

## CAPE TOWN ECC REPORT - Jan 1985

Introduction

This report was drawn up collectively by all the active members of ECC (Cape Town). The three working groups within ECC (Exec, Media and Concert) met and assessed their particular areas of work. A fourth group was set up to assess the ECC's success at a public level.

The discussions were held with a view to assessing critically ECC's work, rather than reporting on activities. They therefore do not constitute a comprehensive report on ECC work.

The first section attempts to "fill some of the gaps." The appended youth report is the product of an all day workshop on the youth campaign.

List of Major ECC ActivitesA. Public Meetings

- May: Focus on Namibia, addressed by Pastor Kameeta, David Russel and Mike Van Graan. (approx 300/350 people)
- Oct: Declaration Launch, addressed by Alan Boesak, Sheena Duncan, Ivan Toms and Trevor Oosterwyk, and with the SUCA play. (approx 1400 people)
- Nov: Lunch-time meeting protesting against the states actions in the Vaal and Eastern Cape, addressed by Francis Wilson and Andrew Boraine. (approx 500 people)

B. Concerts

- Oct: "Rock the Ratel" concert at UCT, attended by +/- 1000 people, with the Dynamics and other bands.
- Dec: "No More War" concert in Sea Point, attended by +/- 1000 people, with the softies, Nude Red and other bands and with four dramatic 'skiets'.

C. Press Conferences

- May: Namibia - with Anton Lubowski and Hans Rohr.
- Oct: ECC launch - with Mike Savage, Mary Burton, Doug Bax, Colin Jones and Ivan Toms.

D. Workshops

- March: Planning workshop for all organisations at which the idea of the survey and the declaration were developed.
- August: Planning for the declaration launch.
- October: Workshop for all new ECC recruits and "sympathetics".
- November: "Critical issues" workshop, including the PFP issue, ECC constituency, etc.
- January: Planning workshop for the IYY campaign.

E. Other Activites

- May and October: Picket stands to coincide with the Namibia campaign and declaration launch.

July and January: Pamphlet distribution to coincide with the SADF intake.

### Organisational Participation

Only 3 ECC organisations have set up specific conscription groups within their organisations. In general, action around the conscription issue within organisation has been too limited. Instead, most organisations have relied entirely on ECC to take the initiative. This has placed a heavy burden on the core of ECC activists who have prioritised ECC work.

Only 12 of the 19 ECC affiliates have been regularly represented at meetings. Communication with the other 7 has been poor, although it must be said that most of these are non-activist organisations with little scope to take up the campaign.

### Cultural Road-Show

This group was set up at the preparation stages for the ECC launch. After a slow start, it has now blossomed into a dynamic group of about 12 people.

Together they have constructed 3 scripts of drama, poetry and song for different types of audiences. So far they have performed for Black Sash, UDF Observatory, the Grassroots fete and Habonim. The Habonim performance drew over 300 school-children and highlighted the possibilities of using the Road Show in the course of the youth campaign.

we discussed the following areas: ECC meetings, internal education and structure.

1. ECC MEETINGS.

The exec. felt that these, on the whole, go well. We centred our discussion around three aspects of general meetings, viz: participation, planning and minute-taking and chairing of meetings.

i) Participation: The lack of this from the general body on occasion is obviously a problem. We felt that this was by and large structurally related and sometimes unavoidable - long agendas, numerous reports and suchlike. We felt confident however that this was not due to hesitation or reluctance to contribute to, or to raise problems in meetings.

ii) Planning: Although general meetings are not a forum for planning as are sub-committees, we felt that we do need to have a greater degree of planning taking place in meetings. This is necessary for the following reasons:

\* Thurs. night meetings have our broadest representivity

\* Hasty ideas which aren't thought through cause problems later. (a small group in time, saves nine)

iii) Minute-taking and Chairing of meetings: After discussion it was felt that it was neither useful nor practical to rotate chairing and minute-taking. We did feel however, that for this and other reasons, Paula needed another UCT rep. to assist her.

2. INTERNAL EDUCATION.

i) Training: Although sub-committees are fairly good training grounds, we felt that ECC as a whole is not a training ground for activists. We did feel however, that amongst our regular members we need more in-depth discussion - for example- what do we actually mean by a broadly anti-militarist movement?

The exec. therefore proposes that we institute discussion days/evenings for our activists, not on a regular seminar-type basis, but as and when the need arises. (These discussions would be distinguished from the broad general Friday night discussions)

ii) Workshops: These, we felt had been well planned, concrete and had fulfilled their function.

3. STRUCTURE.

We felt that our basic structure, ie: that of organisational reps, and sub-comms. is OK, but that we do tend to bumble occasionally w.r.t planning and decision making. These considerations sparked off discussion as to the role of individual exec. members, and the exec. as a whole. The following points emerged:

\* Firstly we felt that as we are not an organisation, we do not need a homogenous nor an activist exec., and that we in fact need the different perspectives that our individual exec. members offer.

\* Ideally the exec. should be thinking about ECC and thrashing through some of the issues both short and long term, a lot more than we do at present. (There is the inevitable tendency to become bogged down in bureaucracy.) To this end we have decided to institute regular fixed bi-weekly meetings.

\* In order for the exec. to gain the broadest possible overview of ECC, we felt that the exec. should have greater cognisance of decisions etc. happening in sub-comms, and vice-versa. (media excluded). Here we propose that one exec. member be put forward to liase with each sub-committee.

APPENDIX TO EXECUTIVE REPORT

Resolutions and proposals adopted after presentation of exec report at pre-conference assessment workshop:

- 1) With respect to Thursday night meetings:
  - i) reports, exec reports and matters which require no discussion will be typed up and circulated with the minutes.
  - ii) Greater emphasis will be given to planning general meetings. This will obviously be facilitated by i)
- 2) Indepth discussions for ECC activists will get off the ground after conference.
- 2) The sub-comms and executive will sort out liason after conference.

## ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE ECC

### 1. NAMIBIA MEETING (300-350 people)

This was the first major public focus held on a Sunday afternoon at St. George's Cathedral. The reason for choosing that time and place was to try and find a neutral (i.e. not in a white area or in a black area) meeting place accessible for all

Problems: \* Poor contact with the cathedral staff re banners etc

\* Speakers - late cancelations and therefore need to plan well in advance.

Positive: \* First big meeting on Namibia in Cape Town.

\* Battle over ECC being a statement on the posters seems to have been resolved by the negotiations for this meeting.

Overall it was important to decide what you are trying to say and what is the opportune time to have this kind of campaign.

### 2. DECLARATION

Positive: \* Surprised at the ease with which organisations signed the declaration

Problems: \* No follow-up to organisations or individuals who signed and supported it.

Suggestions:

\* Follow-up the signatories by keeping a mailing list and sending them a letter (or regular newsletter) and other ECC media.

\* A number of people need to still work on getting more signatories.

\* Continue to popularise what support the declaration has received  
(? list of all endorsees)

\* Consolidate end conscription feeling in the community.

### 3. PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THE LAUNCH.

This was constructive. It is important for us to maintain regular contact with key sympathetic reporters.

Suggestions:

\* ? fairly regular release of information to reporters

\* ? need for a Press Officer (member of the Exect.)

### 4. DECLARATION LAUNCH (1,000 - 1,500 people)

Stunning success due to hard work !!!!

Felt that it was well chaired, the format was right and that the short sharp input worker very well. We need to watch the length (? too long ).

Banners etc were very good.

Problems: \* Marshalling and security.

Suggestions:

\* Need to work out a strategy on how to deal with the right wing disturbances. Included in this needs to be how to deal with non-marshals who want to beat up right wing.

\* Security: ? not to over fill halls (?what about teargas). Suggested that ECC look at the Gordon's Institute as this is bigger.

### 5. PUBLIC MEETING IN THE CATHEDRAL HALL (about 500 people)

This was successful and was fairly easy to organise. It drew a different audience to the usual Southern Suburbs one - a wide mix.

It seems that a known "name" is important for a city meeting. Francis Wilson was good for this audience (liberal way of expressing the issues).

Suggestions:

\* Train up ECC speakers to be used more .

\* Use town meetings in future as well

### 6. GENERAL COMMENTS

The fact that we have had such an impact in white areas is very important, but we need to continue this impact: ? use a mailing list

? is there any other way to follow them up?

? parents group against conscription.

The audience that we have attracted has more middle-aged people than we expected. This group is difficult to follow-up.

We are likely to have a lot of trouble directed at ECC public meetings this year - suggest that we build up our liberal establishment contacts (righteous indignation!)

ECC

MEDIA COMMITTEE REPORT.

THE MEDIA SUB-COMMITTEE WAS FORMED IN THE LATTER PART OF 1984. ITS SUCCESS HAS BEEN EVIDENT ON A NUMBER OF LEVELS.

- 1.) THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF MEDIA WORK HAS BEEN OF A HIGH STANDARD.
- 2.) ECC POLICY HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO CONCRETE WORK IN A REALLY DYNAMIC WAY. VERY CLEAR IDEAS AS TO WHAT WE ARE DOING AND WHERE WE ARE GOING HAVE EMERGED.
- 3.) THE MEDIA COMM. HAS INVOLVED PEOPLE IN ONGOING ECC WORK, AND WORKING TOGETHER HAS BEEN A VERY PRODUCTIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE.
- 4.) OF PARTICULAR NOTE IS THE DIVERSITY OF MEDIA THAT HAS COME OUT AND THE ABILITY TO PRODUCE OUR MESSAGE IN TERMS OF POPULAR LANGUAGE.

ON THE OTHER HAND THE MEDIA COMM. HAS FACED THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS:

- 1.) AS A SEPARATE SUB-COMM. THE MEDIA GROUP HAS AT TIMES BEEN DOING A VAST QUANTITY OF WORK AND CONTACT WITH THE MAIN ECC BODY HAS BEEN MINIMAL. STRATEGISING THAT TAKES PLACE IN THE MEDIA IS USUALLY PRESENTED TO ECC BUT AT TIMES DEBATES ARE POORLY REPRESENTED. THE AUTONOMY OF THE MEDIA IS NECESSARY AT TIMES, BUT THE NATURE OF OUR OUTPUT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED MORE BY ECC AS A WHOLE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ECC'S VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS CAN IDENTIFY FULLY WITH THE MEDIA PRODUCED, AND THUS FEEL COMMITTED TO DISTRIBUTING IT.
  - 2.) DISTRIBUTION OF MEDIA IS AS IMPORTANT AS ITS PRODUCTION: IT HAS TO WORK WELL FOR OUR TASK TO SUCCEED. USUALLY THIS TASK IS LEFT TO THE SAME PEOPLE THAT HAVE EXHAUSTED THEMSELVES PRODUCING THE MEDIA AND AS A RESULT IT IS DONE SLOPPILY. DISTRIBUTION IS A CORE TASK AND AS SUCH IS A TASK OF THE WHOLE OF ECC. THE SITUATION TO AVOID IS THAT OF 25% OF THE MEDIA ENDING UP UNDER THE BED OF CONTACT 1, 25% UNDER THE BED OF CONTACT 2, AND SO ON SO THAT IN THE END ONLY ABOUT 30 TO 40% GETS OUT.
- THREE MEDIA PEOPLE HAVE PRIORITISED DISTRIBUTION. WE WOULD LIKE A FURTHER TWO PEOPLE FROM ECC TO WORK WITH US AND ASK THAT EACH ORGANISATION PUTS UP
- A.) A CONTACT PERSON
  - B.) A LIST OF PEOPLE WHO CAN BE CALLED ON TO DO MEDIA DISTRIBUTION.
- 3.) APPARENTLY OUR MEDIA HAS NOT BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED IN OTHER AREAS. IF WE WERE EVER TO DISTRIBUTE NATIONALLY THIS WOULD REQUIRE LIASON AND SENSITIVITY.
  - 4.) THE MEDIA COMM. HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO ADJUST ITS PRESENTATION TO SUITE DIFFERENT CONSTITUENCIES. THIS MAY BE SEEN AS INCONSISTENT OR OPPORTUNIST, BUT WE FOUND IT IMPORTANT TO BEST COMMUNICATE TO THOSE DIFFERENT CONSTITUENCIES.
  - 5.) BECAUSE THE COST OF MEDIA HAS BEEN HIGH AND THE NEED FOR A GREATER DIFFUSION OF MEDIA SKILLS HAS BEEN FELT WE INTEND TO HOLD A MEDIA WORKSHOP IN MID-FEBRUARY IN CONJUNCTION WITH CAP. SO WE CAN START DOING OUR OWN SILKSCREENING AND SET UP OUR OWN PRINTING NETWORK.
- TO END: IT IS VITAL THAT ECC DOES NOT BECOME COMPLACENT ABOUT ITS MEDIA. THE SUB-COMM DOES THE PRODUCTION BUT WE EXPECT EVERYONE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND DISTRIBUTION.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE ECC SEA POINT CONCERT

The aim of holding a concert in Sea Point at the height of the 'holiday season' was to expose the ECC message as widely as possible (both to Sea Point residents and visitors) and to gauge their response both to the message and the method of organising (concerts).

The concert featured six bands: The Softies; Survival; Nude Red; Two Swords; Splash and Night City, together with five drama skits on aspects of militarism and conscription by SUCA, the ECC roadshow, a woman's group and various ECC activists.

### 1. MEDIA : Posters, pamphlets and stickers were produced to advertise the concert.

- Problems:
- \* the late confirmation of the bands made the printing of the pamphlet difficult - printers' holidays !
  - \* the mobilisation of organisations and individuals to pamphleteer and hang posters was difficult due to the time of year.
  - \* the posters in Sea Point were systematically torn down often two days by rightwing elements.
  - \* the pamphlet advertising the bands could have carried a stronger ECC identity / or message.

- Positive:
- \* the bright yellow and black "NO MORE WAR" poster made a strong impact on the Sea Point streets carrying the ECC message to many new people.

### 2. THE CONCERT : ( + 1 000 people - 700 paid)

A success in exposing the ECC message to a new constituency using a new method.

- Problems:
- \* late start due to traffic road blocks led to the cancellation of one drama skit and a re-organisation of the program at the last moment.
  - \* the spraying of teargas by rightwing elements was a major problem requiring the evacuation and "airing" of the hall, thus breaking the momentum of the evening. This revealed the inadequacy of the marshalling and their preparation.
    - it is suggested that marshalling be workshopped by organisations with the aim of assembling an effective marshalling force.

- Positive:
- \* the enthusiastic support of the drama skits indicated a strong support of the ECC amongst a broad range of people.
  - \* the pamphlet distributed at the door was avidly read.
  - \* the release of teargas had a positive and/or radicalising effect by indicating societal intolerance.

### 3. GENERAL COMMENT :

The concert showed this method can be used effectively to reach the unorganised youth and as such can serve as a vehicle for mobilisation during the current International Year of the Youth.

ECC FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 85/01/25

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

SACC	4000.00	Printing	2229.40
Loan from WPCC	1731.92	Paper stationary & Equipment	482.55
Orgnisational Subs	440.00	Cardboard for advertising posters	271.73
Money owed to ECC by COSG	500.00	Airfares	434.00
Takings at Grassroots Fete	238.69	Concerst (excluding Coke, printing etc)	1880.75
Sales and donations	969.65	Coca-Cola (concerts)	900.00
Poster deposit return	24.40	Food for workshops	46.54
Concerts	4586.57	T-shirts	1936.00
		Badges	707.92
		Stall at G'roots fete	50.00
		Hall hire	253.05
		Deposit on posters	199.00
		P.A. system rental	50.00
		Petrol	20.00
		Video hire	7.70
		Photographic materials	57.97
		Money owed to WPCC	1731.92
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12491.23</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11258.53</b>
<b>CREDIT BALANCE</b>	<b>1232.70</b>		

Outstanding Credits:

Deposit from Coke	+/-600.00
Deposit from CCC	+/-40.00

Outstanding debits:

Parker Sound	+/-50.00
Allies Press	+/-442.10



APPNDIX TO FINANCAIL STATEMENT

CONCERT EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Concert 1 (excluding media, Coca-Cola and the like)

Bands	700.00
PA System	150.00
Sundries	36.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>886.75</b>

Concert 2 (including media, Coca-Cola and the like)

Bands	870.00
Banner	30.00
Phome	30.00
Spotlights	24.00
Hall	233.05
Glue	8.20
String	17.00
CCC deposit - posters	80.00
Coca-Cola	900.00
Posters and stickers	331.05
Pamphlet and flyers	177.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2700.40</b>

**Collection Number: AG1977**

## **END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

### **PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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