

CONFIDENTIAL

Naude Comm - SACC responses
18 m. stel

AS.62.4

NO TO MILITARIZATION CONFERENCE - CAPE TOWN: 16 - 18 July 1982

NATIONAL PLANNING:

As a result of the work done on the first two days of the Conference, which covered factual input on the growing militarization of the country, workshops on training in non-violent action, constructive alternatives and secular basis for CO, women and the military, history of COSGs and the Defence Amendment Act 1982 and alternatives, the last part of the Conference spent time in seven workgroups planning nationally.

The plans are set out here, and the group is asked to consider them particularly in the light of the suggestions made for their implementation.

1. How should COSGs anticipate and respond to State strategies or provisions?

This group looked at the probable concession to be introduced at the next session of parliament:

A This would probably consist of

- a Tribunal of judiciary, military and church personnel
- alternative service for genuine religious objectors
- a possible increase in penalties

B There seemed to be a grey area in terms of the pacifist stand and advocating pacifism.

C Options open to pacifists.

The group decided to work on a given: that the concession should be extended to selective and secular (political) conscientious objectors.

If the concession were accepted, the consequences could be:

- 1) This could strain or split the CO movement in its broadest terms.
- 2) The Government could say we have been given what we asked for.
- 3) The media, churches and other liberal groups could diminish their concern.
- 4) It might increase the number of pacifist objectors.

If the concession were refused, the consequences could be:

- 1) A possible reaction against the whole movement.
- 2) The support base for secular/selectives could be broadened.
- 3) It might broaden the number of secular/selective objectors if taken up properly.

Before Legislation:

1. There should be full support for the SACC proposals, with resolutions being taken in the interim.
2. Other organisations should be made aware, ranging from DESCOMS through to conservative organisations such as the National Council of Women.

3. The COSGs should work towards immediate, informed responses by Churches, etc.
4. A "Witness of Silence" stand could be made by men declaring in advance their intention (i.e. to their Church) and making no defence except to say 'for the sake of justice and peace I cannot comply with my call-up'.

*Local groups are asked to:

1. Look at and explore these responses in the Durban group.
2. Work on a response we feel the whole movement would be able to give by the beginning of October.
3. Send clearly explained proposals to the other two groups by person not post by mid-October.

2. How to present CO to the public and generate support, and how assertive should this presentation be?

The public was divided into sectors, with suggested action for each sector. Physical action would be most effective. What needs to be presented is to raise the whole question of militarization.

a) English-speaking students:

One could be most challenging/aggressive with this group. Organisations that are already established could be used as contacts to initiate discussion, such as NUSAS, etc. Academic discussion was possible. A specific group to look at alternatives could be set up. Publications could be circulated. Focus weeks could happen.

b) Afrikaans-speaking students:

Contacts through SUCA and POLSTU could be asked to raise the whole issue.

c) Scholars in Stds 9/10:

The issue could be raised with progressive teachers through e.g. current affairs meetings, debating societies. Church youth groups and confirmation classes could be used. There could be a small publication to raise the issues for scholars.

d) White people who haven't been to University (working class!):

Awareness-raising tactics could be used such as bumper stickers, letters to the Press, contacting local radio stations with such items as news reports on CO's trial, etc.

e) Church people/members - confirmation groups could be used.

f) The authorities

g) The international public.

h) The general public - same suggestions as for (d)

*Local groups are asked to:

- 1) Discuss these suggestions and work on them.
- 2) Use contacts with other organisations.
- 3) Appoint a Press liaison person.

3. How to relate COSGs to other organisations (e.g. DESCOMS):

This group looked at who are these other groups. Those marked with + were seen as being able to help us as well as us being able to help them.

Those marked with a X were seen as needing our help: *able to provide help*

- + Peace Churches
- + Descoms
- + Dependents' Conference
- + Justice and Reconciliation Divisions of "Just War" churches

Varsity Groups:

- + WASG
- + SCA's, Cathsoc, SRC's project committees, etc.
- + NUSAS, POLSTU, AZASO
- + Schools, Cosas, Private Schools Association, ECAR

Political parties:

- X Nats, PFP, NRP
- + NIC, SAIC, Release Mandela Committee

Women's groups:

- X Women for Peace
- + Women's Federation
- + UWO etc
- + Black Sash
- + Trade Unions

International organisations:

- + Amnesty International
- + IFUR
- + Pax Christi
- + US CO Committee, Nisaco, CCCO
- + CIIR

The type of contact could be:

- a) Regional groups making contact by letter followed by personal contact.
- b) A National Day of Solidarity with CU's to be organised along with the above groups after contact is made.
- c) Reciprocal support for these groups (+) eg mutual circulation of objectives.

The suggested points for inclusion in the initial letter of contact were:

- a) who we are
- b) briefly what CO is
- c) names of people in prison and DB at present, with a brief history
- d) how we would like them to help and support us as CO's:
 - public statements in support
 - informing their members about CO issue
 - identifying COs in their organisations and informing us about them and them about us.
- e) Offer support for (+) them by informing our members about them and their actions. We may not necessarily be able to endorse their policies. Mention possible Day of Solidarity.

Note:

Keep the letter short

*Local groups are asked to:

- 1) Initiate contact as appropriate.
- 2) Discuss possibility of a National Day of Solidarity
- 3) Appoint someone to keep contact with other centres and let the other groups know views on the Day of Solidarity.

4. Role of Women:

Points made by this group were:

- There is a prevailing myth among COSGs that this is only a white male issue. Women not only have to support the guys going in, but are crucial as active members of the groups.
- An important strategy is women's security role: at present they are not liable for service.
- It was important to get hold of all available resources and educate schools
- Women should become the facilitators/"Counsellors".
- Others should be encouraged to see this as a women's issue.
- Groups of women could get together and prepare papers for debate and discussion.
- Groups should support the partner/wife as well as the CO.
- Literature could be circulated about women's participation.

- Women should be encouraged in leadership positions both in and outside COSGs because men are not able to be constant.
- Women's magazines, newspapers and other media should be used in relation to issues such as war toys: there could be a campaign of posters/stickers at Christmas.
- Direct inroads could be made into youth groups, schools, etc. to educate girls.

5. How to plan support for present and imminent CO's:

This group looked at some of the practicalities of support for the two current CO's.

*Local groups are asked to plan as appropriate:

*see notes for
JHB conf - 6 pages*

6. "Draft dodgers" (14 day change of address): *Rep Reg. Act (Fingerprint Bill)*

This group looked at the issue of men who because of their beliefs were avoiding call-up. Points made were:

- the military link up with the Security Police to trace men.
- the military are using income tax numbers and returns to trace them.
- there was a possibility of the military intelligence becoming the national intelligence.
- it was a difficult option that could not be advertised.
- more research was needed regarding the legal positions in terms of such things as passports, work permits, etc., and what laws have a bearing.
- how should one respond if caught? Should one respond as a 'political' CO and if so what sentence would be imposed.
- groups needed to give support to men caught and then declaring CO

*Local groups are asked to:

- 1) investigate the legal implications
- 2) keep statistics
- 3) find out what probable sentence would be imposed.

EVALUATION OF CONFERENCE:

Two points made during a very brief evaluation were:

1. Local groups should work on issues such as Christian/secular responses, how to cope with the new proposals, etc.

(those marked in this report with a *) and liaise with the other groups personally).

2. If possible, papers to be presented should be distributed before conference on future occasions.

MINUTES OF THE C. O. SUPPORT GROUP MEETING HELD AT DIAKONIA
ON TUESDAY 8TH JUNE, AT 8.00 PM

Present: Belinda Exter, Victor McGregor, Julie Povall, Jeremy Routledge, Marlene Volkmer, Brian Challenor
Apologies: Rob Goldman, Paddy Kearney, Mark Povall, Loek Goemans

Minute 1. Peace Library

- The lack of an efficient system was noted
- The librarian at the American cultural centre has offered to advise and help with setting up a system.
- Julie Povall will organise a meeting of the library committee soon.
- Concern was expressed that a library system could not function well unless it was adequately supervised and Diakonia does not have the staff to do this full time at present

Minute 2. Peter Moll's visit

- The debate was valuable and well attended under the circumstances
- His time was well used seeing the Philpotts, Yeates, SCA and having a workshop at Diakonia
- Jeremy Routledge to write and thank him

Minute 3. "Microphone in" (Is war necessary?)

- It was noted that Prof. Munnings was a good resource person on war and peace issues (Pmb philosophy Dept)

Minute 4. N.I.S.B.C.O. (=National Interreligious service board on CO)

- The library has literature from them which will be valuable in planning for the future
- It was decided not to order more literature until the library is functioning better

Minute 5. C.O. Conference

- To be held in Cape Town from 16th to 18th July at the Lutheran Youth Center, Athlone.
- Information from Mike Roux, 6 Cristow Road, Rosebank 7700
- Jeremy to send for information

Minute 6. Applications of Non-violence

- As Rob Goldman was not present it was decided to find out more about this first

Minute 7. Circular to all who have attended these meetings

- Mark Povall had sent a circular to those who had attended CO Support Group meetings to find out what contact they wished to maintain with the group, one reply to date.

Minute 8. Dates of future Meetings

- 13 July
 - 10 August
 - 14 September
 - 12 October
 - 9 November
 - 14 December
- Time: 8 pm
Venue: Diakonia, unless otherwise informed

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.