

U DX315

**Papers relating to the
Labour Solidarity Campaign**

1981-2003

Historical background:

The Labour Party Solidarity Campaign (LPSC/ LSC) was founded on 17th February 1981 in the House of Commons as a result of the special Labour Party Conference held at Wembley earlier that month. The Conference called for the urgent need for an organisation which would maintain the traditional values and ideals of a democratic Labour Party, prevent the loss of support to the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and counteract the activities of the undemocratic left within the Party.

The LSC was set up (see DX/315/1) to maintain the progress of the Labour party at a time when the party appeared likely to tear itself apart. Their aim was to be able to produce a Labour Party with effective socialist policies to counteract the 'disaster of Thatcherism' and to lift the party from the point of 'mortal danger of death from self-inflicted wounds'. The chairmen of the party were Roy Hattersley and Peter Shore, the secretary and the treasurer were Ken Woolmer and Austin Mitchell, respectively.

After the General Election in 1983 Parliamentary Labour Solidarity (PLS) was set up by a group of MPs. Their aim was to work and campaign for the earliest possible return of the Labour Government and to ensure within the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP) the continued propagation of and representation for, mainstream Labour views.

By 1988 the aim of the LSC was to re-create Labour as a party of government to rally round the leadership as they fought the 'one battle that really matters'- the campaign for victory at the next election. By June 1988 the decision to dissolve the LSC was reached and was published on the 28 June 1988. Dissolution was agreed upon due to the achievement of their original aims.

Custodial history:

These papers were compiled by Dianne Hayter during 2001-2003 for the research of her book, *Fightback! Labour's traditional right in the 1970s and 1980s* (2005), and was donated to the University of Hull archives in 2006. Dianne Hayter was active in Labour politics throughout the 1980s and since 1998 has served as part of the Labour Party National Executive Committee (NEC) and is a former Chief Executive of the European Parliamentary Labour Party and General Secretary of the Fabian Society.

This collection includes some of the original papers (and press cuttings) from Dianne Hayter's private papers and from John Speller and Ira Walters papers (both EEPTU staff (Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union): papers given to Dianne Hayter, 2001; some marked "Bromley"). They also contain some original papers from the private papers of the late John Grant, given to Dianne Hayter by his widow, Mrs Pat Grant, 2001/02, some press cuttings given to Dianne Hayter by David Webster and papers from Mary Goudie's correspondence (now Baroness Goudie, Life Peer in the House of Lords appointed in 1998).

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Description:

Correspondence, publications, extracts from meetings and circulars relating to the Labour Solidarity Campaign 1981-1988.

Arrangement:

Within these papers there are unavoidable duplications of various articles and correspondence, with some items containing original annotation. The bundles of documents also appear to start with the most recent date, running in reverse order (for example, they start in 1988 and end with documents from 1981).

Extent: 2 boxes

Related material:

C DRH – Papers of Roy Hattersley are also held at the University Archives

Access Conditions:

Access will be given to any accredited reader

Publication Note:

Hayter, D. *Fightback! Labour's traditional right in the 1970s and 1980s* (2005)

U DX315/1	<p>Publications</p> <p>File includes correspondence around the foundation of the Labour Solidarity Campaign (LSC) in February 1981, and circulars from the Steering Committee to Labour Party members. Included is the One Member One Vote(OMOV) resolution and various conference guides.</p> <p>Publications featured include: <i>Labour Solidarity</i>; <i>Student Solidarity News</i>; <i>Scottish Labour Solidarity</i>; <i>London Labour Solidarity Campaign</i>; Leaflets (Militant and OMOV (One Member One Vote) / One Person One Vote); <i>Daily Mirror</i> piece; Michael Foot article 'My Kind of Socialism' from <i>Observer</i> January 1982; various circulars, including the Model Resolutions and Speakers Notes from the 1985 Party Conference.</p> <p>1 file</p>	Feb 1981- Jun 1988
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U DX315/2	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>File of correspondence relating to the Labour Solidarity Campaign (LSC) including extracts and minutes of Steering and Organising Committee meetings, list of Solidarity MP's and a copy of Roy Hattersley's speech (March 1981) to supporters.</p> <p>1 file</p>	<p>Jan 1981- Dec 1981</p>
U DX315/3	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>File of correspondence (1982-1983) relating to the Labour Solidarity Campaign (LSC) including speech (June 1982) by Rt. Hon. Peter Shore to supporters about the relationship between Leninism, Marxism and the Militant Organisation. Also includes financial statements (1981-1987), information on 'the Militant Tendency', notes regarding Scottish Solidarity, and extracts from Steering Committee and Organising Committee meetings. With a questionnaire (Feb 1982) sent to LSC members on the state of the Labour Party and its future action.</p> <p>With extracts from the notebook of David Bean (now Sir David Bean QC), member of LSC.</p> <p>1 file</p>	<p>Mar 1981- Oct 1987</p>
U DX315/4	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>File of correspondence (1984-1985) relating to the Labour Solidarity Campaign (LSC) including extracts and agendas from Steering Committee meetings, financial reports and subscription accounts, a breakdown of the number of supporters and their location in 1985, notes on Student Solidarity, a list of the MPs present at meetings between February 1984 and January 1985 and information on the problem of militancy. Also includes correspondence of Dianne Hayter (2003) regarding past Steering Committee meetings.</p> <p>1 file</p>	<p>Jan 1984- Aug 2003</p>
U DX315/5	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>File of correspondence (1986-1988) relating to the Labour Solidarity Campaign (LSC) including a letter (1996) to the PLP Officers (re. Nye Bevan Bust, sculpted by Robert Thomas) from Alan Haworth, Secretary of the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP), extracts from Steering Committee meetings, along with agendas and minutes from various meetings, information on One Member One Vote (OMOV) and the dissolution of the LSC, notes regarding Student Solidarity. Includes some original papers of Helen Eadie and Bob Eadie.</p> <p>1 file</p>	<p>Mar 1986- Sep 1996</p>

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U DX315/6	<p>Parliamentary Labour Solidarity (PLS) Letters relating to individual subscriptions from House of Commons MPs to PLS. Includes lists of Members of House of Commons (1984); subscriptions for 1987 detailing payments made. Parliamentary Labour Solidarity briefing (No1, April 1986).</p> <p>Also includes correspondence (2003) between Dianne Hayter and Kenneth Weetch and an interview of Lord Clark (formerly David Clark MP) by Dianne Hayter - 2nd December 2003. 1 file</p>	Feb 1984- Dec 2003
U DX315/7	<p>Subscription records from Parliamentary Solidarity Details amounts paid, who paid and in which month 1 bundle index cards</p>	1985-1987