

ALTERNATIVE SERVICE PROJECT - CAMPAIGN PROPOSAL

This project will entail us taking a group of volunteers to perform various community projects to demonstrate symbolically and practically what we feel would be a viable alternative to service in the SADF. In doing this we are :

- a) giving people something concrete to get involved in.
- b) presenting 'national service' in its true form ie. service to the people of the country - at the same time exposing how the SADF usually has the opposite function to this 'service'.
- c) demonstrating that we are 'patriotic' in the real sense and not in the sense of allegiance to the status quo.
- d) presenting something positively as opposed to criticising always in a 'negative' way.
- e) showing that men and women can contribute to a meaningful 'national service'.

This project looks like it will be our major activity for the first half (and possibly the whole) of this year. The gains are potentially huge, but because it's a technically complicated campaign we are going to have to be very jacked-up.

Target Areas :

- Schools
- Conscripts
- Women
- Fast supporters
- Churches
- Young professionals
- Students
- ECC Front Organisations
- Academics
- Afrikaans areas
- Business community

Timing :

Much of the volunteer workforce will probably come from school pupils and university students. For this reason the 'work phase' of the campaign should fall on the school and university holidays. Also this is a time when many other people are on holiday. The school holidays are from Wednesday 26 March - Tuesday 8 April. The UCT vac is from Friday 11 April - Monday 21 April. The work period should therefore be from approximately 1 April - 20 April. It was felt that three weeks was long enough to accomplish something, yet short enough to avoid getting over-extended and bogged down.

The timing of the various phases of the campaign can then be built around this.

Phases (and timing cont.)

A. Build-up

Unlike the Troops Out Campaign ASP has no immediate emotionally gripping issue to derive its momentum from. The issue has to be built and "hyped" if it is to capture peoples imagination. Build-up is therefore crucial. This could include :

- I. The January call-up campaign
- II. The 'cadets out' campaign (volunteer recruitment)
- III. A large open forum in mid-February, with speakers from a range of constituencies. Invites to fast supporters, member organisations and word of mouth (volunteer recruitment)
- IV. Speaking to a wide range of organisations and groups about the campaign (volunteer recruitment)
- V. A big media drive in early April, including constituency directed pamphlets and posters with a national logo, and a more general 'slick' brochure (volunteer recruitment)

B. The Campaign

- I. A public meeting launch (possibly at Claremont Civic) on about 17 March.
- II. Throughout this process of build-up we will need to be recruiting volunteers for the work phase. A work meeting on about 25 March could pull the volunteers together, motivate people, allow for allocation to various tasks, etc.
- III. Work begins on about 1 April.

C. Follow-Up

No specific ideas for follow-up except the suggestion of a meeting on approximately 23 April. It has been stressed that this campaign follow-up is crucial. We will have involved many people in our work, we have to be clear on what we are going to do with them.

The project itself

This is the most difficult and technical area of the campaign. We need to have enough work for everyone we recruit, and the work has to be organised well enough for people to come out the other side feeling what they had done was useful and a viable alternative to conscription into the SADF.

Ideas so far :

- a) building maternity wing of SACLA Clinic
- b) various possible projects in Hout Bay
- c) channeling people into RMG, rape crisis
- d) channeling professionals into legal aid, Namda, advice offices, nursing, etc.
- e) helping out at CAP
- f) adult literacy
- g) more controversial ideas include (i) environmental work; (ii) channeling people into some Shawco projects.

This area is going to require a lot of thought and planning. We have to be very slick. We still need to consult with community organisations eg. UWO, Western Cape Civics about other possible projects we could do.

Structures Proposals

- a) The project will involve the whole of ECC and existing sub-committees would plug directly into the campaign.
- b) The ASP group would consist of people interested plus formal representation from all sub-committees.
- c) There should be :
  - i) an overall co-ordinator
  - ii) projects co-ordinator
  - iii) volunteers and follow-up co-ordinator

Nic, Bazil and Paula respectively have been proposed for these posts.

Discussion

It is crucial that this project is discussed quite thoroughly in all areas of ECC so that we all have a good understanding and control of the direction of the campaign.

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**Collection Number: AG1977**

**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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