

REPORT ON ECC CONSULTATION IN WELKOM,  
9/6/90.

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- Have about 50 active members in the area and organise social events as well as meals for Thabong pensioners on their pension day.

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Dear E.C.C. Types,

Here is a report on the first meeting that ECC had with organisations in the Welkom-Thabong area.

It was a very exciting meeting and it looks as though the Welkom-Thabong community will carry the action on their own with ECC doing national support work.

For regions who have not phoned through to give us information on what you have been up to, please do.

Let us know how CO recruitment has been going in your region and any other ideas or actions you have been considering,

Regards

Roddy

P.S. Sorry about the spelling mistakes.

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FAA TO JUN 18 '90 10:29 FIVE FREEDOMS FORUM  
FAX NO. 836-6931 NO OF PAGES: 2  
ATTENTION OF: ROODY PAYNE  
FROM: ALASTAIR DATE: 18 JUNE  
FIVE FREEDOMS FORUM  
FAX NO: (011) 336-2920  
TEL NO: (011) 336-2009

034 P01



17 JUNE 1990

REPORT OF SECOND CONSULTATION MEETING IN WELKOM

PRESENT: Representatives from Women for Peace, the Democratic Party, the mayor of Welkom (NP), Lutheran Church, National Sports Congress, End Conscription Campaign. Apologies from NUM and MDM structures who were involved in organising an unexpected rally, and ANC who had a regional meeting.

Report from mayor.

Problem started on 20 March when the Tornado hit Welkom. It was also the same day that a Boycott of white shops was due to start. The police were busy with dealing with the Tornado action while pickets were put outside white shops. The police were not in a position to monitor the boycott and white vigilantes, the AWB and BV, began to exercise their power and removed the pickets from in front of the shops and cleared the streets of black boycotters. The shop owners began to phone the OMR when they had problems as their response was quicker than that of the police. The police took no action against the white vigilantes.

The mayor phoned Piet Clase, one of the local MPs and Adriaan Vlok to demand that the police took action. They both later visited and the mayor demanded that a strong police force was need to prevent violence. He reported that the increased strength of the force had largely stopped the violence.

Another initiative has been the setting up of the Joint Working Committee which the mayor is part of (see last meeting). From his perception the ANC, NUM and MDM have acted very responsibly.

His assessment was the "platform of reform is crumbling" with the NP probably only having the same support as the DP in Welkom. However, the OFS municipal association have in principle agreed to the integration of municipalities, with a common voters role, unlike the Transvaal municipalities which are CP controlled. He have been involved in discussions with the representative civics in Thabong and Bronville and MDM structures. He believes that they will not be repeating mistakes of the past reforms.

They next major crisis to hit Welkom will be retrenchments from the gold mines. 7 000 retrenchments are expected immediately and another 9 000 are anticipated.

He sees Welkom as a testing ground for the right wing, but his belief is the vigilantes only represent a very small part of the community.

The mayor said he cannot get involved in any initiative such as this because of his position, but in general would support moves to bring about peace and reconciliation.

**THE ACTION**

Despite the fact there was poor representation from Thabong, but noting the support from those groups at the last meeting, this meeting decided upon the following:

**FORM:** Picnic plus sports day. People in Thabong and Welkom, as well as perhaps from other parts of the country would be invited. VIPs such as Bruce Fordyce would be invited to take part. The venue would be in Welkom as it was believed at this stage that it would be too alienating for whites to go to Thabong. However, this would be the first of a series of actions, some of which would take place in Thabong in the future.

**STRUCTURE:** A working group was set up. This will comprise of reps from the ANC, UDF, NUM, NP and DP as well as other groups such as Women for Peace, National Sports Congress.

The responsibilities of the working committee are:

- \* co-opt reps from other groupings onto the working group
- \* decide on timing of action
- \* decide on venue
- \* allocate tasks
- \* decide on name of action

**NB:** This action was seen by the group as a social action to promote contact and reconciliation and not as a political action. Although we are all uniting together around a common theme, we should not artificially gloss over our differences. However, it would be important that party political agendas are not displayed.

Dear ECC,

Here is the report of the 2nd consultation in Welkom around a 'Welkom Action'. Please contact the National Office to let us know how consultation in your area has been and what you think about the proposed action. Love Roddy.

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**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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