Letters of the Rt. Revd Leslie Brown, former Archbishop of Uganda, and Mrs Winifred Brown about church and politics

70 items, 1979-1989

Presented by Bishop and Mrs Brown through Dr Louise Pirouet before October 1997 (Acc.19/55)

Catalogued by Sue Sutton October 1997

Introduction and formatting revised by Philip Saunders, Archivist, May 2020

Leslie Brown (1912-1999) was the Bishop of Uganda, then (on division of the diocese) of Namirembe (1953-60) and first Archbishop (1961-66) of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. In 1965 he returned to England and was the following year appointed Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, where he served till retirement in 1978. He had been a firm supporter of indigenisation and only accepted the post in Uganda with hesitation. He was, appropriately, the last white bishop in Uganda, where he was succeeded by Eric Sabiti. He had previously, 1938-52, been a missionary in India and Principal of Kerala United Theological Seminary, where noted for his work on the liturgy for the Church of South India. He is author of Three Worlds: One Word: Account of a Mission (1981). See Wikipedia. These papers demonstrate that he retained a close interest in Ugandan affairs well into his retirement. Several of the papers derive from his wife Winifred.

When the papers were deposited they were still regarded as sensitive and an embargo was placed on use, though it was not possible to consult the Browns, who had gone into residential care. This restriction is no longer necessary. The role of the church in Uganda has been thoroughly researched in David Zac Niringiye’s The Church in the World: a historical-ecclesiological study of the Church of Uganda with particular reference to post-independence Uganda, 1962-1992 (2016).

Other papers of Bishop Brown are deposited with CMS Archives in Birmingham University Library, as CMS/ACC385.
BRO 1. Personal and pastoral letters and papers, to Brown, or copied to him for information, with associated reports, etc. The letters are concerned chiefly with the internal politics of Uganda, human rights abuses under President Milton Obote, and refugees. 54 items 1979-1989

BRO 1/1  A pastoral letter to all the Christians and People of the Nation of Uganda, Namirembe, July 1979

BRO 1/2  ‘The Four Religious Leaders’ concern over the Current Affairs in Uganda, 9 July 1979’. Signed by the Archbishop of Uganda, Archbishop of Kampala, the Chief Khadi of Uganda and the Bishop of the Uganda Orthodox Church


BRO 1/4  Same to Same, 1 December 1980


BRO 1/6  D.B.S. Kigozi to Donald Coggan [Archbishop of Canterbury 1974-80]. Archbishop Jonan Luwum Church, Kampala, 17 August 1981

BRO 1/7  APS News and Features Bulletin. Kampala, 7 September 1981

Appeal of the Catholic Bishops to Obote on the sufferings of the people of Uganda

BRO 1/8  Archbishop Nsubuga to Brown. Kampala, 31 March 1982

BRO 1/9  W.N. Wenban-Smith, East African Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office to Brown, London, 1 October 1982

BRO 1/10  ‘Grace’ to Brown. Tarrytown, New York, 22 October 1982

Report of a visit to Uganda

BRO 1/11  Pamela Hilton, Secretary to the Minister of the Overseas Development Administration to Brown. London, 4 November 1982

BRO 1/12  APS News and Features Bulletin, November 15 1982

Appeal by Archbishop Nsubuga for the Catholics and Anglicans of Uganda to unite and work together

BRO 1/13  W.N. Wenban-Smith to Brown. London, 2 December 1982


BRO 1/15  Elly Sentomgo to Brown. Hull, 7 March, 1983


BRO 1/18 J. Bikangaga to Brown. Kampala, 1 June 1983


BRO 1/21 Robin Fellowes, Private Secretary to the H.M. the Queen, to Brown. Buckingham Palace, 19 October 1983

BRO 1/22 Right Reverend Festo Kivengere, Bishop of Kigezi to Brown. Kabale, 9 November 1983

BRO 1/23 Rev. Dr. Kevin Ward to Bishop and Mrs Brown. [Bishop Tucker College], Mukono, 2 December 1983

BRO 1/24 John, Jean and Family to ‘Our Dear Friends’, Christmas Letter, The Vicarage, Clevedon, December 1983


BRO 1/27 Kevin Ward to Bishop and Mrs Brown. [Bishop Tucker College], Mukono, 10 February 1984

BRO 1/28 Robin Fellowes to Brown. Buckingham Palace, 2 March 1984

BRO 1/29 Kevin Ward to Bishop and Mrs Brown. [Bishop Tucker College], 5 June 1984

BRO 1/30 Dr George Kanyeihamba to Brown. University College, Cardiff, 10 July 1984. Encloses:
Invitation from Uganda Group for Human Rights to Uganda Memorial Service, 16 June 1984
Letter from the Shafiq Arain, Ugandan High Commissioner to Kanyeihamba, 13 June 1984
Letter of Kanyeihamba to Shafiq Arain, 21 June 1984
Response to the Massacre at Namugongo

BRO 1/31 Shafiq Arain to Brown. Uganda House, 26 July 1984
BRO 1/32  ‘Amos’ to Bishop and Mrs Brown. Bishop Tucker College, 29 July 1984

BRO 1/33  ‘The Politics of Forgiveness: A Ugandan Pilgrimage’. Account of a visit to Namugongo by R. Van der Weyer, August 1984

BRO 1/34  Robin Fellowes to Brown. 25 September 1984

BRO 1/35  External Partners Report: ‘A Message and Greetings from Partner Churches to the Church of Uganda’. February 1985

BRO 1/36  Document agreed upon by the Partners-in-Mission Consultation (Internal Partners). February 1985

BRO 1/37  Report on a visit to Uganda by Terry Waite, Advisor to the Archbishop of Canterbury, 6-8 March 1985

[Waite had previously been training advisor to Bishop Brown’s successor Archbishop Sabiti 1969-72 and had witnessed Idi Amin’s coup]

BRO 1/38  Notice to Members of the Ugandan Group of the British Council of Churches, 25 April 1985


BRO 1/39  Archbishop Dr. Yona Okoth to Brown. Kampala, 23 May, 1985


BRO 1/41  Malcolm Rifkind to Brown. Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 10 July 1985

BRO 1/42  Archbishop Dr Yona Okoth to Brown. 24 July 1985

BRO 1/43  Proposals for Peace to the Chairman of the Military Council and Head of State, General Tito Okello Lutwa and to all the leaders of the various belligerent groups in Uganda from the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church in Uganda, 24 August 1985

BRO 1/44  Dr Martin Orech, Principal Private Secretary to H.E. the Chairman of the Military Council/Head of State, to Brown. 4 September 1985

BRO 1/45  Bishop Misere Kauma to Brown. Reigate, Surrey, 23 October 1985

BRO 1/46  Copy of a letter from Brown to Lady Young, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Cambridge, 23 February 1986

BRO 1/47  Kevin Ward to Bishop and Mrs Brown. 24 February 1986


BRO 1/50  Report on a visit to Uganda by Revd. Christopher Carey, CMS Regional Secretary, East Africa, May 1986


BRO 1/52  Kevin Ward to Bishop and Mrs Brown. [Bishop Tucker College], Mukono, 25 May 1989


BRO 1/54  D.S. Kimbugwe-Kajumba, Organising Secretary Uganda Group for Human Rights to Brown. No date

BRO 2.  Papers about a visit to Uganda by Bishop and Mrs Brown. 10 items 1987

BRO 2/1  Journal of Mrs Brown for part of the visit, 15 January-1 February 1987. Short notes with some repetition. Describes a tour around the Kampala district.

BRO 2/2  Rough, working notes for journal.

BRO 2/3  Notes by Mrs Brown on currency and inflation.

BRO 2/4  Provisional programme for the visit.

BRO 2/5  Bishop and Mrs L.W. Brown’s Programme for Mityana Diocese

BRO 2/6  ‘The Welcoming Speech to our Beloved Parents in Christ, the Rt. Rev. Dr. L. Brown and his wife at Bukomero’, 23 January 1987

BRO 2/7  Message of Welcome from Ven. James Galiwango, the Archdeacon of Mubende, 24 January 1987

BRO 2/8  Letter: Nightingale Kalinda NE Kitooge to Brown. 29 January 1987

BRO 2/9  Brochure for Africare-Besaniya Childrens’ Home Project near Bishop Tucker Bible College, Mukono

BRO 2/10  Weekly Topic newspaper. 21 January 1987


BRO 4. Miscellaneous Correspondence. 5 items 1987

BRO 4/1 Carol and Michael Harlow to Mrs Brown. Richmond, Surrey, 29 March 1987

BRO 4/2 Jean Butlin to Bishop Brown. North Ferriby, Humberside, 10 August 1988

BRO 4/3 John and Grace Bikangaga to Bishop and Mrs Brown. Kampala, 8 October 1988

BRO 4/4 Felicity Gunn to Mrs Brown. Kampala, 3 May 1989

BRO 4/5 2 pages of a letter from ‘Irene’. [Uganda], no date