

AK2117/J3.4

AD11

1. ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTED

CAHAC, CAYCO, NUSAS, COSG, ICY, UWO, COSAS, AZASO. *Ben "AD 11"*

2. PREAMBLE

- 2.1 Members of the commission were drawn solely from the Western Cape; the recommendations consequently reflect the organisational experiences of one region only.
- 2.2 Discussion was based on our experiences of the early stages of the anti-constitutional proposals campaign.
- 2.3 It was constantly stressed that the conscription issue can not be seen independently of other UDF work; but rather, it will be an integral part of, for example, an anti-co-option campaign or a signature campaign. However, the commissions recommendations were made without a clear awareness of UDF's overall direction for 1984.

GOALS OF A CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN.

- 3.1 To build UDF by consolidating existing organisations and extending to new areas.
- 3.2 To create awareness of the conscription issue amongst a wide section of the public.

4. FOCUS OF A CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN.

- 4.1 To oppose the drafting of legislation extending conscription to coloureds and indians.
- 4.2 To oppose the implementation of legislation if and when it is passed.
- 4.3 To oppose the continued conscription of those who are already conscripted.
- 4.4 To expose publicly the role of the SADF and counter it's propaganda activities. eg: the civic action programme
- 4.5 To support those who refuse to comply with their call-up.

5. PROGRAMME OF A CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN5.1 Introduction

The commission felt that it could not mechanistically map out an entire campaign. The course of the campaign will be partially determined by:

a) factors beyond UDF's control, such as possible referenda, tri-cameral elections or the introduction of legislation.

b) other UDF campaigns

What appears below is therefore just one possible programme which could be followed.

5.2 Initial Period

Workshops could be held in each UDF region with the following aims:

- a) to determine the pacing of the campaign, how it relates to other UDF activities, and how it could be taken up most effectively.
- b) to assess the potential of each organisation to take up the conscription issue, and the effect of conscription and the campaign on organisations.
- c) to discuss the range of organisations which could be drawn in.
- d) to decide on the most appropriate structures for taking up the conscription issue.
- e) to circulate all available resource lists, fact sheets, readings etc.

5.3 Build-up

- a) Workshops, seminars and discussions could then be held within all UDF organisations and area committees with the aim of educating the activists and creating awareness amongst the broader constituency.
- b) The conscription issue could be successfully used to extend UDF's sphere of influence. Priority should be given to drawing in as many groupings as possible to the campaign. Particular attention should be given to rural areas. In addition, prominent individuals could be approached to underwrite the campaign, for eg. religious leaders,
- c) Monitoring and public exposure of SADF activity should continue.

5.4 Focus week and launch

- a) It was suggested that focus weeks could be held to bring the conscription issue to the attention of the public. They would coincide with the introduction of legislation in parliament. They could include lectures, film shows, workshops, plays, art displays, concerts, etc.
- b) The week could culminate in a formal launching of the campaign through a rally or mass meeting. Such rallies could possibly be held on the same day in different parts of the country.

5.5 National Conference

It might be necessary to hold a national conference once the conscription campaign has gained momentum. The intention would be to coordinate activities nationally.

6. STRUCTURES

It is suggested that individual regions decide on the most appropriate structures for taking up the campaign. The commission expressed reservations with reproducing a G.C type structure, ie. a large body with representatives of all organisations participating in the campaign. Nevertheless, it is recommended that regional structures are set up as soon as possible to co-ordinate activity around the conscription issue.

7. GENERAL COMMENTS

- 7.1 Conscription doesn't begin when the law is passed. The SADF is already increasingly active in the black community. This activity must be continually exposed and immediate action must be taken to counter SADF activities, for eg. by youth programmes. In this regard the situation of unemployed youth joining the SADF is particularly important.

- 7.2 The pacing of the campaign is very important. While conscription is a long term issue, we might have to set time limits for the campaign itself.
- 7.3 We need to be flexible with regard to adjusting the course of the campaign while it is in progress. In particular, account must be taken of possible state reaction.
- 7.4 It should be noted that conscription is an issue which affects all layers of the community, not only those (such as the youth) who directly face conscription.
- 7.5 Once again it is necessary to stress the importance of the rural areas. When compulsory conscription is introduced, it is likely to be implemented gradually, probably beginning with the rural areas.
- 7.6 The nature of the relationship with the End Conscription Campaign, which has been initiated nationally by the U.C. Support Groups, will need to be determined. At present End Conscription Committees have been set up in a number of centres. They are co-ordinating structures drawing largely on organisations based in the white community. UDF will need to determine the nature of its relationship with this Committee, and other groupings taking up the conscription issue.
- 7.7 The Commission noted the general low level of awareness on the conscription issue in UDF organisations. This highlights the importance of the resource packages.
- 7.8 The Commission noted that until conscription is legally extended to Coloureds and Indians, it remains legal to encourage people to refuse to fight in the apartheid army.
- 7.9 The Commission recommends that as far as possible we stop using inaccessible terms such as 'conscription' and 'militarisation'. The term 'call-up' was suggested as preferable to 'conscription'.
- 7.10 The Commission feels people need to start thinking of slogans, plays, songs, posters and other ways of popularising the campaign.
- 7.11 The Commission encourages all UDF regions to conduct research on SADF activity in their areas. As part of its work, the Commission began establishing some of the areas which need to be researched. The structure of such research is included as an APPENDIX to this report.

APPENDIX ON RESEARCH AREAS

The following areas have been identified as needing research:

1. Registration with SADF at school level.

Information needed: a) age at which white school students have to fill in registration forms and the details required.

b) How forms are administered.

c) Whether 'Coloured' and 'Indian' school students have been required to register in the past and check if they will have to do so in future.

2. Role of the SADF in rural areas.

Look at the role which the SADF plays in assisting in removals/resettlement of people and what role it plays in the bantustans. Also, what does the SADF do in similar situations in urban centres.

3. Research on the Cape Corps and Salisbury Island Naval Base.

These are the main units drawing 'Coloureds' and 'Indians' into the SADF. Information can be found on the recruitment strategies of these units, their training programmes and their public relations role, i.e. how do members of the units relate to communities. Also where do most recruits of the units come from and their socio-economic conditions.

4. Unemployment.

Look at how unemployment has helped to draw 'Coloureds' and 'Indians' into the SADF. If possible, also look at how many members of the Cape Corps are unemployed after their service. Also look at employment opportunities which the SADF uses to attract recruits.

5. Civic Action Programme.

Research has been done in this area but a closer look needs to be taken at the hearts and minds campaign, using the resources of organisations in the areas where the SADF is implementing programmes.

6. Secrecy around Military Activities.

A study can be made of the legislation which is used to prevent publicising the role of the SADF, or publishing information on its activities. There are good reasons for the secrecy from the state's point of view, and this can be exposed much more.

7. Research must also be done into the legal aspects of resisting conscription.

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COSG AREAS OF RESEARCH

1. The intensification and development of resistance to the military.
2. The nature of and development of state repressive apparatuses, links between the military and the police etc.
3. Structuring and development of the SADF, introduction of ballot conscription for whites in the 60's, development of armed struggle.
4. Black participation in the SADF. Including Cape corps, Salisbury Island, participation during the second world war, bantustan armies.
5. Civic action programmes, civil defence, education and women and the military.
6. Resistance to militarisation, development of anti-war movements in other countries eg: Vietnam anti-war movements
7. Namibia and destabilisation in Southern Africa. This would include introduction of conscription in Namibia and resistance to this.
8. Militarisation and it's effects on society.

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