

N.C.
31.01.86-3.02.86

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National Committee Report

My first N.C.!! Stunning, amazing, productive, enjoyable etc. etc. I am now a confirmed happy-clappy ECC evangelist. The NC took place over the one day before and the two days after the National Conference (it meant I had to fly both ways- shame poor me)

Here follows a precis of discussion:

1) We had previously decided to send Mike Evans and Janet Cherry on the U.S. speaking tour/visit to the U.N. Mikes re-entry permit has been refused and Janet has some doubts about her availability. We drew up a back up list which regions have been asked to add to. NC felt that at least one of the people we send should be a conscript.

The list in order of priority: Gavin Evans, Justin H., Paula H., Chippie, Nic.

David is trying to find out what is expected from our evidence to the U.N. He will contact regions with requests for research later.

We have also been invited to attend a conference on Women and the military in the Phillipines at the end of the year. NC felt that while most of the countries invited are third world, the agenda was aimed more at first world situations. David is writing to them to get greater clarity.

2) The C.I.I.R. is updating their publication 'War and Conscience'. We have been asked to find someone to research and draw up a draft for the publication. The person would be employed by C.I.I.R. for 2 months. The content would include: a) Militarization in general b) Apartheid developments reform etc. c) Resistance to the military e.g. COSG's, ECC etc. d) Troops in the Townships. The person could come from inside or outside of ECC, but we should remember they will be busy for 2 months.

3) Regions will have to raise the money for offices themselves. We must draw up lists of office equipment we require and the National Office will try and get stuff from the embassies in JHB.

4) Steve Lowry has asked all regions not to keep special accounts for different projects and that everything be recorded strictly in one set of books.

5) Working for a Just Peace.

We finalised dates:

- * 2nd April - 30th April
- * Regions will stagger launches
- * Everyone will end 30th April

National Media:

- * Glossy/slick brochure from C.T.
- * Logo to be circulated from C.T.
- * T-shirts from JHB
- * Sticker from Durban
- * Buttons from PMB

6) 1987 Cultural Festival.

We had some confusion about what exactly such a festival would entail, how education and entertainment would fit together. The festival would be the cultural event of the decade i.e. NC didn't feel we should be shy and retiring in our approach.

7) Laurie's work.

This last year Laurie's time was divided equally between the established and the developing regions. NC felt that Laurie would spend far less time in CT, Jhb or Dbn. Most of his time should be spent in P.E., Grahamstown and PMB, but he should also spend time in new areas e.g. Stellenbosch, Pretoria etc.

8) We had a sobering discussion about the repressive climate that we could expect this year. The Geldenhuys Commission may make reforms around conscription, but we could expect the state to use this as an opportunity to take a swipe at ECC (give with the one hand, take with the other). This could mean banning, making it illegal to call for an end to conscription etc. Regions are asked to consider the question of state repression very carefully.

9) The National publication will initially be based in CT. Nic will sit on the editorial committee and liase between this and NC. A budget should be forwarded to the National Office.

Aim of the report : it is important to bear in mind when writing up the report what the purpose is of sharing this information about the work and development of your region.

Areas to include in the report :

1. Number of active members

2. Region's activities :

To give an account of the regions activities since the previous NC, ranging from small house meetings to large public events. The activities should also be assessed in terms of their effectiveness in advancing ECC's work in the region, drawing in new people, increasing ECC's public profile, maintaining and building the front, etc. There may be some overlap here when the area of Front is discussed under a separate heading, but it's important to assess the activities into the broad aims of ECC.

Also include activities of the sub-groups.

3. Internal development :

Give an account of the way in which ECC takes on the responsibility of ensuring that our activists not only have a good understanding of ECC but of broader political issues. This can include our own internal education seminars or where we slot in with other organisations' education programmes. Also to include the training and development of activists on the level of personal support, accountability, preparation for detention, etc.

4. Morale :

A general assessment of how the members are feeling about their work in ECC and their contribution to the struggle for justice in SA

5. Security :

The practise of security measures taken by our membership and the development of a security consciousness.

6. Front :

An assessment of how the front is working in your region - what is the representation of the front at various ECC meetings; does any formal structure exist to facilitate communication between ECC and the Front members; assess the strength of the front; etc.

7. National contact :

Assess the extent of your regions' national contact, both with national workers and with other regions. Note those things which enabled the region to have a good sense of national ECC, making recommendations for improvement, etc

8. Repression :

Give a brief overview of the types of repression that the region has experienced both at the level of individual harassment and general smears against the ECC.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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