

JOHANNESBURG FRONT REPORT

During 1987 a major effort was made to resurrect the front which had fallen to pieces over '86. To start communication going (friendly and) informal meeting were set up with each of the affiliates (a.k.a. member organisations). The idea was to discuss and clarify the limitations and possibilities of our relationship with each organisation's executive and to sound out how the front should be structured in future. We met with all the member organisations except PFP Youth.

OASSSA and NEUSA

Both these organisations felt that they couldn't be as active in ECC as would be expected of an affiliated organisation. This is partly to do with a personpower problem as the people working in these organisations are already very stretched in their commitments. So they decided to opt for associate membership. This could still involve working with them in our internal education programme and workshops, and involving them in projects of mutual interest e.g. related to social sciences or education.

BLACK SASH

Sash still sees itself as committed to ECC and regular contact is maintained. However, they do not discuss ECC issues in their meetings and do not participate well in our events and campaigns. It seems we need to put a lot of energy into this relationship and come up with new ideas and ways of seeing to facilitate better participation and motivation on the part of Sash. We did discuss ideas of specific joint projects and we need to follow these up.

JODAC

Jodac is one of our most committed affiliates and does participate whenever possible in our campaigns.

COSG and (Catholic) WAR AND PEACE GROUP

Because our issues are so closely related these groups are very supportive and our working relationship, as seen at the Fair, is great!!

PFP YOUTH

After two abortive attempts to meet with PFP Youth, no real contact has yet been re-established . The problem is that unlike many of the other groups who move in the same circles as us, PFP appear to be rather isolated. However, it is crucial for us to draw them in so that we can broaden the base of our constituency.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

JOYCO

JOYCO is not an affiliate. However, we have made contact with them, thrown ideas around, and generally established a good working relationship.

NUSAS

Although NUSAS is affiliated to Wits ECC, the Johannesburg executive met with the Wits NUSAS people and contact was established with their projects officer.

After making contact with all these organisations we came up with the idea of once a month meetings where we could discuss and draw people into our campaign work and particular projects. By the end of last year we had had two meetings. These unfortunately were not very well attended.

In order to facilitate these front meetings it is vital that each organisation is selective about the issues that they should discuss on their agendas in order to keep their organisations as interested and enthusiastic as possible.

REPORT ON CURRENT WORK OF JOHANNESBURG AFFILIATES

Common concerns and work

All affiliates except PFP Youth and War and Peace Group are 5FF subscribers. Since the conference, Johannesburg 5FF has concerned itself with assisting initiatives in other regions, consolidating sub groups (especially parents group and economy group) which have been organizing home meetings, recruiting new members, finalising constitution, drawing organisations into projects and campaigns for 1988, consulting with Afrikaans groups, IDASA, UDF & COSATU.

Black Sash

- Are holding suburbs meetings, some which ECC has been invited to.
- Otherwise usual work.

PFP Youth

- Have no profile in Johannesburg and only a small membership although they probably have a large number of potential supporters.

COSG

- Organise Conscription Advice Service
- Train counsellors
- Discussing and working on new support initiatives for objectors.

War and Peace Group

- Working with Catholic schools and liaising with Catholic youth and J&P structures.
- Working on an extensive slide-tape show for young Catholics.

OASSSA

- Have a national/local office in Johannesburg.
- Assist victims of the State of Emergency through networking with other organisations.
- Educate and organise professionals: psychologists, social workers. Annual National Conference very important.
- Research projects.

NEUSA

- Work with teachers in Johannesburg area.
- Held workshops on teaching issues.
- Held commemorations and seminars on issues related to education.
- Interested in working with parents on common concerns.

JODAC

- Main focus is participation in 5FF
- Initiated a Xmas service which went ahead which was significant as it was the first UDF public event in Johannesburg in quite some time.

Repression

None of these organisations have experienced repression in the last three months but many are stifled by the State of Emergency.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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