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THE JHB BRANCH REPORT

Scince the last NC the JHB branch has been quite busy what with the booklet and all the plans for its distribution.

We have been quite active internally and have sorted lots of problems out. A successful week-end away was held in March. This helped to give a clearer direction for the work ahead of us.

The production of the booklet took up a lot of time and valuable activists. The planning of its distribution likewise. A part time worker was recruited for a greater in depth look at the dist.

JHB has had a lot of debate around the implications of the campaign. Perhaps this is a reason for a lack of 'on the streets' work. Never the less JHB seems to be more on par with the national feelings.

The issue around Dave Bruce is seen by JHB to be very important and the branch is participating in a group that was formed to run a campaign leading up to and including his trial. Ecc JHB sees itself as playing a major rôle in this issue. We see it fitting directly into the Know your rights phase.

We have finally found ourselves a part time regional worker. Karin Thorne will be familiar to many people, as she is an old GHT person. We now boast an office, that is in an accesable area of JHB. We are see ing this development as something that will help to give JHB a new lease an life.

JHB has approximately 20 active members that are involved in the sub group structures. Many people were seconded to work on various aspects of the booklet. This it may be argued had a severe draining effect on the branch as a whole.

Internal development;

The group dealing with internal education is now more focussed and has embarked on a series of Sunday evening meetings. At yhe the same time encouraging members to participate in JODAC type education sessionse.g. the municipal elections. THE first of the Sunday evening sessions was on Low Intensity Conflict. It was attended by Approx. 35 people and went off well. Suggested topics for the future are; Black Sash Human Rights Campaign and the most urgent need for the development of public speaking skills.

Security and REpression

JHB has decided to relax its security measures but stresses that this is being done whilst still keeping an ear to the ground . More stringent measures can be returned to with ease.

There have been a few incidents of harrassment this block. An Exec member's mother was visited by the Veereneging police and thraetened her daughter with deportation if she failed to cease her ECC activity. Two weeks later she was phoned and the work address of her daughter was demanded.

The home of some ECC activists was servayed for at least two days in May.

Two members of the old JHB Afrikaans group were visited and they were questioned regarding ECC and weve generally intimidated.

CAMPAIGN

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THE STATE OF THE CAMPAIGN PLANNING/WORK IN JHB IS QUITE FAR BEHIND WHERE WE WOULD LIKE IT TO BE, MAINLY BECAUSE OF INTERNAL CONFUSIONS AND DEBATES WHICH PREVENTED US FROM GETTING THINGS OF THE GROUND UNTIL VERY RECENTLY.

WE HAVE JUST SET UP A CAMPAIGN GROUP (CONSISTING OF ABOUT EIGHT PEOPLE) WHO HAVE MET ONLY ONCE OR TWICE. THIS GROUP SEE THEMSELVES AS A COORDINATING STRUCTURE WHO WILL DO A LOT OF THE MORE DETAILED CONCEPTUAL WORK, BUT WILL TAKE MOST DISCUSSIONS TO GB AND WILL ALLOCATE TASKS TO SUB-GROUPS OR AD-HOC GROUPS. THIS STRUCTURE WILL CONTINUALLY BE UNDER REVIEW.

PEOPLE WHO WANT TO WORK SPECIFICALLY ON THE CAMPAIGN, RATHER THAN JOIN SUB-GROUPS, WILL BE RECRUITED INTO THESE AD-HOC GROUPS.

THE GROUP HAS PROVISIONALLY PLANNED THE 'BUILD UP' PHASE, (SEE 'CAMPAIGN - THE BUILD UP') AND IS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES. WE HAVE STARTED DISCUSSING THE OTHER AREAS OF THE CAMPAIGN AND WILL SOON BE DRAWING UP A DETAILED PROPOSAL WHICH CAN BE THRASHED OUT BY THE GB.

THINGS ARE HAPPENING - ALBEIT SLOWLY.

## Campaign - The Build Up !!!!!

We need to prepare our public (and ourselves) for our campaign. Many people still see us as a fringe, lefty, radical grouping, and might be under the impression that we are opposed to those people who are conscripted and go, into the SADF. We need to show them that we understand the dilemmas, and that it is these people specifically (amongst others) that we are concerned about. One way of clearly demonstrating this concern is to hold a 24/48 hour Crises-Line.

This would involve making about 6 telephone numbers available for a 24/48 hour period and asking people with conscription related problems (or views) to phone in. The information gathered during this time can then be used to highlight the problem that is conscription.

Clearly, this is a very exciting and very dynamic idea that will give us access to information, people, press coverage and credibility. For the idea to develop to its full potential we are going to need a thorough and systematically strategized publicity campaign preceding it. This will involve an afternoon's session of letter writing to all major newspapers, pamphlet drops advertising the crises-line, possibly a street banner, posters, stickers, maybe pickets, informing org's and asking them to popularise it, asking radio stations to advertize it etc etc. The preparation for, and public bombardment with, all this media will take about a month and we can therefore envisage the actual crises-line session as happening around the end of June, with the press conference early July (or it could be incorporated into the press conference at the book launch - 8 July).

We will need trained counsellors to staff the telephone lines. The crises line would not just be information gathering but will also be providing a service to those who phone in. We will need to work closely with COSG in this regard. The crises line can possibly be accompanied by a survey of private schools.

### TASKS:

We need set up a group that will coordinate the actual crises-line, and look at the practicalities of getting telephone lines, counsellors etc, as well to strategise and coordinate the pre-publicity campaign and consult with the publicity sub-group.

### DISCUSSION:

Do we want a seperate press conference, or should we make a press release and use the launch conference?  
Schools survey?

### CAMPAIGN PROGRESSION:

Pre-publicity - Crise-line - Book launch - KYR -  
Call-up - ASP - something else.

*This is a suggestion*

MORALE:

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MORALE IN JHB WAS QUITE LOW AT THE TIME OF THE LAST NC. THERE WAS A FEELING THAT WE SEEMED TO HAVE A HELL OF A LOT OF MEETINGS, BUT BASICALLY WEREN'T ACHEIVING ANYTHING.

WE DECIDED TO TRY AND RECTIFY THIS BY HAVING A WEEK-END AWAY, WHERE WE ENTHUSE OURSELVES ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN AND TRY TO EFFICIENTISE PROCESSES WITHIN ECC

THE WEEK-END AWAY WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AND CERTAINLY PROVIDED CLARITY (CAMPAIGN WISE) AND INSPIRATION FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO WENT. UNFORTUNATELY WE DIDNT PICK UP ON THIS NEW ENTHUSIASM AND DIDNT MANAGE TO PASS IT ON TO THOSE ACTIVISTS WHO HADN'T ATTENDED THE WEEKEND. WE ALSO LOST A LOT OF THE CAMPAIGN CLARITY AND GOT TIED UP IN INTERNAL DEBATES.

THIS WAS ABOUT 6 WEEKS AGO. FORTUNATELY THINGS HAVE SOMEWHAT IMPROVED SINCE THEN. A CONCERTED EFFORT ON THE PART OF SOME ACTIVISTS, THE RECRUITMENT OF A FEW NEW, MOTIVATED PEOPLE, AS WELL AS THE PRESENCE OF A MOTIVATED AND MOTIVATING NATIONAL ORGANISER HAVE LED TO THE CURRENT SITUATION WHERE MOST OF US IN ECC ARE FEELING QUITE EXCITED AND POSITIVE ABOUT THE WAY FORWARD. WE STILL HAVE QUITE A LOT TO WORK THROUGH, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY WE NEED TO GET SOME ACTION OF THE GROUND, AND THIS IS FAR MORE CONCEIVABLE THAN IT WAS A FEW WEEKS AGO - WE EVEN HAVE SOME CONCRETE PLANS !!

FRONT:

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UNFORTUNATELY OUR FRONT REPRESENTITIVE HAS BEEN ON A TEMPORARY 'LEAVE OF ABSENCE' FROM ECC, SO OUR CONTACT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS HAS BEEN ALMOST NON-EXISTENT.

FORTUNATELY THIS SITUATION IS ABOUT TO BE RECTIFIED. THE CONTACT SUB-COMMITTEE, TOGETHER WITH GARY INTEND INTEND TO ADOPT A SYSTEMATC APROACH TO THIS KIND OF WORK.

WE WILL BE SENDING A LETTER EXPLAINING (BRIEFLY) THE CAMPAIGN AND PROMOTING THE KYR BOOKLET TO ALL RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS IN THE JHB AREA, AS WELL AS VISITING THOSE ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE SHOWN SUPPORT FOR US IN THE PAST, OR WHO WE FEEL WILL BE POTENTIAL FUTURE SUPPORTERS AND DISCUSSING THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN ECC.

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST IS THAT WE HAVENT FULLY STRATEGISED BEFOREHAND HOW WE FEEL A PARTICULAR ORGANISATION CAN PARTICIPATE IN ECC. SO, IN FUTURE, BEFORE EACH MEETING WITH AN OR WE AS ACTIVISTS WILL DISCUSS THAT ORG AND WHAT WE SEE ITS ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION TO BE. WE ALSO NEED TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR ORGANISATIONS AND ARE THINKING OF DOING RESEARCH INTO THE 'STATE OF STRUGGLE' IN EACH ORGANISATION.

WE ARE MOVING AWAY FROM THE IDEA OF A 'FRONT' AND 'AFFILIATES' AND SO ARE LOOKING AT HAVING CONTACT WITH WITH QUITE A BROAD RANGE OF ORGANISATIONS. THESE WILL INCLUDE: JUNIOR CITY COUNCILS, LEGAL AID ORG'S, OUR TRADITIONAL SUPPORTERS, RESOURCE CENTRES, ROTARY CLUBS ETC ETC.

Work in Progress:

We have three main projects on the go at the moment. The main priority is the Know Your Rights book launch. For this we plan a cocktail evening at a fancy Rosebank hotel on July 11. There will be entertainment and a top guest speaker.

Our second project is the International Record. We have received the proposal from Steve Gordon. Quite detailed and plenty of work! Plans so far are to contact the UDF cultural Desk and Cosatu and obtain letters of endorsement in case of fears of "boycott busting". (A copy of the proposal will be circulated).

The third plan is to hold a mini-film festival at a Hillbrow cinema. In fact the owners of the cinema approached us with the idea first! Films include commercial and non-commercial war films. We're not yet sure of the date but it should be held before August.

State of the Crag group.

Membership and mood in the group fluctuates constantly. At times we have had as many as 10 people at a meeting but at other times it has dropped to four. It is difficult to maintain a continuity with projects when this happens. So it is one problem we are going to have to solve in the very near future.

## Johannesburg ECC churches group - NC report.

### GENERAL

Churches group is small, having only 7 members, but all are committed to the group & ECC. Morale in the group is usually high. Some questioning has recently taken place over the role of churches in the wider ECC & the relationship between the two. There has been some misunderstanding around the campaign, but this has been satisfactorily resolved.

### LAST 2 MONTHS

After a lot of activity over the first few months including a conscript service and the Ivan Toms vigil, churches has done quite a lot of planning & discussing though little concrete action. It has also been felt recently that too much time was taken up with GB's and admin not necessarily much related to churches sub-group. In an effort to overcome the above tensions, it has been decided that a more selective approach is needed so that more time can be devoted to churches work. This has yet to start. To this end, a list of actions being planned was drawn up with target dates. This is summarised below.

### ACTIVITIES PLANNED

- |    |  |           |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Produce pamphlet on ECC churches work in Jhb.  | min June  |
| 2. | Take strong role in ASP coordination   | June-Aug  |
| 3. | KYR in churches/ Booklet dist. in churches/<br>Conscript services                        | June-July |
| 4. | Involvement in student christian org.'s July<br>national conferences                     | July      |
| 5. | Ivan Toms follow-up & David Bruce...   | Ongoing   |
| 6. | Developing new contacts/ Keep up with existing<br>contacts/ put out information sheet... | June-July |
| 7. | Write theological document on violence   | Aug-Sept  |
| 8. | Collate church statements relevant to ECC work   | Aug-Sept  |
| 9. | Booklet review & other articles for church<br>newspapers...                              | June      |

..... BEST WISHES TO NC FROM JHB. ECC CHURCHES

## JOHANNESBURG PUBLICITY GROUP

The main project occupying us for the last 2 months has been the Know your Rights booklet. Although it is not a specific responsibility of ours all the members of the group were involved in some way. Most of the layout as well as very significant parts of the writing, artwork and schlep of production were done by publicity people. The media for the launch and distribution ie, - poster, flyer, radio advert and national launch ~~a~~ invite was our responsibility.

Regarding our own work, we got articles together for Focus. We wanted the main articles to be on Angola. Unfortunately due to rapid military and diplomatic developements, and delays caused by the more urgent need for KYR booklet media the articles got outdated before we could start with layout. Hence we have decied to produce a shorter edition in broadsheet format. It will focus on David Bruce.

Finally we have done a reprint of the Botha eks Gatvöl posters. We had enough printed to supply all ~~the~~ ~~branch~~ branches. We ~~have~~ are ~~it~~ looking at the possibility of exporting media. We organised and helped staff a media/membership table at the recent Five Freedoms Forum Fair.,

## CONTACT

The contact sub-committee has recently acquired a few new activists - some of these experienced activists from other centres. We now have about 10 members, with a working group of about 7. We are quite enthusiastic about our work and morale is high.

We started this recent period by visiting people interested in ECC. We did this in pairs so that it would serve as some form of activist training as well as involving people on ECC's fringes. We had a few problems getting this together as all Contact people work full-time and have severe time-constraints (also caused by most of us being involved in the booklet in some way).

We have had a few (not terribly successful) housemeetings for people wanting to know more about ECC and have managed to make some friends for ECC this way.

In the last month or 2 it has been increasingly clear that we must prioritise the recruitment of activists and so have held a new activists meeting and held discussions in the GB as to how to facilitate the integration of people into ECC. We are stressing that Contact can't be responsible for recruitment by ourselves, but rather that everyone in ECC must be looking around for potential members and bring them along to GB. There have been some successful examples recently of some people being nailed along to a meeting, enjoying it and deciding to stay.

One of the most exciting things for contact recently has been the employment of Karen Thorn as our (Jhb's not contact's !) part-time worker, and the opening of the Jhb office. We are hoping that the office will solve a lot of the accessibility problems that we have had in the past. We intend to have a jori of an office warming soon - you're all welcome!

We have been getting into THE Campaign and about 5 of our members are on the campaign group. As Contact, we are involving ourselves in the Know Your Rights meetings and will be starting to put a lot of energy into contact with other org's. Like the rest of Jhb, we have been moving quite slowly, but I think that things are changing and we are about to zoom into action and will be accomplishing the unthinkable.



## International Record Proposal

### Aim of the project:

The idea is to compile an album of anti-war material for sale and distribution internationally and locally. The objectives of the project are: Firstly as an anti-apartheid strategy, Secondly, to raise ECC's profile internationally and thirdly, to put money in the coffers.

Using the material of international artists is important if these objectives are to be realized. Big names sell and their endorsement of ECC's campaign would be extremely valuable.

### Format:

The ideal format for South Africa would be an LP record or cassette. Playing time about 60 minutes - this allows 8 to 10 compositions. We need top class artwork for the sleeve and insert.

### Process:

1. Conceptualization and scheduling of project.
2. We need to work out a budget to implement project ie coordinator's salary, phonecalls paperwork, lawyer's fees, artwork reproduction, studio costs, tape costs, air-freight and insurance.
- 3 The project must be ratified by ECC - proposal has to be circulated.
4. We need letters of endorsement from the National Democratic Movement to avoid fears of boycott busting. This is essential to ensure foreign artist's cooperation.
5. We need to appoint a coordinator, set up office , telephone and project funding.
6. At the very least we need some sort of base in London to contact artists. We also need to appoint a London based lawyer to deal with contracts and licencing copyright etc. The onus and expense of this would rest with ECC. Contracts must be valid in British, American and South African and International law.
7. We have to prepare a covering letter and information package on ECC for those contributing artists; including contact numbers.
8. The selection of "target contributors must be approved by ECC.

International record...../2

Suggest that ECC draft a list of any specific songs. We must know who the record is aimed at - some jazz musicians would be loath to include their pieces with rock music. Should we include exiled and South African musicians work? We should aim for a compilation which will not create distribution problems in SA - material which has been pre-released would be an advantage.

9. The bulk of the work will be meetings with musicians and managers.
10. Once contracts are signed and the project is finalized on paper we need to arrange the actual mechanical transfer of the material \_ this would involve airfreighting of tapes to a central point and then sent to a studio where they will be ready to cut a master disc for the album.
11. We need to book studio time to transfer material onto master tape and to cut master disc. It is advisable to make a spare master copy in case of damage or loss.
12. Records will then be pressed in SA and possibly UK an USA. We need to investigate what label it should go on. Using an established network such as Shifty's distribution deal with Tusk might be an advantage.
13. We need to prepare for press release on project. Ideally this would include artist's statements.
- 14 Launch and distribution.

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