Alfred 'Tough' Hutchinson, Lindy Ngakane, Frank Marguard and Greenwood [Dumisa] Ngotvana (1953); according to notes on the verso, the photograph is an enlargement of a snap taken by Bianca Moorhead Posner. -1 photograph of PJ with fellow activists overlooking the River Moskva in Moscow, Greenwood [Dumisa] Ngotyana [a trade unionist], and Frank Marguard [President of the Food and Canning Workers' Union]; all three were delegates of the the World Youth and Student Festival in Bucharest in 1953; -1 photocopy of 1) a colour photograph of Nelson and Winnie Mandela on their first visit to London after the his release from jail; on the right of the photograph is the Josephs' eldest daughter, Zoya. Taken at the MSF union hall in Camden by fellow South African activist Desmond Francis; and 2) a b/w photograph (superimposed over the bottom right of the colour photograph) of four of the Treason Trial defendants (Daso, Dhali, Doreen and Peter [PJ]) seated in a row in 1994, with the words 'Brothers & Sisters witnessing the glorious birth of our new non-racial and non-sexist democratic South Africa', taken by Eli Weinberg (27 April 1994).

1 folder

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/4 Correspondence (File 2 of 2)

Includes a letter to Adelaide Joseph from Paul Joseph whilst he was in prison (7 December 1964) and diverse correspondence to both AJ and PJ from the following: -Winnie Mandela (1 letter, 13 June 1980, and 1 card, December 1978); -Blanche La Guma (1 letter, 2 December 1985); -Ahmed Kathrada (1 letter, 3 June 1992); -Tilly First (1 letter, December 1981, and 1 card, 8 February 1983); -Joel and Vanetta Joffe (1 card, undated); -Helena Kennedy (1 card, undated); -David Carter (1 letter, 13 November 1978); and 1 postcard addressed to PJ from Alica[?] and Richard, fellow attendees of the World Youth Festival in Bucharest in 1953 (25 December 1953).

1 folder

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/5 Personal documents of Adelaide Joseph

1933-2022

1953-1992

Contains personal and official registration documents mainly relating to South Africa but also from the UK. including -birth certificate; -application to register a birth (1959) -baptism certificate (1933); -school certificate (1948); -testimonial for AJ from the Medical Office in Charge at Barberton Hospital (1955); -UK Certificate of Registration (1965-1969); -letter concerning dual citizenship status (1994); -pass on lanyard for Winnie Mandela's funeral (2018); -order of service for AJ's funeral (2022); -clipping with obituary on AJ by Tanya Joseph from The Guardian (11 November 2022); -items relating to a service of thanksgiving for Nelson Mandela at Westminster Hall. including tickets for AJ and Paul Joseph, a copy of the speech given by AJ at the service, a letter of thanks from the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Lord Speaker for her contribution (2013-2014).

1 folder

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.

MS1290/6 Personal documents of Paul Joseph

Contains personal and official registration documents mainly relating to South Africa but also from the UK. including -birth certificate (October 1940, 1994) official population, registration and race classification documents including a Transvaal Asiatic Registration Certificate with thumb print (1944); -marriage certificate (25 July 1958); -documents relating to PJ's change(s) of name (1972) -letter from the Office of the Population Registrar, Pretoria, concerning PJ's receipt of an identity card (January 1960); -notice from the Bechuanaland Protectorate concerning PJ's permission to enter the Protectorate (July 1965): notice from the Republic of Zambia concerning PJ's permission to enter the Republic (October 1965); documents relating to PJ's escape from South Africa. including a front page article with photograph on PJ in 'The Post' [South African newspaper] (August 1965); -UK Home Office form (and duplicate) permitting PJ to land in the UK (8 October 1965); -UK Certificate of Registration (1965-1969); -membership card for Union of Insurance staff (1970-1971); -letter relating to dual citizenship (1994); -guest pass on lanvard for Winnie Mandela's funeral (2018): -article from the Edgware and Mill Hill Times about a sponsored walk from Glasgow to London under the slogan 'Free Mandela at 70', in which the Josephs' daughter Nadia was a participant (1988); -clipping from The Guardian of a letter written by Paul concerning Communist activist who fought for workers' rights in South Africa, Ray Simons, together with an obituary for her by Hugh Macmillan (2004).

1 folder

Open. Please give at least 24 hours' notice before a research visit.