

Oslo 5/12/85

A13:1.1



Dearest ECC

How are you all and how is ECC? We've only been away for 2½ weeks and it seems like ages. We're really missing ECC, the action, the sea and the sun.

Here is a 'fairly' brief report on some of our activities in London, Helsinki and Sweden, and some impressions.

Unfortunately, much of our time in London was spent struggling for visas - for some strange reason white South Africans aren't that popular around these parts.

We weren't entirely inactive though: we did two radio interviews with BBC, one internal news and the other the world service; had lunch with the Foreign News Editor of the Guardian, for background information; spent time with someone from CBS television who is doing a documentary on SA war refugees in January; and met the staff of Peace News for a useful rap.

We spoke to, and made very useful contacts at the AGM of the National Peace Council, a broad national co-ordinating forum with reps from peace, women's, church, anti-nuclear, anti-apartheid groups and TU's. We spoke to a small group of people in Bath at a meeting organised for us by the local Labour Party and had lunch



with Trevor Huddleston which ² was very exciting. We also spoke to about 60 people at a public meeting organised for us by WRI and chaired by Meg Beresford, the new Gen. Sec. of CND.

As a result of the current international focus on SA, Pete and I have been 'star attractions' at these and other meetings and discussions. Everyone is very keen to meet and talk to us, and all want us to maintain regular contact. In the context of talking about ECC and the role of the SADF, we have tried to develop in particular an understanding of the non-racial character of our struggle and of the continuing resistance and repression since the latest press clampdown.

The anti-apartheid movement is very strong and active, with considerable support from 'the establishment'; its recent rally in Trafalgar Square was the biggest ever, attracting about 100,000 people, and was the climax of other smaller and more widespread actions. It is noticeable that there exists an anti-apartheid consciousness at a grassroots level - on TV pop shows, on buses and tubes, at concerts and in the newspapers. It is difficult to tell what long term effect the TV restrictions will have - it definitely is having an effect already.

We picked up a very interesting bit of news in London. Did you know that the Brazilian Government imposed sanctions against SA in July. No? Well they did. And do you know why? Well, it was a direct and immediate consequence of the cancellation of the visa of Cardinal Arns! Another result of this dastardly act by Pretoria has been that SA, and also lil' old ECC, are now high on

the agenda of the progressive 3
Catholic community in Brazil.



We have had time for a bit of a jolt in London: saw two excellent movies that won't come to SA (-although Pete slept through the one!), visited Ipswich and went down the Thames;

discovered Bengali food and socialised with a few South Africans we met

The Helsinki Conference was especially exciting for the contacts we made and the informal discussion we had with people. It is clear that we haven't even begun to realise the full potential of international solidarity networks. We are considered important as being from the 'third world', but our own contacts with other third world countries are noticeably lacking.

In Helsinki we also: participated in a press conference which resulted in good coverage (enclosed); did a radio interview with Finnish radio; spent 40 minutes with the Finnish Minister of Education who is one of the strongest anti-SA members of the cabinet and met two former cabinet ministers; did interviews with War Resisters League, a Greek peace publication, the Finnish equivalent of Time magazine, and Finnish Peace Radio and peace publication.

We showed the ECC video and everyone wanted a copy!

We are much clearer on the gains that ECC can make from our overseas contacts now, and on how much this contact assists groups overseas. The alternative service campaign will definitely be taken up. There is also much that Pete and I have learnt about struggles in other countries and from campaigns that have been conducted there.

Finland was cold, snowy but beautiful. I went for a jog in the snow

which was amazing, and we had 4
satiras - a new experience for the
upbeats from the third world.



In Sweden we were hosted jointly
by the Swedish Peace + Arbitration
Society (the largest peace organization
in Sweden with a membership of

15,000) and SIDA (the Swedish International Development Agency
which is a government Department).

We spoke to a group of CO's doing their alternative service with
SIDA; did a radio interview with Swedish Radio and one with
Swedish television; had another press conference; met with people
from Amnesty International; met with the Head of Section,
Southern Africa, at the Foreign ministry; and had smaller
discussions with other groups.

We saw an article in the largest TV journal (circulation of 600,000)
which attacked the local Liberal Party for its connections with
the AFP on the basis of the latter's links with Inbotha, decision to
work in the Coloured + Indian communities and refusal to support
the End Conscription Campaign!! Its really amazing how much
anti-apartheid work is being done in London, Helsinki and Stock-
holm and how well informed people are.

Pete and I are very excited at the work we've done and the progress
we think that we've made. One of our difficulties is that the pace
has been very fast, with the result that we don't always have
sufficient time to assess our work properly, nor the situations we're in
and groups we meet adequately. This is really an excuse for the
above not-so-analytical report. Hopefully the next report will say more
about the groups we've met, and not so much about our activities..

All strength to yours with Lots of love + admiration.

P.T.O.

It would be very helpful if ECC people could write to us about
activities back home, at the following address. We'll be there
on about the 22nd of December.

c/o Catholic Institute of International Relations
22 Coleman Fields
London N1 7AF
United Kingdom

- VIL IKKE SKYTE LANDS- MENN

— Vi vil ikke skyte på våre landsmenn, og vil ikke kjempe for apartheidregimet. Derfor er vi militærnektere, sier de to hvite sørafrikanerne Laurie Nathan (25) og Pete Hathorn (25).

Av JAN TYSTAD

Den siste har sittet et år i fengsel for politisk militærnektning. De to er i Norge for å få støtte for bevegelsen Slutt på Verneplikten. Det er en organisasjon som har søtte av protestantiske og katolske kirker, av ungdomsorganisasjoner og afrikanske grupper.

7000 uteble

I løpet av siste år har 7000 av 15 000 rekrutter ikke møtt til militærtjeneste, ifølge den sørafrikanske forsvarsministeren. Stadig flere hvite ungdommer flykter ut av landet eller går i dekning.

— Særlig etter at militære er blitt satt inn i de svarte bydelene fra i høst, har antallet militærnektere økt. Vår organisasjon får stadig flere medlemmer og er ennå ikke blitt

lene som har sjokkert en stor del av de hvite sørafrikanerne. Unge og uerfarne soldater settes inn, de voldtar, de raner og de dreper, noe av dette ble jo kjent internasjonalt inntil det ble forbudt for fotografer og journalister å være i svarte bydeler.

Terrorvelde

De to karakteriserer soldatenes oppførsel som et terrorvelde. De protesterer også mot at den sørafrikanske hær brukes i Angola og Namibia og at den driver undergravingsvirksomhet i andre naboland.

Nå er de i Norge for å få støtte til sin organisasjon som trenger midler for å drive sin virksomhet. Folkereising mot Krig setter nå i gang en innsamling til de hvite militærnektene i Sør-Afrika. Svarte har ikke verneplikt i Sør-





UHYRLIG: Volden i Sør-Afrika fortsetter, selv om den ikke lenger er førstesideoppslag i vestlige massemedia, sier Laurie Nathan og Peter Havthorn fra den hvite militærnektter-organisasjonen ECC.

Militærnekt i Sør-Afrika

Av SIRI HORN og BJØRN REESE (foto)

— Siden jeg studerer, har jeg fått utsatt militærtjenesten. Om ett år vil jeg bli innkalt, men en ting er sikkert: Jeg vil ikke bære gevær for å forsvare apartheid-regimet hjemme i Sør-Afrika.

Dette sier Laurie Nathan fra Cape Town. Han er en av nesten 4000 hvite militærnekttere i landet.

Den som ikke vil inn i Botswanas hær må enten forlate landet eller leve et omstreiferliv i Sør-Afrika, for ikke å bli funnet av myndighetene.

Nathans reisefelle til Norge, Peter Havthorn, nektet å gå inn i hæren og ble dømt til to års fengsel. Der finnes ingen alternativ tjeneste. Senere satte myndighetene ned straffen til ett år, som han nå ha sonet.

Som forræder

— Jeg var i et hvitt fengsel og ble behandlet som den aller laveste. Jeg ble ansett som

forræder mot mitt land, sier Havthorn.

Han og Nathan er i Norge som Folkereisning mot Krigsgjester for å fortelle om forholdene i landet — ettersom vestlige korrespondenter etter hvert knebles av apartheid-regimet.

— Hvordan kan det ha seg at så mange hvite sørafrikanere har et helt annet bilde av forholdene i landet, enn det vi kan se og lese i massemediene?

— De hvite områdene er meget godt beskyttet. Vi våknet først da vi begynte ved universitetet. Aviser, TV og radio forteller det myndighetene vil de skal fortelle. I de hvite om-

rådene lever man såkalt normalt og vil nødige gi fra seg privilegiene. 15–20 km unna kan det pågå harde gatekamper. Det er en annen verden, sier Havthorn.

Må ha støtte

— Da vi vokste opp, lærte vi at de svarte var dumme, uopplyste og udugelige. Det ble fastslått at de var barbarer. Senere forsto vi jo at hvis noen var uopplyste, var det fordi myndighetene holdt dem nede, sier han.

Deres organisasjon ECC vil arbeide for et nytt Sør-Afrika, og understreker betydningen av støtte utenfra.

VERDENS GANG 6/12/85 (NORWAY)

maailman si

Hohto karisee Etelä-Afrikan armeijalta

• annet Etelä-Afrikassa asepalvelukseen ja kertausharjoituksiin kutsutut valkoiset jättävät ilmoittautumatta palvelukseen. Nuorukaiset pakoilevat asevelvollisuutta muuttamalla alituisesti osoitettaan, pitkittä-mällä keinoitekoisesti opintojaan ja käyttämällä hyväkseen kaikki lain sallimat ja juristien keksimät lykkäyskeinot. Kun ne loppuvat, tiukimmat asepalveluksen vastustajat lähtevät maasta.

Asevelvollisuuden pakoilu on selvä oire siitä, että sodan- ja armeijan-vastainen asenne Etelä-Afrikan valkoisten keskuudessa leviää, Suomessa vierailevat eteläafrikkalaiset rauhanaktivistit Laurie Nathan ja Peter Hathorn katsovat. Syykin on ilmeinen: armeijan riveissä valkoiset nuoret joutuvat osallistumaan rotusortojärjestelmän ylläpitoon kaikkein kourantuntuvimmalla ja henkilökohtaisimmalla tavalla.

• Laurie Nathanin mukaan mustien kaupunginosiin komennetut sotilaat ovat monissa tapauksissa vastuussa

viime aikojen väkivaltaisista yhteen-otoista, ihmisten surmaamisesta ja pahoinpitelyistä. Sotilaat jopa tietoisesti provosoivat yhteenottoja saadakseen kaipaamaansa "toimintaa", päästäkseen "kafferijahtiin", kuten miehekäs ilmaus aseettomien mustien ampumisesta kuuluu.

Nathan ja Hathorn edustavat eteläafrikkalaista *End Conscription Campaign* -liikettä, joka toimii maan sisällä yleisen asevelvollisuuden lakkauttamiseksi. Kahdessa vuodessa liike on saanut taakseen viit-senkymmentä kansalaisjärjestöä ja toimii nyt parin sadan aktiiviyöntekijän voimin maan kaikissa tärkeimmissä keskuksissa.

Liike on laillinen, mutta se tasapainoilee koko ajan riskirajalla, sillä yllyttäminen aseistakieltäytymiseen on Etelä-Afrikassa rangaistava teko. Toistaiseksi liike on onnistunut muotoilemaan armeijanvastaiset vaatimuksensa niin, että viranomaiset eivät ole saaneet laillista perustetta puuttua liikkeen toimintaan. Liikkeen tämänhetkisiin vaatimuksiin

kuuluu mm. poikkeustilamääräysten kumoaminen ja sotilaiden vetäminen pois mustien kaupunginosista.

Rotusortoarmeijan palveluksesta kieltäytyvää uhkaa Etelä-Afrikassa nykyisin jopa kuuden vuoden vankeustuomio. Peter Hathorn ehti istua vankilassa vuoden, kunnes sai juristin^{na} avulla vapautuksen. Laurie Nathan on toistaiseksi välttänyt asepalvelun opiskelun avulla, mutta uskoo joutuvansa ennen pitkää lähtemään maasta. Etelä-Afrikan asevelvollisuutta paenneilla on oma järjestö, joka toimii Englannissa ja Hollannissa.

Eteläafrikkalaiset ovat Suomessa Rauhanliiton ja Siviilipalvelusmiesliiton vieraina. He osallistuvat Kainiaisissa kokoontuvaan Nuorisoi ja asevelvollisuus -symposiumiin, jonka näyttävään osanottajajoukkoon kuuluvat mm. sodanvastustajien kansainvälisen liiton WRI:n puheenjohtaja Myrthe Solomon ja amerikkalaisia aseistakieltäytyjiä edustava Matt Mayer.



Hvite sydafrikanere mot verneplikt:

Vi nekter å drepe svarte

PER KRISTIAN HAUGEN

— Vi vet at vi handler riktig. Vi vet at vi har de svarte bak oss. Selv om mange betrakter oss som forrædere og undergravenne krefter, får vi også støtte fra stadig flere hvite for kravet om slutt på verneplikten i Syd-Afrika. Dette sier Peter Hathorn og Laurie Nathan, begge 25 år, jusstudenter og fra Cape Town. De to er i Norge som representanter for organisasjonen End Conscription Campaign (ECC).

De er to forberedt på en reaksjon når de kommer hjem, for eksempel at de blir anholdt og fengslet. Dette ser de på med stoisk ro: — Enhver virksomhet mot apartheid i Syd-Afrika innebærer risiko, men for svarte raseskillemotstandere står mye mer på spill. Hvis myndighetene først bestemmer seg for å slå til, gjør de det i alle fall, men interesse og engasjement fra utlandet har enorm psykologisk betydning, sier de.

Loven i Syd-Afrika tillater ikke militærnekting, men medlemmer av visse kirkesamfunn kan få ikke-stridende status. Verneplikten er obligatorisk for alle hvite menn og består av to års førstegangstjeneste, fulgt av repetisjonsøvelser i 720 dager spredt over 12 år. Derefter må alle tjenestegjøre i opptil 12 dager årlig til de er fylt 55.

Syd-Afrika innførte verneplikt så sent som i 1961, og vilkårene er blitt strammet til for hvert større utbrudd av raseuro. Regimet kan bare stole på hvite soldater og trenger alle mannskaper de kan stable på beina.

Idag gjør motvilje mot å bli sendt til de svarte bosettingene at 3000 til 4000 unge menn ikke reagerer på innkalling til førstegangstjeneste årlig. Mange skifter stadig adresse for å forvirre myndighetene. Anslagsvis 30-40 prosent av de engelsktalende unge er motstandere av verneplikten, regner ECC med. Er man imidlertid blitt oppsporet, er alternativene inntil seks års fengsel eller landflyktighet.

Hathorn har sittet ett år i fengsel og risikerer seks år hvis han blir innkalt på nytt. Nathan er ikke blitt innkalt på grunn av



Laurie Nathan (til venstre) og Peter Hathorn organiserer unge hvite menn som ikke vil inn i det sydafrikanske voldsapparat. (Foto: Bjørn Fjærtøft)

studiene. Han arbeider nå som ECC-leder på heltid.

Organisasjonens suksess har utløst en grov bakvaskelskampanje fra myndighetenes side. Seks aktivister er blitt anholdt, og mer enn 30 har fått boligene sine ransaket. Flere infiltrasjonsforsøk er blitt avslørt.

ECC har Den forenede demokratiske front (UDF) i ryggen, en paraplyorganisasjon som samler et bredt spektrum av raseskillemotstandere. Alle engelsksproglige kirkesamfunn står også bak.

Ledende aviser har gitt uttrykk for sympati. Til og med det nokså forsiktige opposisjonspartiet PFP er på glid. ECC samarbeider utmerket med parlungsdommen, og moderpartiet går nå inn for at verneplikten skal «nedtrappes over tid».

Polariseringen blant de hvite slår imidlertid også negativt ut. Svært mange unge menn synes fortsatt det er gedigen underholdning å rykke inn i de svarte områdene «for å gi kafferne en omgang».

ECC vil i 1986 utvide virksomheten til den afrikaans-sproglige folkegruppen, hvor identifikasjonen med apartheid er aller sterkest.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

16/12/85

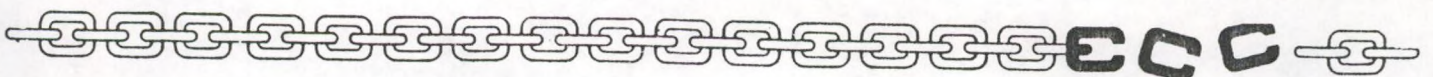
Adors mon amie !

If us Monday it must be Brussels. In fact it's still Paris because we had to wait here to collect our visas for Belgium. Anyway, here's a report on our activities and impressions of Norway, Germany and Switzerland.

In Norway we were hosted by FMK (the Peoples Movement Against War) which is an affiliate of War Resisters International. Its members were recently convicted for exposing evidence of secret Nato nuclear naval bases in Norway, and some have been given jail sentences as a result.

It has been exciting to explore with FMK the potential for co-operation between ourselves and pacifist groups from WRI that arises from a common commitment to opposing conscription and militarisation and from a shared international perspective of the relationship between first and third world countries.

Our first day in Oslo was spent doing press interviews from sunrise to sunset. In Norway this isn't very long at the moment - about six newspapers worth - but we got excellent coverage the next day. The following day, just for a change, was spent doing interviews with an independent anti-racist radio station, a student radio station, IFOR, the official newspaper of the Christian Democratic Party, a weekly



socialist publication and a peace publication.

The ECC alternative service campaign continues to attract great enthusiasm.

In Germany Pete and I split up to cover more ground. We spoke to people and groups from Pax Christi, the Greens Party, the large Catholic and Protestant funding agencies, anti-apartheid groups, conscientious objectors and counsellors, press and radio, and peace, pacifist and Christian action groups.

It was particularly useful talking to groups whose focus includes South Africa. We were able to bring them 'recent' news, discuss changing conditions in the country and motivate them by underlining the importance of their own work. As happened in other countries, our visit brought together different groups that all take up SA but tend not to co-operate as well as they might.

The areas that we went to in Germany are alive with information about, and action around ECC. In Stuttgart and Frankfurt there were solidarity fairs at the end of the Troops Out Campaign, involving hundreds of people; many national and regional religious publications have carried articles on ECC; schoolchildren have been given ECC material to read; and at a Catholic meeting place where I spoke, there are ECC posters and our Declaration (in German) on the walls!

So all together now: "Wir fordern ein ende der Wehrpflicht. Wir fordern einen gerechten Frieden in unserem Land".

We both had time for some tourism. Pete went up a hill to see a castle and then came down to look around a church. I went to an amazing

natural history museum with prehistoric animals reconstructed from fossilised bones, and received as a present a 150 million year old genome! Chew on that.

In Geneva I met with the head of the UN Human Rights Commission's subcommittee on conscientious objection. The possible gains of this contact are limited though as the Commission will only debate the issue of CO. again in 1987.

We spent Friday 13th at the World Council of Churches where we showed the ECC video to about 50 staff members, did a radio interview with the WCC International News Service and established very good contacts with the Youth and Communications Departments. These contacts will give us access to 100's of groups and millions of people throughout the world.

We had a very interesting discussion with someone from Service Civil International (SCI). SCI is an international organisation with 10,000 members and 20 national branches which organises voluntary work projects in 1st and 3rd world countries. Projects would include work with the aged, handicapped and children, rural community development, medical assistance to refugee camps and education programmes.

Through this work SCI aims to develop local communities, promote the philosophy and practice of non-violence, and work for peace and social justice. One more specific objective is to work for the establishment of appropriate forms of alternative service for conscientious objectors in countries where these are inadequate or non-existent. In some European countries, objectors have chosen to do their alternative service working in SCI projects.

There is obviously great potential for SCI to take up our alternative

service campaign. We will try to meet the European Secretariate in Brussels and the International Secretariate in London to work out exactly how this can be done.

It has been very exciting to be in Paris over the weekend. The beauty, atmosphere and art have made us, for the first time in Europe, determined to take time off and not work every minute of the day and night. Were off to the Picasso Museum right now. See you later. Au revoir.

All strength to your new year activities, both ECC and otherwise.

Love and peace

Laurie and Pete

7/12/85

Dear Mike + David

We've written a report on our activities + impressions so far. Could you please make copies and send to all the ECC's, and show to anyone else who may be interested.

I'm writing this on a very fast-moving train from Oslo to Hamburg, so excuse the Parkinson type writing.

David! What progress with the alternative service action campaign? I ask because everyone we've told about it is tremendously excited to take it up. I've been suggesting to various groups that they can use the issues of alt. serv. in SA and our campaign as a means of raising awareness of around the conditions of military + alternative service around which they're struggling in their own countries. I believe the campaign has great international potential (!) and would like to raise it at the Triennial, a perfect forum.

But to do this, and realise the potential, we need more info. ^{ie. Pete + I} than we have. We need a well-worked motivation and ideas for international solidarity action. Could this be sent to CIIP express or priority mail? We'll be in London by 22/12. I'm not sure if this gives you enough time. Alternatively you can take info. to them. Or I can phone you from London. I don't know how far you are with original plan - if these aren't yet adequate, could you nevertheless drum something up for our purposes (- a 10 pg illustrated glossy would do!).

David! In London we met Nena Weinstein from CBS TV who is doing a documentary on SA war refugees in January. She is ~~very~~ very keen to get copies of our 2 videos, as well as

some of our t-shirts + posters. She is willing to pay for the material and the transport costs - but you can charge her bank extra. Don't be shy, now. I'm afraid I don't know the exact address - is CBS, West 57th, I think New York, or something like this. You could get the exact address from CBS or some other US TV station based in SA. (Not CBC, hey).

Michael! We had a good rap to Max Meyer in Helsinki about the UN trip. He is very keen to organise a national tour for you + Janex, and he will raise the money for this. He suggested that our issues be linked, in the course of the tour, to local racism + draft and also to Peru (!?!). We felt the first two were fine + correct but that the last might tend to confuse things somewhat. He ~~is~~ said fine. He also suggested that the tour be jointly hosted by ^{WRL} FOR + the Friends Peace Committee, for the reasons of money, organisational sharing of work-load and building links for WFL. This seems fine from our side, we felt. Max will do all decision-making and he is spot on. He asked us what we think of Transfrica being a co-host. We felt that this would not be a good idea - Transfrica is like AAM and although it would not be a problem for ECC to meet with them and even talk on their platforms, it would seem inappropriate to be jointly hosted by them. Do you agree? We were suggesting close co-operation ~~at~~ at times, but not so far as a joint hosting.

Max also said that he would prefer the tour to be in March. He will phone you, via David, to check this out. If it's OK with you, he will phone the UN and check it out with them. Hopefully he will have spoken to you by the time you get this letter.

David! The car! Syd! Has it recovered? Have you recovered? I've written a letter to Stoffel in which I demand compensation for blown gasbatteries + frayed nerves (enclosed).

Mibe + David! Sorry if this letter is a bit incoherent at times, hope not too much (- should this be 'so much'?) We didn't sleep too/so much last night as the heavily falling snow derailed a train ahead of us and, instead of going direct from Oslo to Hamburg overnight in a sleeper, we've had to change trains 3 times and take a bus. We'll be 8 hours late in Hamburg and arrive five minutes after our press conference begins.

Surfs not so good around here. How about your side?
Having fun in the snow, nonetheless
Lots of love, flow,
Laurie

Pete has proofread the ~~last~~ letter and takes full responsibility for all grammatical, syntactical, logical and political "föb äps" (- Scandinavian for "big mistakes").

ISABEL

Workable — more movement

Pamphlet moved and under logo

Positive aspects could be made to work more
lyrics upwards



Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.