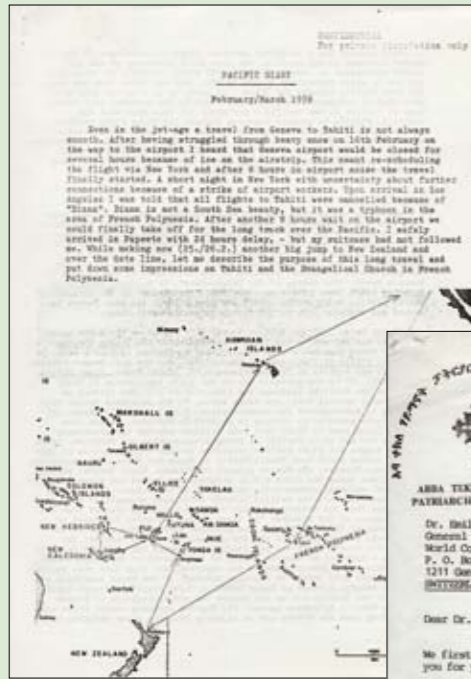
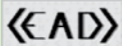
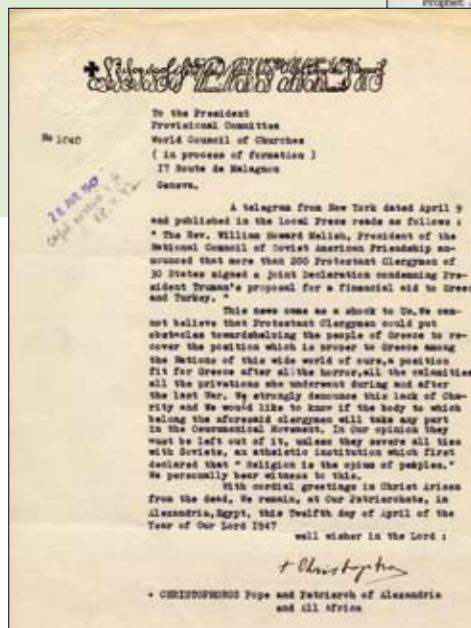


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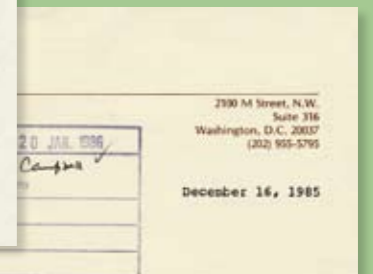
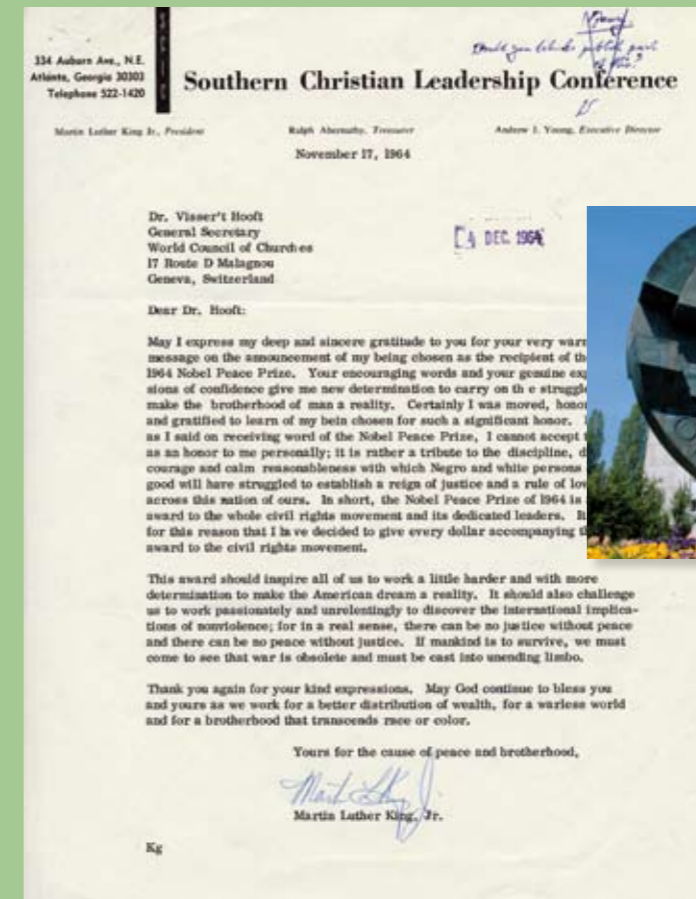


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World Council of Churches

Correspondence of the General Secretariat



World Council of Churches

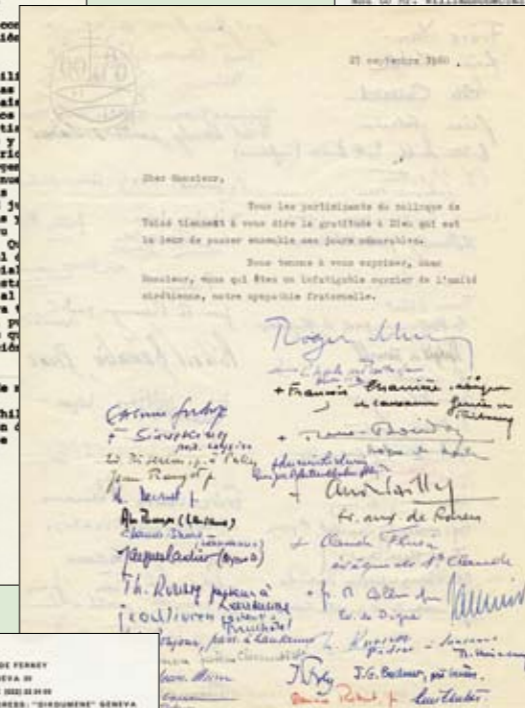
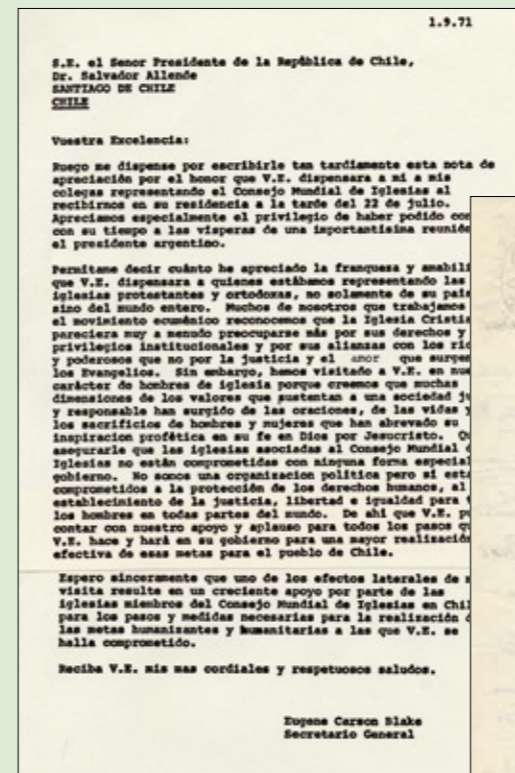
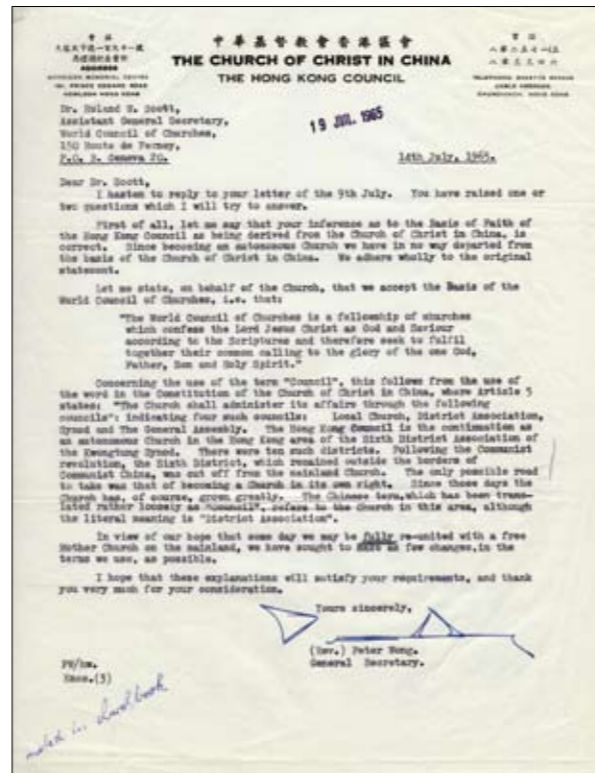
Correspondence of the General Secretariat

The World Council of Churches represents the most important gathering of churches in the world. As its constitution states it is a fellowship of churches from different traditions: Orthodox, Anglican, Old Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Methodist, Baptist and Pentecostal. Due to this umbrella character, the archives of the WCC are a rich resource for researchers.

Sections

The archives of the ecumenical movement are housed in the WCC's Library & Archives, in Geneva. They are divided into many different sections, reflecting the various bodies that were active in the ecumenical scene during the 20th century. The records of the International Missionary Council, the Programme to Combat Racism and the Dialogue with People of Living Faith – all previously published on microform by IDC Publishers – are examples of such sections.

The present collection makes available on microform another section of the ecumenical archives, namely that dealing with the WCC's General Secretariat correspondence in the period 1920–1994. The documents in the archives consist of correspondence, manuscripts, personal notes, and press cuttings.



THIS COLLECTION IS DIVIDED INTO FIVE SECTIONS		
ORDER NUMBER	SECTION	NUMBER OF REELS
WCC-5	Country files, 1942-1993, (organized by regions then by countries)	65
WCC-6	Member Churches, 1938-1993, (organized by countries then by Member Churches)	50
WCC-7	Frequent correspondence, 1937-1977, (in alphabetical order of correspondents)	15
WCC-8	Occasional correspondence, 1939-1993, (in alphabetical order of correspondents)	40
WCC-9	Orthodox Churches, 1931-1994, (correspondence and meetings)	14

Scholarly relevance

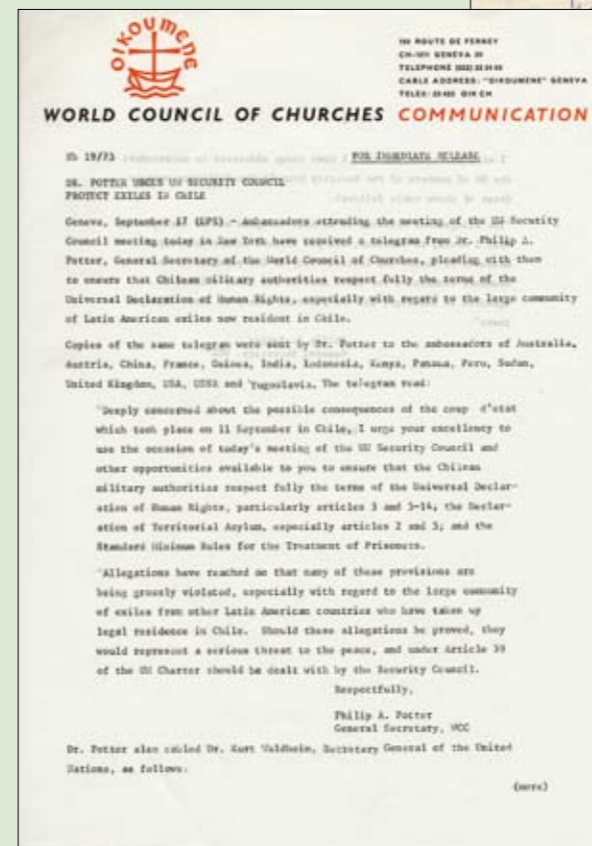
The General Secretariat archives are of great interest to and are frequently consulted by researchers working on the history of the ecumenical movement. The collection contains documents detailing the WCC's relations with individuals, countries, and Churches in the period 1920–1994, during which the Council had five general secretaries: Dr. Willem Adolf Visser't Hooft (1948-1966), Eugene Carson Blake (1966-1972), Philip Alford Potter (1972-1984), Emilio Castro (1985-1992), and Konrad Raiser (1993-2003). Taken as a whole, the archives of the General Secretariat document a period of immense significance, in terms of both the ecumenical movement and the history of the world. They include many letters to prominent politicians and national leaders, and may therefore be of great relevance not only to Church historians but also to historians in general.

The different sections contain, among others, correspondence with national leaders such as:

- Jimmy Carter
- Mikhail Gorbachev
- Ronald Reagan
- Mohammed Anwar Al Sadat
- King Hussein of Jordan

Topics include:

- Records on South Africa
- The Biafra war
- Germany (GDR)
- The Middle East conflict
- Correspondence with national Church councils



This publication came about with support from the Kenneth Scott Latourette Initiative for the Documentation of World Christianity.