

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

Embargoed until 13/01/86

January 1986 Call-Up

This week thousands of young South Africans will be congregating at railway stations around the country, ready to start their national service.

A year ago over 7000 of those expected to report failed to turn up.

Many conscripts find themselves faced with a moral dilemma. A UCT graduate, due to go to the army this week, said:

" I want to stay in this country. The options are 6 years in jail or going to the army. The price for me, of staying, is being conscripted against all my principles. I'm resigned to going and will have to survive".

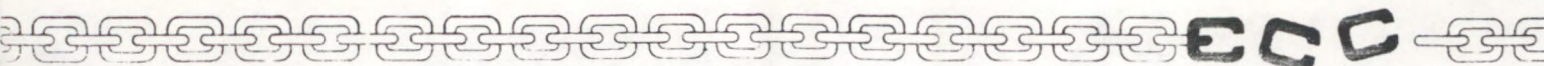
Over the past year and a half the army has been used extensively in attempts to contain opposition to apartheid.

This has increased the moral crisis faced by so many conscripts says E.C.C. Publicity Secretary, Ms Paula Hathorn.

" National servicemen are confronted with the possibility of having to go into the townships. Many of them do not want to be so directly involved in upholding the abhorrent system of apartheid but find that they have very little choice".

" We as E.C.C. feel that people should not be forced into service which goes against their conscience. We are calling for an alternative national service, national service which will benefit South Africa as a whole, rather than just a minority. We will be taking up a campaign for alternative national service over part of this year, in which E.C.C. and members of the public will involve themselves in various forms of service which we see as contributing in a positive way to our country."

/ 2

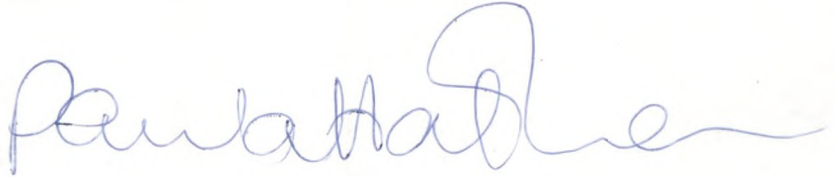


A former soldier and prominent E.C.C. supporter Sir Richard Luyt expressed his opposition to conscription:

"I am totally against conscription which is confined to one race. And I am totally against conscription bearing in mind in our circumstances, the almost inevitably highly controversial and contentious purposes for which the trained man will be used.

The Advice Bureau on Military Conscription has received an influx in calls for advice from young men who are worried about the role they will be called on to play in the SADF. Anyone wishing to contact the Advice Bureau should phone Anton at 476274, Renee 699781.

For further information contact Paula Hathorn at 479272



10.1.87

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

RUN FOR PEACE

On Sunday 16 March members and supporters of the End Conscription Campaign will be running for peace. The runners will set off at 4pm from the Sea Point putt-putt course, and run to the Pavilion and back.

The City Council has granted permission for the fun-run. ECC applied for permission after their office received an anonymous phone call suggesting that they should do so.

The fun-run is part of the build up to the ECC national campaign WORKING FOR A JUST PEACE. During April volunteers throughout South Africa will demonstrate their commitment to working for peace by participating in projects which contribute towards a better society.

According to ECC Publicity Secretary, Paula Hathorn, the fun-run "was planned while we were still under a state of emergency as a creative and fun action to publicise our campaign. The emergency has since been lifted but the run will go ahead because it is an exciting and innovative action."

Anyone who wishes to participate in the fun-run should arrive at the putt-putt course wearing an ECC t-shirt, or contact Paula at the ECC office between 10am and 2pm - 479170.

13/3/1986

For further information contact Paula Hathorn at the ECC office, or at home 477083.



END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

FILM FESTIVAL PRESS RELEASE

The 1986 Cape Town International Film Festival includes a number of films with a prominent anti-war theme. This component is presented by the End Conscription Campaign in association with the University of Cape Town Film Education Unit.

PUNISHMENT PARK, WAR GAMES and CULLODEN (3 films directed by controversial British director Peter Watkins) are included in an exciting international line-up. Watkins is a director known for pulling no punches in his incisive and critical approach to the subject of war.

Provocative films such as THE LINE (Robert Siegel) and STREAMERS (Robert Altman) should provide viewers with an interesting perspective on the plight of the individual soldier in the military context, while THE WAR AT HOME () looks at the effectiveness of the anti-war movement in the U.S.A. during the Vietnam era.

Canadian director Glyn Dyer's 7-part documentary series entitled WAR, will be screened in its entirety on the U.C.T. main campus. A selection of episodes from this series will also be screened at the Baxter. Dyer, himself a former naval officer, covers numerous aspects of the process of militarisation. This impeccably researched series deals with nuclear war, the cold war, professional soldiers, basic training and peace movements.

Speakers have been invited to introduce films and to facilitate discussion. They have been chosen for their expertise in different areas and will provide an educational emphasis to the festival.

In presenting this component, the ECC and the Film Education Unit have chosen films that reflect the horrifying reality of war, rather than its mythical glory. In the past 18 months more than 1000 people have died as a direct result of action by the security forces. Young white conscripts are being forced to take up arms against their fellow South Africans. The conflict in South Africa can no longer be ignored. For this reason a focus on war is particularly appropriate. The E.C.C. believes that this festival should not be missed by critically-minded, thinking Capetonians.

The festival runs from the 6th to the 26th April. The majority of the films will be shown at the Baxter and Labia theatres. There will be some screenings at U.C.T. and the Luxurama. All matinee screenings at the Baxter and midday screenings at U.C.T. will be free. Bookings at computicket - programmes available.

13/3/1986

For further information contact:

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

RESISTANCE TO CONSCRIPTION ON THE INCREASE

"There have been visible signs recently that there is a growing resistance to conscription," said the ECC National Secretary David Shandler.

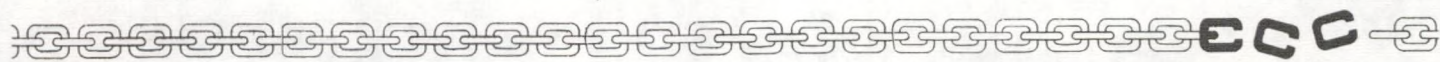
"There are more than 500 volunteers working on the various projects which we are running as part of our national Working for a Just Peace campaign during April. There has been a wonderful spirit of co-operation and commitment amongst the workers. A common feeling among all is that we are demonstrating through our labour our belief that service to our community should not be in the form of compulsory military service. In projects such as assisting at the Compensation resettlement camp near Pietermaritzburg, the Wentworth Improvement Project near Durban, a creche and old age home in the Walmer township of Port Elizabeth, a community woodworking co-op in Grahamstown, the Bruce Duncan Homes for children in Cape Town, or a home for the mentally handicapped in Eldorado Park, Johannesburg we are demonstrating the kind of alternatives we want."

Through its current campaign the ECC is highlighting the very limited options that are available to conscripts. Of those who refuse to serve in the SADF, it is only bona fide religious pacifists who are accorded conscientious objector status. Even for this group alternatives are narrow and punitive. If they have done none of the requisite 4 years of service they would be required to spend 6 years working in a government department.

"We believe there are thousands of others who are opposed to serving in the SADF but who do not satisfy the religious pacifist requirement. We are calling for the law to allow for viable options for these men. The Working for a Just Peace campaign is highlighting what these could be," said Shandler.

In another indication of resistance ever larger numbers of conscripts are seeking advice from councillors on how to resolve their dilemmas regarding military service. The ECC believes that this crisis of conscience is largely a result of troop deployment in the townships. It is not unlikely that large numbers of men are not reporting for service.

"The government has refused to release these numbers. The ECC feels it has something to hide by not letting the public know. Is the government afraid that these figures will expose the extent of resistance to conscription. We call on the Minister of Defence to



ECC

End Conscription Campaign

let the public know just how many men did not report for service in January."

"We call on the government to answer the grievances people have about the system of conscription. They can't be silent in the face of a growing movement of resistance."

Ends

For further information contact David Shandler at (w) 011-337 6796

(h) 011-648 1659

ECC 14 March 1986

26 March 1986

The Editor

Dear Editor

A misleading impression of defence spending was created by your defence correspondent's budget report (11/3/86). He writes: "A ferocious SADF cost cutting campaign and the freezing of various pet projects seems to have paid off, with the 1986/87 expenditure estimated at R5 123m."

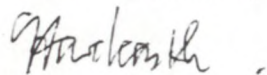
Firstly, the transfer of a R323m defence surplus into the Special Defence account is not mentioned. Furthermore, the dramatic increase of the Armscor budget allocation from R136m (1985/86) to R249m (1986/87) seems to have escaped his attention.

Surely the public should also be informed of the fact that further money is normally allocated in the Department of Public Works vote (Defence Force buildings and property) and in the mini-budget. The SADF also has access to the previous balance in the Special Defence account and benefits indirectly from foreign exchange earned in overseas arms sales. Added to this, the SADF's not so little brother, the SWA Territorial Force, receives funding from the finance vote.

Now it doesn't take an economist to tell you that at the end of the day, defence expenditure is way in excess of R5 123m. While politicians might want to hide real defence expenditure in a complex system of financing methods, it is the job of a good journalist to wind his way through this web and to present an accurate picture of how expensive war really is. A recent United Nation's report suggests that South Africa spends more than R8 000m on security forces. The picture becomes even more disturbing when one realises this excludes police expenditure (R10 71,2m) and defence/police expenditure in the homelands/"independent" states.

Compare this scenario to the meagre R311,3m allocated to black housing - makes you think doesn't it?

Yours faithfully



Justin Hardcastle (End Conscription Committee, Cape Town)

(Address: 1 Talora Way, Newlands. Phone: 64-3831) - not for publication, please.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

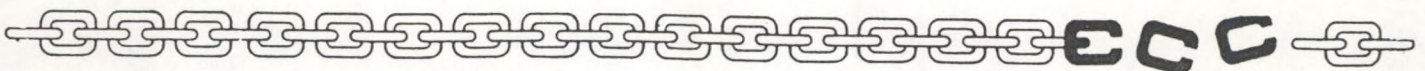
ECC Campaign Gains International Support

Support for the ECC and their "Working for a Just Peace" campaign has come from a host of international organisations. The ECC has gained respect as a component of the world movement for peace.

Attached are copies of messages that have thus far been received.

For further information contact Paula Hathorn at 477083
or 479170.

11 April 1986



END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

23 April 1986

The Editor
The Cape Times
77 Burg Street
Cape Town

Dear Editor

During this month the End Conscription Committee has been working on 'alternative service projects' as part of their Working for a Just Peace campaign.

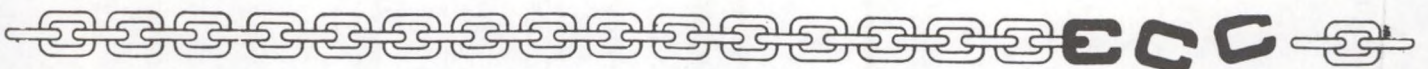
Approximately 400 people in Cape Town have been involved in these projects. We have undertaken and completed an impressive list of 17 projects: 4 litter drives; constructed a cycle track at a Cape Flats pre-school; painted a pre-school; painted a mural; cleared the garden at Cowley House (where accommodation is provided for families of political prisoners); repaired old toys; sewn sections of the peace ribbon; taught township residents to drive; levelled ground at a Cape Town City Mission Home in Bridgetown; planted grass at the same home; cleared a campsite of alien vegetation; cleared the garden of a children's home in Hanover Park; and assisted in the ongoing work of some welfare organisations.

These 'peace' projects have been done in protest against the system of compulsory conscription. We believe that there should be alternative forms of national service, and each project is a demonstration of the types of alternatives we believe would contribute to the building of peace and a better society.

Throughout our campaign we have received a great deal of support from the public. 400 volunteers have worked on the projects, and many other people have assisted us in various ways. We would like to express our gratitude to all of these people, and to say to them that together we shall continue to work for peace and justice.

Yours faithfully

Nic Borain
ECC Western Cape Chairperson



End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR ECC FLOWS IN

The End Conscription Campaign has received a large number of messages of support from international organizations for its Working for a Just Peace campaign. The campaign, which consists of a range of work projects which are serving as an example of what an "alternative national service" could consist of. Under the slogan "Construction Not Conscription" the projects have highlighted the need to give young South Africans the choice as to how they wish to serve the country.

ECC has extensive contacts with anti-conscription, peace and religious groups around the world. Below are a selection of the messages received.

The War Resister's International (an international federation of anti-conscription and conscientious objection movements)

"This is to send greetings on behalf of the War Resister's International, speaking on behalf of all of our sections in more than twenty countries, in making clear our view that the ECC is part of the international peace movement. It is important for you to know the world is watching. It is important for us to know that there are those working non-violently in a very difficult situation. If, in the years to come, there is peace within a multi-racial South Africa, if the killing ends and human rights are respected, the credit for that will go to those who struggle in the present time."

David McReynolds - Chair

The War Resisters League (a nation-wide American organisation)

"As we have become familiar with your work over the last two years, we have been continually inspired and refreshed by your creativity and ingenious actions. Actions, taken especially in the face of such repression, are a way of building a new society - of building new bridges between people. This month you have literally been constructing for peace ...moving from symbolic to direct concrete action. You have the support,

and friendship of the War Resisters League as we wish you success through all the future campaigns."

Matt Meyer - National Chair

American Committee On Africa (the leading organization in the anti-apartheid movement in the USA)

"We salute the refusal of young white South Africans to be used in a civil war against men and women who should be your fellow citizens. United, we believe all South Africans, white and black, will build a South Africa in which freedom flourishes for all, and the swords are truly turned into ploughshares."

Jenifer Davis - Executive Director

Service Civil International (an international organization with branches in 22 countries which is committed to building peace and understanding through voluntary work projects)

They sent us a message of support as well as a copy of a letter they sent to the Minister of Justice in Pretoria. The following is an extract from the letter.

"As people who are very much concerned with the inhuman nature of the apartheid system, we have followed with great interest the foundation and development of an organization committed to peace, freedom and democracy; the End Conscription Campaign. The many activities undertaken by this organization since 1983 give us reason to believe that there may still be some chance for a non-violent solution to South Africa's problems, which will be based on non-racism, equality, justice, freedom and democracy." They then go on to call for the universal recognition of conscientious objection by the government.

Other messages were received from the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (an international coalition of peace groups), the American Quakers, Clergy and Laity Concerned, and the Catholic Peace Fellowship.

For further information contact David Shandler at the above or at home by phone: 011-648 1659.

ECC 28 April 1986

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

ECC Response to Gen. Magnus Malan's statement on 13 May

Yesterday Gen. Magnus Malan accused the End Conscription Campaign of breaking down the countrys ability to fight communism. The Minister's statemint comes in the wake of a concerted campaign to discredit the ECC.(see addendum)

We view the Minister's statement in an extremely serious light. The South African public and the supporters of our campaign are not unaware of what the government is trying to achieve through their allegations. This government has long used the strategy of linking any opposition to themselves or their policies to some real or imagined threat to the South African nation. This dirty and dangerous trick allows for gross injustices to be committed in the name of the 'national interest'.

Instead of creating bogeys the government should confront the serious and sincere reasons for the increased opposition to conscription. It is the policy of using the army to put down internal opposition to apartheid that has fuelled support for the ECC. The government would do better to search for political solutions which reach the heart of the problem than to launch attacks on ECC which does no more than reflect the problem.

We believe that the Nationalist Party may be preparing the ground to take harsher action against the ECC. This would be a very grave mistake. Vicious attacks on ECC will not remove the moral dilemma faced by thousands of young South Africans who are called up to fight in this army.

We appeal to the government not to attack ECC but rather to address the root causes.

While violent conflict continues to destroy our country and while young men are being turned into machines of war we will not give up our call for an end to conscription and a just peace in our land.

For further information contact Paula Hathorn at 477083, or 479170 between 10 and 2 each day.

14 May 1986

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

ECC responds to attacks

Yesterday in parliament ECC was attacked from various quarters. General Magnus Malan accused the ECC of being propagandists and subjecting the SADF to misinformation. Philip Myburgh of the P.F.P. says that ECC are a small group of young people who play a political game for their own ends.

But we do not spread lies about the SADF and we are not playing games.

Our campaign is rooted in the very serious reality of the dilemma faced by many young men as they are called on to fight in the SADF. That dilemma has caused thousands of people to leave the country in which they were born, some have chosen to go to gaol. Many others are in the SADF, unhappy and confused. 260 attempted suicides and 16 actual suicides in the SADF over the past year reflects the horror experienced by many young people. We are appalled that in this context Philip Myburgh should suggest that we are playing a game.

Magnus Malan does not deny that the SADF is being used to go into black townships in this country. It is a defence force which is being used to defend one of the protagonists in a civil conflict, and this aggravates the moral dilemma of so many young white South Africans. The ECC reflects this situation, it does not create it. It is the actions and political role of the SADF that create it.

The Cape Town public has shown their support for ECC by turning up in their thousands at our rallies, and by working on our Alternative Service Projects. Philip Myburgh cannot deny that we have broad support, support from people both young and old, white and black - thousands of people who are searching for peace.

For further information contact Paula Hathorn ECC Publicity Secretary at 477083 or 479170.

15-5-1986

Press Release

THE CAPE TOWN PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND A PROTEST MEETING TO CONDEMN THE SADF RAID INTO BOTSWANA, ZIMBABWE AND ZAMBIA AND TO ANALYSE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SUB-CONTINENT.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 1986, AT 8,00 PM AT

The Claremont Civic Centre

THE MEETING IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY

The End Conscription Campaign, the Black Sash, the United Democratic Front Claremont and Observatory area committees and a range of other organisations.

SPEAKERS WILL BE confirmed later today.

WE CONDEMN THE RAID IN THE STRONGEST TERMS BECAUSE:

* Such action makes a return to peace in South Africa even more remote. The Government's major concern should be to end the escalating war, not extend the conflict to the capitals of neighbouring states.

* The raid comes at a time when a wide diversity of people, ranging from the Eminent Persons Group to Stellenbosch student leaders, believe that legalising the ANC and releasing its leaders are pre-conditions for political negotiation and peace. The Government has shown it does not take this option seriously.

* The raid further emphasises the Government's use of the SADF to execute its regional policy. For years the Government has used the rhetoric of peace while using the SADF in its clandestine destabilisation strategy. It is now using the defence force openly as military back-up for its political objective of destroying the ANC. Ironically, the SADF's actions have only enhanced the ANC's stature amongst the majority of South Africans, while incursions into neighbouring states have left a bitter legacy of destruction and hatred in the sub-continent.

* The SADF's role once more raises major moral and ethical dilemmas for conscripts to an army used not only against black South Africans but also to execute the Government's regional policies in foreign capitals.

SPONSORING ORGANISATIONS:

For further information contact Paula Hathorn at 479170 or 477407

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

Troop deployment on June 16th

The office of the End Conscription Campaign has been inundated with calls from conscripts who have been called-up and placed on standby for the 16th of June.

It seems that the SADF is building its forces and preparing for an onslaught of the 16th. E.C.C. reiterates its demand that troops be withdrawn from the townships, or at the very least that conscripts be given the choice as to whether or not they are deployed in the townships.

For further information contact Paula Hathorn, ECC Publicity Secretary, at 479170 or 477083.

11-6-86

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

E.C.C. Press Release

Disaster has hit KTC and Crossroads over the past few weeks. Estimates of 50 - 70 000 people are homeless in the bitter cold of the Cape winter. Some 53 people have been killed with no indication at this stage of when the violence and destruction is going to end. Among the enormous and many tragedies of this situation , there is a tragedy that should not be forgotten.

A tragedy of white and black youth meeting each other only in battle. A generation of racial hatred is being built as township residents see white soldiers and policemen giving aid to the vigilantes who destroy their homes and kill their neighbours. Young black children scream in fear at the sight of white men because the only white men they have ever met wear uniforms and carry guns.

South Africa's future looks more and more bleak. We cannot afford to allow this situation to continue. We have to look for ways to break down bitterness and hatred. We must put an end to a system which forces even peace-loving men into the uniform of the SADF, a uniform which is regarded with hate and fear. In 3 weeks time, thousands more conscripts will report for duty. Many of them will have read of the events at Crossroads and KTC, and of the SADF raids into neighbouring states, and many of them will fear that they will be forced to do something which they hate, which they find to be totally immoral.

Young men should not have to be confronted with this situation. It is totally unjust and immoral that they are conscripted to fight in the SADF.

For further information contact Paula Hathorn, ECC Publicity Secretary, at 479170 or 477083.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

11 June 1986

Dear Editor

This Government, by trying to force the ominous Le Grange bills through parliament by June 16th, has made its intention perfectly clear. June 16th 1986 will be a day of war.

Since 1976, this has been a day which symbolizes resistance to the nationalist government and its system which forces black and white youth into bitter enmity.

Most township youth only ever meet their white counterparts on opposite sides of a battleground. The white youths that enter townships are usually uniformed and armed. Troops are seen by township residents assisting vigilantes with the burning of their homes and possessions and carving a path of tragedy and destruction.

Many of the troops involved in these actions are conscripts. During 1985, 35 372 SADF members were deployed in 96 townships.

Those conscripts who are not prepared to take part in this civil conflict face either a 6 year gaol sentence or a lifetime in exile. The demand for alternatives to conscription has growing support largely because of the actions of the SADF.

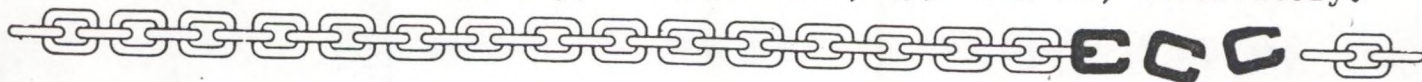
We, the End Conscription Campaign, call for the troops to stay out of the townships on June 16th.

We call for an end to conscription.

Yours faithfully

Paula Hathorn

ECC Publicity Secretary, 1 Rhodesview, 435 Main Rd, Observatory.



END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

E.C.C. Response to Willem Steenkamp

Willem Steenkamp says that it is time to send the army into Crossroads.

But the army is already in Crossroads, and according to witnesses has backed the police in their support and aid for the vigilantes, thus fuelling the tension and the tragedy.

The End Conscription Campaign would agree with Willem Steenkamp that something has to be done in the next few days. We believe that the troops should get out of Crossroads and KTC because they are doing more harm than good. Clergymen and township residents have made that quite clear.

For further information contact Paula Hathorn, ECC Publicity Secretary, at 479170 or 477083.

11-6-86

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

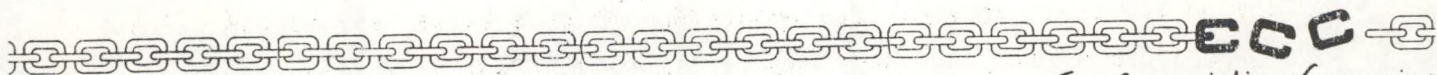
CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST DETAINED CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

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)



ECC
End Conscription Campaign

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

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

GUNTHER WINKLER - ANOTHER CONSCIENCE IN CRISIS

Gunther Winkler, a 26 year old Johannesburg doctor, is to appear before the Board for Religious Objectors in Bloemfontein on Wednesday 30 July.

Dr Winkler's brother Harald, last year fasted for a period of three weeks in support of the ECC's call for a troop withdrawal from South Africa's townships, and in favour of a just peace in South Africa. Gunther, without any publicity fasted for the three week period as well.

As a Lutheran, Dr Winkler believes that serving as an army doctor is in conflict with his religious convictions. He feels that this would be as much a part of the war effort as carrying a gun. To serve, as many army doctors do, in a rural hospital would also be against his convictions. Wearing a uniform would be an insurmountable obstacle to a good doctor-patient relationship.

He has declared that he is bound by the Hippocratic Oath's call to doctors to exercise their profession for the safety and welfare of all persons. He believes that army doctors are placed in situations where they can not fulfill this aspect of the Oath. A patient's affiliation to one or other group might be considered by the military authorities to be of greater importance than his or her need.

Moreover, his religious beliefs are such that he would see the SADF as the force ultimately responsible for maintaining an unjust society in South Africa. On this account he finds it impossible to serve in the SADF.

Already, more than 2000 men have applied to the Board since its inception in 1983. Criteria for acceptance by the body are extremely strict. Only practising members of a church or synagogue who are at the same time universal pacifists qualify for acceptance. There is an ever increasing number applying to the Board to do community service. Those accepted are required to do a maximum of 6 years of service in the placement of the Department of Manpower. Refusal by the board leaves the conscript ~~no~~ does not wish to serve in the SADF with the options of facing conviction and a jail sentence for refusing to render service, a life in hiding, or leaving the country.

The ECC believes that the increasing number applying to the Board reflects an intensifying crisis of conscience amongst conscripts. We call on the government to recognise this and to amend the Defence Act so that all who in good conscience, are opposed to SADF service, (not only religious pacifists), should qualify for community service.

As soon as the result of Dr Winkler's application for community service is known, we will notify you. (ENDS)

For further information contact 337 6796 (all hours)

28 July 1986

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

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.

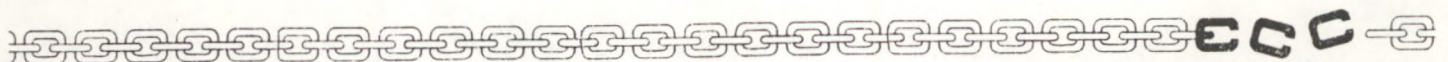
"With the state of conflict our country is in at present, and as conscription is so controversial an issue, we believe it to be an urgent matter that the government broaden the scope for alternative service," says ECC National Secretary David Shandler.

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)



End Conscription Campaign

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

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

Press Release

ECC Demands the Right to Speak

The End Conscription Campaign has been singled out in the emergency regulations. The work we can do has been restricted by the regulations.

But ECC is determined to attempt to win back its right to campaign against conscription.

ECC is conducting a national campaign demanding its right to speak and to oppose the system of compulsory military conscription.

As part of this national campaign ECC has produced ten thousand postcards. The postcards are addressed to P.W. Botha and to Colin Eglin. We are calling on individuals to sign and send these cards. The cards call for the recognition of freedom of conscience. They ask the government to recognise the right to express opposition to military conscription and to end the silencing of the ECC.

Should anyone wish to send postcards they are available at the ECC office at 435 Main Road, Observatory. The phone number is 479170, and the office is open at lunch time daily.

The Cape Town branch of the ECC is holding a public meeting to express our demand to oppose conscription. The meeting will be at the Sea Point Civic Centre at 8pm on Thursday 4 September. Posters, stickers and pamphlets will be distributed to advertise the meeting. We hope that the public will show their support for ECC and its right to speak by attending the meeting.

Press are invited to the meeting.

If you want further information contact Paula Hathorn at the ECC office 479170 or at 477083.

29 August 1986

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

RIGHT TO SPEAK CAMPAIGN GETS INTO GEAR

The End Conscription Campaign's call for the right to fully and freely express itself is set to take off. Already the campaign has distributed 10 000 postcards addressed to the State President calling on his government "to recognise the right to express opposition to military conscription and end the silencing of the End Conscription Campaign".

ECC's call for freedom of expression has come in response to the limitations placed on its work by the emergency regulations. The regulations make it subversive for anyone to incite another to discredit or undermine compulsory military service. This places an effective bar on the ECC's central call for an end to conscription.

"Our basic right to express ourselves freely has been denied," said ECC National Secretary David Shandler.

"We view this in the most serious light. We see our campaign as a responsibility and duty to our country. Not only do we speak on behalf of thousands of conscripts, forced against their will to participate in the SADF, but also for all who they are close to; their families, wives, girlfriends and friends. Our campaign was founded in the belief that everyone should have the right to choose to be part of the SADF. They should not be forced to do so."

"Through our work we have become the voice of many people. The restrictions mean that we have been denied the right to speak on behalf of the thousands who support our call," he said.

As well as the postcards, the ECC has a number of activities planned to promote the call. These include a major media drive throughout the country, public meetings, calling for international support as well as coordinating the support of a number of prominent South Africans. ECC has also instructed its lawyers to investigate the possibility of bringing legal action against the government regarding the emergency regulations.

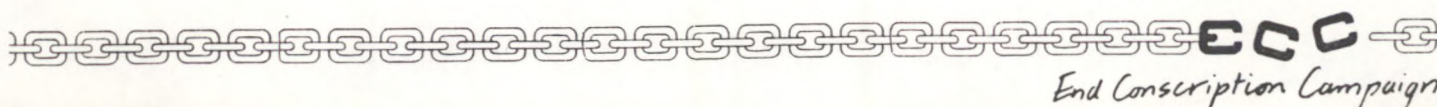
In recent weeks ECC has participated in public meetings in Johannesburg, Durban and Pietermaritzburg focussing on the right to speak and to know. More than 2000 people attended these meetings. On Thursday the ECC is itself to hold a public meeting in Cape Town entitled "ECC Speaks". As well as a speaker from ECC, the meeting is to be addressed by Di Bishop and Alex Boraine.

A document calling on the government to recognise freedom of conscience and to lift the restrictions placed on the ECC has been endorsed by many prominent South Africans. The statement is to be placed as an advert in newspapers throughout the country. The statement and list of endorsers is attached.

There has been much international support for ECC in recent weeks. Organisations around the world such as the War Resistor's International, the War Resistor's League, the Catholic Institute for International Relations and the British Labour Party have all extended their support to the Campaign and have called on the government to recognise our right to speak. An international postcard campaign has also been initiated in Austria. Through it messages are being sent to the State President calling for ECC to have the right to speak and for the release of ECC detainees.

MORE

2/...



Also on the international front, the ECC recently gave evidence to UN Commission for Human Rights regarding Human Rights violations with respect to the campaign. The ECC pointed out that its basic right to express itself freely had been taken away.

"The government would be wise to heed our call," said Shandler. "In doing so it would be recognising the right of many in our country to express freely matters weighing on their consciences. We believe our campaign has an important role to play in lessening the conflict in South Africa. The government is denying us the opportunity to do this fully. It is folly for them to be following this course of action."

For further information contact ECC at 337 6796

2 September 1986

End Conscription Campaign

227 9 Khotso House
12 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A

PRESS RELEASE

ECC COMMENTS ON SADF ROLE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING RE-EDUCATION CAMPS

The End Conscription Campaign is extremely concerned about the recent evidence of former detainees being admitted to Department of Education and Training "re-education" camps - and particularly about the SADF's reported involvement in this venture.

If reports of the role played by the military-run Joint Management Committees in ^{ORGANISING} ~~running~~ these camps proves to be correct it will be further proof of the growing influence of the SADF in every aspect of carrying out and defending apartheid policies.

Throughout the country the occupation of the black schools by the army has played a key role in the disruption of black education and has contributed to the DET decision to close down many schools. It comes as no surprise that at a time when the DET is choosing to have no education rather than People's Education they are opening up what appear to be Nazi-like re-education camps - and once again the SADF are reported to centrally involved.

ECC calls for the immediate closure of these camps and for the immediate and unconditional release of all detainees.

ENDS

Issued by  Clare Verbeek (ECC Johannesburg Chairperson)

September 18, 1986.

For further information contact ECC at 337 6796.

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

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 copy-write 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.

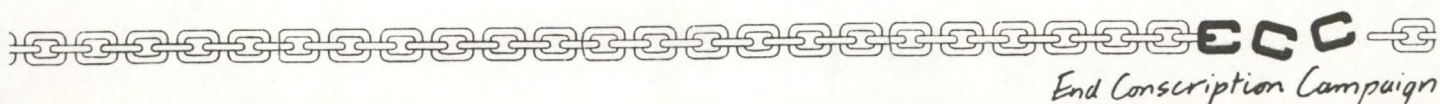
"It is not affiliated to the World Peace Council. It is an autonomous international pacifist organisation with about branches throughout the world. It has, in fact, a policy of non-cooperation with the Soviet-aligned WPC."

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

2/...



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

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

DR ALEX BORAINÉ TO ADDRESS "ECC SPEAKS" PUBLIC MEETING, WITS GREAT HALL, OCTOBER 14, 8pm

Dr Alex Boraine will be the guest speaker tomorrow night at the End Conscription Campaign's first public meeting in Johannesburg since the State of Emergency was declared.

The meeting, entitled "ECC Speaks" will be held at the Wits University Great Hall at 8pm tomorrow (Tuesday) night. Other speakers will be Matthew Chaskelson of the ECC, Joe Seremane of the South African Council of Churches and representatives from the National Education Crisis Committee and the Transvaal Schools Congress. Extracts from the ECC "Noise and Smoke" cabaret will also be presented.

Dr Boraine, who recently took up the post of Executive Director of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative in South Africa, will be addressing the question of the conditions for peace in South Africa.

The public meeting is part of a national ECC "Right to Speak" campaign. As part of the campaign ECC has held successful public meetings in Cape Town, Durban and Pietermaritzburg recently. An advertisement signed by 45 prominent personalities calling on the government to end the restrictions placed on the ECC has appeared in major newspapers around the country. ECC has also distributed 10 thousand postcards addressed to the State President calling on him to "recognise the right to express opposition to military conscription and end the silencing of the ECC".

Other "Right to Speak" events held in Johannesburg over the last month have included the ECC anti-war Summer Festival at Wits University (October 7-9), the Noise and Smoke cabaret (September 26 and October 2), the "Tie a Yellow Ribbon for a Just Peace" day (October 7) and the outreach to white schools (October 2).

ECC's call for freedom of expression has come in response to the limitations placed on its work by the Emergency Regulations. The regulations make it subversive for anyone to incite another to discredit or undermine compulsory military service - effectively placing a bar on ECC's central call for an end to conscription.

Commenting on the campaign ECC Johannesburg chairperson, Clare Verbeek, said ECC's basic right to express itself had been denied.

"The government would be wise to heed our call for freedom of expression. In so doing it would be recognising the right of people in our country to speak out about military conscription - a matter which is weighing heavily on the consciences of so many South Africans.

"Despite the restrictions on our freedom of speech, severe harassment and the detention of 53 of our members, ECC has continued to grow since the Emergency was declared. I think this alone is testimony to the fact that opposition to conscription is deeply felt in our community," she said.

ENDS

October 13 1986.
Issued by Clare Verbeek

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.