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Descriptive Summary

Identifier: ICU.SPCL.CSF

Title: Committee on Science and Freedom. Records

Date: 1953-1962

Size: 6.5 linear ft. (13 boxes)

Repository: Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract: The Committee on Science and Freedom was an outgrowth of the Congress for Cultural Freedom held in Hamburg in 1953. The Records contain correspondence, press clippings, and copies of the Committee on Science and Freedom Bulletin. The collection also includes topical files that track the Committee’s support of Hungarian scholars during the Hungarian Revolution and its investigation of conditions at universities in Tasmania and South Africa.

Information on Use

Access
No restrictions.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Committee on Science and Freedom. Records, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note

The Committee on Science and Freedom was an outgrowth of the Congress for Cultural Freedom held in Hamburg in 1953. From 1954 until 1962 the Committee published occasional bulletins with articles on the relationship between society and scholarship in general and on the university as an institution in particular. In 1962 the bulletins were replaced by the journal Minerva, under the editorship of Edward Shils. The Minerva Papers, which are also at the University of Chicago, are organized as a separate collection.

The Committee’s involvement with scholars who participated in the Hungarian revolution began on November 3, 1956, shortly after the Hungarian uprising was quelled, the Committee on Science and Freedom received a telegram from the rector and seventeen professors of Szeged University, appealing to "all the universities in the world to rally to their side with their moral
authority." In compliance with this appeal the Committee, on November 6, 1956, mailed a circular to scholars all over the world, asking them to declare their solidarity with their Hungarian colleagues.

After the Hungarian uprising the Committee on Science and Freedom attempted to obtain the names and addresses of Hungarian scholars in order to arrange a cultural exchange between them and their Western colleagues. The collection includes miscellaneous correspondence written and received by the Committee in pursuit of this aim.

Another portion of the collections tracks the Committee’s involvement in conditions, which existed at the University of Tasmania between 1954 and 1956.

In October 1954, an inquiry into the university’s affairs was demanded in a letter written by Professor S. S. Orr and endorsed by a number of other faculty members. The charges made against the university ultimately led to an investigation conducted by a Royal Commission. His criticisms made Orr persona non grata with university authorities. Rumors concerning his moral conduct began to circulate on campus, and in November 1955, he was accused by one of his students of having seduced her. Orr eventually lost his position and in turn sued the university for wrongful dismissal. Since fundamental issues of academic freedom were raised in connection with this case, the Committee took considerable interest in it.

**Scope Note**

The Committee on Science and Freedom Records contain correspondence, press clippings, and copies of the Committee on Science and Freedom Bulletin. The collection also includes topical files that track the Committee’s support of Hungarian scholars during the Hungarian Revolution and its investigation of conditions at universities in Tasmania and South Africa.

After the Hungarian uprising the Committee on Science and Freedom attempted to obtain the names and addresses of Hungarian scholars in order to arrange a cultural exchange between them and their Western colleagues. The collection includes miscellaneous correspondence written and received by the Committee in pursuit of this aim.

The Tasmanian materials track the Committee’s involvement in conditions, which existed at the University of Tasmania between 1954 and 1956. In October 1954, an inquiry into the university’s affairs was demanded in a letter written by Professor S. S. Orr and endorsed by a number of other faculty members. The charges made against the university ultimately led to an investigation conducted by a Royal Commission.

Materials in the collection also deal with the Committee’s involvement with protests against the university situation in South Africa, especially with the problems and hardships caused by the policy of apartheid.

The correspondence in the collection was received by the Committee between 1953 and 1962. Most of the letters and postcards simply acknowledge receipt of copies of the Bulletin, which was widely distributed free of charge. Occasionally comments on the bulletin articles are added.
Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Subject Headings
• Committee on Science and Freedom
• Universities and colleges -- South Africa
• Universities and colleges -- Hungary
• Universities and colleges -- Australia
• Scholars -- Hungary
• Hungary -- History -- Revolution, 1956
• Scholars -- Hungary

INVENTORY

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  The Hungarian Revolt
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  Bacteriological warfare
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Folder 3
  The arts in communist countries
Box 1
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  The Pasternak case
Box 1
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  Intellectual ferment in Eastern Europe
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  School integration in the southern U.S. in general
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Folder 16
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Folder 4
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Box 9
Folder 5
Correspondence, 1962

Box 9
Folder 6-11
Carbon copies of letters sent by the Committee, 1957.

Box 9
Folder 12
Report on the Committee's Activities, July 1954 - August 1955

Box 9
Folder 13
Report on the Committee's Activities, December 1955 - February 1956

Box 9
Folder 14
Report on the Committee's Activities, February - August 1956

Box 9
Folder 15
Report on the Committee's Activities, September 1956 - April 1957

Box 9
Folder 16
Report on the Committee's Activities, May - December 1957

Box 9
Folder 17
Report on the Committee's Activities, January - September 1958

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Folder 18
Report on the Committee's Activities, September 1958 - May 1959
Box 9
Folder 19
  Report on the Committee's Activities, January - February 1960
Box 9
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  Report on the Committee's Activities, October 1960
Box 9
Folder 21
  Report on the Committee's Activities, November - December 1960
Box 9
Folder 22
  Report on the Committee's Activities, January 1961
Box 9
Folder 23
  Report on the Committee's Activities, February - March 1961
Box 10
Folder 1
  Copy of the circular of November 6, 1956, the text of a statement on the plight of
  Hungarian intellectuals handed to the Soviet ambassador in London on December 4,
  1956, and a press release announcing the demarche at the embassy.
Box 10
Folder 2
  Letters received in response to the appeal
Box 10
Folder 3
  Letters received in response to the appeal
Box 10
Folder 4
  Letters received in response to the appeal
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  Letters received in response to the appeal
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Letters received in response to the appeal

Box 10
Folder 11
Letters received in response to the appeal

Box 10
Folder 12
Miscellaneous correspondence in connection with the appeal

Box 10
Folder 13
Miscellaneous correspondence in connection with the appeal

Box 10
Folder 14
Miscellaneous correspondence in connection with the appeal

Box 10
Folder 15
Miscellaneous correspondence in connection with the appeal

Box 10
Folder 16
A list of scholars from whom replies were received

Box 11
Folder 1-6
Hungarian Correspondence

Box 11
Folder 7
A "Historical survey" of the case against the University of Tasmania; the published Report of the Royal Commission on the University, and the text of "A Bill to amend the Tasmanian University Act 1951."

Box 11
Folder 8
Correspondence by and to the Committee relating to the U. of T., mimeographed circulars, etc.

Box 11
Folder 9
Correspondence by and to the Committee relating to the U. of T., mimeographed circulars, etc.

Box 11
Folder 10
Correspondence by and to the Committee relating to the U. of T., mimeographed circulars, etc.

Box 11
Folder 11
Newspaper clippings

Box 11
Folder 12
Newspaper clippings
Folder 13
  Newspaper clippings
Box 12
Folder 1-4
  Letters relating to race segregation in universities
Box 12
Folder 5-15
  Correspondence relating to an appeal in January, 1958, made by the Committee on
  Science and Freedom for funds to help non-white South African students to enter one of
  the still "open" universities in that country, before the government’s Separate University
  Education Bill, excluding non-whites from these universities, came into force.
Box 13
Folder 1-3
  Correspondence with the contributors to the bulletin
Box 13
Folder 4
  Bulletin No. 1.
Box 13
Folder 5
  Bulletin No. 1-6 (2 copies)
Box 13
Folder 6
  Bulletin No. 13.(2 copies)
Box 13
Folder 7
  Bulletin No.16-18.