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SIMULATION EXERCISE NO. 3: ECC, SECURITY AND HARASSMENT

AIM OF THE EXERCISE

To develop the participants' confidence and skill in handling police harassment and security crises.

TIME

± 2 hours

MATERIALS

Copies of 'Coping in Crisis' (DASC) and the ECC Security Worksheet. Both are in the file.

SCENARIO

The ECC General Body is in the middle of its weekly meeting, heatedly debating its position on corruption in a democratic South Africa. Since emergency conditions prevail, the meeting has been organised securely - safe venue, no phones etc.

Suddenly there is a heavy knock on the door. It is the Security Police. They search the house and confiscate documents.

The police announce that they have come to detain the ECC chair and that they are looking for other National Committee members. They ask everyone for their name and address, and write these down. Once they have identified the chair they leave with him/her.

The ECC has now to cope with the crisis.

PLAYERS

1. A non-ECC group consisting of 3 people who will play the

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security policemen at the start of the exercise and then any other person / organisation ^{that} the ECC group wants to consult subsequently.

They should play the part of the police accurately and not ^{beneath} overdo it; surface politeness / ~~extent~~ aggression and violence / absolutely in control / Authority.

A further role of this group is to help evaluate the ECC group from the outside.

The facilitator is part of this group.

2. An ECC group consisting of everyone else. The group should not be larger than 20 people.

The group includes two people who, unknown to the rest of the group, have been primed to play particular roles. The one is Nibbles who is very frightened and will tend towards the cautious throughout. The other is Rocky who is too tough by half and will tend towards recklessness. The two must ⁱⁿ inherently test these directions in a realistic way - they should not overact, be too disruptive or be more assertive than anyone else. It will help if they are played by people who in real life have these tendencies.

PROCEDURE

1. Well before the exercise begins, the facilitator briefs Rocky and Nibbles. No-one else should be aware of this.
2. Once everyone is together, the facilitator explains how a simulation exercise works. The scenario and the fact that the focus is on

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security and harassment should not be revealed.

3. The facilitator selects 3 (preferably experienced) people to form the non-ECC group and explains their role to them.

4. The facilitator gathers the ECC group together and explains that the National Secretary has requested all regions to work out a position on compulsory conscription in a democratic SA. The facilitator also explains that the group is an ECC General Body, meeting under the Emergency in secure conditions - safe venue, no phones etc. At the request of the National Secretary, the group must work out a position on compulsory conscription in a democratic SA.

The facilitator explains the presence of the non-ECC group, which may be consulted at any stage. The fact that it includes security police is not mentioned.

5. After about 5 minutes, once the ECC has warmed up, the three policemen surround the meeting, making escape impossible. They knock loudly at the door and keep knocking until it opens. Only if it is absolutely clear that the ECC group has decided not to open the door can the cops break it down.

6. Once inside, the police announce that they are security police men but do not show identification. They search the meeting, and confiscate any ECC material lying around.

7. The police announce that they are there to detain the regional chair and that they are also looking for other National Committee members. They ask everyone for their name and address. If the

Chair gives a false name, the police are nevertheless able to recognise him/her.

8. The police leave the meeting with the chair. The chair can join the non-ECC group for the rest of the exercise.

The police should not interfere with the ECC group again.

9. If anyone from the ECC group approaches the non-ECC group in order to make contact with other regions, such contact should prove difficult though not impossible with a little ingenuity.

10. Thirty minutes after the police have left, the facilitator should inform the ECC group that they have another 20 minutes.

11. The exercise ends once the allotted time is over.

12. The facilitator gives everyone a chance to relax and talk informally about the game (5-10 minutes). The group should be informed about the presence of Robby and Nibbles.

13. The facilitator co-ordinates a thorough evaluation (about 30-40 minutes), looking at:

a) how the ECC group reacted to the police

- Was the door opened to the police immediately? Was time given for the group to gather its strength and to hide ECC material? for the chair to escape?

- assess the group's interaction with the police.

- ~~was~~ ^{were the police} identification asked for their identification?

- did anyone lie when asked for their name and address?

Assess.

b) the ECC group's action after the police left

- was sufficient detainee support work done immediately? were lawyers, family, loved, press etc worked with properly? was a support group set up?
- were other ECC regions informed immediately? how were the difficulties in ^{regional} communication dealt with?
- how did the group deal with the fact that a secure meeting was lost?
- were safe arrangements made for another meeting?

c) group dynamics

- how did the group cope with the raid and detention?
- was any effort made to build spirit and confidence?
- were people given space to express their feelings?
- how did the group cope with Rocky and Nibbles?
- who took over as chair? how did this happen?
- what was the level of participation, domination etc?

d) the simulation exercise

- did the exercise work?
- what improvements could be made to it?

Follow up

The facilitator should check whether the group would like structured discussions on detention and ^{ECC} security at a later date. At the end of the exercise, copies of the ECC Security Worksheet and DASC's Coping in Crisis can be distributed and, if the group wants, discussed.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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