

Catalogue of the Archives of the Committee of 100 collected by Derry Hannam

By Helen Roberts, PaxCat Project
Archivist

Reference code: GB 0532 Cwl HC.

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INTRODUCTION

This collection of papers is one of the archives collected by Commonweal Library, an independent peace library located in the J.B. Priestley Library of the University of Bradford. These archives are part of the Special Collections at the University of Bradford.

This set of papers, like many of the most significant of the Commonweal archives, was catalogued as part of the PaxCat Project. The Project was funded by the National Cataloguing Grants Programme for Archives and ran from May 2009-May 2010. You can find out more about the Project from the reflective blog kept by Helen Roberts, our Project Archivist.

<http://commonwealarchives.wordpress.com>

Alison Cullingford, Special Collections Librarian.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Reference code

GB 0532 Cwl HC

Title

Archives of the Committee of 100 collected by Derry Hannam

Dates

1960-1968

Level of description

Fonds

Extent

0.3 metres

Name of creator

Committee of 100

Administrative/ Biographical history

The Committee of 100 was founded on the initiative of Ralph Schoenman and Bertrand Russell in October 1960. The Committee called for a mass movement of civil disobedience against British government policy on nuclear weapons. Its members saw a need for more radical methods than those used by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, especially following the defeat of the Labour Party in the 1959 general election. In this sense, the Committee of 100 was the successor of the Direct Action Committee, which disbanded in June 1961 after the Holy Loch demonstration. The Committee of 100 aimed to use non violent direct action on a mass scale, something the DAC had never managed to sustain. Bertrand Russell resigned as president of CND to take on the presidency of the Committee of 100 and Rev. Michael Scott became chairman.

Many leading DAC activists joined the Committee of 100, including Michael Randle, who returned from Ghana to become its first secretary, and April Carter, who sat with Randle on the working group. However the Committee of 100 did not share the DAC's Gandhian commitment to using non violent methods to achieve a non violent society. Its focus was limited to achieving British unilateral nuclear disarmament, as described in its manifesto by Russell and Scott, 'Act or perish'.

Its early campaign tactic was to organise sit-down demonstrations and these were not to be undertaken without at least 2000 volunteers pledging to take part. The first of these sit-downs took place on 18 February 1961 outside the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall. The high point of the Committee came on the weekend of 16-17 September 1961, with successful demonstrations in Trafalgar Square and at the Holy Loch Polaris submarine base. These were preceded by the arrest and trial of 32 members of the Committee for incitement to breach the peace.

With several of its more experienced leaders in prison, the Committee took the decision to stage simultaneous demonstrations at military bases in Wethersfield, Ruislip, Brize Norton, York, Bristol, Cardiff and Manchester. This action was planned for 9 December 1961 and the aim was to immobilise temporarily at least one of the bases. In advance of the demonstrations, the Committee of 100 offices at 13 Goodwin Street, London, were raided by Special Branch officers. Six leading members of the Committee were arrested and charged with conspiracy under the Official Secrets Act. The trial of Ian Dixon, Terry Chandler, Trevor Hatton, Michael Randle, Pat Pottle and Helen Allegranza took place in February 1962, and all received jail sentences as a result.

In early 1962 the original Committee of 100 dissolved itself and reformed on a decentralised basis. Under this new structure, 13 regional Committees became responsible for organising demonstrations, with the National Committee limited to a co-ordinating role. Of the regional Committees, the London Committee of 100 was the most active and influential. A national magazine, *Action for Peace*, was launched by the London Committee in April 1963, published under the name *Resistance* from January 1964.

Demonstrations continued both in London and at military bases during 1962, and a controversial *Troops Against the Bomb* campaign was also launched, but the year marked the beginning of the movement's decline. An attempt to recreate the Trafalgar Square sit-down, planned for 9 September, was called off at the last moment and led to Bertrand Russell's resignation from the Committee. This reflected a shift within the movement towards greater influence by anarchist activists and supporters of the journal *Solidarity for Workers' Power*. The most dramatic example of this break with the DAC tradition was the *Spies for Peace* operation. The revelations at Easter 1963 about plans for Regional Seats of Government in the event of a nuclear attack followed a secret raid on RSG6 at Warren Row, near Reading.

1963 also saw the beginning of Committee involvement in the various marches and demonstrations organised under the ad hoc *Save Greece Now* committee, from the Greek royal visit in summer 1963, through to the invasion of the Greek Embassy on 2 April 1967. As the decade progressed the influence of the Committee (and of CND) waned as the political initiative passed to the anti-Vietnam War movement and nuclear disarmament shifted down the political agenda. The London Committee disbanded in January 1968 and the National Committee followed in the September.

Derry Hannam was an activist in the Committee of 100, but not an original signatory. A retired deputy headteacher, he works as a researcher, adviser and trainer in education for democratic citizenship, including for the Council of Europe and the British government.

Archival history

These archives were rescued by Derry Hannam after a fire at the national offices of the Committee of 100, 13 Goodwin Street, London, circa 1968. The archives were kept in his personal custody until their transfer to the Commonweal Collection.

Immediate source of acquisition

Donated to the Commonweal Collection by Derry Hannam, July 1994.

Scope and content

This is a very small archive which reflects the fact that material was lost during the fire at the Committee of 100 offices, circa 1968. The decentralised structure of the Committee from 1962 onwards meant that records were also created and kept by the convenors of regional Committees of 100 and of national sub committees and groups.

The collection comprises mainly: (a) a series of files of Committee of 100 papers, arranged chronologically and covering the years 1960 - 1964, each file containing a mixture of meeting minutes, circulars, reports, policy and discussion documents, leaflets and correspondence; and (b) files covering the work of the London Committee of 100, 1962-1967; the London Students Committee of 100, 1962; the Industrial Subcommittee, 1961-1964; the International Subcommittee, 1962-1966; and the Christian Group, 1963-1967.

There is evidence to indicate that Hannam has added some of his own papers to the collection. For example, the file on the War Resisters' International study conference in Denmark in 1962 contains the papers which he acquired as a delegate.

Peter Cadogan, who was in post as National Secretary when the organisation disbanded in 1968, also retained his own collection of archives of the Committee of 100. These were consulted by Richard Taylor, author of *Against the bomb* (1988), in the 1980s. It is possible (but not confirmed) that Cadogan's collection forms the basis of the Committee of 100 archives donated to the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam by Heiner Becker.

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling

A small amount of published material (leaflets, duplicates of bulletins) has been transferred to the Peace Ephemera collection (Eph PAC).

Accruals

None expected.

System of arrangement

The arrangement of the collection reflects how it was ordered and kept by Derry Hannam. His annotations appear on many documents.

Access conditions

A high proportion of the documents in this archive have suffered fire damage and are therefore discoloured and liable to disintegrate when handled. Some files have been closed for this reason.

Available to researchers, by appointment. Access to archive material is subject to preservation requirements and must also conform to the restrictions of the Data Protection Act and any other appropriate legislation.

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The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Language of material

English.

Physical characteristics

A high proportion of the documents in this archive have suffered fire damage and are therefore discoloured and liable to disintegrate when handled. Careful handling is required.

Related units of description

Papers of Mary Ringsleben (GB 0532 Cwl MRL).

Papers of Michael Randle (GB 0532 Cwl MR).

Papers of Richard Taylor (GB 0532 Cwl DT).

Archives of the Committee of 100, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam.

Publication note

Chapter 5 in Richard Taylor, *Against the bomb: the British peace movement 1958-1965* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988).

Archivist's note

Described by Helen Roberts.

Rules or conventions

ISAD(G) 2nd ed.

Date(s) of description

February 2010.

INDEXING

Persons

Cadogan, Peter (1921-2007)

Hannam, Derry

Russell, Bertrand Arthur William (1872-1970), 3rd Earl Russell

Corporate Bodies

Committee of 100

Subjects

Peace movements – Great Britain – History – 20th century

Nonviolence – Great Britain – History – 20th century

Pacifism – Great Britain – History – 20th century

Nuclear disarmament

CWL HC/1. COMMITTEE OF 100, INCLUDING NATIONAL COMMITTEE/NATIONAL SECRETARY FROM 1962

Date

1960 - 1964.

Extent

7 files.

Cwl HC/1/1

Title

File. Committee of 100

Date

October 1960 - February 1962.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Attendance lists for committee meetings.

Cwl HC/1/2

Title

File. Committee of 100

Date

1960 - 1961.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Agenda and minutes of committee meetings; memoranda on policy and organisation; account of origins of C100; resolutions for C100 and CND annual conferences; notes of press reports; circulars; briefings; leaflets; report about formation of Scottish C100, 'Holy Loch, September 1961'; incomplete writings by Derry Hannam.

Conditions of access

Many items flaky and burnt around the edges.

Cwl HC/1/3

Title

File. Committee of 100

Date

1961.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Secretary's report; Working Group papers; agenda and minutes of committee meetings; leaflets; circulars; press releases; summary of conditions in Holloway Prison; proposal on 'Black Paper' project; list of C100 supporters; summaries of correspondence dealt with on monthly basis; report on Scottish C100, with covering letter from Douglas Brewood; poems by Hal Moggeridge and the Hutt family; list of members of sub committees; briefings; memoranda on policy and organisation; notes about television and radio reports of demonstration on 18 February 1961.

Conditions of access

Many items flaky and burnt around the edges.

Cwl HC/1/4

Title

File. Committee of 100

Date

1962.

Extent

1 file.

Language

Leaflet in Italian, German, Russian, French.

Scope and content

Memoranda and proposals on policy, methods and campaigns, including those discussed at London C100 supporters' conference, with reports of conference; Everyman III policy statement; circulars; agenda and minutes of national committee, planning committee and London C100 meetings, with lists of attendees; briefings; leaflets; report of International Anti-War Conference, Amsterdam; summaries of correspondence dealt with on monthly basis; press releases; account of Parliament Square demonstration; list of regional secretaries.

Conditions of access

Many items flaky and burnt around the edges. Restricted access: Data Protection Act applies.

Cwl HC/1/5

Title

File. Committee of 100

Date

1963.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Beyond counting arses', critique of CND and C100 by members of London C100; circulars; papers of South East London C100 Working Group; agenda and minutes of national committee, London C100 and national working group meetings, with list of attendees; discussion documents; press releases; correspondence, including letter from Eric Lubbock; notes; papers of Working Group planning C100 demonstration at Porton Down, including list of those arrested; leaflets; briefings; papers of regional C100 committees; account of a stay at Pluscarden Priory, Elgin [anonymous].

Conditions of access

Many items flaky and burnt around the edges. Restricted access: Data Protection Act applies.

Cwl HC/1/6

Title

File. Committee of 100

Date

1964.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Correspondence; report of Way Ahead conference, February 1963; agenda of national policy and planning conference and national committee meetings; report of meeting in Wellingborough; minutes of London C100 meeting; circulars; transcript of interview with Eric Lubbock MP; leaflets; bulletin of Rowen, experimental factory for

peace; account of appeals against convictions following Greek royal visit demonstrations; draft course for study groups on nonviolent action, by Gene Sharp.

Conditions of access

One item flaky and burnt around the edges; one item water damaged.

Cwl HC/1/7

Title

File. Committee of 100

Date

[1961] - [1967].

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content.

Notes on the history of C100, including interview with Laurens Otter, November 1967; notebook containing account of being arrested and charged for handing out leaflets, by a member of C100; paper on 'The limits of tolerance'.

Note

[Derry Hannam's file].

Conditions of access

Some items flaky and burnt around the edges.

CWL HC/2. REGIONAL COMMITTEES, SUB COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

Date

1962 - 1967.

Extent

7 files.

Cwl HC/2/1

Title

File. London Committee of 100

Date

1962.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Correspondence; leaflet; campaign stickers.

Note

Convenor Ella Morgan.

Conditions of access

Many items flaky and burnt around the edges.

Cwl HC/2/2

Title

File. London Committee of 100

Date

1964 - 1967.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Agenda and minutes of committee meetings; circulars; leaflets; policy statement; programmes of events; Points of Information bulletins; discussion paper.

Conditions of access

Many items flaky and burnt around the edges.

Cwl HC/2/3

Title

File. London Students Committee of 100

Date

1962.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Circulars; agenda for committee meeting; list of committee members; briefing; press release; transcripts of articles in the press about student demonstrations.

Note

Secretary Tony Robinson.

Conditions of access

Restricted access. Data Protection Act applies.

Cwl HC/2/4

Title

File. Committee of 100: Industrial Sub Committee

Date

1961 - 1964.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Correspondence of Pat Arrowsmith/Jon Tinker, convenor/secretary of Industrial Sub Committee; leaflets; circulars; lists of supportive trade unionists and industrial workers; agenda, notes and minutes of meetings.

Note

Convenor Pat Arrowsmith.

Conditions of access

Restricted access. Data Protection Act applies.

Cwl HC/2/5

Title

File. Committee of 100: International Sub Committee

Date

1962 - 1966.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Correspondence, including with Colin Sweet (British Peace Committee) and letter from Peter Cadogan; reports of Cambridge Conference on International Action, July 1962, and International Anti-War Conference, November 1962; agenda and notes of Amsterdam consultation about co-operation between international youth groups, February 1963; agenda, minutes and papers of committee meetings; circulars from Peter Cadogan; list of British contacts interested in the international movement.

Note

Convenor Peter Cadogan.

Conditions of access

Restricted access. Data Protection Act applies.

Cwl HC/2/6

Title

File. Committee of 100: Christian Group

Date

1963 - 1967.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Leaflets; circulars; agenda, minutes and reports of meetings; reports; agenda, minutes and reports of conferences; plan for action at Foulness, Easter 1965; briefing; bulletins.

Note

Secretary Peggie Denny.

Cwl HC/2/7

Title

File. Committee of 100: regional convenors

Date

1960s.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Lists of regional C100 membership convenors.

Conditions of access

Many items flaky and burnt around the edges. Restricted access: Data Protection Act applies.

CWL HC/3. CAMPAIGNS

Date

1961 - 1962.

Extent

3 files.

Cwl HC/3/1

Title

File. Committee of 100: Trafalgar Square sit-down, September 1961

Date

September 1961.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content.

Notes about legal cases and legal advice; contact details for demonstrators; letter from WH Thompson; account of proceedings at Bow Street [magistrates' court].

Conditions of access

Closed due to poor condition: all items flaky and badly burnt around the edges.

Cwl HC/3/2

Title

File. Committee of 100: Schools for Non Violence

Date

1962.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Circular; programmes; list of participants.

Conditions of access

One item flaky and burnt around the edges.

Cwl HC/3/3

Title

File. War Resisters' International: study conference, Breidablik, Denmark, August-September 1962

Date

1962 - 1966.

Extent

1 file.

Scope and content

Lists of delegates; circular; papers given at the conference by Ulrich Herz, Niels Mathiesen, April Carter, Betril Sanden, Peter Cadogan, HG Friedrich, Mario Tassoni and Chris Farley; press release; leaflets.

Note

Derry Hannam's file.

Conditions of access

Restricted access. Data Protection Act applies.

CWL HC/4. PUBLICATIONS

Date

[1963] - 1968.

Extent

31 items.

Cwl HC/4/1

Title

Issues of Action for Peace, nos. [4] - 12

Date

[April 1963] - January 1964.

Extent

9 items.

Scope and content

Bulletin of London Committee of 100.

Cwl HC/4/2

Title

Issue of Committee of 100 National Bulletin, no. 13

Date

October 1963.

Extent

1 item.

Cwl HC/4/3

Title

Issues of Resistance, vol. 2 no. 1 - vol. 4 no. 5

Date

January 1964 - July 1968.

Extent

20 items.

Scope and content

Committee of 100 bulletin, published by London C100 and later West Midlands C100.

Cwl HC/4/4

Title

Issue of Resistance Shall Grow

Date

[December] 1967.

Extent

1 item.

Scope and content

Committee of 100 bulletin.