

Die Redakteur
Beeld
Posbus 5425
JOHANNESBURG
2000

13 Maart 1986

Geagte Redakteur

Suid Afrika se wapenvervaardigers kraai oor hul nuutste dodelike speelgoed, wat tans in Chili, daardie voorbeeldrige handhawer van menseregte, vertoon word. 'n Uiteraars gepaste keuse van land vir só 'n uitstalling.

Veral die nuwe CB 470 trosbom, wat veertig 6kg bomme bo die grond laat ontplof, is besonder oulik. Volgens Beeld se voorbladberig, is dit spesifiek bedoel vir "sagte teikens wat oor 'n gebied versprei is". Soos Angolese dorpie, of wat? Maar ek is seker daar is 'n belangrike beginsel verskil tussen die "sagte teikens" wat ons ou bommetjie sal verwoes, en dié wat die bese ANC wil aanval. Verskoon my dat ek dit nie kan insien nie.

Ek neem aan ons regering sal die strengste keuring toepas wanneer hulle hierdie wapens aan ander lande en "vryheidsbewegings" verkoop. Ons behoort seker te maak dat die slagting wat met behulp van ons wapenkunde plaasvind, volgens dieselfde hoë Christelike beginsels gebeur as wat hier die geval is. Net jammer daar is nie ander lande wat dit ook kan gebruik om apartheid te verdedig nie.

Die uwe

CHRIS DE VILLIERS

The Editor
The Star
P O Box 1014
JOHANNESBURG
2000

13 March 1986

Sir

I read in The Star and Die Beeld of 11 March about some wonderful new weapons which have been developed by Armscor and other companies for the benefit of all South Africans. In particular I was impressed by the CB 470 cluster bomb which releases 40 separate bombs over a wide area. According to Beeld's front-page article, it is specifically intended for "soft targets".

For a moment I was confused about the meaning of "soft targets", until I remembered that it was a phrase used by those despicable ANC terrorists for non-military targets. But I am quite sure that our proud and noble tradition of warfare against the "local population", inside and outside South Africa, will ensure that our clever bombs are used only for peaceful purposes against wicked terrorists, and that they will only be dropped on Angolan villages and other "soft targets" by mistake.

It is also very impressive to note that we are "one of the biggest exhibitors" at the Arms Exhibition in Chile, that bastion of human rights. What a fitting location for such a show! I have no doubt that we can rely on our government to sell our weapons only to those civilised nations who, like ourselves, conduct their butchery according to the best christian traditions. And I have no doubt that the ingenious inventors of these weapons will sleep soundly in the knowledge of a worthwhile job well done.

Yours faithfully

CHRIS DE VILLIERS

End Conscription Campaign

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PRESS RELEASE

ECC RESPONSE TO DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

STATEMENT ISSUED BY ECC NATIONAL SECRETARY DAVID SHANDLER
22///4/1986

FOR FURTHER INFO PHONE (W) 011-337 6796
(H)011-648 1659

THE ECC SEES THE SUBMISSIONS CONTAINED IN THE DEFENCE WHITE PAPER AS HIGHLY DISSAPPOINTING. WE TAKE STRONG EXCEPTION TO THE REMARK THAT INCREASED EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO COUNTER THE 'ANTI-NATIONAL SERVICE CAMPAIGN'. THIS IS CLEARLY A VEILED AND IGNORANT ATTACK ON THE ECC. IT IS CRUDE AND MISINFORMED IN IMPLYING THAT THE ECC IS OPPOSED TO NATIONAL SERVICE. THIS IS NOT TRUE. ECC EXISTS TO WORK TOWARDS AN END TO CONSCRIPTION. WE ARE IN FACT IN FAVOUR OF PEOPLE PERFORMING A GENUINE NATIONAL SERVICE, BUT THIS WE BELIEVE SHOULD NOT HAPPEN THROUGH FORCED MILITARY SERVICE. THERE ARE MANY CONSTRUCTIVE WAYS OF SERVING OUR COMMUNITY. BEING CONSCRIPTED INTO THE SADF AND THUS SIDING WITH APARTHEID IS NOT ONE.

MANY GROUPS RANGING FROM THE ECC, TO CHURCH AND POLITICAL GROUPS MADE SUBMISSIONS TO END CONSCRIPTION TO THE SADF GELDENHUYS COMMITTEE, THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER. FOR THESE GROUPS THE NEW PROPOSALS GO NO WAY TOWARDS MEETING POPULAR DEMANDS TO END CONSCRIPTION, OR AT THE VERY LEAST TO BROADEN THE SCOPE FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION, AND TO STOP MAKING USE OF THE SADF AS AN OCCUPYING FORCE IN SOUTH AFRICA'S TOWNSHIPS. THESE POPULAR DEMANDS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY IGNORED BY THE AUTHORITIES.

WE ARE PRESENTED IN THE WHITE PAPER WITH A DOCUMENT THAT TINKERS WITH THE DAY TO DAY WORKINGS OF THE SADF WHILE IGNORING TO ADRESS THE FACT THAT IT IS PLAYING A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN UPHOLDING APARTHEID. THIS IS A CRUCIAL ISSUE TO CONFRONT AND AN OMMISION SUCH AS THAT IN THIS PAPER IS DANGEROUS AND FRIGHTENING IN THE EXREME. IT DOES NOTHING TO BRING THE DAY FORWARD WHEN THE SADF CEASES TO FUNCTION AS THE ARMED DEFENCE OF APARTHEID.

THE IMPLICATION THAT THERE IS TO BE FURTHER TROOP DEPLOYMENT IN THE TOWNSHIPS IS ABHORRENT. REGARDLESS OF THE RACIAL MAKE-UP OF THE SADF, IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE SEEN AS AN ENEMY BY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS. FOR AS LONG AS IT CONTINUES TO DEFEND APARTHEID. TO CALL, AS THE WHITE PAPER DOES, FOR MORE BLACK SADF MEMBERS IS HIGHLY INSENSITIVE, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT CONFLICT IN OUR COUNTRY.

THE COMMITMENT BY THE STATE TO CONSCRIPTING COLOURED AND INDIANS IN PRINCIPLE IS WORRYING. THIS WILL INCREASE DIVISIONS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE.

CONTINUES OVER.....



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NB...NB. THE SUGGESTION THAT THE STATUS QUO REGARDING CONSCRIPTION AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION BE MAINTAINED IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO US. THE PROPOSALS DISPLAY AN ARROGANT DISREGARD FOR WHAT IS A GROWING AND SINCERE MOVEMENT TO END COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE IN THE SADF. TO CLAIM AS THE DOCUMENT DOES THAT EXTENDING THE PROVISIONS FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION WOULD 'RESULT IN THE SADF BEING REDUCED IN EFFICIENCY' AND 'WOULD ENCOURAGE AN ATTEMPT AGAINST NATIONAL SERVICE' IS A CLEAR ADMISSION ON THE PART OF THE AUTHORITIES THAT THERE EXISTS A WIDESPREAD RESISTANCE TO CONSCRIPTION. CLEARLY IT IS ONLY CONSCRIPTION AND THE THREAT OF PUNITIVE MEASURES WHICH ENSURES THAT THE SADF HAS SUFFICIENT PERSONELL.

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PRESS RELEASE

CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST DETAINED CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

Charges against detained conscientious objector Philip Wilkinson have been dropped. He was to have appeared in court on Tuesday 29 July to face charges of failing to report for a military camp. Detained in Port Elizabeth on June 15, Philip was brought before a magistrate in the town on July 13 where the charge against him was withdrawn by the state. The state reserved its right to rebring the charge. Philip remains in detention in terms of the emergency regulations.

Philip, an army corporal and Port Elizabeth ECC member, earlier this year publicly announced his intention to refuse to render any further service in the SADF. The Board for Religious Objection turned down his application for recognition as a religious objector. In a widely publicised stand he announced that while he had no objection to serving his country in a constructive way, religious, moral and political reasons prevented him from doing any further service in the SADF. He said that he could not reconcile his participating in the SADF with his commitment to justice and peace in South Africa. The SADF was upholding the unjust system of apartheid and he could have no part in it.

Minutes before he was to address an ECC public rally in the Johannesburg City Hall on 29 May this year he was arrested by members of the military police, and held for ten days before he was charged and released. Despite the fact that he had made it clear that he would hand himself over to the military authorities whenever they required it, he was arrested in a highly sinister and rough manner.

There has been much public support for Philip, both nationally and internationally. Within South Africa support has come from Archbishop-elect Desmond Tutu, the South African Council of Churches, the South African Catholic Bishop's Conference, the Black Sash, Young Progressives, the UDF, and ECC. International support has been received from all continents and has included the Bishops of New York and Washington, as well as a number (more)

of members of the European Parliament.

The ECC extends its support to Philip for the stand he has taken and to him in his situation as an emergency detainee at present. We believe that Philip's case is a reminder to us all of the immense crisis of conscience faced by so many young South Africans at this time. We are committed to the belief that it is folly for the government to ignore their dilemma. We call for the recognition in law of all who in good conscience wish to serve South Africa in a way other than in the SADF.

ENDS

Statement issued by ECC National Secretary David Shandler.

For further information contact ECC at 337 6796 (all hours)

28 July 1986

End Conscription Campaign

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DETAINED ECC LEADER AWAITS IMPLEMENTATION OF DEPORTATION ORDER

Prominent Port Elizabeth ECC member Dominique Souchon is still awaiting the implementation of a deportation order served on him on July 4. He has been held in detention in terms of the Emergency Regulations since June 15. There has been no clarity as to why there has been close on four weeks since the issuing of the order and the present.

At present employed by the University of the Witwatersrand as a researcher, Mr Souchon is also actively involved in the Catholic Church. He is shortly to take up full-time employment in the church's Division for Justice and Reconciliation. Previously he had been the Chair of the Catholic Students' Society at the University of Port Elizabeth, and was active in the National Catholic Federation of Students. He is also at present the Port Elizabeth Chair of the Detainees Support Committee.

Mr Souchon, who is 27 years old, has lived in South Africa for the last 25 years. He is a Mauritian citizen. His entire family also lives in South Africa. His situation differs thus markedly from many of the other people, who were resident temporarily in South Africa, who have suffered deportations since the start of the present state of emergency.

"It is tragic that the government has seen fit to deport such a fine person as Dominique," said ECC National Secretary David Shandler. " His consistent hard work and dedication to justice and peace is an inspiration to all in ECC. One wonders whether this is not the reason why the authorities have chosen to act against him in this way. It is all the more appalling since he is to all intents and purposes a committed and patriotic member of the South African community."

Besides Mr Souchon, there are still 9 ECC members being held in detention. They are: Sandra Stewart, a 31 year old PE ECC Executive member and mother of two boys. She has been held since June 15.

Philip Wilkinson, 22, conscientious objector from Port Elizabeth. He has been detained since June 15.

Michael Loewe, 27, a freelance journalist and PE ECC member. Detained June 15.

Collum Allen, a 20 year old student at Rhodes University and member of the ECC branch on the campus. Detained June 12.

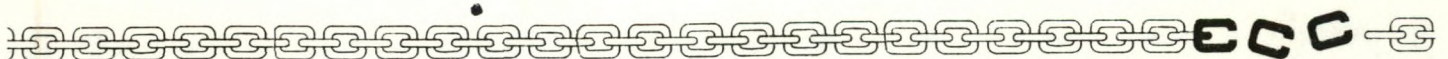
Anne Burroughs, a 29 year old member of the Grahamstown ECC and a researcher. She is also active in the Black Sash. Detained on June 18.

Melissa de Villiers, 21 and Chair of the Rhodes University Branch of the ECC. She was detained on June 28.

Karen Thorne is a 19 year old member of the Rhodes University ECC. She was detained on June 28.

Bridget Hilton-Barber is 22 and a Grahamstown ECC Executive member. Employed by Grocott's Mail, she has been held in detention since July 2.

(MORE)



ECC
End Conscription Campaign

Roelene Theron is 22 and an executive member of the Rhodes ECC. She was detained on 28 July.

Annika van Gylswyk, a Pretoria ECC member and local Chair of the Black Sash in the city. She was detained on June 15.

Up to the present a total of 37 ECC members have been held in terms of the emergency regulations.

Over the past three weeks ECC members have also faced a number of incidents of harrasment. There have been security police raids on a number of homes and offices of Johannesburg ECC members. The home of three prominent members of the ECC in Johannesburg was petrol bombed on July 11 at 3 am. Amongst those who share the house is Steven Lowry, the ECC National Treasurer.

Several ECC members have had their cars vândalised. The incidents included the slashing of tyres, cutting of brake fluid cables and the slashing of upholstery.

"We in ECC, rather than being debilitated by these actions, are strengthened by them. Our commitment to our cause is as strong as ever and the active members of the campaign are very keen to continue our public work. We are of the belief that acts of harrasment and repression against us confirm the fact that we are having a positive affect. Over the past two years we have experienced much growth and increasing public support. It would appear that those that oppose us have to resort to violence to stop the expression of opposition to conscription. They can never succeed in stopping the widespread public dissatisfaction with the system of conscription."

For further information contact 337 6796 (all hours)

31 July 1986

End Conscription Campaign

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PRESS RELEASE

ALTERNATIVE SERVICE CAN SOLVE CONSCRIPTS' DILEMMA

A theme of ECC's work this year, and especially since the declaration of the State of Emergency, has been the constant flow of conscripts approaching us seeking help and advice. In most cases they have been unwilling to enter the SADF or do camp duty for political and moral reasons. The role played by the SADF in upholding apartheid is a common reason given.

In this context, the ECC feels it to be of the utmost importance to repeat our call to the government for an extension of alternative service. We believe that all who in good conscience are opposed to serving in the SADF should be given the option of serving South Africa in another way. At present it is only religious pacifists who are recognised in law as being eligible for community service. This service, if granted, is of a duration of 1½ times the length of the applicant's remaining service in the SADF. This can amount to a period of up to 6 years. Also, this service has to be performed in a government department.

The Board for Religious Objectors, which grants alternative service, has already received more than 2000 applications in just 2½ years of existence. 15 applicants have been refused alternative service. Refusal by the Board leaves the conscript who does not wish to serve in the SADF with the options of facing a jail sentence if convicted of refusing to render service, a life in hiding, or leaving the country. No non religious objector has come forward in court since 1983. Philip Wilkinson made himself available for such a course of action, but charges have been dropped against him.

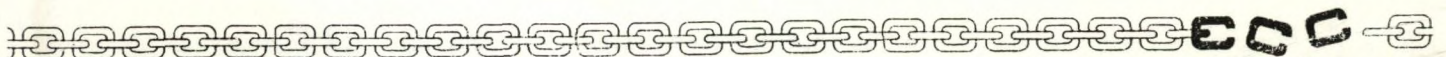
"With the state of conflict our country is in at present, and as conscription is so controversial an issue, we believe it to be an urgent matter that the government broaden the scope for alternative service," says ECC National Secretary David Shandler.

The ECC has repeatedly in the past made this call. In August 1985 we presented evidence to the official Geldenhuys Committee of Inquiry which considered amongst other matters, the system of conscription. We called at that time for all who in good conscience wished to, to be able to serve South Africa in a way other than in the SADF. We called too, for this service to be of equal duration to military service; not a punitive 1½ times the length. It was important as well that such service be allowed in religious, welfare and other non-government organizations.

"Our proposals are based on internationally recognized practices and principals," says ECC National Organiser Laurie Nathan. "The Nuremburg Principles and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are important in recognising every person's right to freedom of conscience. The European Parliament in 1983 passed a resolution calling for the recognition of the right to alternative service, and that it be of equal length to military service. It should not be a sanction that is imposed on the conscript."

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, East and West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden all recognise conscientious objection on more than only religious grounds. In Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland and West Germany alternative service is permitted in non-governmental organisations, such as peace movements and third world development and aid organisations.

(MORE)



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Internationally, there has been a wide variety of forms of alternative service. In West Germany and the Netherlands some conscientious objectors work with ecological centres and environmental organisations. In a number of European countries work in social services such as work among migrant workers, homes for the under-privileged, social work with the urban poor and aid in public dispensaries has been carried out.

The ECC demonstrated practically potential forms of alternative service for South Africa, when in April this year we ran our Working for a Just Peace Campaign. In projects such as the planting of a garden for mentally-handicapped children in Johannesburg, building a creche in Durban, assisting a community which had been forcibly removed in Pietermaritzburg and other projects around the country we showed this. Through the projects we demonstrated, both our commitment to working with and assisting the South African community, as well as realistic ways in which alternative service could be carried out in South Africa.

This was not the first time such a project had been run in South Africa. In 1978, the Quakers and the Baptists established a pilot scheme for alternative service. The project was to be run in cooperation with Catholic Mission hospitals in Namibia. It was to have taken the form of an ambulance service in that country's war zone. The South African authorities turned down permission for the project.

"An alternative to serving in the SADF is urgent. The government should not seek to make criminals of those who choose not to serve in the SADF," says Shandler.

"Service to one's community is admirable. We call on the government to recognise the desire of many South African conscripts to serve our country in a non-military way. At present alternative service in South Africa is seen as a form of punishment. This can only create a negative impression of service to the community. We believe service should be of social value. Everybody has a right to contribute positively to our society. They should not be punished for this as the law at present does. The government should not deny people the opportunity to work on projects which actively promote justice and peace. Allow for a universal alternative service to military service."

For further information contact the End Conscription Campaign at 337 6796

7 August 1986

End Conscription Campaign

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PRESS RELEASE

ECC TAKES AIDA PARKER NEWSLETTER TO MEDIA COUNCIL

In a highly significant move, the ECC is to bring an action against the Aida Parker Newsletter (APN) in the media council on Monday October 6. The hearing is to take place in Cape Town.

The action is in response to an issue of the APN published in April this year, three quarters of which was devoted to what we believe is a scurrilous and false attack on the ECC.

In our submissions we submit that in the publication, as well as there being a number of major inaccuracies, an attempt is made to link the ECC to banned organisations such as the ANC and SACP. There is a large focus on establishing a further link to the Soviet-oriented World Peace Council.

"These allegations are made in an attempt to discredit and criminalise the ECC," said ECC National Secretary David Shandler.

"They are false and we are bringing this action with the intention of the Media Council confirming this for us," he said.

The significance of the ECC court action is highlighted by the fact that the APN, normally a fortnightly subscription-based publication, expanded its size and lifted all copyright restrictions for the issue under contention. The print order was tripled. Readers were encouraged to make use of it in any way they deemed suitable, and extra copies were made available at a cost of R1,00 each.

Since its publication it has been distributed by the government-supporting National Student Federation to 1300 school principals, and photocopies of it were distributed at Rhodes University and elsewhere in Grahamstown. Anonymous pamphlets containing smear attacks on the ECC, and quoting from the APN have been distributed in Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown and Pretoria. A further pamphlet attack on the ECC and based on the APN has been published by Gabrielle Malan of "Women for South Africa".

In the APN it is contended that the War Resisters International (WRI) with whom the ECC has links is a Soviet adjunct. The WRI, it is claimed, is "an important Soviet front operating under the aegis of the Helsinki-based World Peace Council."

"The WRI, who hosted Pete Hathorn and myself on a visit to Europe and India at the end of last year, is not in any way directly connected to any Soviet-backed organisation," said Laurie Nathan, the National Organiser for the ECC.

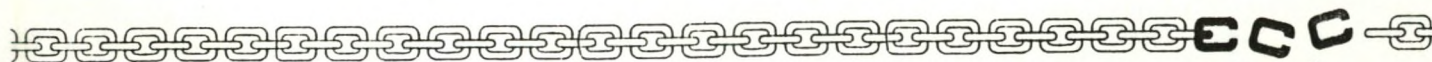
"It is not affiliated to the World Peace Council. It is an autonomous international pacifist organisation with about branches throughout the world. It has, in fact, a policy of non-cooperation with the Soviet-aligned WPC."

When informed of the alleged link to the WPC, the international Chair of the WRI David Macreynolds wrote to ECC saying that the allegation "would be amusing, if it were not tragic."

The allegations of links between the ECC and banned South African organisations are incorrect. The ECC has a strict policy of operating within the law, and is thus not linked to any banned organisations.

MORE OVER

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End Conscription Campaign

There are a number of factual inaccuracies in the publication which are also being contested by the ECC.

"This issue of the APN should be seen in the context of an ongoing campaign of harassment and repression of the ECC and our members," said Nathan.

"We believe this is due to the widespread public support there is for the call that we make. It would seem that the only means that the state and those that oppose us have is to use repression or smear tactics against us. They are clearly unable to put a halt to the widespread opposition to conscription and the consequent support for the ECC. We have not been and shall not in the future be deterred by their actions," he said.

The ECC sees it as significant that the issue of the Aida Parker Newsletter under contention has been used by the SADF and the Security Police in attacks on the campaign. In a recent Supreme Court application for the release of Grahamstown detainees, the security police used the contents of the APN as the basis of their arguing that there was a need for the ongoing detention of ECC members.

Commenting on this David Shandler said, "It is in this context that our case against the APN becomes all the more significant. As well as challenging Aida Parker herself, we are at the same time challenging the foundation of the state's attack on us. The arguments contained in the APN are the same as those used by members of the government, the SADF and the SAP."

"We intend in this case then, to show exactly how incorrect and unfounded the attack is on us. Perhaps then the authorities will realize that we are involved in a sincere campaign that gives voice to the feelings of thousands of South Africans," he concluded.

For further information contact the ECC at Johannesburg 337 6796
Cape Town 47 9170 (Between 12.00 and 2.00)

1 October 1986

End Conscription Campaign

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Minutes of ECC National Committee Meeting held on 17, 18 and 19 October 1986

1) Present

Representatives from Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, Pietermaritzburg, Durban, Johannesburg, and Pretoria. The National Organizer and National Secretary were also present.

2) Apologies

An apology was received from the National Treasurer.

3) Regional Reports

The following are brief summaries of reports from ECC branches:

Grahamstown

Conditions in the town were described as being like a seige. There has been continued harrasment and detention of ECC members. Despite this the morale of the group is high and structures are cohesive. There has been close coordination with the Rhodes ECC group. Items of media (nemsletters, stickers, a pamphlet and a newspaper ad) have been produced and distributed. ECC's public presence has been due exclusively to the media. There has been a good internal education programme (coordinated with PE).

Johannesburg

ECC is looking good with cohesion being a strong point. The "ECC Speaks" campaign ensured that sub-committees took responsibility for all areas of the campaign. The Coordinators Committee has been useful in building the organization. The internal education programme has been very good with high attendances. Possibilities for recruitment are being investigated. Harrasment has not been as intensive as earlier in the emergency although members have received death threats, and members of the security police attempted to gain access to the public meeting. Public profile has been good. There has been a high press profile with a healthy debate going in the papers. There is work underway towards establishing a coalition in which ECC will participate.

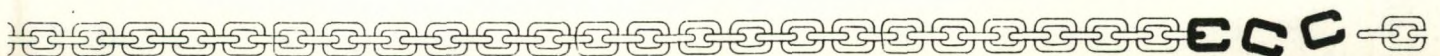
Pretoria

The cohesion and morale of the working group has been good. This has unfortunately not been the case for the sub-groups. There has been limited harrasment and security has been tight. More work needs to be put into internal education. Public profile should shortly get a boost with a focus on the right to speak which will include a broad meeting, media and press work.

Port Elizabeth

The security situation is similar to that in Grahamstown, and although a number of ECC detainees have been released, Janet and Dom are still being held. The group is very cohesive and has a strong sense of achievement in this respect. Emphasis has been placed on internal education and the development of skills. There has been some profile in the press. More profile activities are being considered. An attempt is being made to draw more people into the group.

2/...



East London

Contact has been maintained with individuals in East London.

Stellenbosch

The ECC is still banned by the university. After a period of deterioration immediately after the emergency an effort is now being made to improve structures for participation and democracy. Work has gone into producing media (teachers, badges, pamphlets, letters in Die Matie, and a talk show on Radio Matie), and an alternative culture evening. Possibilities for bringing legal action against the university are being considered.

Cape Town

The general state of Cape Town was described as static with a lot of scope available for work. The Right to Speak campaign was a success with media being produced and distributed, as well as a concert and public meeting being held. Press profile has been inconsistent. Possibilities for broadening the front, and for house meetings are being considered. Internal education requires more work. There have been regular meetings with other white organisations. At present energies are being put into the cultural festival and the "War is no solution" campaign. (See Appendix 1) The AGM is to be held in late November.

Durban

A comprehensive written report was presented which is attached. (Appendix 2)

Pietermaritzburg

ECC has a high profile amongst other organisations in the town. Activities have included the Right to Speak campaign consisting of media, the public meeting and the ad. There has been a regular stall at the local flea market. This has created a conflict with the City Council. There has been a good programme of internal education. Plans include an AGM, a birthday dinner and a possible "Troops Out" protest.

CampusesWits

There have been a number of successful activities including the election to the SRC of 2 ECC candidates, an Anti-war film festival and a Summer Festival (with bands, stalls, etc.). There have been educational seminars held with other organisations. A sub-committee of front organisations has met. An unfortunate development has been a spillover of conflicts within NUSAS into ECC. It has been felt that ECC should distance itself from these conflicts.

Rhodes

The detention of key members was a setback. With very tight security being exercised the organisation is slowly opening up. Three sub-committees (culture, media and contact) are operating. Work has included meeting with member organisations, the production of a pamphlet and a poster, a concert, as well as contributing to Rhodéo. Difficulty is being experienced with the university admin which has appointed a censor to vet all publications.

Pietermaritzburg

The group on campus was started after the declaration of the state of emergency. It is structured as an ECC sub-committee. Work has included conducting a yellow ribbon campaign, the production and distribution of media, placing an ad in the student newspaper, and painting a "peace wall" in a campus canteen.

UCT

A decision has been taken to alter the status of CAG from an SRC sub-committee to the establishment of an independent ECC front on campus. Work recently was limited due to the SRC elections in which an ECC candidate was put forward and elected.

Durban

For a large part of the emergency the campus group was subsumed into the larger ECC group. Effort is now being put into establishing a campus front. A workshop with potential member organisations has been held. Work has included publicity about ECC and its legal status, a column in Dome, distribution of At Ease by hand, distribution of postcards, stickers and pamphlets. An internal education programme is being worked on.

Pretoria

There is no formal ECC presence on the UP campus. A group of students is interested and an attempt is being made to draw them into ECC sub-committees.

A general discussion on ECC's relationship with NUSAS was held. It was felt that differences within NUSAS were having a negative effect, both on the relationship between ECC and NUSAS, and within the campus ECC groups. It was decided to set up a meeting with the NUSAS Exec early in the new year to resolve these problems. (D.S. and L.N.)

4) COSG Conference

We received a report on the recent COSG Conference. The minutes of the conference are attached. (Appendix 3)

5) National Assessment

Trends were summarised as follows:

ECC Internally

Cohesion and morale were good. Recruitment was still a problem although it had been placed on the agenda in all regions. Internal education was insufficient as was work with the front. Security consciousness was high where harassment was high. Developing organisational skills and leadership training were seen as high priorities.

ECC Public Profile

More media had been produced and public meetings held. Public profile had improved as compared to the start of the emergency, although it was still weak.

Specific items discussed in terms of the national assessment were:

Coalitions

A general discussion was held regarding ECC participation in broader coalitions. It was felt that there are problems associated with such participation, although there are strong motivations for participation. Guidelines for participation raised were:

- * ECC should participate from a position of strength;
- * the coalition should be Ad Hoc and have clear goals;
- * the broader context is important in assessing whether ECC can benefit from participation.

ECC as a front

A brief discussion on the advantages of working as a front was had as the basis for further work in improving the front.

Detainees Support

A number of ideas were raised:

- * The availability of money for travel to visit detainees needs to be investigated (D.S.)
- * A booklet on the rights of detainees under the emergency needs to be compiled (Gtn, C.T., and D.S.)
- * It is ECC's responsibility to ensure that there is consultation between lawyers and the organisation.
- * Consultation with DESCOMs must happen.
- * We need to improve inter-regional coordination of support to detainees. Regions must pass on full details of detainees to the National Secretary to ensure this (Nat Sec)
- * Counselling for ex-detainees is a high priority.

Organisational Training

It was felt that an organisational skills pack is vital. Regions should send contributions and ideas to D.S. (D.S. and L.N.)

Regions were encouraged to send materials from I.E. programmes to other centres. (Regions)

Rhodes Journalism Department have a number of videos which can be used as resources.

6) Conceptual Discussion

A general "State of the Nation" discussion was held from which the general trends in the white community could be identified. These trends can be listed as follows:

- * there is a continuing polarisation among whites;
- * an increasing conservatism can be identified;
- * major issues for whites were the future, sanctions, immigration, and conscription-
- * there is a serious lack of information;
- * smear tactics are thus having an effect in this climate;
- * there are increasing signs of resistance from conscripts.

In summary, it was felt that were confronting a number of options regarding the future. This provided an opportunity for ECC to put its views.

An assessment was then made of ECC's effectivity over the first four months of the emergency. It was felt that we had not sufficiently tested the emergency regulations. We were to an extent not as strong as previously. Our potential however was greater. There was a need to gain the initiative and dynamism of before. We needed to assert our presence, and if necessary, take risks. It was stressed that on this point regional variations regarding the security situation had to be remembered. We also had a responsibility to provide information to whites.

We identified various tasks for ECC. These were:

- * the need for a national presence through a national campaign. This would maximise our potential;
- * the need to provide information;
- * the need to counter the smear against ECC;
- * the need to make a special effort to reach conscripts.

7) Planning

National Campaign

It was felt that the idea of a campaign focussing on the war being no solution was a good one and that we need to discuss it in our regions. It was felt that the campaign could start with small actions leading to a peak from the time of the February call up until

some time in March.

The campaign would pick up on the human, emotional, social, psychological, economic and political costs of the call up. A special effort should go into letting conscripts and those affected do much of the speaking of the campaign ideas. It was envisaged as a campaign with mass participation in direct action. We need through it to address the government directly.

An idea of a market survey on conscription to feed into the campaign needs to be investigated. (D.S.)

The legal implications of the campaign need to be investigated. (Regions)

Natal Command Delegation

Durban will continue to investigate possibilities with lawyers. (DBN)

Aida Parker Newsletter

We received a report of the proceedings in the Media Council and it was felt that a great effort needs to go into follow-up work.

A publication based on our submissions is to be produced (D.S.)

Regions are to investigate all potential recipients of the publication. (Regions)

Possibilities to bring actions against other smears based on the APN are to be investigated. (Regions, D.S. and L.N.)

Harrasment

Regions which have not submitted full details to D.S. must do so. (Regions)

A document is to be drawn up chronicling the harrasment of ECC. (D.S. and JHB)

National Call for Unity

Now that there is clarity regarding the demands of the call we need to decide whether ECC can endorse the call. Regions have to come to a decision by Nov 14. (Regions)

Durban Academic Conference

It was felt that this could be a positive national event. It was felt that more time should be spent in preparation and that an academic host should be found for the conference. (DBN)

Cultural Festival

A report on the festival is attached. (Appendix ⁴) Regions were to inform the Cape Town planning group about ECC contributions from their centres. (Regions)

Cape Town is to arrange a get together of ECC people at the festiaval. (C.T.)

Dominic

We were informed that Dominic now has the status of an awaiting trial prisoner. The Cape Town support group were to be asked to compile a campaign pack to be used by the centres. (C.T.)

Relations with the Black Community

It was felt that more information about ECC and conscription should be provided to the black community. It was felt that more attention should be placed on the black press (regions and D.S.) Regions should also look at other possibilities. (Regions)

Legal Action

A few guidelines for bringing court actions were agreed to. These were:

- * care should be taken to consult with black organisations;
- * ECC should provide an organizational reference point for lawyers;
- * the organization should be consulted about legal arguments;
- * in the course of applications individuals should not apologise for involvement in ECC.

Grahamstown is to pull together a list of further points to consider. (Gtn)

The availability of funds for legal costs needs to be investigated. (D.S. and L.N.)

Draft Bill

It was felt that ECC should present evidence to and request a hearing of the Parliamentary Standing Committee appointed to consider the new Defence Amendment Bill. Cape Town is to work on a memo and distribute this to the regions. (C.T.)

Books

A second draft outline for the CIIR book was presented. Regions were requested to send comments to Laurie. (Regions)

We were informed that Taurus Publishers are shortly to publish a book called Forces Favourites - Die Boek. It will include a forward by ECC. (D.S. and Jhb)

National Publication

Johannesburg is to take responsibility for drawing up a proposal. (Jhb)

Vula!

We are to place an insert in the next issue. (D.S. and Jhb)

Diary

Johannesburg proposed that ECC produce a diary for 1987. They will pull together ideas from the regions into a proposal. (Regions and Jhb)

8) International

We received a brief report on ECC's recent international contact. Justin has begun his stay in London and is working on plans with the CIIR.

We have received news that European Nuclear Disarmament (END) is interested in having an ECC person conduct a workshop at their conference in June/July next year.

All regions liked the idea of the International CO Day focussing on SA next year. More details were requested of WRI. (D.S.)

We were informed that plans for the US tour were underway. Problems were raised about how we deal with contact with the ANC which was seen as an inevitability. These problems were raised in the context of the ongoing campaign to criminalise ECC. WRL were to be written asking if arrangement could be such that they minimise the problems. (D.S.) It was stressed that it was important that WRL are the sole hosts of ECC. Regions were asked to rediscuss going on the tour and to report by 7 Nov. (Regions)

9) Finances

Our financial situation was reported on. Regions were asked to make applications for funds to Steven. When doing so they should indicate how much they could raise themselves. (Regions)

10) NationalCoordination

Suggestions for improving National Coordination were:

- * Telephone times should be stuck to;
- * campuses should get copies of packages;
- * netter envelopes should be used (!).

National Committee

There was general agreement that the second NC rep was a good idea. It was felt however, that all national structures need to be reassessed. A framework for discussion will be sent to regions. (D.S. and L.N.)

It was felt that campus groups should be seen as part of regional branches and not as separate entities. Campuses should nevertheless aim at an independent coordinating structure. To this end campuses are to exchange safe numbers and addresses. (Campuses and D.S.)

A national campus meeting to be held soon was proposed. Campuses were to discuss where and when by 31 Oct. (Campuses and D.S.)

National Conference

It was felt that the time was not right for a conference.

National Employees

David and Laurie reported on their work.

We then discussed national employees for next year. It was agreed that there should be two national organisers and a national secretary. The breakdown of the work of the two national organisers should not be on a regional or constituency basis at this point.

We discussed criteria and qualities for the jobs. These were:

- National Organisers:
- * must be able to travel
 - * must relate well to others
 - * ability to speak English and Afrikaans an advantage
 - * must have thorough organisational and political skills
 - * must have experience of working in ECC
 - * Must have a national feel for ECC
 - * Must have the energy necessary
 - * should have public speaking skills
 - * must be presentable

- National Secretary:
- * must have PR skills
 - * should have media/writing experience
 - * should have a national feel for ECC
 - * should be efficient and have administrative skills
 - * should be approachable

Regions were to send motivations to David by 31 Oct. (Regions)
 David would then compile the motivations into a pack and send these to the regions. (D.S.)
 By 21 Nov regions must have prioritised their choices and sent these to David. (Regions)
 These choices would then be circulated. (D.S.)

Final decisions and appointments would be made at the December NC meeting. The new employees would start their work in January. It was suggested that the potential new employees attend the December NC meeting.

National Treasurer

It was suggested that if the National Secretary could do it, s/he should be responsible for the raising and allocation of funds. A bookkeeper should be employed to look after our books.

Regional Employees

Cape Town wish to continue with their employee. Durban is in the process of assesing theirs.

11) Next Meeting

This will happen in December.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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