

THE EDUCATION SUBGROUP OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

At this stage we are a very new, small and enthusiastic subgroup. We feel most strongly that this group is one in which we can learn together and then share our information with others. The existing education subgroup has broadly defined three areas of work:

- internal education of ECC members and affiliates
- work with youth
- research and resources

We are waiting for new members to define the work more clearly and to get down to it all together.

We have decided to meet once a week. In these meetings we discuss the direction and coordination of the work. The labour of the group will happen outside of this meeting. The coordinator of the group is Annemarie Rademeyer (tel: 643-640 5)

A DESCRIPTION OF THE THREE AREAS OF WORK:

Internal education

We see it as our responsibility to ensure that we and the other members of ECC develop and maintain a dynamic understanding of the role of the SADF in Southern Africa and of the ever changing realities of the conscript. We could initiate and maintain a network of people and organisations from whom we can gather information which we can share with the members of ECC. We envisage a situation in which a topic of interest could be presented to members of ECC and affiliates once a month. These topics would include the issue of the day eg. the use of the SADF in the Baragwanath strike, as well as more general topics concerning militarisation. We hope that people who join this subgroup will become involved in developing a programme of topics of interest. We hope to make use of input from outside speakers but optimally members of ECC and affiliates would take responsibility for this input.

Work in this subgroup involves liason with members of the contact group as we are hoping to broaden our membership base. It also involves liason with the media group. If they are running a feature in the newsletter we could pick up it in an interest evening and vice versa.

Youth

In the initial stages we see our work aimed at youth rather than schools. In particular we thought it necessary to develop a programme which could be used by youth groups. We are specifically interested in developing a programme aimed at girls of school age. In relation to actually working in schools, we thought it most realistic to develop media such as pamphlets and stickers which could be distributed in the schools.

Our access to youth is very limited. So far our contact is envisaged (but needs to be initiated and maintained) with Young Christian Students, Anglican Synod, Jewish youth groups and Junior City Council.

At present we are working on a package for the IYY church committee. We hope to produce other such packages on the role of the SADF and militarisation for other youth groups. This work has proved to be very exciting.

Research and resources

This area links up with both the others. We need to be collecting and developing our resources through research in order to present internal education sessions and to develop up to date and original youth packages.

A crucial area of work would be keeping ECC informed on the activities of the SADF in this region. No one has a unified understanding of the activities of the SADF. We need to keep in touch with their actions in order to get a clear overview of all military activity in this region. This includes the role of the army in schools, in quelling unrest in the townships as well as their less widely publicised actions in strike - breaking endeavours. Many organisations have fragmented pieces of information, we see ourselves developing networks where we can piece together an overall picture.

CONCLUSION

The work of this group is extensive. However we feel that it is within our reach. We have no expertise in this area so there is an opportunity for us to learn together and to develop new skills. The more people who join this group the more ground we can cover and

the lighter the work load for each individual.

COME JOIN US

If you are interested please feel free to contact:

Dana at 648-3620 or Annemarie at 643-6405.

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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