

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEES OF
DURBAN, JOHANNESBURG AND CAPE TOWN ON 22 JULY 1984 AT
WILGESPRUIT FELLOWSHIP CENTRE.

1. PRESENT: Laurie, Mike, Imre, Richard, David, Beaver, Margot (Cape Town); Nan, Benito, Robbie, Adele, Lois (Johannesburg) Fiona, Gary, Paul, Sue, Meryl, Jenny (Durban.)

2. REPORTS:

Reports were given by each region on structure, activities and ideas for the campaign.

In discussion it appeared that in each centre the brunt of the work was being handled by people who were also members of COSG. There was general agreement on the directions being taken in each region.

The base for organisation had been established over the year under review and now gains needed to be consolidated.

While some organisations could be heavily involved there would always be some who could only give moral support and could not be active.

There was a need for people within the campaign who could take a higher public profile.

3. PROJECTS:

3.1 The Durban pamphlet on Religious Objection was circulated. Groups could use this if they wished. Discussion on distribution included ideas to work through schools, Scripture Union and so on. Durban does have a list of school guidance people and will be doing a wide distribution.

3.2 Surveys had been run on all NUSAS campuses. Other surveys have been planned for each of the centre. In discussion the following points were made:

3.2.1 Surveys gave the committees some understanding of where people were and provided access to various constituencies.

3.2.3 The church was a major constituency and might merit a national survey in the light of the SACC resolutions.

3.2.3 Any survey needed to be followed up, and this was quite difficult off-campus.

3.2.4 A survey could become a regularly used tool for furthering the campaign.

3.2.5 A compilation of results from any national questions might be helpful. used

3.3 Declaration.

This had been amended by the replacement of the word 'citizens' by the word 'youth' in the sixth paragraph.

Various individuals and organisations in the Cape had endorsed the declaration. The Black Sash had also distributed it to its members and got a good response.

3.3.1 It was agreed that the declaration should become a national declaration and that regions should work on getting endorsements in preparation for a national launch in mid-October.

3.3.2 This national launch would consist of simultaneous regional events. The form of these would be discussed in September. As part of the launch a pamphlet would be printed containing the declaration, information on conscription, and a list of national and regional endorsees.

3.4 Armistice Day

This is November 11. Various organisations are looking for a day to remember Namibia. It was reported that a U.N day for Namibia does exist. Regions were asked to discuss this as a possible project for local areas.

3.5 Youth Focus

COSG Conference had suggested the ECC take on a particular focus on schools. Regions were asked to decide whether they should become a priority area for the campaign. COSG's would need to work on this a little more.

4. Structure and Communication

4.1. Nature and Structure.

It was suggested that new interest groups/organisations (e.g. Parents, groups, ex-service men) be initiated.

A co-ordinating group seemed necessary; with a front organisation, with individual volunteers coming in to the campaign through a group of some sort.

Tasks could be delegated to organisations during any particular part of the campaign.

4.2 Uniformity

It was agreed that the name needs to be uniformed although organisation need not be.

It was agreed to use the present logo and the letters ECC. ECC will be used to define the committee and also any specific campaigns.

4.3 Patrons

The need for patrons to provide a national focus of identity, support and protection was expressed. Regions were asked to discuss the principle, numbers and process and then if agreed suggest names for circulation through the travelling representatives.

This decision would need to have national consensus.

It was suggested that patrons should number 6, with some potential for people to be living in regions. The group should include national figures including both church and non church persons.

4.4 National Co-ordination

It was decided to wait till January 1985 for further discussion on any national structure. Each centre would nominate a person for any interim co-ordination.

4.5 National Conference.

This would take place from the 25 - 27 January 1985 in Durban. The local group would take responsibility for administering this event.

Regions would telephone in mid-August with attendance numbers.

It was agreed that what was required was a working conference with delegates having a mandate to make decisions about the campaign. The conference would include evaluation and input if related to the tasks at hand. Reports could be circulated in advance.

4.6 Finance.

While some funds were available, this would be a major item on the January agenda. In the meantime Johannesburg would apply for funds for the January meeting. The September co-ordination would include discussion on funding.

5. Relationships with other groups.

5.1 Liason with national organisations.

Some organisations with national structures would need to be approached for endorsement of the declaration.

Organisations would be approached as follows:

MCSA - Paul
CPSA - Mike
SACBC - Lois
Presbyterian & UCCSA - Johannesburg group
NUSAS & SUCA - Cape Town group.

Local affiliates to the ECC would be asked to get their own national organisations to endorse the declaration.

Participants in the ICT feminist theology consultation would approach representatives of organisations present at this event.

6. Media and Publicity

- 6.1 Johannesburg would prepare a covering letter and declaration to be sent to international organisations for their endorsement. Adele and Anita would be asked to follow these up as would Peter from Cape Town.

Endorsements would need to be returned on a telex number. 3 were suggested and should be included in the letter.

- 6.2 Each region was asked to establish a particular media liason group. This would create regional contact lists and establish a media briefing sheet for discussion in January.

Cape Town would be responsible for contact with Namibia.

Sue would approach Seek to cover the ECC in October.

- 6.3 Newsletter.

Regions might want to establish internal newsheets for affiliated organisations.

- 6.4 Education

It was agreed that COSG and ECC needed to co-operate in the creation of resource centres.

Educational work could be facilitated through the COSG's, while resource sharing would be on each ECC agenda.

Cape Town were asked to make available photo copies of their fact sheets in their present form.

7. The minutes would be circulated to each participant in the meeting and through them to other ECC members.

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