

26-2-86

ECC - CAPE TOWN - WJP Survey

Following the Cape Town proposal that ECC conducts a signature campaign around our alternative service demands, useful criticisms were received from Johannesburg. What follows is an alternative proposal as discussed at our WJP meeting - 23-2-1986.

Form

Cape Town agreed that a questionnaire, rather than a signature campaign was a preferable means of getting to our constituency.

Motivation

- 1) The campaign will allow us to engage directly with our constituency and take the issues "onto the streets".
- 2) The campaign will allow us to measure support. We felt that this was extremely important in terms of our public work, international contact, press work etc.

These were the two major motivations. Also important were:

- 3) It would provide concrete work for recruits/volunteers to engage in.
- 4) It will allow us to test support in particular constituencies eg conscripts, parents etc.

Process

We felt the campaign should have three phases:

- 1) Mid-March to end of April

Here the work would complement the WJP campaign. The stress would be on the first motivation, ie engaging our constituency. This could be done through

- * pilot weekend blitzes
- * encouraging volunteers/organisation members to canvass support.

- 2) May

Here we would move into top gear and build up numerical support (not necessarily a targeted figure). Some suggested ways of doing this

- * massive campaign on NUSAS campuses (during the quota bill they reached 14000 students)

- * asking member organisations to distribute questionnaires through their membership mailing lists
- * door to door and street work
- * (perhaps) publishing the questionnaire in magazines and newspapers.

Besides allowing us to measure support, this phase will also allow us to engage our constituency, follow up WJP, provide concrete work for WJP recruits (failure to do this was one of our criticisms of TOC) and test support in targeted areas.

3) End of May.

The results of the survey, plus our alternative service demands are taken by an ECC delegation to parliament at the conclusion of the defence debate. In other words, a stated intention would be the presentation to government. This type of concrete political work is something our constituency relates to.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONNAIRE

- A. Sex
- B. Age
- C. Do you face either a 2 year call-up or camp duty?
 1. Should conscripts have the right to choose whether or not to serve in the SADF?
 2. Do you support the SADF being used in the townships?
 3. Should alternative service be available to those who do not wish to serve in the SADF?

We felt the questionnaire should be simple, but if there is room for additional questions, these could be

- D. Does your son face either a 2-year call-up or camp duty?

Between 2 and 3: Should conscripts have the choice whether or not they are used to serve in the townships?

Signatures

This still needs to be discussed. JHB suggested anonymity was important.

Alternative service VIP demands

Support for these would be canvassed independently of the questionnaire by approaching individuals VIP's/church leaders. The demands themselves could still be part of the package presented to the government.

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