

THE D. ALAN STRACHAN COLLECTION

Papers, 1940-1985
(Predominantly, 1947-1973)

2.75 linear feet

Accession Number 856
L.S. Number MS

The papers of Douglas Alan Strachan were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in October 1981 by Mr. Strachan, and were opened for research in October 1983.

D. Alan Strachan was born in London, England, on August 6, 1903. He attended technical schools there and completed the equivalent of three years of high school before emigrating to the United States in 1926. He became a naturalized citizen in 1933. Mr. Strachan worked for a Detroit tool-maker until 1937, and was an official for the CIO and an international representative for the UAW from 1936 through 1943. From 1943 to 1945 he was a Deputy Vice-chairman of the War Production Board in Washington, D.C. He returned to the UAW in 1945 to serve as its Washington representative for two years. The remainder of his career was spent in government.

From 1947 to 1953 Mr. Strachan was a labor advisor to the U.S. Economic Mission in Greece, an agency that eventually became the Agency for International Development (AID). He was transferred back to Washington in 1954, where he worked in various capacities for AID until 1959 when he was sent as its Regional Director to West Pakistan. At the end of that tour he was appointed Deputy Director for the AID program in Cairo, 1962 to 1964, and then went briefly to Vietnam in 1965. In 1966 he was named Director of the Colombo Plan Bureau in Ceylon, where he stayed until 1969. His last career post was again in Washington, D.C. as Chief of the Welfare and Grievance Staff for AID, from 1969 to 1973. Mr. Strachan retired in June 1973, and in 1983 was still living in the Washington area.

The papers in this collection reflect Mr. Strachan's interest in the labor movement, both here and abroad, and the various political and personal aspects of his career in government.

Important subjects covered in this collection are:

AID and its predecessors	Greece
AFL	Pakistan
AFL-CIO	Reuther, Victor
Colombo Plan	Reuther, Walter
Communists	DAW
CIO	Vietnam
Egypt	

Among the important correspondents are:

Golden, Clinton S.	Reuther, Victor
Goonetilleke, L.P.	Reuther, Walter
Lapham, Roger	Thomas, R.J.
Mahendra, S.	

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p. 6.

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Series I, Labor-related Materials, 1940-1969, Box 1:

Correspondence, articles, dues records and other materials relating to Mr. Strachan's involvement with the American labor movement, especially with the UAW.

Series II, Government Service, 1947-1973, Boxes 1-5:

Primarily correspondence and reports relating to Mr. Strachan's government career with AID.

Series III, Personal Correspondence and Materials, 1941-1935 , Boxes 5-6:

Personal letters Mr. Strachan received or wrote while in office, and his post-retirement correspondence and materials.

Non-manuscript material:

One photograph of Mr. Strachan in Ceylon was placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collections.

Series I
Labor-related Materials, 1940-1969
Box 1

Correspondence, articles, dues records and other materials reflecting Mr. Strachan's early involvement and continued interest in the American labor movement, especially in the UAW. Files are arranged chronologically.

Box 1

1. U.S. Department of Labor, Nov 1940-Sep 1941, Mar-Apr 1947
- 2-3. U.S. war/labor boards, Oct 1941-May 1942, Jan 1945
4. UAW, Jun 1943-Dec 1947
5. UAW; Dues and other correspondence, Mar 1955-Mar 1969
6. Correspondence and articles on the AFL-CIO merger, 1955

Series II
Government Service, 1947-1973
Boxes 1-5

Correspondence, reports and articles outlining Mr. Strachan's long and varied career with the Agency for International Development and its antecedents. This material is arranged chronologically, by geographic post.

Box 1

7. Greece, Jul-Dec 1947, Sep 1965
- 8-14. Greece, 1948-49

Box 2

- 1-6. Greece, 1950-Nov 1953
7. Korea, Jan-Apr 1954
- 8-13. Washington, D.C., Apr 1954-Mar 1956
14. Latin America, Apr 1956
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Box 3

- 1-3. Washington, D.C, 1958-Sep 1959
- 4-12. Pakistan, Oct 1959-Apr 1962
13. Washington, D.C, Jun-Sep 1962
- 14-15. Egypt, Oct 1962-Sep 1963

Box 4

- 1-4. Egypt, Oct 1963-Apr 1965
5. Vietnam, Jun-Nov 1965
6. Washington, D.C, Nov 1965-Feb 1966
- 7-14. Ceylon, Mar 1966-Jun 1969
15. Ceylon; Reports and materials on the Colombo Plan, 1966-74

Box 5

- 1-5. Washington, D.C., Jun 1969-1973

Series III

Personal Correspondence and Materials, 1941-1977

Box 5

Correspondence and other materials received or sent by Mr. Strachan while in office which do not relate to his work, or which are from the period of his retirement. Files are arranged chronologically.

Box 5

- 6-7. Personal correspondence, Feb 1941, Dec 1954-1970
- 8-9. Post-retirement correspondence and materials, 1974-77

Box 6

- 1-3. "From Picket Line to Protocol: Recollections of a United Auto Worker," (unpublished autobiography), copyrighted 1985

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