

Acc.12735  
March 2007



## **Inventory**

**Acc.12735**

**Scotland-UN Papers**

**1979-2003**

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## Background

Scotland-UN was founded as a pressure group in the summer of 1979, shortly after the referendum on a Scottish Assembly. Its purpose was to take the UK Government's response to that referendum, and the Scottish case for self-determination, to the United Nations and other international authorities. A delegation visited the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva in the autumn of 1980. Scotland-UN also presented its case at various times to the EEC Parliament, the Council of Europe, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, now the OSCE), and every national government in the world. A number of documents were issued over the years, for example on the fishing situation. From the very beginning, Scotland-UN cooperated closely with other organisations active in the promoting a Scottish Parliament.

*Presented by the Scotland-UN Committee, January 2007.*

Extent: 0.5m

- 1 "The Scotland – UN Committee: the Story in Brief". By James Wilkie.
- 2 "Scotland's Claim of Right to Self-Determination". A printed broadside petition [1979]. With around 200 copies of this, with signatures appended. These latter were returned too late to be presented to the United Nations in June 1979.
- 3 "Scotland's Claim of Right to Self-determination. (March 1<sup>st</sup> 1979/July 1<sup>st</sup> 1980)". viii + 99pp. Typescript in ring binder. This was presented to the United Nations in August 1980.
- 4 Scotland – UN self-determination papers, part 1  
Contents are:
  - Act of Union.
  - Articles of Union.
  - Scotland's Claim to Right of Self-determination.
  - Scotland's Claim petition.
  - "Scotsman" press cutting from 25 June 1979.
  - "Glasgow Herald" press cutting from 18 August 1984.
  - Press release, 9/10 October 1978.
  - The legitimacy of Government in Scotland after 1979. By James Wilkie.
  - Petition to the Queen.
  - Memo to the U.S Congress.
  - Memo to the Council of Europe, June 1980.
  - Appeal to the U.N. for the return of the Stone of Destiny.
- 5 Scotland – UN self-determination papers, part 2  
Contents are:
  - Four letters from the United Nations acknowledging receipt of Scotland-UN appeals, 1980-1993.
  - Memo to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, 28 April 1986.
  - Memo to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, 1986.

Memo to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, 1987.  
 Memo to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, 1988.  
 Memo to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, 1989.  
 Submission to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, 1989.  
 Observations on the Scottish Constitutional Convention's consultation document. By James Wilkie.  
 Memo to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, 1991.  
 Memo to the U.N Conference on Human Rights, 1993.  
 Memo to the Council of Europe, 1993.  
 Scotland's Parliament – The Right of Recall by the People.  
 Documents relating to the Council of Europe Summit, 1994.  
 Scotland and the Union (German Language Paper). By James Wilkie.  
 The Sovereignty of the People of Scotland, 1997.  
 Letter to Mary Robinson, President of Eire, 7 July 1997.  
 Scotland's Parliament – the European Dimension. Newsletter – February 1998.  
 Six papers regarding the European Union & Scotland's fishing industry, 1998-1999.  
 E-mail on Scotland-UN papers to Alan Montgomery, 3 December 1998.

- 6 File of 1979 documents. Includes:
  - A copy of Scotland-UN's original petition to the United Nations in 1979.
  - The United Nations official document, "Study on the Rights of Persons Belonging to Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities".
  - Letters & Constitution relating to the founding of Scotland-UN.
  - Copy of the original petition, letters from enquirers, supporters, members of the public, MPs, press cuttings, and general Scotland-UN business papers.
  - Council of Europe Conference document, "Local and Regional Authorities of Europe".
  
- 7 File of 1980 documents. Includes:
  - Letter from the Office of United Nations in Geneva acknowledging receipt of Scotland-UN's petition, "Scotland's Claim of Right".
  - Photograph of Scotland-UN delegates preparing to embark on the journey to deliver the Scotland-U.N petition to the United Nations in New York.
  - Copy of a letter to the President of the USA.
  - Copies of submissions relating to the activities of Scotland-U.N.
  - Letters of support from home and abroad.
  - A letter from Buckingham Palace.
  - Letter from representative of the Government of Eire.
  - Letter from the permanent representative of Belgium to the Council of Europe.
  - Letter from the Republic of Zaire.
  - Letters from MEPs and MPs.
  - Invitation to Scotland-UN to attend a Non Governmental Organization Conference in Geneva.
  - Press cuttings.
  
- 8 File of 1981 documents. Includes:
  - Map of France showing the route Scotland-UN delegates took to Geneva to attend the Non Governmental Organization Conference.
  - The United Nations document, "Right to Self-determination.

Agenda of the Geneva International Non Governmental Organization Conference on Indigenous Peoples and Land attended by three Scotland-UN delegates.  
Letters to world leaders and the World Peace Council.  
Scotland-UN presentation documents/press cuttings/excerpts from United Nations Charters.  
Report from the Non Governmental Organization Conference.  
Letters from supporters overseas/overseas government representatives/  
World Council for Indigenous Peoples.  
Letter from the Council of Europe.  
Letter to the Ambassadors at the Council of Europe.  
United Nations documents on Human Rights/letter to Aberdeen University Press.  
Non Governmental Organization documents.  
Official Report from the Non Governmental Organization Conference/letters from supporters.  
Photograph of delegates at the Non Governmental Organization Conference in Geneva with the three Scotland-UN delegates.  
Letters to the press.

- 9 File of 1982 documents. Includes:  
Copy of the Bill to set up a Scottish Parliament.  
Letters from opponents, supporters and solicitors.  
Press cuttings and letters from overseas.  
Copy letter to the International Court of Justice.  
Proposal, to create the Scotland-U.N. committee and elect Mr J McGill as General Secretary.  
Memo on Unilateral Scottish Initiative to set up a Scottish Legislature.  
Letter from the European Commission on Human Rights.  
Letter from the University of Ottawa.  
Letters from MPs.  
Letter from Nuffield College.  
A paper on the anglicisation of Scots Law.  
Documents relating to the Jim Sillars Case on charges under the Criminal Justice Act.
- 10 File of 1983 documents. Includes:  
Prescription and Limitations (Scotland) Bill 2 December 1983.  
Letters to the press.  
Letters of support.  
Letters from the Campaign for a Scottish Assembly  
Discussion paper on a Scottish Convention by Billy Wolfe.  
A message from Nigel Tranter.  
A press statement from the Scotland-UN Committee.  
The Scotland-UN presentation to the Campaign for a Scottish Assembly, 9 April 1983.  
Letter to the President of the E.E.C Commission.  
Some of the Scotland-UN Council of Europe files on human rights.
- 11 File of 1984 documents. Includes:  
Envelope containing copy of information to the Motherwell Times.  
Letter from the Secretary of State for Scotland, 17 April 1984.

Documents relating to the Scotland-UN campaign for the return of the Stone of Destiny.

Press cutting Glasgow Herald, 18 August 1984.

Copies of application to Intergovernmental Committee for the Return of Cultural Property, i.e. the Stone of Destiny, to its country of origin.

Replies from the United Nations.

Draft of an International Convention and of a European Protocol on Rights of Nationalities and Protection of Minorities.

- 12 File of 1985-1992 documents. Includes:
  - Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe – Final Act (1975).
  - Several Scotland-U.N. petitions to C.S.C.E..
  - Petition to the Queen.
  - Letters to Scotland-UN from the Campaign for a Scottish Assembly.
  - Message from the Secretary General of the United Nations on “Human Rights Day” 9 December 1987.
  - Confidential Report: Progress Reports on the Submission to C.S.C.E - Vienna Conference 25/5/1988.
  - Official C.S.C.E Roundup report and background release document.
  - Documents relating to the European Democratic Union.
  - Letter from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office C.S.C.E Unit.
  - Scotland-U.N. submission to the C.S.C.E for 1989.
  - Letters from: Jim Sillars MP and Dennis Canavan MP.
  - The Anniversary Document from Scotland-U.N commemorating the first ten years after the Devolution Referendum.
  - Scotland-UN Presentation to the C.S.A.
  - Scotland-UN presentation to the C.S.C.E Conference in Moscow September 1991.
  - Scotland-UN document, “The Future of Scotland”.
- 13 File of 1993-2003 documents.
- 14 Ten 3.5inch floppy computer disks containing Scotland-UN papers relating to the campaign to raise national and international awareness to Scotland’s Claim of Right of Self-Determination.