

ECC YOUTH CAMPAIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the Cape Town ECC Youth Campaign for 1985.

The document is drawn up from the reports and discussion that took place at the ECC Youth workshop on 12/1/85, and will be presented to the ECC assessment on 19/1/85 for further discussion.

The following areas are covered:

ECC YOUTH CAMPAIGN IN THE CONTEXT OF IYY

OBJECTIVES OF CAMPAIGN

YOUTH CULTURE

CHURCH YOUTH

SCHOOLCHILDREN AND PARENTS

ORGANISED YOUTH (UN; UDF; SA GOVT; NUSAS; HABONIM; NANSO; WESTERN CAPE YOUTH ORGANISATIONS)

PROPOSED STRUCTURE FOR ECC CAMPAIGN

SUMMARY AND ALLOCATION OF TASKS

ISSUES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

2. ECC YOUTH CAMPAIGN IN THE CONTEXT OF IYY

The UN has declared 1985 International Year of the Youth (IYY) with the themes of 'participation, development and peace'. It has drawn up an IYY programme and called on government and non-government agencies to organise their own activities. Thousands of government, religious, political, sports and cultural groups throughout the world are consequently taking up IYY.

In SA the govt has adopted IYY, and the UDF and SACC have established IYY co-ordinating structures. All have accepted the UN themes or variations thereon.

This broad focus on youth and peace, both national and international and from both progressive and reactionary forces, is a tremendous boost to the ECC Youth campaign and has a number of significant implications for it:

- international solidarity work against apartheid and the role of the SADF in SA and Southern Africa will probably intensify; ECC can benefit from and contribute to this work
- ECC will be situated within the context of the international struggle for peace
- co-operation between ECC and the UDF and SACC IYY structures will strengthen ECC's organisational links with these bodies and allow ECC to make its specific contribution to the mobilisation and organisation of SA youth



- the fact that youth and peace are the subject of national and international attention creates a space for ECC to, work in and gives legitimacy to its work.

The ECC Youth Campaign is an exciting challenge. It allows ECC to make contact with a wide variety of youth organisations, and to reach many constituencies of youth who are directly affected by the civil war in SA but whose potential to oppose apartheid, militarisation and conscription has not yet been realised. To maximise gains it is essential that the campaign is not restricted to white youth and opposition to existing conscription but is broadened to include all SA youth in opposition to militarisation and the role of the SADF.

### 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN

- 3.1. To build a broad based anti-militarisation movement amongst the youth
- 3.2 To educate and mobilise youth against compulsory conscription
- 3.3 To reach a wide range of different youth constituencies
- 3.4 To make contact with and give input to a wide range of youth organisations
- 3.5 To participate in and contribute to the IYY campaign nationally and internationally
- 3.6 To build ECC organisationally and raise its public profile and credibility

### 4. YOUTH CULTURE

#### Strategy:

The starting point is to gain an understanding of the different youth sub-cultures and to work out the potential of taking the ECC youth campaign to them. Many of the existing sub-cultures have in common an anti-authoritarianism which lays the basis for input from ECC. ECC should aim to politicise the gut 'rejection of the system' and build a more informed opposition to militarisation, conscription and apartheid.

As well as initiating its own activities, like concerts and small meetings, ECC should insert itself into whatever structures and forums exist within the sub-cultures eg. clubs, fanzines and clothing shops. It is important that ECC does not come across as patronising but is sensitive to the idiom and 'plak' of the different sub-cultures.

Through its work amongst youth sub-cultures, ECC should attempt to establish an on-going presence amongst as many groupings as possible, climaxing in a big youth rally towards the end of the year.



Action:

- small meetings; commercial anti-war movies and more informative documentaries can be shown at these
- smaller and more frequent concerts in different areas
- photo competition around the themes of 'the army' and apartheid; the photos can be exhibited where the cultural roadshow performs
- drawn comics and photo-comics
- articles in Vula
- major youth festival with music, plays, poetry etc in September
- ECC media distributed at clubs and trendy clothing shops

5. CHURCH YOUTH5.1 Churches International Youth Year Co-ordinating Committee (CIYYCC)

The SACC initiated the CIYYCC, comprising representatives from each denomination and from the national student organisations. CIYYCC has accepted the World Council of Churches' variation on the UN themes to 'participation, justice and peace'. Structure of CIYYCC divided into committees responsible for resources and media, events, culture, finance, young victims of injustice support group, and church liaison and publicity.

Activities planned include: international fetes, music festivals, cultural evenings, poetry book featuring young poets, monthly theme poster; regional open air rallies on Easter Monday; national coordination of youth week June 16 - June 26; national conference late December. There are also three days of action planned: 27th April - ('apartheid is a heresy'); first week in July - focus and action on conscription; 31 August - action around removals.

Aims are to challenge traditional separation of church and politics; to analyse the church, society and youth in the light of the themes; to encourage and equip young people to participate actively in the church; to develop structures which will facilitate an on-going educational process for church youth.

5.2 ECC Strategy:

It is not possible for ECC to organise church youth - that is the responsibility of the churches and of church youth groups. Similarly the responsibility for a youth campaign within the churches is that of the Churches IYY Co-ordinating Committee. It should however be possible for ECC to offer its input and resources to the committee's work around conscription, which is seen as a major focus especially after April. It is the duty of ECC affiliates involved in the CIYYCC's programme to take ECC's message into their church work.



### 5.3 Action:

- ECC can contribute input and resources to the CIYYCC's programme on conscription through its media, literature and roadshow and by giving workshops
- ECC can contribute to the CIYYCC's music festival and poetry book
- A representative from the CIYYCC should be invited to sit on ECC to ensure efficient communication and formal liason

## 6. SCHOOLCHILDREN AND PARENTS

### 6.1 Schoolchildren

#### Strategy

Schoolchildren are one of the most important youth constituencies for ECC to move into because they are at a formative stage in the development of their ideas about SA society and because their sources of influence are primarily conservative.

At the same time schoolchildren are extremely difficult to reach - access to them is often prevented by school authorities; parents and teachers may counter-act progressive ideas that are introduced; time at school is tightly structured; and it is difficult to follow up progressive input adequately where it does occur.

In Cape Town the Social Issues Group (SIG) has established contact with about 8 schools and has presented seminars on reggae, UDF etc. From SIG's experience it seems that ECC's strategy must be to take cognisance of the differences between schools and to approach the schools selectively. Also, it is essential that ECC presents its input in an appropriately sensitive way, and is positive and not only critical in attitude.

#### Action

- discussing with SIG the dynamics of various schools and the most successful ways of approaching them; ECC should then continue to work closely with SIG
- making contact with sympathetic societies, teachers or headmasters
- plays and debates are useful forms of contact
- pamphlets can be distributed at school gates or at IYY activities but must be well written and also witty
- carefully phrased letter could be placed in educational journals and the press, inviting schools to approach ECC
- where ECC itself is not 'acceptable', its affiliates can be used
- monitoring SADF activities in the schools



## 6.2 Parents

### Strategy

The primary target here would be parents who are already conscientised eg. mothers who are members of organisations like Black Sash and Womens Movement for Peace. These parents could then contact other sympathetic parents with children at the same school.

An obvious objective of this contact would be to persuade parents to object to their sons taking part in school cadets. Questioning the cadet system opens up the whole question of militarisation.

An important first step in challenging the cadet system is to bring out an extremely carefully written brochure explaining why ECC opposes cadets and that parents have a legal right to prevent their sons doing cadets. Where possible schools, and church schools in particular, should be approached to stop cadets altogether.

An important aspect of bringing parents together would be to provide them with a forum where they can talk about their fears over their sons going into the army.

### Action

- making contact with sympathetic parents
- writing a pamphlet for parents on cadets
- contacting churches about cadets at church schools

## 7. ORGANISED YOUTH

In this section, some background information on various bodies is given. The concrete action that ECC should take in respect of the different bodies is underlined so that it stands out.

### 7.1 United Nations

IYY is intended by the UN to harness energies of youth to struggle for national independence and self-determination, for the economic, social and cultural advance of people, and against foreign domination and occupation.

IYY orientated towards action and results that will improve the living conditions of youth, rather than being merely a year of ceremonies. Priority given to conditions of youth in Third World.

UN International Secretariat established to co-ordinate IYY internationally. ECC should establish and maintain contact with this Secretariat.

The aims would be: to raise ECC's awareness of the struggles for peace and liberation in other Third World countries; to keep ECC informed of IYY activities internationally, especially solidarity action around SA and Namibia; to inform the Secretariat of ECC's youth programme and activities; and, if possible, to win international support for the stand taken



by ECC against conscription and militarisation in SA.

## 7.2 UDF

UDF invited to represent SA youth at UN General Assembly's IYY discussion in October '85. SA govt will attend discussion but will not be officially recognised.

UDF Regional IYY Committees established in all UDF regions, comprising representatives of youth groups affiliated to UDF eg. Cosas, Cayco, Nusas and Azaso in Western Cape; but will later be broadened to include non-affiliated religious and sport youth groups.

Representatives from regional committees make up UDF National IYY committee which has met twice and worked out provisional programme for '85: national launch in Feb., focussing on Sharpeville, May Day and International Women's Day; regional youth festivals 16-26 June; national youth festival 16th December.

UDF IYY structures have adopted UN themes and will concentrate on three broad areas: education and the education charter, unemployment and peace. Will attempt in the process to popularise the Freedom Charter, (1985 being 30th anniversary of Charter).

The ECC should seek formal representation on the UDF IYY Committee in the Western Cape. The aims of such representation are: to keep ECC in touch with UDF developments around IYY; to contribute to UDF's work around the role of the SADF and the issues of conscription and militarisation; and to see how UDF and ECC activities around youth and peace can be integrated.

## 7.3 SA Government

SA Govt has accepted '85 as IYY and has adopted UN themes. Aims to make youth aware of their responsibilities regarding the development of SA, and to get youth to participate actively in working for peace. Emphasis on long term youth development strategy and not on spectacular functions in honour of youth.

Features of govt IYY plans: emphasis on national pride, multi-racialism and unity in diversity, but also promotion of Africaner culture; need to combat radical elements among the youth; military service portrayed as primary responsibility of youth to country.

Private enterprise encouraged to initiate projects - will receive State subsidy for approved projects. Govt and other activities co-ordinated by Dept of Constitutional Development and Planning. Dept called broad range of conservative groups and institutions to two meetings in '84 to discuss content of various projects. We do not have further information about these meetings.

ECC needs to find out more about the govt's IYY plans and to monitor its activities on an on-going basis. It might be nec-



essary for ECC occasionally to counter State propoganda on the role of the youth and the question of peace in SA.

#### 7.4 Nusas

Nusas work around conscription and militarisation is on-going. 1984 Nusas Congress decided that the ECC will be one of the three Nusas campaigns in '85 ( - other campaigns are IYY and Education Charter).

It is not necessary to discuss Nusas at length here since it is an affiliated organisation of ECC. Nevertheless, some recommendations were made:

- Nusas, and in particular the Campus Group (CAG), should be more involved in ECC strategising and graft.
- CAG should make a greater effort to popularise ECC on campus by distributing ECC media, getting campus organisations to underwrite the ECC Declaration and presenting CAG to campus as an affiliate of ECC
- ECC should be involved in CAG's defining a coherent campus strategy for the year; special attention needs to be paid to sympathetic academics

#### 7.5 Habonim

Jewish youth organisation, organised regionally and nationally. Extremely active in Cape Town - weekly meetings for different age groups, monthly newsletters, regional conferences and a national festival annually.

Ideology is socialism and zionism. Former emphasises sharing, co-operation and feminism, and a progressive attitude to social relations. Latter emphasises the responsibility of all Jews to live in Israel. For some members Zionism also means that Habonim should not get involved in SA politics. Consequently Habonim didn't affiliate to ECC or undersign the Declaration.

Other members however believe that Habonim does have responsibility to be involved in SA politics. ECC should maintain regular contact with these people - passing on ECC publications and media and informing them of ECC activities. Further contact, such as ECC workshops for Habonim, should be initiated by Habonim and not ECC.

#### 7.6 NANSO and SWAPO Youth

ECC should develop contact with SWAPO Youth and the Namibian National Student Organisation (NANSO), both of which are presumably taking up IYY this year. Developing this contact would be a priority for the field worker.

#### 7.7 Other Western Cape Youth organisations

Up till now ECC's formal contact with youth organisations has been exclusively with UDF affiliated groups. ECC should move



away from this approach, which may be perceived as sectarian, and make its resources and media available to all youth groups that are willing to receive and use it.

ECC should attempt to find out more about Muslim youth groups and, if possible, make contact with them.

#### 8. PROPOSED STRUCTURE FOR ECC CAMPAIGN

From the above discussion it is clear that the ECC Youth Campaign cannot be the responsibility of an ECC youth committee alone. The Youth Campaign will constitute the bulk of ECC work this year and will involve the ECC as a whole and all of its sub-committees and affiliates.

In the section on SUMMARY AND ALLOCATION OF TASKS below the various forms of action proposed at the youth workshop are allocated to the different ECC committees. The trick now is to work out how most effectively to co-ordinate these activities.

The proposed structure is as follows:

the different committees to take responsibility for their respective areas (eg. SUCA for cooperation with the CIYYCC; the concert and media committees for work with youth culture); a youth committee to be established to take responsibility for schools and parents and for the 'contact' tasks (eg. contact with the UN, UDF, and Habonim); broad strategising, general decision-making on the various activities, and overall co-ordination to be the responsibility of the ECC general body at its fortnightly meetings and, if necessary, at further youth workshops.



## 9. SUMMARY AND ALLOCATION OF TASKS

### 9.1 Concert and media committees

- work out potential of taking campaign to different youth sub-cultures
- investigate what forums and structures exist within youth culture that ECC can make use of
- small meetings with movies
- smaller and more frequent concerts
- comics and articles in Vula
- ECC media at clubs and clothing shops
- major youth festival in September

### 9.2 Church affiliates

- contribute input and resources to CIYYCC's focus on con-  
scription
- contribute to CIYYCC's festivals and poetry book
- invite CIYYCC representative to sit on ECC
- take ECC's message and media into church work on ongoing  
basis
- approach churches on stopping cadets at church schools

### 9.3 Youth Committee

#### Schoolchildren

- develop strategy of approaching schools on selective and  
sensitive basis, in co-operation with SIG
- make contact with sympathetic societies, teachers or head-  
masters
- plays, debates and pamphlets
- letter in educational journals and press inviting schools  
to approach ECC
- monitoring SADF activities in schools

#### Parents

- make contact with sympathetic parents
- write pamphlet for parents on cadets



Contact with other Organisations

- establish and maintain contact with UN IYY International Secretariat
- seek formal representation on UDF IYY Committee in the Western Cape
- find out more about the SA govt's IYY activities and monitor these on an on-going basis
- establish and maintain contact with sympathetic people in Habonim
- develop contact with Nanso and Swapo Youth
- make resources and media available to 'non-UDF' youth groups in the Western Cape
- make information and understanding gained from above contact available to ECC as a whole
- be involved in CAG's defining a campus strategy for the year

9.4 NUSAS and CAG

- continue the good fight against compulsory conscription and the role of the SADF
- popularise ECC on campus
- make contact with sympathetic academics
- be more involved in ECC strategising and graft

10. ISSUES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- integration of ECC's youth campaign in Cape Town with ECC's youth activities in other regions
- placement of individuals in youth committee
- integration of youth campaign with other ECC activities
- involvement of cultural roadshow in youth campaign
- slogan for youth campaign/



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