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**ECC PRESS RELEASE 8.10.1984**

The End Conscription Campaign notes with grave concern the increasing involvement of the SADF in South Africa's townships.

For years South Africa has been engaged in an undeclared civil war. The recent statements of Minister le Grange amount to an effective declaration of war against the people of South Africa.

Thousands of young South Africans are being forcibly conscripted to fight against fellow South Africans who daily suffer the hardships of apartheid.

The End Conscription Campaign believes this is both immoral and unjust.

We call for an end to conscription.  
We call for a just peace in our land.

PRESS RELEASE 16.10.1984

The End Censorship Committee claims no responsibility for the outbreak of violence at its launch meeting on Monday night. The violence was perpetrated by a small group of students belonging to the right-wing National Students Federation. They attended the meeting with the sole intention of obstructing proceedings, not through raucous heckling, but through low key aggression and provocation. But they clearly would not have been averse to more serious action if ECC supporters had not contained themselves. Why else was one of the NSF leaders seen to be carrying a gun? Such aggressive and provocative action obstructs genuine moves towards peace, and contributes to the escalation of violence and conflict in our country.

P.O. Box 208  
WOODSTOCK  
7925

30 October, 1984

The Editor  
Cape Times

Dear Sir

Mr. Willem Steenkamp in his "On Parade" column (<sup>24</sup>~~25~~ October) asks the question of the End Conscription Campaign: "What is the alternative to conscription?" This is a question that a number of people have asked recently, as the campaign has grown in its support and impact.

The ECC agrees with Mr. Steenkamp that a massively expanded permanent Force is not a solution to the security problems of Southern Africa. But then nor is our present conscripted army.

Conscription does not resolve violent conflict in our society. The conflict does not stem from some external "total onslaught." Rather, South Africa is engaged in a civil war caused primarily by a political system which denies most South Africans basic political and human rights.

Attempts to stop this conflict by increasing conscription and military expenditure, and by sending national servicemen into townships such as Sebokeng, only result in escalating violence, and further division in our country. Conflict is resolved and peace instituted by dismantling the apartheid system and recognising all South Africans as full citizens. This is the alternative to conscription.

Furthermore, conscription enables the government to prolong the war in Namibia. South Africa's occupation of that country is illegal in terms of international law. The Catholic and Anglican bishops, and many other church and human rights groups have called for the withdrawal of South African troops, and the holding of free and fair elections so that the people of Namibia can determine their own future. Working towards this kind of peace is the alternative to conscription.

Young men must be free to choose whether or not to participate in the SADF, especially in our increasingly polarised situation where so many South Africans reject the system which the SADF is defending. Conscription denies this human right and we therefore call for its end.

Yours sincerely

*Michael Evans*

MICHAEL EVANS

Chairman: End Conscription Committee

END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE - PRESS STATEMENT - 9 NOVEMBER 1984

FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS THE TOWNSHIPS OF THE TRANSVAAL AND THE EASTERN CAPE HAVE BEEN CAUGHT UP IN A WAVE OF VIOLENT UNREST, SPARKED OFF BY PROTEST AGAINST THE COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND RENT INCREASES. THE UNREST IS OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO ALL SOUTH AFRICANS AND ESPECIALLY TO YOUNG CONSCRIPTS WHO MAY WELL FIND THEMSELVES IN SEBOKENG NEXT YEAR. THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE NOTES WITH GRAVE DISQUIET THE SUPPRESSION OF NEWS COVERAGE OF THESE EVENTS. THIS INFRINGEMENT OF OUR RIGHT TO KNOW AND DECIDE FOR OURSELVES IS DEPLORABLE, AND WE QUESTION THE MOTIVES BEHIND THE BAN. THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN PLUNGED YET FURTHER INTO A STATE OF CIVIL WAR, AND THAT CONSCRIPTED SOUTH AFRICANS ARE BEING FORCED TO FIGHT FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS IN THE TOWNSHIPS. THIS CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED.

THE PRESENT SITUATION LENDS ADDED URGENCY TO OUR CALL FOR AN END TO CONSCRIPTION.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ECC PRESS STATEMENT — 18. 4. 1985

The ECC expresses deep concern at the decision of the SADF to call up all white males in the Stellenbosch, Strand + Somerset West areas for commando training

Now not only young men, but older men as well will be required to participate in an army which is defending apartheid. Is it any coincidence that this new extension of conscription comes in the wake of the Crossroads resistance and the Eastern Cape uprising?

Surely, too, it is only a matter of time before the entire Western Cape is activated in this way?

The ECC restates its demand that there should be no compulsory conscription and calls on all South Africans to commit themselves to working for a just peace in our land.

P.O.Box 208  
Woodstock  
7915  
27 May 1985

E.C.C. to host Press Conference for Hans Rohr, leader  
of the Namibian Christian Democratic Party(N.C.D.P.)


The Cape Town End Conscription Committee is to hold a press conference at 4.00pm on Wednesday 29 May at the offices of the Western Province Council of Churches 126 Chapel Street, Cape Town. At the conference Hans Rohr the leader of the N.C.D.P. will be introduced to the press. He will speak on current developments in Namibia as well as release new and unpublished information on the situation there. This information will be released here, before it is done in Namibia.

Mr Rohr has become well known in Namibia and elsewhere for the work he has done in uncovering many Koevoet and SADF atrocities. He has just returned from a visit to Owamboland. He will furthermore comment on the work of the Western Contact Group with respect to Namibia, as well as on the Constructive Engagement programme of the Reagan Administration.

Mr Laurie Nathan, National Organiser of the End Conscription Campaign will also be in attendance. He will talk briefly about the current work of the E.C.C. and about the forthcoming E.C.C. National Festival for Peace.

You are invited to attend this conference in your capacity as a member of the press. For further details, please contact Penny Cooper(23-1893) or myself(47-0519).

Yours Faithfully



David Shandler  
Cape Town End Conscription Committee.



*End Conscription Campaign*

END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE PRESS RELEASE - 29/5/85

The End Conscription Campaign was launched at the end of 1983. It was seen as an appropriate response to the growing militarisation of our society, the role of the SADF inside and outside South Africa, and the compulsory conscription of young white men into this army.

A strong focus of ECC activity over the past year has centred around the demand that South African troops be withdrawn from Namibia. In terms of international law, South Africa's continued occupation of Namibia is illegal. The call for South African withdrawal and the immediate holding of United Nations supervised elections has been made by the Catholic and Anglican Bishops, the Council of Churches of Namibia, the South African Council of Churches and many other Church and human rights groups. ECC believes that South Africa's presence in Namibia can only lead to the continued suffering of the majority of Namibians, who have been caught up in a war which was not of their own making.

Equally importantly, the ECC demands that South African troops be withdrawn from our own townships. Since October last year troops have been deployed in over twenty townships throughout the country.

In these townships the army has conducted house to house searches, arrested people on pass law and influx control offences, fired teargas at mourners at a funeral and assaulted township residents. In Uitenhage the SADF shot and killed a 22 year old man. In the Eastern Cape the army has set up bases inside several townships; some of the townships are to all intents and purposes under military occupation.

As a result of these activities, opposition to the internal role of the SADF and support for the End Conscription Campaign have grown dramatically. The over 50 organisations affiliated to ECC have strongly and repeatedly condemned the fact that young white men are compelled to take up arms against their fellow citizens. All of these groups believe that the use of force to 'maintain law and order' intensifies rather than resolves the conflict and that the solution to ending the escalating cycle of violence lies in the removal of its root cause - the system of apartheid.

They are united behind the demands:

- \* that SADF troops be withdrawn from the townships
- \* that SADF troops be withdrawn from Namibia
- \* that young men be given the freedom to choose not to be part of this army
- \* that there be a just peace in our land

These demands will form the focal point of the ECC Peace Festival, which is to be held in Johannesburg from 28 - 30 June. The festival will aim to expose and to educate. The Archbishop of Sao Paula, Cardinal Arns, and the former head of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Monsignor Bruce Kent, will provide a perspective of the international peace movement.

But more importantly, the festival will serve as a statement of protest against compulsory conscription, and the continued presence of South African troops in Namibia and in our own townships. For the 1000 people who are expected to participate the festival will provide a vision of hope - that with commitment and sacrifice, peace in South Africa and in Namibia is achievable. Hopefully, too, the wider public will develop a sense of this vision and be inspired to make a more active commitment to working towards a just peace in our land.



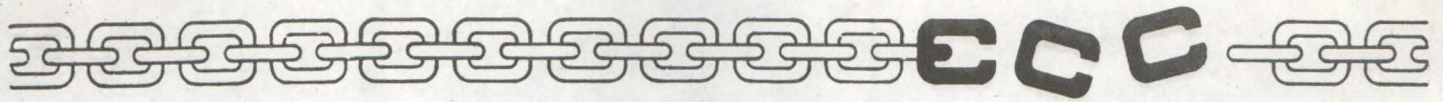
E.C.C. PRESS STATEMENT ON S.A.D.F. RAID INTO ANGOLA -  
FRIDAY 14 JUNE 1985

The End Conscription Campaign disapproves in the strongest terms of the raid by the S.A.D.F. into Botswana on Friday morning. We see this as yet another violation by the South African Authorities of the territorial integrity of a neighbouring State. Coming as it does in the wake of the recent S.A.D.F. incursion into Cabinda it begs the question : Can the S.A.D.F. uphold their claim that they are maintaining peace in Southern Africa when actions like this occur?

This action in no way advances the cause of peace in our region. Rather it sets back the process of building a situation of stability and harmony in Southern Africa.

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For further information : Telephone David Shander - 47-0519





# **PRESS STATEMENT** *End Conscription Campaign*

P.O. Box 23364  
Joubert Park  
2044

Tel: 011-643 3941

Special Briefing for the International Press.

## CONSCRIPTION: WHITES ONLY

South Africa only conscripts white men into its army. Of the approximately 30 000 young men conscripted to start their service in the South African Defence Force in January this year, 7985 did not report for service, compared with 1956 last year.

" In part we believe this reflects the growing reluctance with which young conscripts face the prospect of being forced to serve in apartheid's army ", says Laurie Nathan, National organiser of the End Conscription Campaign.

Conscription into national armed forces is common in many countries throughout the world, both East and West. In some of these, conscripts have a legal right to object to military service.

But in South Africa conscription is applied in a unique way. In our society, conscription is the one cost priveleged whites have to pay for apartheid.

A stint in the SADF for many has profound effects, which have become particularly noticeable since the increase in the deployment of troops in townships around the country over the past year. Most significantly we have noticed an increasing polarisation in the attitudes of those facing military service. On the one hand there has been a racist response of seeing " blacks as the enemy"; on the other a considerable alienation from participation in what is seen as an unjust cause.

Apartheid seeks to separate black from white. With conscription and a growing civil war, the meeting place of black and white is increasingly over the barrel of a gun.

Despite this polarisation a growing number of whites are supporting the End Conscription Campaign. What they are saying is that they no longer want to be

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### Endorsees of ECC Declaration:

Rev. Allan Boesak, Archbishop Dennis Hurley, Dr. Beyers Naude, Sheena Duncan, Helen Joseph, Molly Blackburn MPC, Bishop Evans, Prof. David Welsh, Prof. Mike Savage, Sir Richard Luyt, Dr. Margaret Nash, Prof. Francis Wilson, Bishop Selby Taylor, South African Council of Churches, United Democratic Front, Black Sash, Detainees Parents Support Committee, SAAK, Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, Conscientious Objector Support Group.

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part of the White militaristic laager. Rather they support the non-racial movement for change. The emergence of ECC has been welcomed by black political groups as an indicator of hope for a non-racial future.

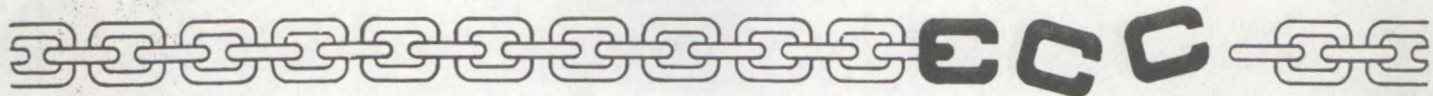
For further information contact:

ECC Festival Press Officers

Benita Pavlicevic

David Shandler (office hours: 282251 ext. 215 or 7163073)  
(after hours: 6433941)

*B Pavlicevic*  
*25/6/85*



**PRESS  
STATEMENT**

*End Conscription Campaign*

P.O. Box 23364  
Joubert Park  
2044

Tel: 011-643 3941

Major international Catholic Figure

Arrives in South Africa

Cardinal Arns, the Archbishop of Sao Paulo , Brazil, biggest Catholic Archdiocese in the world, arrives in South Africa on Wednesday 26 June. He will participate in the ECC Peace Festival.

The Cardinal will be met at the airport by Bishop Orsmond of Johannesburg, Fr. S. Mkatshwa General Secretary of the Catholic Bishop's Conference, Laurie Nathan , National Organiser of ECC , and Steve Lowrie Of the War and Peace committee in the Catholic Church.

Arrival time ; 12.15

Wednesday 26 June 1985

Jan Smuts Airport, International Arrivals

Reception Committee

Bishop Orsmond, Catholic Bishop of Johannesburg  
Fr.S.Mkatshwa , General Secretary of the S.A.  
Catholics Bishops Conference.

Steve Lowrie , War and Peace committee of the  
SACBC

Laurie Nathan, National Organiser of ECC  
and Catholic sisters and young people  
and members of the ECC.

Endorsees of ECC Declaration:

Rev. Allan Boesak, Archbishop Dennis Hurley, Dr. Beyers Naude, Sheena Duncan, Helen Joseph, Molly Blackburn MPC, Bishop Evans, Prof. David Welsh, Prof. Mike Savage, Sir Richard Luyt, Dr. Margaret Nash, Prof. Francis Wilson, Bishop Selby Taylor, South African Council of Churches, United Democratic Front, Black Sash, Detainees Parents Support Committee, SAAK, Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, Conscientious Objector Support Group.

Cardinal Arns will be speaking at the opening meeting of the national ECC Peace Festival."ECC welcomes his presence as a symbol of the unity of people throughout the world who are working for justice and peace."said festival organiser Clare Verbeek.

The South African Catholic Bishops' Conference and The ECC have planned a welcoming ceremony for the Cardinal. Bishop Orsmond and Laurie Nathan will make brief welcoming speeches to which the Cardinal will respond. The young people will sing. A considerable number of people will participate including Catholic youth groups.

You are invited to bring photographers.

For further information contact:

Festival Press Officers

Benita Pavlicevic	}	28 2251 ext 215
David Shandler		716 3073
		643 3941 (after hours)

*B Pavlicevic*

24/6/1985

To Capital Radio 22/7/85

~~The ECC strongly disapproved of~~

The declaration / STH / Emergency is evidence of the severe conflict in which our country is

immersed. We believe that

this conflict has assumed the proportions of a civil war, with the police +

defence force carrying out the defence of apartheid.

This drastic act of a government in a severe crisis can only intensify the spiral of violence

in which our country finds itself. It especially presents

severe dilemmas for conscripts, ~~forced by the laws of so called~~

on to act under the emergency measures, as well of course for all SA's desiring S+P.

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PO Box 208

Woodstock

**PRESS RELEASE**

Numerous townships throughout South Africa have been under military occupation for some months now. Over the past weeks the SADF has been present in Cape Town and Worcester's townships with the specific intention of putting down the growing opposition to apartheid.

This situation cannot be allowed to continue. The ECC believes that this situation is halting the building of a just peace in our country. The removal of the security forces from the townships is an essential requirement for starting a peaceful resolution of the conflict in our country. The ECC intends to conduct a concerted campaign calling for troops to be removed from the townships. This campaign has become all the more urgent as it is young conscripts who are the ones having to confront their fellow South Africans in the townships.

In order to share information on what has occurred in the W Cape townships, and to look to ways of opposing this the ECC is to hold a public meeting this Wednesday.

You are invited as a member of the press to attend. All journalists and photographers will be registered.

Venue: Rondebosch Congregational Church Hall

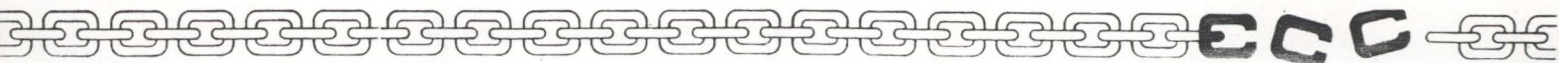
Time: 8.00pm

Speakers: 1) A township resident from Gugulethu  
2) Someone who has recently been in Worcester  
3) Dr Ivan Thomms, a conscientious objector, who will present the ECC position  
4) Mr Crispian Olver, an ECC Executive member, who will outline the ECC's forthcoming "Troops Out" campaign.

For further information contact ECC Press Officer David Shandler at 470519.

*David Shandler*

12/8/85



## **PRESS RELEASE**

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 1985.

### E. C. C. P R E S E N T S P R O P O S A L S T O A R M Y C O M M I T T E E

The End Conscription Committee this afternoon repeated its call for an end to compulsory military service in the SADF. Evidence to this effect was presented to the Geldenhuys Committee, an official Defence Force committee investigating all aspects of the operation of the SADF.

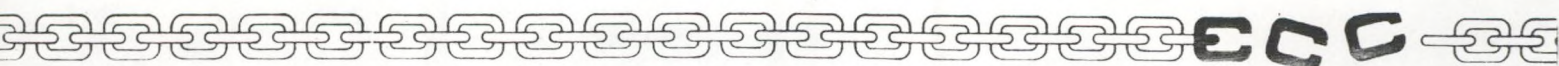
The E.C.C delegation was made up of the Chairperson of the Cape Town End Conscription Committee, Michael Evans, and Conscientious Objector, Mr Richard Steele, who recently presented similar evidence to a sitting of the U. N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. The hearing took place in Cape Town.

The End Conscription Campaign is an umbrella body of 50 organisations in Cape Town Port Elizabeth, Pietermaritzburg, Durban and Johannesburg. All the member organisations <sup>are</sup> agreed in the fundamental belief that individuals should be free to choose whether to participate in the SADF or not.

In its evidence to the committee the E.C.C. said that, "if the government were to uphold this internationally accepted right of individual conscience, all who face military service would be free to choose."

" The question of the individuals right to choose has particular pertinence in the South African situation. Specifically, it is the nature of Apartheid and the role of the SADF in upholding this system that has caused so many organisations and individuals (including a large number of conscripts) to support the call for an end to conscription.

"The organisations connected with E.C.C. have a principled opposition to Apartheid. They believe that the denial of basic human rights to the majority of South Africans and the unequal distribution of land and wealth are the root causes of the violence in our society. The only way in which to end the escalating cycle of violence is to remove these root causes. The use of security forces to contain those who are



resisting injustice and inequality is no solution but only contributes to the ongoing spiral of violence."

In its evidence the E.C.C. made it clear that the SADF was not seen as a neutral institution and that its 'primary function is to defend Apartheid'.

'Having spoken to many township residents and independent observers, the E.C.C. believes strongly that the deployment of troops in the townships has not had the intended effect of containing violence. Instead, the effect has been to intensify resistance and deepen conflict'.

The E.C.C. as a result said that the cause served by the SADF is fundamentally unjust. It is thus 'completely unjustifiable, both morally and in terms of international principles of freedom of conscience to force young men to be part of the SADF and to commit acts which violate their conscience'.

The role of the SADF in Namibia and in neighbouring states was also highlighted by E.C.C. It agreed with the 1971 International Court of Justice ruling that South Africa's occupation of Namibia was illegal. The continued presence of the SADF in that territory was thus a major violation of international law.

The SADF has been involved in numerous violations of the sovereignty of independent neighbouring states. The effect of these actions was that the SADF has been responsible for the destabilisation of the entire sub-continent.

All of these examples reinforce the E.C.C.'s call. Conscripts have been placed in an invidious position. They have been forced to co-operate with Apartheid against their will.

"In this situation", the memorandum continued, " the E.C.C. is saying quiet simply: Give conscripts the choice. " The E.C.C has stated that conscription in South Africa could not be divided from the role of the SADF and the nature of the society which it defends.

"Thus ending conscription without other fundamental political and social changes will not in itself guarantee that the SADF plays a constructive role".

#### INTERIM PROPOSALS

Since, at the same time, the E.C.C. revolves around the question of choice, it made a number of interim proposals. These were:

- 1) It would see the creation of a volunteer army as preferable to the present situation.



- 2) Regarding the status of conscientious objectors the E.C.C. proposes:
- a) that the option of community service as an alternative to military service should not be limited to religious universal pacifists, but should be available to all who in good conscious cannot serve in the SADF.
  - b) the length of community service should be of equal duration to military service. The present situation of 1½ times the length of military service was seen as unnecessarily punitive.
  - c) Communityservice should be available in non-state organisations as well.

" E.C.C.'s particular stand is against conscription into the SADF. None of those involved in E.C.C. organisations or supportive of E.C.C. have opposed the concept of non-military national service. Those involved in the campaign regard themselves as patriotic South Africans, prepared to serve the country and its people. "

- 3) Regarding the rights of <sup>the</sup> individual conscript the E.C.C. accepted that many were doing their service under duress. It proposed that individual conscripts be given greater say over the nature of their service. They should be given the freedom to choose not to enter South Africa's townships or neighbouring countries, including Namibia. The importance of the right of conscripts not to enter townships is reinforced by the declaration of a state of emergency, as individual conscripts will now be obliged to act under wide-ranging powers, including the power to search, detain or arrest township residents."

The E.C.C. said that it was "working for genuine peace and justice in South Africa and has adopted non-violent methods towards this end. Although peace can only be achieved if the root cause of conflict - the system of Apartheid is removed - ending conscription would be a significant step towards this goal."

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For further information contact:

E.C.C. PRESS OFFICER DAVID SHANDLER at 021-470519

*David Shandler*  
12/8/85

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

## NATIONAL ATTACK ON E.C.C.

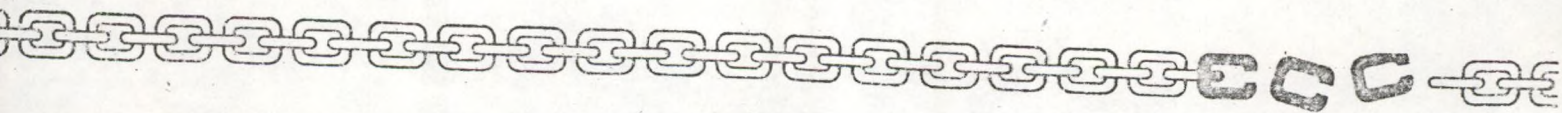
Since 3.00am this morning :

- The homes of 4 members of the Johannesburg End Conscription Committee were raided and searched by the security police.
- In Pietermaritzburg the homes of the E.C.C. chairperson, Jaques Bouille, the treasurer, press officer and other members were raided and searched by the security police.
- In Durban 3 E.C.C. members Richard Steele, Anita Kromberg and Sue Britton were detained. Richard Steele is shortly to commence a two-week "fast for a just peace". Their offices and homes were searched and documents confiscated.
- In Cape Town, the chairperson of the Western Cape E.C.C. Mr Michael Evans was detained in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. Documents were seized.

The End Conscription Campaign condemns in the strongest terms the repression meted out on our members this morning. These are clearly not isolated incidents directed at a few individuals. It is a direct attack on our campaign by the State.

These actions come at a time when the End Conscription Campaign is gaining a growing following. Many are calling for an end to conscription. There is a wide range of individuals and organisations who have endorsed our call. The actions of the State can be seen as nothing but a response based on fear. A fear that their system of conscription and the deployment of troops in the townships is meeting growing opposition <sup>from</sup> om the white community

We call for nothing more than an end to conscription and a just peace in our country. Is this what the State fears?



The End Conscription Campaign is at this time embarking on a Troops Out of the Townships Campaign. Many young white men face an agonizing dilemma as to whether to participate in the SADF's defence of apartheid in the townships. The E.C.C. has felt this dilemma. It has heard too from the people in those townships.

They are calling for troops to be withdrawn as their presence is only furthering the conflict and distancing us daily from a just peace in our land.

Rather than listen to the voice of South Africans the State chooses rather to detain and harass our members. We are committed to the cause of justice and peace. The Nationalist Government, by its action, is clearly not.

Our work continues. Ivan Toms and others will still fast for a just peace.

9 September 1985

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

**PRESS RELEASE**

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

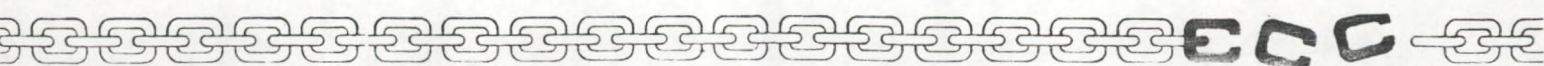
## ECC CAMPAIGNS FOR TROOP WITHDRAWAL

Issued by David Shandler

At present the End Conscription Campaign has embarked on a national focus calling for troop withdrawal from SA's townships. The ECC is a national campaign uniting more than 50 organizations in 6 centres. The "Troops Out" campaign is to be taken up in Johannesburg, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth, Stellenbosch and Cape Town. The central thrust of the campaign will be a series of fasts calling for a just peace. (See adjoining release)

In a statement the National CO-Ordinator of the ECC, Mr Laurie Nathan, explained the reasons for the "troops out" call. "The presence of troops in the townships" said Nathan, "further polarises our already divided society. It is in fact an effective declaration of war on the people living in those townships.

"We simply cannot allow this to continue; their being in the townships is distancing us by the hour from a peaceful resolution to the conflict in South Africa. Our society is already at a very dangerous level of militarisation. Troops in the townships only adds to this."



"And for us campaigning for a change in the law as it relates to conscription, the position of conscripts affects us intensely. It is young white men, conscripts, who are being sent into the townships. They are not given the choice as to whether they want to go in or not. We are saying give these young men the choice. Don't force them into a position where they have no option but to participate in a fast intensifying civil war."

The Troops Out focus, said ECC press officer David Shandler, will include a wide range of activities. As well as the fasts, over a hundred thousand pamphlets, posters, stickers and badges will be distributed. Public meetings will also be held to raise public awareness and debate concerning the issues involved.

"We expect thousands of people to rally to our call and participate in our campaign. We are confident that we have the support of people in all sections of South African society," said Shandler.

The press are encouraged to attend the activities. ECC's in all centres will inform the local press of all these activities.

For the Cape Town Press:

Launch of Dr Ivan Toms 3 week fast

A public meeting followed by a  
dedication service.

Venue: St George's Cathedral Hall

Date: Tuesday 17 September

Time: 8.00pm

Profile speakers yet to be confirmed.

For further information contact ECC Press Officer David Shandler at

Phone: 021-470519

Telex: SA 5722323

*David Shandler 16/9/85*

**PRESS RELEASE**

PO Box 208

Woodstock

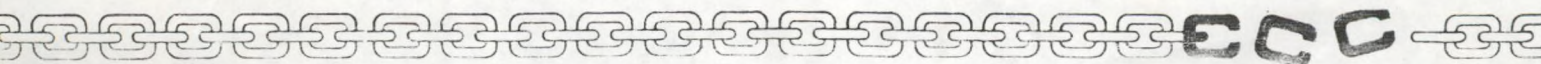
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## 3 WEEK FAST FOR A JUST PEACE

The central thrust of the ECC's "Troops out of the Townships" campaign, will be a 3 week fast for a just peace. Spearheading this fast will be Dr Ivan Toms in Cape Town, and Harold Winkler in Johannesburg. They will fast from the 17th of September, International Day of Peace, until the 7th of October, the day SADF troops first entered the townships last year. Richard Steele will fast in Durban for 2 weeks from the 22nd September. He is at present in detention. If not released before the 22nd, he will fast in jail.

At the same time as these fasts are taking place, solidarity relay fasts will take place in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Cape Town, St Augustine's Catholic Cathedral in Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown Anglican Cathedral and in Stellenbosch. In Durban there is a possibility of 3 people fasting for the two week period at St Anthony's Church in Greyville.

At all the fast venues regular daily activities will take place. The public are encouraged to participate in these.



Dr Ivan Toms, an active member of the Cape Town ECC, is a medical doctor who for the past 5 years has been involved in setting up and working in a team in the Empilisweni SACLA clinic - a Christian primary health care clinic serving the health needs of the 100 000 people who live in the Crossroads squatter camp. After graduating from the University of Cape Town in 1976 he served 2 years in the SADF. While in the SADF Ivan says that he was "unable to reconcile the Christian injunction to love my enemy and the demand of the SADF to shoot him, so I applied for, and received, non-combatant status."

His experiences in Crossroads solidified these feelings. "There," says Ivan, "I have learned first hand of the viciousness of apartheid and the extreme oppression of the blacks. I have witnessed people shot indiscriminately by riot police and the SADF, people's shelters ruthlessly torn down day in and day out for 3 weeks in 1983."

"Could I continue to serve in the SADF with war declared on the very people I work with and believe I am called by God to serve? Could I put on the SADF uniform - the same uniform that symbolises the oppressors in the townships? Some people want peace at any price, I believe the only peace that is meaningful is a just peace - where apartheid is abolished and people can live freely as citizens of a unified country, with a truly democratically elected government."

Ivan's views have convinced him to become a conscientious objector. He is liable to serve 3 years in jail if called up for further camps. In the meantime Ivan continues his work as a doctor as well as being an associate member of staff of the St John's parish, Wynberg.

"Fasting has a long Christian and political tradition", says Ivan. I have chosen to fast in order to protest against the oppression of blacks in what is now a civil war."

He is also concerned with the plight of the individual conscript. "The SADF's marching into the townships amounted to a declaration of war on fellow South Africans. It is yet another step to uphold apartheid at all costs."

"In a situation like this where young men are expected to fire on fellow South Africans, the very least we can call for is that the individual conscript be given the right to decide not to go into the townships."

"For the three weeks that I fast in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, my prayer is that many will recognise, with the ECC, the injustice of the use of troops in the townships, and will support the ECC's call - that troops be withdrawn from the townships now, and that we work for a just peace in our land."

"We call people nationally and internationally to join in a 24 hour fast to express solidarity with those who are suffering at the hands of the SADF in the townships and in so doing call with us for a just peace in South Africa."

Wits student Harold Winkler, an active member of ECC in Johannesburg, is fasting in support of the ECC's "Troops Out" call. "I face the dilemma of going into the townships myself," he says. "I was called up for the 13th of January next year. I do not believe that I can go to the army and remain sincere in my understanding of the Christian faith. I am therefore objecting to military service on religious grounds."

"Fasting is a time-honoured Christian tradition, being used for personal cleansing, and also for a whole nation to reflect on its situation, mourn its sinfulness, and petition God for help. Having grown up in a Christian family I have come to know fasting as an effective means of purification and protest. Therefore I have chosen this method of expressing my deep horror at what is happening in the townships."

"Fasting for three weeks will bring home to me that I am affected by all that goes on around me. The person on top of the Casspir could be my brother, or my friend - or me, and the one being sjambokked, teargassed, or shot could be my fellow-student from Wits. I feel that to put myself into such a situation or to support it, would be simply wrong.



"I believe that the fast will also help me personally, to reflect on my faith, and what that means for the situation in this country. Integrating my faith and life in this way is something I continually work towards, in the Young Christian Students, an ecumenical, non-racial student movement."

He sees his fasting as having a broader impact. Says Harold, "I hope that the fast will have effects on a far wider group of people. My particular concern is that the churches consider urgently where they stand in the growing conflict in South Africa. This fast is my small contribution towards initiating such processes, so that one day we may see a just peace in a non-racial, democratic South Africa."

Richard Steele is the caretaker and programme coordinator of the Ghandi Phoenix settlement in Durban. He is an active member of the End Conscription Campaign and the Conscientious Objector Support Group. In 1980 he served 12 months in military detention for conscientious objection. During this time he fasted one day a week, and on one occasion for 3 days to protest repeated periods of solitary confinement.

Richard, who describes himself as a "political pacifist, committed to justice and equality through non-violent action" is also involved in facilitating non-violent direct action training workshops.

He sees his fast as "a classic non-violent action in the face of massive violence on the part of the military, the state and even between community groups."

"When our social, political and emotional environment is in turmoil, we tend to react in stereotyped patterns, usually characterised by fear and aggression. I see fasting as a conscious effort to step out of the spiral of such stereotyped behaviour," says Richard.

"I hope that the ECC fast will open up a space where we can be open in new ways to ourselves, each other, God, our environment and our society- I feel that this new

- openness can help us understand more fully what is happening in our country and how through our actions we can reach out for and grasp hold of a just peace."

The press are encouraged to come and visit the fasters. Interviews can be arranged.

Issued by David Shandler

*David Shandler*

16/9/85

For further information contact

ECC Press Officer

David Shandler

at 021-470519

or Telex: (SA) 5722323

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

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**PRESS RELEASE**

Embargoed until 30/9/85

## ECC CAMPAIGN GAINS INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Considerable support for ECC's Troops Out Campaign has come from a host of international organisations. The ECC has gained respect internationally as a component part of the world movement for peace.

### Selections from messages thus far received:

THE WAR RESISTORS INTERNATIONAL (a federation of pacifist and anti-conscription organisations in many countries)

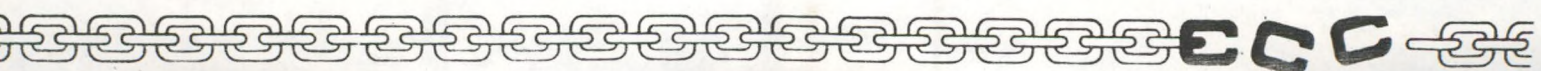
"WRI supports the ECC call for troops out of the townships and the Fast for a Just peace. The ECC offers one of the best hopes for minimising the violence in South Africa. Your commitment to non-violence and justice has won admiration around the world. In London there was a vigil on September 19th outside the embassy. There will be fasts in solidarity on October 7th including by WRI staff"

QUAKERS (Britain) sent a message to the fasters expressing the

"hope that by your example, the aims and objectives of the End Conscription Campaign will be publicised leading to the acceptance of your concern for peace and justice".

A message was also received from the Quakers U.N. office.

KRISTEN FREDSLAG (the Norwegian division of the International Fellowship for Reconciliation) sent greetings as well as a letter to Min. Le Grange calling



for the release of detained ECC members.

THE STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES sent a message of support.

THE COALITION FOR A NEW FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICY (an alliance of some 56 American organisations - see copy of letter)

DIAKONISCHES WERK (of the Evangelical Church in Germany) said "We are very impressed by the fearless and peaceful way in which you try to contribute to a development towards the respect for human rights in South Africa."

THE DUTCH BISHOPS' LENTEN CAMPAIGN sent the following message:

"Confronted with vivid impressions in Media of our free world about barbarian atrocities by police and SADF during their actions against black people in South African townships, we wholeheartedly support your national "Troops out of the townships campaign"."

JUBILEE (a U.S. Christian organisation) commented on the fast for a just peace. "We find the action of fasting to be particularly timely, and a visionary response by concerned white South Africans at this time. Too easily we have seen rage and irrationality take hold of many hearts; your courage, and Christian commitment, is truly a beacon for us."

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Issued by ECC Press Officer David Shandler

26/9/85

for further information contact David Shandler at 021-470519

# COALITION

for a New Foreign and Military Policy

712 G Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003  
(202) 546-8400

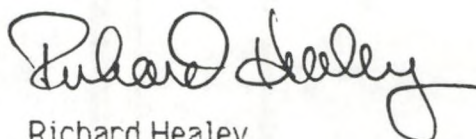
September 17, 1985

Dear Laurie Nathan:

On behalf of the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, a coalition of 55 national organizations, incorporating millions of Americans, I am writing to you in support of your "Troops out of the Townships" Campaign and the fasters who will be attempting to draw national and international attention to the practices of the South African military.

For the first time in history the realities of life under apartheid are starting to seep into the American consciousness as we see live footage of "riot control" on our television screens and the divestment debate rages on in this country. We are eager to lend our moral and active support to organizations like yours which are struggling to end South Africa's unjust war against its people. We send our support and solidarity to the fasters and pray that their impact will ultimately be felt in Pretoria

Sincerely yours,



Richard Healey  
Director

The following organizations are members of the Coalition: American Baptist Churches USA, National Ministries • American Committee on Africa • American Ethical Union • American Friends Service Committee • American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee • Americans for Democratic Action • Center for International Policy • Center of Concern • Church of the Brethren, Washington Office • Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Department of Church and Society • Church Women United • Clergy and Laity Concerned • Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross • Council on Hemispheric Affairs • Democratic Socialists of America • Episcopal Peace Fellowship • Fellowship of Reconciliation • Friends Committee on National Legislation • Friends of the Earth • Friends of the Filipino People • Institute for Food and Development Policy • Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Peace Section • Movement for a Free Philippines • National Assembly of Religious Women • National Association of Social Workers • National Council of Churches • National Federation of Priests' Councils, USA • National Gray Panthers • National Office of Jesuit Social Ministries • NETWORK • New Jewish Agenda • North American Federation of Temple Youth • OXFAM America • Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office • Presbyterian Peace Fellowship • Quixote Center • SANE • Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace • Union of American Hebrew Congregations • Unitarian Universalist Association • Unitarian Universalist Service Committee • United Church of Christ, Board for Homeland Ministries • United Church of Christ, Office for Church in Society • United Methodist Church, Board of Church and Society • United Methodist Church, Board of Global Ministries, Women's Division • United States Student Association • War Resisters League • Washington Office of the Episcopal Church • Washington Office on Africa • Washington Office on Latin America • Women's International League for Peace and Freedom • Women Strike for Peace • World Federalist Association • World Peacemakers • Young Women's Christian Association of the USA.

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

**PRESS RELEASE**

PO Box 208

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## EMERGENCY INTENSIFIES CONSCRIPT'S DILEMMA

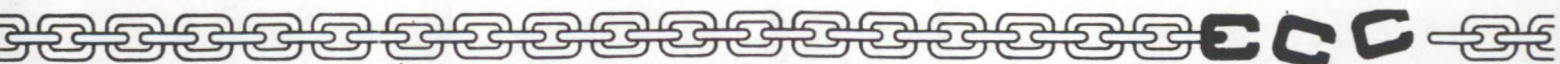
For 2½ months the army and the police have had a continuous presence in Cape Town's townships and suburbs. Little restraint has been shown in the way the security forces have conducted themselves. Atrocities have been well-documented by the press and by monitoring groups.

E.C.C. is particularly concerned at the use of conscripts in the present conflict. Both army and navy national servicemen have been used to line the streets of Athlone, to quell resistance in Guguletu and even to seal off Belmont Road Rondebosch. Now conscripts are being used in the "cleaning up" operations being conducted from Manenberg Police Station.

The dilemma facing conscripts, who have no choice but to obey orders, is a severe one. And even more so since the declaration of the State of Emergency 11 days ago. The situation now exists where an 18 year old national serviceman can arrest, detain and search anyone. And he can act with total indemnity from any legal action. If the powers now wielded by all members of the security forces are awesome, how much more so when they are wielded by an untrained young conscript?

A month ago 4000 people attended an ECC peace rally at the City Hall. The demands which echoed from that gathering have even more pertinence today :

- \* that the troops should be withdrawn from the townships and suburbs
- \* that the system of compulsory conscription should be ended.



In addition, ECC strongly condemns the recently-imposed news black-out. Now not only will the security forces operate with complete indemnity, but their actions will be unmonitored and unreported. Only a police state in the grips of civil war denies its citizens the fight to information.

In condemning the actions of the government, ECC welcomes the initiative of 23 organisations which have come together to speak out with one voice. The State of Emergency represents a desperate attempt on the part of the government to crush resistance. The initiative of the 23 organisations is in effect a unified refusal to be crushed. It is an assertion of our right to speak out in a time of crisis. And it is a fulfillment of our duty to continue to protest, to organise and to concern ourselves with the affairs of Cape Town's citizens. ECC wholeheartedly backs this initiative.

Issued by MICHAEL EVANS, Chairperson E.C.C. (Western Cape)  
5 November 1985

E.C.C. PRESS STATEMENT ON S.A.D.F. RAID INTO ANGOLA -  
FRIDAY 14 JUNE 1985

The End Conscription Campaign disapproves in the strongest terms of the raid by the S.A.D.F. into Botswana on Friday morning. We see this as yet another violation by the South African Authorities of the territorial integrity of a neighbouring State. Coming as it does in the wake of the recent S.A.D.F. incursion into Cabinda it begs the question : Can the S.A.D.F. uphold their claim that they are maintaining peace in Southern Africa when actions like this occur?

This action in no way advances the cause of peace in our region. Rather it sets back the process of building a situation of stability and harmony in Southern Africa.

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For further information : Telephone David Shander - 47-0519



## Statement

The end conscription campaign wishes to express its grave concern at the presence of the SADF in yet another area of community life - this time the wards of Berea hospital in Soweto.

Firstly, soldiers conscripted without choice, are used to play a healing role at Berea whilst concurrently they are used to suppress the people of Mamelodi and to enforce apartheid education in Ducluze.

Secondly the soldiers are undermining the affairs of workers acting in protection of their legitimate interests.

Finally, the psychological effects of the presence of the uniformed soldiers is another cause for concern because we know that victims of the SADF and the police are often unable to go to the hospitals for fear of arrest.

Once again we call for the withdrawal of the troops from the townships and an end to conscription.

ECC

issued: 27 November 1985.

Read  
Delivered to: Weekly Mail  
SAPA  
City Press  
Reuters.

STATEMENT ISSUED, 5 NOVEMBER 1985

23 Cape Town organisations have come together to unite in opposition to the state of emergency. After 3 meetings the organisations have agreed on a number of activities. This unprecedented development is based in a commonly felt concern for the situation that has developed in our city and for a just resolution of the crisis we face.

The city and its people have been placed under the control of the police and the army and our personal rights have been infringed as the press has been muzzled, townships besieged, schools and universities invaded. Legitimate protest has been met with a government intent on smothering all opposition. Detention, harassment and intimidation of opponents of apartheid have become the order of the day. It can be strongly suggested that by its actions, the government has made an open declaration of war on the people of Cape Town.

We believe we cannot be silent in the face of this situation. We believe it is our right and duty to protest against the state of emergency. We call on concerned citizens of Cape Town to stand together with us in speaking out. This is a right that we cannot relinquish. We believe, too, that in order to resolve the situation of conflict that besets our land it is necessary that:

- 1) the state of emergency be lifted
- 2) the security forces be withdrawn from the townships
- 3) political prisoners and detainees be released, and all political organizations be allowed to operate freely
- 4) free media coverage be permitted
- 5) Apartheid be dismantled.

Activities planned by the organisations include:

- 1) legal one person stands on Thursday morning and evening
- 2) distribution of 30 000 pamphlets
- 3) the holding of a public meeting in the city hall at 8 pm on Monday, November 11. Speakers will include a wide range of organisations.

Other activities are also planned.

The organisations involved are:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| BLACK SASH                                | QUARKERS                                |
| WESTERN PROVINCE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES      | JEWES FOR JUSTICE                       |
| END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN                 | NATIONAL MEDICAL AND DENTAL ASSOCIATION |
| NUSAS                                     | ANGLICAN BOARD OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY |
| YOUNG PROGRESSIVES                        | ECUMENICAL ACTION MOVEMENT              |
| CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE                       | DETAINEES TREATMENT TEAM                |
| SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS | DETAINEES PARENTS SUPPORT COMMITTEE     |
| WOMENS MOVEMENT FOR PEACE                 |   |
| NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN                 |   |
| CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS SUPPORT GROUP     |   |
| UCT SRC                                   |   |
| EDUCATION FOR AN AWARE SOUTH AFRICA       |   |
| PUPILS AWARENESS AND ACTION GROUP         |   |
| KOEBERG ALERT                             |   |
| ADAC                                      |   |
| MOWBRAY INTER-RACE GROUP                  |   |

ECC PRESS RELEASE 8.10.1984

The End Conscription Campaign notes with grave concern the increasing involvement of the SADF in South Africa's townships.

For years South Africa has been engaged in an undeclared civil war. The recent statements of Minister le Grange amount to an effective declaration of war against the people of South Africa.

Thousands of young South Africans are being forcibly conscripted to fight against fellow South Africans who daily suffer the hardships of apartheid.

The End Conscription Campaign believes this is both immoral and unjust.

We call for an end to conscription.  
We call for a just peace in our land.

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

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## PRESS RELEASE

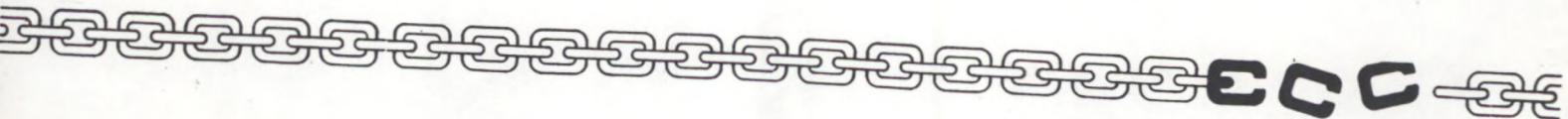
### NATIONAL ATTACK ON E.C.C.

Since 3.00am this morning :

- The homes of 4 members of the Johannesburg End Conscription Committee were raided and searched by the security police.
- In Pietermaritzburg the homes of the E.C.C. chairperson, Jaques Bouille, the treasurer, press officer and other members were raided and searched by the security police.
- In Durban 3 E.C.C. members Richard Steele, Anita Kromberg and Sue Britton were detained. Richard Steele is shortly to commence a two-week "fast for a just peace". Their offices and homes were searched and documents confiscated.
- In Cape Town, the chairperson of the Western Cape E.C.C. Mr Michael Evans was detained in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. Documents were seized.

The End Conscription Campaign condemns in the strongest terms the repression meted out on our members this morning. These are clearly not isolated incidents directed at a few individuals. It is a direct attack on our campaign by the State.

These actions come at a time when the End Conscription Campaign is gaining a growing following. Many are calling for an end to conscription. There is a wide range of individuals and organisations who have endorsed our call. The actions of the State can be seen as nothing but a response based on fear. A fear that their system of conscription and the deployment of troops in the townships is meeting growing opposition <sup>from</sup> the white community. We call for nothing more than an end to conscription and a just peace in our country. Is this what the State fears?



The End Conscription Campaign is at this time embarking on a Troops Out of the Townships Campaign. Many young white men face an agonizing dilemma as to whether to participate in the SADF's defence of apartheid in the townships. The E.C.C. has felt this dilemma. It has heard too from the people in those townships.

They are calling for troops to be withdrawn as their presence is only furthering the conflict and distancing us daily from a just peace in our land.

Rather than listen to the voice of South Africans the State chooses rather to detain and harass our members. We are committed to the cause of justice and peace. The Nationalist Government, by its action, is clearly not.

Our work continues. Ivan Toms and others will still fast for a just peace.

9 September 1985

**PRESS RELEASE**

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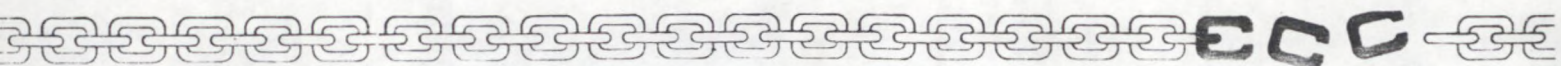
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## 3 WEEK FAST FOR A JUST PEACE

The central thrust of the ECC's "Troops out of the Townships" campaign, will be a 3 week fast for a just peace. Spearheading this fast will be Dr Ivan Toms in Cape Town, and Harold Winkler in Johannesburg. They will fast from the 17th of September, International Day of Peace, until the 7th of October, the day SADF troops first entered the townships last year. Richard Steele will fast in Durban for 2 weeks from the 22nd September. He is at present in detention. If not released before the 22nd, he will fast in jail.

At the same time as these fasts are taking place, solidarity relay fasts will take place in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Cape Town, St Augustine's Catholic Cathedral in Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown Anglican Cathedral and in Stellenbosch. In Durban there is a possibility of 3 people fasting for the two week period at St Anthony's Church in Greyville.

At all the fast venues regular daily activities will take place. The public are encouraged to participate in these.



**Collection Number: AG1977**

**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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