

JOHANNESBURG NC REPORT
OTHER ISSUES

VVAW

Generally people are very much in favour of this tour, particularly in the light of our focused attention on conscripts and veterans. The tour would be most relevant to the latter group, the group facing camps, whom we've never attempted to organise. We have found that most vets who come to house meetings do not like hearing from someone who has not completed his initial two years but identify more readily with a vet. A VVAW tour would enhance this by giving international input on the horrors of war, etc.

* Problems posed:

- would their focus on US foreign policy alienate our constituency?
- would it result in more repression on ECC?

* Co-ordination:

- who would co-ordinate the tour?
- how would regions approach it?
- the tour needs to be well organised and hard-hitting. October is possibly too early; maybe it should happen next year.

SACBC ALTERNATE SERVICE PROPOSAL

Most people are in favour of the proposal from the point of view that it brings the church in direct conflict with the state. This means that on the one hand, the church takes responsibility for the issue of CO (and not only religious CO) and thereby mobilises the churches around the issue. On the other hand, the state is put in a difficult situation because it is forced to challenge the church. The churches group, in particular is very excited about the proposal and in the way they can link it with their work in grass-roots churches.

The problem people have posed is that there is no relation with the official board and so it is confusing in the sense that people will do the church's form of community service but will still face six years in jail. We realise that this campaign is intended to force a change in the law regarding CO, but would want to know how much is this a challenge on the official board? Ultimately we realised that the men who come before the board will be those who in any case would intend facing the possibly of six years.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

JO'BURG DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND

In our report to the last NC Jo'burg argued strongly that we needed a national gathering broader than national committee. At that stage we thought an extended national committee was the answer. The motivation for such a gathering was that we felt that nationally ECC is at a watershed in its history. We had reached a stage where we could not work effectively within our old style and had to move on and this had immense national implications. So the extended national committee was not to make a few extra decisions, but to discuss our new direction at a national level.

At national committee the need for such a gathering became clear. Regions were on different levels both in terms of their conceptual thinking as well as in their public work. Further, people had totally different ideas on what they meant by 'new ways of work'. So reps at NC were unanimous in accepting that at least a mini-national conference should take place.

'SECOND ROUND' OF DISCUSSION

Why a National Conference?

We are still very much in favour of a national conference. ECC is still suffering from a lack of 'national feeling'. We're still

grappling with our new direction and need to discuss it nationally. And importantly regions have been experimenting with 'new ways' both in terms of form as well as content. We need to share conceptual discussions and we need to define clearly what we mean by 'new ways of work'. Overall we need to clarify the national content and direction of ECC. We need to look at new ways of working and possibly change our structures nationally as we have had to do in Jo'burg.

As Jo'burg we have a lot to offer other regions but at the same time have a lot to learn. Some people feel that we shouldn't have the conference too soon because we have only restructured and want a chance to see how they are working before we can assess them and share the experience with other regions. But it seems that Septemberish is fine.

Size

We looked at this in terms of what we felt was the minimum figure Jo'burg would need to be adequately represented. We (will) have an exec of ten, a part-time worker and five sub-groups. People felt that either half the exec and two sub-group reps, or the whole exec and one extra sub-group rep should go. This meant we are looking at a figure of 15/16 people for Jo'burg to be properly represented.

Some people are arguing strongly that we have a 'no holds barred' conference - that is, that all ECC people get together. The

reason for this is because of the type of decisions we are going to be making.

Alternatively, people are suggesting that there should be proportional representation with regions having equal votes.

Ultimately people felt that national committee should take into consideration all discussion and work out practical logistics.

Agenda items

- * ECC's ideology
- * New Ways of Working
- * Relations with the FFP
- * PC Report and Youth
- * New Skills Workshop: 'Do it yourself kit for new ways of working!'
- * What do we mean by 'Campaigns' now?
- * The Membership Drive as a national campaign (slogans/posters/etc)
- * Affiliation to extra-parliamentary groupings
- * Are we going to adopt the Freedom Charter?
- * Cross regional sub-group meetings
- * National communication
- * Finances
- * National magazine
- * Thoroughly prepared Cabaret!

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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