

Recently the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) organised SA's first ever peace festival. The Festival was attended by over 2000 people from all walks of life who unanimously supported a motion calling for an end to the compulsory conscription of white men into the South African Defence Force (SADF).

The motion read: "The building of peace in Southern Africa is threatened by the presence and actions of the SADF in Namibia and elsewhere in Southern Africa, and in SA's townships. We call on the government to immediately withdraw all these troops. We call for an end to conscription which forces young men to fight in these situations."

The ECC was formed in 1984 as a broad front of over 50 political, womens, religious and student groups. According to Laurie Nathan, ECC National Organiser, "we have received phenomenal support from the generally conservative white community because a significant sector of it find it intolerable that white men are compelled to be part of an army whose primary role is to defend apartheid."

At present every white man is legally obliged to serve two years "national service" and do annual camps till the age of 55. The options for the majority of those who refuse to serve are six years in jail or a life in exile. A third option of six years "alternative service" is limited to universal pacifists with a proven Christian commitment.

The ECC 'Stop the call-up' Peace Festival in Johannesburg united the different groups that oppose conscription. It consisted of a weekend of seminars and workshops, concerts, a prayer service, public protest meetings and anti-war culture which involved delegates in action and discussion around militarisation and resistance.

Key note speakers at the Festival included Archbishop Hurley (President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference), Bishop Tutu (Nobel Peace Laureate), Dr Beiers Naudé (Secretary General of the South African Council of Churches) and representatives from the United Democratic Front, SWAPO and the Progressive Federal Party.

A highlight of the Festival was a panel discussion with conscientious objectors, entitled "Some Say No". Richard Steele, who served a year in detention barracks in 1980 and recently addressed the UN Commission for Human Rights on conscientious objection in SA, declared: "The military is designed to train people to destroy one another and misuse the land. I see the military as a pillar of an unjust society and saw my steps as an act of non-cooperation with apartheid."

Pete Hathorn, who was jailed for his political objection in 1983, said that he was committed to the Freedom Charter and that serving in the SADF "would mean sharing in and perhaps even adding to the atrocities of apartheid."

Also on the panel was David Pijpers, the first person to publicly object to serving in the Cape Corps, the all-Coloured unit. David had volunteered for service because it was a "family tradition" but his experiences in Namibia had caused him to desert. He now faces a court martial for refusing to complete his 10 year contract.

Another highpoint of the Festival, and a new development for ECC, was the focus on the international struggle for peace. Carole Tongue, Euro-MP, spoke about the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the European peace movement, and made an important contribution to broadening the understanding of ECC. The other invited international guest, Cardinal Arns, the Archbishop of San Paolo, was denied a visa by the South African government when it learnt that he was due to speak at the Festival.

Despite this act of State harassment the Festival was regarded as a huge success and showed clearly that there now exists within the white South African community a growing movement for peace and justice.

More than 2000 people attended South Africa's first ever peace festival organised by the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) at the end of June in Johannesburg.

The ECC was formed in 1984 as a broad front of over 50 political, womens, religious and student groups. It demands an end to the compulsory conscription of white men into the South African Defence Force (SADF) and the withdrawal of troops from Namibia and the townships. These demands are part of ECC's broader call for "a just peace in our land."

According to Laurie Nathan, ECC National Organiser, "the Festival was a statement of our determination to oppose the violence of the State and a celebration of our belief that all South Africans can live as equals and at peace in a democratic society." The weekend of seminars, workshops, concerts, public meetings and anti-war culture involved participants in dynamic and creative activities and discussion around militarisation and resistance.

Key note speakers at the Festival included Archbishop Hurley, Dr Beiers Naude, Bishop Tutu and representatives from the United Democratic Front, SWAPO and the Progressive Federal Party. At emotionally charged public meetings they spelt out the basis of ECC's opposition to conscription :

- * in Southern Africa the SADF is an aggressive force and an obstacle to peace
- * in SA the army's primary role is to defend apartheid
- * the SADF's enemy is not a foreign aggressor but the people of SA and Southern Africa
- * massive military expenditure contributes to the poverty of the country and ought to be used in the interests of peace
- * the development of a war psychosis dehumanises every individual and raises the level of violence in society as a whole
- * it is a breach of a fundamental human right to deny young men the right to refuse to be part of the army on grounds of conscience.

"One of the most exciting features of the Festival", said Clare Verbeek the Festival Co-ordinator, "was its focus on the international struggle for peace. The participation of Carol Tongue, Euro-MP, and the contact that we made with many church, peace and anti-apartheid groups overseas broadened our vision and gave us strength."

The Festival suffered some setbacks with the earlier detention of Janet Cherry, a regional ECC chairperson, and when the SA government withdrew the visa of Cardinal Arns, Archbishop of San Paolo, because he was due to speak at the Festival. But the ECC emerged from its Festival more committed than ever to the belief "that if you want peace you don't prepare for war but work for justice."

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) in South Africa entered into a new and exciting phase recently with the focus on the international struggle for peace at its 'Stop the call-up' Peace Festival at the end of June.

The ECC, as a broad front of over 50 political, womens, religious and student groups, has been campaigning since the beginning of 1984 for an end to the compulsory conscription of white men into the SADF. The ECC believes that the army's primary role in SA is to defend apartheid and that it is a threat to peace in the entire sub-continent.

An ECC speaker at the opening of the Festival explained the reason for the new focus on the international arena : "the government deliberately keeps us ignorant of the international community that we're part of. It's important that we understand broader issues of war and peace and equally important that South Africans know that millions of people throughout the world care deeply about the intensifying civil war here.

"Although peace groups in other countries take up different issues in different ways, we are bound by our common desire for peace and justice." These bonds were made concrete by the over 60 messages of support for the Festival received from anti-apartheid, church and peace groups around the world.

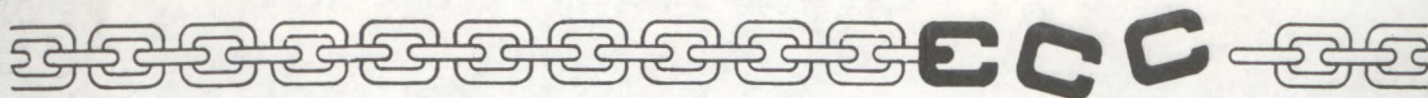
Carole Tongue, Euro MP, made an invaluable contribution to the Festival. She explained the history and current activities of the peace movement and Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in Britain and Europe.

She said that although the nuclear arms race might seem to people facing more fundamental issues of human rights and repression to be a privileged issue to take up, "it is important to match our reality in the West with yours and others who strive for a genuine peace in the world. Peace cannot be seen merely as the absence of war. It takes no genius to see the connection between the oppression of black people in SA with the nuclear arms race and what it stands for."

The South African government prevented the other invited international guest, Cardinal Arnns, the Archbishop of San Paolo, from participating in the Festival. The Cardinal had been invited to SA by the ECC and the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference.

Just hours before he was due to leave he was visited by officials from the SA Embassy in Brazil who wanted a written undertaking that he would not speak at the Festival nor "involve himself in the affairs of the country." The Cardinal refused to do this, saying "I would only go as a free person where my fellow bishops have asked me to go and do what they have asked me to do." As a result his visa to SA was immediately withdrawn.

Despite this act of State harassment the Festival was regarded as a huge success and showed clearly that there now exists within the white South African community a growing movement for peace and justice.



PRESS STATEMENT

End Conscription Campaign

P.O. Box 23364
Joubert Park
2044

Tel: 011-643 3941

ECC PRESS RELEASE

REFUSAL OF CARDINAL ARNS' VISA

THE FACTS

At 12.15 on Wednesday June 26 Cardinal Arns, the Archbishop of Sao Paulo, was due to arrive in Johannesburg as a guest of the Southern African Catholic Bishop's Conference (SACBC) and the End Conscription Committee (ECC).

As Archbishop of the largest Catholic Archdiocese in the world, Cardinal Arns was to have been personally welcomed by Bishop Orsmond, Catholic Bishop of Johannesburg, and Father Mkatshwa, Secretary-General of the SACBC.

The SACBC had arranged that, as part of Cardinal Arns' programme in South Africa, he would on two occasions speak at the Peace Festival of the End Conscription Campaign, to be held at Wits University on 28 - 30 June.

The SACBC recently issued a statement in support of the call to end conscription. In addition, the President of the SACBC,

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.

Archbishop Hurley has personally endorsed the Declaration of the End Conscription Campaign. The Catholic Church participates on local structures of the ECC and has given much assistance to the campaign.

Cardinal Arns is recognised internationally for his human rights campaign during the 20 years of military rule in Brazil. The Catholic Bishops felt it appropriate that he address the ECC Festival.

Hours before the Cardinal was due to depart from São Paulo, he was visited by officials from the South African Consulate in Brazil. They wanted a written undertaking from Cardinal Arns that he would not speak at the ECC Festival nor involve himself in the affairs of the country. They claimed that his visa application was falsified because he had described his visit as one of church business and tourism.

Cardinal Arns refused to comply, stating that this would be a restriction on his freedom:

"I WOULD ONLY GO AS A FREE PERSON WHERE MY BROTHER
BISHOPS HAVE ASKED ME TO GO AND DO WHAT THEY
HAVE ASKED ME TO DO. "

His visa was immediately withdrawn.

COMMENT

We are upset and angry at the action taken against Cardinal Arns. As a man of peace and church leader in Latin America, the Cardinal would have made an important contribution to our vision of a world free from violence and suffering. We are already inspired by his courageous stand against the military junta that ruled Brazil for 20 years.

The withdrawal of the Cardinal's visa will not prevent the international community from expressing its solidarity with our opposition to the aggressive role of the SADF.

We completely reject the Government's argument that the practice of conscription is not the business of the Church. Every SouthAfrican has a responsibility to speak out against the evil of apartheid. The Church in SouthAfrica has accepted this responsibility and has played a leading role in calling for an end to conscription.

The Government is attempting to restrict our working for a just peace because it is not prepared to dismantle apartheid. We will not be deterred by such attempts. The call to end conscription is based on the belief that it is intolerable to force young men to take up arms against fellow South Africans in defence of apartheid. This belief will not be shaken by acts of intimidation directed at us.

D Shandler

26/6/85

PRESS RELEASE – PERSVERKLARING

GENERAL SECRETARIATE
of the S.A. CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

ALGEMENE SEKRETARIAAT
van die S.A. KATOLIEKE BISKOPSRAAD

from/van
PRESS OFFICER

for release/vir publikasie
IMMEDIATE

SA withdraws Cardinal Arns' visa

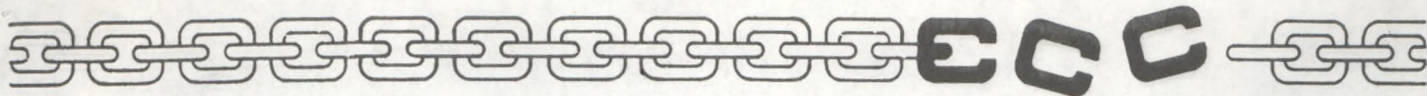
It appears that a visa had been granted to Cardinal Arns to come to South Africa, but when it was learnt from newspaper publicity that he was to participate in the End Conscription Campaign peace festival, a Foreign Affairs spokesman conveyed to him that he was welcome in South Africa provided he gave an undertaking not to associate himself publicly with the festival. He refused to give this undertaking and said that in view of the restriction he preferred not to come.

This is a grievous disappointment for Cardinal Arns is just the sort of person that South Africa needs in its present crisis. He is a man totally dedicated to human rights and the liberation of the poor and oppressed, motivated by a deep Christian commitment and characterised by a warm, affectionate and cheerful disposition.

He could have proved to be a real inspiration to South Africa. He belongs to a Franciscan order and reflects much of the spirit of St Francis. It is said that the government is afraid of the influence he could exert – it is a Christian peace-loving influence of a man with a great love for the poor oppressed.

Issued in the name of the Administrative Board of the Bishops' Conference.

Re:	Released by the press/information officer, Sarah Crowe.	Date: Datum:	June 26, 1985	Ref.
	Khanya House, 140 Visagie Street, P.O. Box 941, PRETORIA, 0001. Tel: 323-6458/9/0 (code: 012)		Khanya Huis, Visagiestraat 140. Posbus 941, PRETORIA, 0001 Tel: 323-6458/9/0 (kode: 012)	



PRESS STATEMENT

End Conscription Campaign

P.O. Box 23364
Joubert Park
2044

Tel: 011-643 3941

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN GOES FESTIVE.

The first ever peace festival in South Africa, aimed at stopping military call-up, is being organised by the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) - a broad grouping of more than 40 organisations - and is due to take place at the end of June in Johannesburg.

Hundreds - including local and international personalities - are expected to attend the weekend festival of drama, poetry, workshops, music, seminars, and discussions and pledge their support for the campaign to end military conscription.

Delegates to the festival, which will be held at the Witwatersrand University from June 28-30, will discuss the militarisation of South African society and ways of working for peace.

The aims of the End Conscription Campaign are:

- * that SADF troops be withdrawn from the townships, Namibia and Angola
- * that young men be given the freedom to choose not to be part of the SADF
- * that there be a just peace in our land.

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.

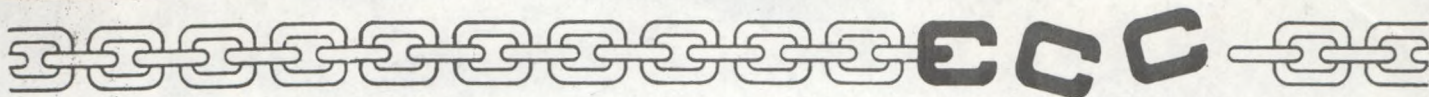
Highlights of the Festival.

- * The participation of Cardinal Arns from Brazil. Cardinal Arns is the Archbishop of San Paolo, the largest archdiocese in the world. For many years he has campaigned as a human rights activist and in 1975 he led a fast of 2 million Catholics in San Paolo against the torture practised by the Brazilian security forces.
- * The involvement of Carol Tongue, a Labour Party member of the European Parliament, who is involved in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Peace Movement in Europe.
- * S.A. speakers including Bishop Tutu, Dr Beyers Naude and leaders of the United Democratic Front.
- * 'Pray for Peace', a church service led by Archbishop Hurley.
- * 'Some say No', a panel discussion with conscientious objectors like Pete Hathorne who spent a year in jail as a political objector, Richard Steele who recently addressed the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, and Dr Ivan Thoms who is a member of the Anglican Board of Social Responsibility and has objected to doing camps as a result of his experiences as a doctor in Crossroads.
- * An anti-war poster, art, and photographic display.

According to Claire Verbeek, Festival Co-ordinator, "a significant focus of the Festival is the international struggle for peace. We want to show South Africans that we are part of an international community and that there are millions of people throughout the world who care about what is happening in our country."

A second major focus of the Festival is the role that the SADF is currently playing inside S.A. Since the invasion by the army of Sebokeng last year, opposition to its activities and support for ECC has grown dramatically. Churches, press editorials, and the over 40 organisations affiliated to ECC have repeatedly condemned the fact that young white men are compelled to take up arms against their fellow citizens.

According to Laurie Nathan, ECC National Organiser, "through the Festival this condemnation will be expressed in the strongest possible way. The S.A. government believes that 'if you want peace you must prepare for war'. We believe that if you want peace you must work for justice. The involvement



**PRESS
STATEMENT**

End Conscription Campaign

P.O. Box 23364
Joubert Park
2044

ECC PEACE FESTIVAL GAINS MOMENTUM Tel: 011-643 3941 282251 ext 215

On the 11th June we released a press statement on the ECC "Stop the Call Up" Peace Festival, which will be held from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th June, at Wits University in Johannesburg.

Included in this pack are the following:

- * Festival Programme
- * Profiles of international speakers:
Cardinal Arns and Carol Tongue
- * ECC Press Statement of 11th June
- * Profiles of conscientious objectors participating
in panel discussion "Some Say NO"
- * ECC Declaration
- * ECC pressclips
- * Interview with ECC National Organiser
- * Overview of history of militarization in South Africa

PRESS CONFERENCE:

On the 28 June there will be a Press Conference at Wits University at 4pm. Cardinal Arns, Carol Tongue and Archbishop Hurley will be present. Further details will follow.

RECEPTION:

Cardinal Arns will be arriving at Jan Smuts Airport on Wednesday 26 June at 12.15 pm. A large reception by both Church and ECC supporters, is planned for the Cardinal.

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According to Claire Verbeek, Festival Co-ordinator, "a significant focus of the Festival is the international struggle for peace. We want to show South Africans that we are part of an international community and that there are millions of people throughout the world who care about what is happening in our country."

A second major focus of the Festival is the role that the SADF is currently playing inside S.A. Since the invasion by the army of Sebokeng last year, opposition to its activities and support for ECC has grown dramatically. Churches, press editorials, and the over 40 organisations affiliated to ECC have repeatedly condemned the fact that young white men are compelled to take up arms against their fellow citizens.

According to Laurie Nathan, ECC National Organiser, "through the Festival this condemnation will be expressed in the strongest possible way. The S.A. government believes that 'if you want peace you must prepare for war'. We believe that if you want peace you must work for justice. The involvement



End Conscription Campaign

c/o Room 432
Khotso House
42 Devilliers Street
JOHANNESBURG
Tel: 23-8405/648-9286
22 May 1985

Dear friend,

We would like to invite you and the members of your organisation to participate in the End Conscription Campaign "Stop the call up" Peace Festival.

The Festival will draw together people from throughout SA to discuss the militarisation of our society and the ways in which we can work for a just peace in our land.

The Festival can further this work by uniting groups and individuals of different political and religious persuasions behind the calls for an end to compulsory conscription and the withdrawal of SADF troops from the townships and Namibia.

We have organised a Festival of seminars, workshops, drama, poetry and music which will fully involve the people that attend and which we hope will be dynamic, informative and inspiring.

Date and Venue

The Festival will take place from the evening of Friday 28th to Sunday the 30th of June at the Wits University Student Union in Johannesburg

Accommodation and costs

Accommodation will be available to delegates from other centres. Please bring your own bedding.

Delegates will have to pay a registration fee as well as the costs of their meals and accommodation. The total amount will be R30.00 for students and R40.00 for people earning salaries. Donations would be greatly appreciated.

The ECC can assist people unable to meet these costs. Childcare will be provided.

Transport

The ECC will be able to contribute to the costs of people who have long distances to travel to the Festival. It would help if you could organise your own fundraising activities to meet these costs and if you organised transport early.

From your organisation

Could you please inform us:

- 1) How many members of your organisation will be attending the Festival;
- 2) If your organisation has drama, music or poetry around the themes of conscription and militarisation that can be performed;

- 3) If you would like a stall from which to display your media on these themes and discuss with delegates your organisation.

We would also appreciate from you or your organisation a message of support for the Festival

This information and your message should be sent by the 7th June to Clare Verbeek at the above address or be given to your local ECC chairperson: Janet Cherry (P.E. 23098), Mike Evans (C.T. 477407), Paul Graham (Durban 317719) or Jaque Boule (Pmb. 67788).

We look forward to seeing you at our Festival

In peace and solidarity



CLARE VERBEEK
FESTIVAL CO- ORDINATOR



LAURIE NATHAN
ECC NATIONAL ORGANISER

Dear ECC's,

We have finally worked out a draft programme for the festival, which we are sending you for comment and discussion. We hope that you will be able to telephone/post by express mail, these comments to us as soon as possible, preferably before Monday 6th.

1. DATES + VENUE + THEME

Dates have been confirmed as Friday - Sunday, 28th - 30th June.

We will hear on Monday 29th whether or not our bid to get the Wits SRC block as a venue has been successful. There have been a lot of problems + delays with this, but things look hopeful now. We will phone as soon as we have the final word.

Failing this, we will be using a church venue or, possibly a private school in Johannesburg.

Suggested theme is "stop the call up - ECC National Festival for Peace."

2. STRUCTURE OF PROGRAMME

Each day there will be a walkabout session, a plenary session and a public meeting. When 'options' are being run, there will be a choice of 4 to attend at any one time. We have tried to arrange these options in such a way that one will be on international war + peace, one on the functioning of the SADF, one on Conscription/ECC, and one on Militarisation (all rather broadly).

3. PRESENTATION OF PROGRAMME: OPTIONS

- We have suggested more than one possible speaker where individuals would present options. Could ECC's please indicate preferences.
- Where possible, we are trying to involve organisations in preparing input. Can ECC's in each region please sound out from organisations in their centres whether they could prepare + present the option. We will send out formal invitations as soon as the programme is finalised.
- We will be asking all presenters of options to employ as creative methods as possible in their presentations - use of slides, video, discussion etc.

ECC Festival Committee
 Khotso House
 42, De Villiers Street
 Johannesburg
 2001

11th April, 1985

I am writing to you on behalf of the End Conscription Committee (ECC) to inform you of our activities and our plans for a National Festival in July, 1985, and to request your support for the Festival.

The End Conscription Campaign

The End Conscription Committees were formed at the end of 1983 out of a growing concern amongst a number of progressive individuals and organisations over the intensifying civil war in South Africa. A campaign to end conscription was seen as an appropriate response to the growing militarisation of our society, the role of the South African Defence Force (SADF) inside and outside South Africa and the compulsory conscription of young white men into this army.

There are at present End Conscription Committees in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, which are collectively comprised of about 40 student, youth, church, political and women's groups. A list of organisations affiliated to ECC is included (appendix 1). There is a good prospect of forming an ECC in Pietermaritzburg during the course of this year.

Whatever their political or theological perspectives, the organisations affiliated to ECC have in common the following beliefs: that in Southern Africa the SADF is an aggressive force and an obstacle to peace; that in South Africa the SADF's primary function is to defend apartheid; that the so-called enemy is not a foreign external aggressor but the South African and Namibian people; and that it is a breach of a fundamental human right to deny young men the right to refuse to serve in the army on grounds of conscience.

The ECC is committed to working for a just peace in our land and to an equal society in which basic human rights and access to land and wealth are no longer denied to the majority of South Africans.

These beliefs and this commitment are encapsulated in the ECC Declaration. A copy of the Declaration, and a list of some of the organisations and individuals that have endorsed it, are attached to this letter (appendix 2).

During 1984 the ECC's engaged in a variety of activities to publicise and win support for its call to end conscription. There were anti-war concerts, press conferences, public meetings and picket demonstrations. Pamphlets, posters, stickers, buttons and t-shirts were produced and distributed. These activities and forms of media revolved around three main issues - Namibia, the launch of the ECC Declaration and the SADF's invasion into the townships - and reached thousands of people throughout the country.

I have included a more detailed description of the formation of ECC and the basis of its opposition to conscription, its activities in 1984 and plans for 1985, its structure, administration and finances, and its relationship to other organisations (appendix 3). Also attached is an up to date list of ECC activities so far this year (appendix 4).

ECC Peace Festival

At its National Conference in January this year the ECC decided to hold a National Festival in Johannesburg from 27 to 30 of June. The proposed theme of the Festival is "Stop the call-up : ECC Peace Festival".

The objectives of the Festival are to make an impact on the general public and raise their awareness of ECC and its position on conscription, to deepen the understanding of the people who attend the Festival, to build ECC organisationally and to strengthen the relationship between ECC and its affiliates.

The ECC's are currently in the process of brainstorming ideas for the content of the Festival. The provisional programme at this stage is as follows:

Thursday evening: opening of Festival with key-note speakers Dr. Beyers Naudé, Bishop Tutu and speakers from ECC, the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Namibian Council of Churches.

Friday morning and afternoon: seminars, workshops, videos and drama covering militarization and the role of the SADF.

Friday evening: panel of conscientious objectors including objectors to the SADF and the Cape Corps and a Swapo objector.

Saturday morning and afternoon: seminars, workshops, videos drama covering resistance to militarization and conscription.

Saturday night: anti-war concert.

Sunday: Conscientious Objector Support Group (COSG)
Conference.

The impact of the Festival will obviously be heightened in the context of the July call-up and the ongoing activities of the SADF in African townships.

We are confident that, with your support and assistance, the Festival will significantly advance the development of the growing movement for peace in South Africa.

We see international solidarity with the struggle of the South African people generally and with ECC specifically as being of great importance - it contributes to the pressure being applied to the South African government from inside our country and is a source of strength to our organisations. International solidarity also provides organisations in South Africa with a significant degree of protection from State harassment.

We have some ideas of the kind of solidarity action you can engage in: you can send messages of support to the Festival; you can publicise amongst your membership or constituency an ECC statement which we are preparing for this purpose and will send to you; churches could hold days of prayer on the Sunday of the Festival; other organisations could hold protest meetings in solidarity with the campaign against conscription around the time of the Festival. There might well be other forms of action that would be more appropriate to the nature of your organisation.

If you decide to focus on our campaign or Festival, could you inform us of this at the above address or via the South African Council of Churches (SACC) telex no:486519 or through South Africansthat you have contact with. It would be helpful if you could also tell us something about your organisation - its policy, membership and activities.

We would greatly appreciate your passing this letter on to other sympathetic organisations in your country or to your affiliates in other parts of the world.

If you would like a copy of the Festival programme once it is finalised or would find it useful to receive ECC media and statements on an ongoing basis, we would be glad to make these available to you.

Yours in peace and solidarity,



Laurie Nathan
ECC National Organiser

E.C.C. MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

NATAL

1. Conscientious Objectors' Support Group (COSG)
2. Black Sash
3. National Union of South African Students (NUSAS)
4. Diakonia
5. Detainees' Support Committee (DESCOM)
6. Society of Friends (QUAKERS)
7. Methodist Church of Southern Africa Christian Education & Youth Dept. (CEYD)
8. Methodist Church Christian Citizenship Department (CCD)
9. Women for Peaceful Change Now (WPCN)
10. United Committee of Concern (UCC)
11. National Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA)
12. National Youth Leadership Training Programme (NYLTP)
13. Natal Organization of Women (NOW)
14. Natal Youth Forum
15. Friends of NUSAS (FONS)
16. Chesterville Youth Organization
17. Klaarwater Residents' Association (KLARA)
18. Helping Hands
19. Luternational Fellowship of Reconciliation (LFOR)
20. Roman Catholic Justice & Reconciliation Commission
21. Student Union for Christian Action (SUCA)
22. South African Catholic Bishops' Conference Youth Department Chiro

E.C.C. MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

JOHANNESBURG

1. Conscientious Objectors' Support Group (COSG)
 2. Black Sash
 3. National Union of South African Students (NUSAS)
 4. National Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA)
 5. Catholic War and Peace
 6. Young Christian Students
 7. Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee (JODAC)
 8. Wits University Catholic Society
 9. South African Institute of Race Relations
 10. Human Awareness Programmes
 11. Presbyterian Church
 12. Catholic Justice and Reconciliation
 13. South African Council of Churches
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E.C.C MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

CAPE TOWN

1. Anglican Board of Social Responsibility
 2. Black Sash
 3. Catholic Justice and Peace
 4. Catholic War and Peace
 5. Civil Rights League
 6. Conscientious Objectors Support Group
 7. Detention Action Committee (observer)
 8. Methodist Christian Citizenship Department
 9. National Union of South African Students (NUSAS)
 10. Religious Society of Friends (Quaker Church)
 11. Students Union for Christian Action (SUCA)
 12. The Ecumenical Action Movement (TEAM)
 13. United Democratic Front - Claremont Area Committee
 14. UDF - Gardens Area Committee
 15. UDF - Observatory Area Committee
 16. United Womens Organisation (observer)
 17. University of Cape Town SRC
 18. Western Province Council of Churches
 19. Womens Movement for Peace
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TOWARDS A JUST PEACE IN OUR LAND

A Declaration to End Conscription

We live in an unjust society where basic human rights are denied to the majority of the people.

We live in an unequal society where the land and wealth are owned by the minority.

We live in a society in a state of civil war, where brother is called on to fight brother.

We call for an end to conscription.

Young men are conscripted to maintain the illegal occupation of Namibia, and to wage unjust war against foreign countries.

Young men are conscripted to assist in the implementation and defence of apartheid policies.

Young men who refuse to serve are faced with the choice of a life of exile or a possible six years in prison.

We call for an end to conscription.

We believe that the financial cost of the war increases the poverty of our country, and that money should rather be used in the interests of peace.

We believe that the extension of conscription to coloured and Indian youth will increase conflict and further divide our country.

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE MORAL RIGHT OF SOUTH AFRICANS TO EXERCISE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND TO CHOOSE NOT TO SERVE IN THE SADF.

WE CALL FOR AN END TO CONSCRIPTION

WE CALL FOR A JUST PEACE IN OUR LAND

ENDORSED

ORGANISATIONS

1. SACC
2. WPCC
3. TEAM
4. SUCA
5. CATHOLIC WAR AND PEACE
6. COSG
7. CAP
8. UDF
9. NUSAS
10. CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE
11. SAIRR
12. WOMEN'S MOVEMENT FOR PEACE
13. EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
14. QUAKERS
15. NCFS
16. UCT S.R.C
17. UCT MEDICAL STUDENTS COUNCIL
18. UCT ANSOC
19. UCT CATHSOC
20. BLACK SASH
21. MINISTERS FRATERNAL, MITCHELLS PLAIN.
22. MITCHELLS PLAIN CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.
23. YCS
24. CAHAC
25. CAYCO
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27. CLOWU
28. COSAS
29. DPSC
30. BOARD OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
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32. CATHOLIC JUSTICE AND PEACE
33. ADAC
34. SAAK
35. AZASO (WC)

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31. REVEREND COLIN JONES
32. MAMA ZILANGU
33. KATE PHILIP

ECC Festival Committee
Khotso House
42, De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2001

11th April, 1985

I am writing to you on behalf of the End Conscription Committee (ECC) to inform you of our activities and our plans for a National Festival in July, 1985, and to request your support for the Festival.

The End Conscription Campaign

The End Conscription Committees were formed at the end of 1983 out of a growing concern amongst a number of progressive individuals and organisations over the intensifying civil war in South Africa. A campaign to end conscription was seen as an appropriate response to the growing militarisation of our society, the role of the South African Defence Force (SADF) inside and outside South Africa and the compulsory conscription of young white men into this army.

There are at present End Conscription Committees in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, which are collectively comprised of about 40 student, youth, church, political and women's groups. A list of organisations affiliated to ECC is included (appendix 1). There is a good prospect of forming an ECC in Pietermaritzburg during the course of this year.

Whatever their political or theological perspectives, the organisations affiliated to ECC have in common the following beliefs: that in Southern Africa the SADF is an aggressive force and an obstacle to peace; that in South Africa the SADF's primary function is to defend apartheid; that the so-called enemy is not a foreign external aggressor but the South African and Namibian people; and that it is a breach of a fundamental human right to deny young men the right to refuse to serve in the army on grounds of conscience.

The ECC is committed to working for a just peace in our land and to an equal society in which basic human rights and access to land and wealth are no longer denied to the majority of South Africans.

These beliefs and this commitment are encapsulated in the ECC Declaration. A copy of the Declaration, and a list of some of the organisations and individuals that have endorsed it, are attached to this letter (appendix 2).

During 1984 the ECC's engaged in a variety of activities to publicise and win support for its call to end conscription. There were anti-war concerts, press conferences, public meetings and picket demonstrations. Pamphlets, posters, stickers, buttons and t-shirts were produced and distributed. These activities and forms of media revolved around three main issues - Namibia, the launch of the ECC Declaration and the SADF's invasion into the townships - and reached thousands of people throughout the country.

I have included a more detailed description of the formation of ECC and the basis of its opposition to conscription, its activities in 1984 and plans for 1985, its structure, administration and finances, and its relationship to other organisations (appendix 3). Also attached is an up to date list of ECC activities so far this year (appendix 4).

ECC Peace Festival

At its National Conference in January this year the ECC decided to hold a National Festival in Johannesburg from 27 to 30 of June. The proposed theme of the Festival is "Stop the call-up : ECC Peace Festival".

The objectives of the Festival are to make an impact on the general public and raise their awareness of ECC and its position on conscription, to deepen the understanding of the people who attend the Festival, to build ECC organisationally and to strengthen the relationship between ECC and its affiliates.

The ECC's are currently in the process of brainstorming ideas for the content of the Festival. The provisional programme at this stage is as follows:

Thursday evening: opening of Festival with key-note speakers Dr. Beyers Naudé, Bishop Tutu and speakers from ECC, the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Namibian Council of Churches.

Friday morning and afternoon: seminars, workshops, videos and drama covering militarization and the role of the SADF.

Friday evening: panel of conscientious objectors including objectors to the SADF and the Cape Corps and a Swapo objector.

Saturday morning and afternoon: seminars, workshops, videos drama covering resistance to militarization and conscription.

Saturday night: anti-war concert.

Sunday: Conscientious Objector Support Group (COSG)
Conference.

The impact of the Festival will obviously be heightened in the context of the July call-up and the ongoing activities of the SADF in African townships.

We are confident that, with your support and assistance, the Festival will significantly advance the development of the growing movement for peace in South Africa.

We see international solidarity with the struggle of the South African people generally and with ECC specifically as being of great importance - it contributes to the pressure being applied to the South African government from inside our country and is a source of strength to our organisations. International solidarity also provides organisations in South Africa with a significant degree of protection from State harassment.

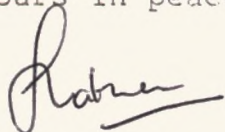
We have some ideas of the kind of solidarity action you can engage in: you can send messages of support to the Festival; you can publicise amongst your membership or constituency an ECC statement which we are preparing for this purpose and will send to you; churches could hold days of prayer on the Sunday of the Festival; other organisations could hold protest meetings in solidarity with the campaign against conscription around the time of the Festival. There might well be other forms of action that would be more appropriate to the nature of your organisation.

If you decide to focus on our campaign or Festival, could you inform us of this at the above address or via the South African Council of Churches (SACC) telex no:486519 or through South Africans that you have contact with. It would be helpful if you could also tell us something about your organisation - its policy, membership and activities.

We would greatly appreciate your passing this letter on to other sympathetic organisations in your country or to your affiliates in other parts of the world.

If you would like a copy of the Festival programme once it is finalised or would find it useful to receive ECC media and statements on an ongoing basis, we would be glad to make these available to you.

Yours in peace and solidarity,



Laurie Nathan
ECC National Organiser

E.C.C. MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

NATAL

1. Conscientious Objectors' Support Group (COSG)
2. Black Sash
3. National Union of South African Students (NUSAS)
4. Diakonia
5. Detainees' Support Committee (DESCOM)
6. Society of Friends (QUAKERS)
7. Methodist Church of Southern Africa Christian Education & Youth Dept. (CEYD)
8. Methodist Church Christian Citizenship Department (CCD)
9. Women for Peaceful Change Now (WPCN)
10. United Committee of Concern (UCC)
11. National Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA)
12. National Youth Leadership Training Programme (NYLTP)
13. Natal Organization of Women (NOW)
14. Natal Youth Forum
15. Friends of NUSAS (FONS)
16. Chesterville Youth Organization
17. Klaarwater Residents' Association (KLARA)
18. Helping Hands
19. Luternational Fellowship of Reconciliation (LFOR)
20. Roman Catholic Justice & Reconciliation Commission
21. Student Union for Christian Action (SUCA)
22. South African Catholic Bishops' Conference Youth Department Chiro

E.C.C. MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

JOHANNESBURG

1. Conscientious Objectors' Support Group (COSG)
 2. Black Sash
 3. National Union of South African Students (NUSAS)
 4. National Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA)
 5. Catholic War and Peace
 6. Young Christian Students
 7. Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee (JODAC)
 8. Wits University Catholic Society
 9. South African Institute of Race Relations
 10. Human Awareness Programmes
 11. Presbyterian Church
 12. Catholic Justice and Reconciliation
 13. South African Council of Churches
-

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33. KATE PHILIP

Nadine Gordimer

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGNA. BACKGROUND ON THE CAMPAIGN1. FORMATION

In March 1983 the Black Sash passed a motion at its annual congress, calling for an end to compulsory military conscription into the South African Defence Force. The call was made in response to the situation which prevails in South Africa, whereby all white males are required to do two years military service, to be followed by two years of military camps, spread over 12 years. (These camps often involve operational duty on the Namibian Border). After completing his camps, the conscript remains "on reserve" until he reaches the age of 55.

At the time that the Black Sash made its call, two significant events prompted the formation of the End Conscription Campaign (E.C.C.). Firstly, in response to the growing conscientious objection movement in South Africa, the government passed a new law increasing the maximum prison sentence for conscientious objectors from two to six years. While certain reforms were introduced, these applied only to individuals classified as "religious pacifists." The punitive six-year sentence indicated to many in the conscientious objection movement that little was to be gained out of campaigning for legal reform.

At about the same time the South African government announced that it was paving the way for the possible future conscription of "Coloureds" and Indians. This was to be a logical conclusion to the introduction of the new tri-cameral constitution, which was to extend limited voting rights to the "Coloured" and Indian communities. The prospect therefore existed of compulsory military conscription being extended beyond the privileged white community, to hundreds of thousands of South Africans who daily suffer the hardships of apartheid.

These two events occurred in the context of the growing militarisation of South African society, with the South African Defence Force (S.A.D.F.) increasingly taking on the role of the major defender of apartheid, and at times even directly implementing apartheid policies (for example, assisting in the government forced removals programmes). At the same time the S.A.D.F. was continuing its illegal occupation of Namibia, and its destabilisation of the Southern African sub-continent.

This was the context when 100 delegates gathered in Durban in July 1983 at the annual conference of the conscientious objector support Groups (COSG's). There a decision was taken to launch a campaign, taking up the call of the Black Sash. It was decided that the campaign should be as broad-based as possible, and that local COSG groups should take the initiative at setting up End Conscription Committees.

Throughout the second half of 1983 a range of church, Womens, student, civil rights and political organisations were approached. These eventually came together in November 1983 to form the End Conscription Committee. Committees were established in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

2. BASIS OF OPPOSITION TO CONSCRIPTION

The End Conscription Committees were united by a three-fold of opposition to conscription. These were expressed as follows in an E.C.C. press package

- i. Conscription intensifies the violent conflict in our society. This conflict is engendered by a political system which denies most South Africans basic human rights. South Africa is confronted by a civil war. Attempts to stop this by compulsory conscription can only result in escalating violence and further division. Conflict can only be resolved by dismantling the apartheid system and recognising all South Africans as full citizens.
- ii. Conscription prolongs the war in Namibia. South Africa's occupation of Namibia is illegal in terms of international law. The Catholic and Anglican bishops, the Namibian Council of Churches and many other church and human rights groups have called for the withdrawal of South African troops and immediate elections supervised by the united Nations so that the people of Namibia can determine their own future. Forcing people to fight in Namibia will slow down this process.
- iii. Conscription violates a human right - the right of any individual to refuse in conscience to render military service and be granted instead a non-military alternative. Present conscription does not recognise this right.

3. CAMPAIGN TO DATE

Within the year of the campaign's existence it has had a significant impact. Most importantly, millions of South Africans have been exposed to the call, and the campaign has achieved a legitimacy and acceptance even beyond the expectations of its initiators. It can safely be said that the recent shift in policy on conscription on the part of the opposition Progressive Federal Party was partly induced by the pressure of the End Conscription Campaign. (At its federal congress in November 1984 the PFP passed a motion calling for an end to compulsory conscription).

The E.C.C.'s have so far organised two major campaigns. Over May and June 1984 a focus on Namibia was held in Johannesburg and Cape Town. The demand was made for the immediate withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia, as a first step towards ending conscription. Through public meetings, press conferences, pickets, concerts and an intensive media campaign, the attention of the public was drawn to the demand. Three Namibians were brought to South Africa by E.C.C.: Advocate Anton Lubowski, Mr. Hans Röhr (leader of the Namibian Christian Democratic Party) and Pastor Cornelius Kameeta (Vice-president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church).

The second major campaign was the launching of the E.C.C. declaration in October 1984. The declaration was drawn up as a document expressing the underlying reasons for the call to end conscription, and asserting the demand for a just peace in our land. It was endorsed by a range of organisations and prominent individuals (see sec. A5). The public launching of the declaration was seen as a way of publicly putting the campaign on the map.

In Cape Town, the declaration was launched at a public meeting attended by about 1 400 people, and addressed by, amongst others, Revd. Allan Boesak (President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches) and Mrs Sheena Duncan (President of Black Sash). As part of a build-up to the launch a range of activities were held: a press conference, where prominent individuals indicated why they supported the campaign; a rock concert; a church vigil and communion service; a picket demonstration; and an intensive media campaign, which included the production and distribution of T-Shirts, badges, publications and a slide-tape show.

In Johannesburg, the launch of the campaign was affected by the government ban on public meetings in certain areas. They consequently launched the declaration with a "Spring Fair," which was publicly opened by Sheena Duncan and veteran human rights campaigner, Mrs. Helen Joseph. They, too, held a press conference, at which people like Revd. Beyers Naude publicly endorsed the campaign.

In Durban, the campaign was launched through a highly successful public meeting addressed by church leader, Rev. Wesley Mabuza and by Advocate Zac Yacoob of the Natal Indian Congress. As part of a build-up to the launch meeting, a smaller meeting, addressed by Sheena Duncan, and an organisational workshop were held. The workshop attracted a range of organisations and youth groups not yet part of E.C.C., but which were keen to participate in the campaign.

Besides these two major campaigns, the three E.C.C.'s have engaged in a range of activities in order to raise awareness and consolidate support.

These have included:

- Surveys conducted on all English speaking university campuses and in some churches. (The campus surveys indicated a 70% support for the call to end conscription).
- Education seminars and workshops for E.C.C. member organisations.
- A public focus on the August to November Transvaal and Eastern Cape unrest, in which the military played an extensive and repressive role (in Cape Town, a protest meeting, addressed by Professor Francis Wilson, was attended by over 500 people).
- Mass distribution of pamphlets at the time of the July intake into the S.A.D.F.

The major focus of E.C.C.'s work during 1985 will be a campaign around the issue of youth and conscription. The focus will form part of the United Nations International Year of the youth campaign, which is being taken up in South Africa by organisations such as the South African Council of Churches and the United Democratic Front. One of the Year of the Youth themes is "peace" with conscription being seen nationally as an important sub-theme. Already E.C.C. is participating on the S.A.C.C. Year of the Youth Committee.

Besides the youth focus, a range of other focuses and activities are planned:

- . An on-going focus on the Namibian situation, and increasingly close liaison with their anti-conscription campaign.
- . A continuing focus on the role of the military in internal unrest.
- . a focus on the issue of parents and conscription (as a parallel to the youth campaign).
- . Increasing focus on the issue of "Coloured" and Indian conscription.
- . A national conference in July 1985 to draw together as many active supporters of the campaign as possible.

With these activities in mind, E.C.C. has planned its first national conference for January 1985. Delegates will be mandated from each centre to establish common policy and to plan for 1985.

5. E.C.C. STRUCTURE AND CO-ORDINATION

Each local End Conscription Committee has a federal structure and operates as a front of organisations. Any organisation which supports the declaration may join the Committee. Representatives are mandated by their organisations to play a role on the committee. An executive is elected from amongst the delegates to convene meetings and undertake administrative tasks. In addition, the Cape Town and Johannesburg E.C.C.'s have set up their own media committees.

National co-ordination has, up till now, operated on an informal and ad hoc basis. However, the need has now arisen for E.C.C. to structure itself on a national basis. At the January 1985 conference a national co-ordinating committee will take office, with one representative from each region.

While the E.C.C. only operates in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, solid contact has been established with supportive organisations in Pietermaritzburg, Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth. It is envisaged that Pietermaritzburg will be incorporated into a larger Natal region, and that a separate E.C.C. will be established in the Eastern Cape. Close contact has also been established with the emerging anti-conscription campaign in Namibia.

E.C.C. work is carried out entirely by volunteers. However, it has been decided to employ one full-time national field-worker from 1985. His/her tasks will be to assist existing regions, build-up new regions, help ensure efficient national co-ordination, help organise the July conference, and conduct research into the area of conscription and militarisation.

Besides the affiliate organisations in each region, a far larger number of organisations, as well as many prominent individuals, have endorsed the E.C.C. declaration. These organisations and individuals have, through their endorsement, given full support to the work of the E.C.C., although they are generally unable to get involved in the day-to-day work of the committees. A list of some of the endorsers is appended to their application.

6. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

Up until now each region has been entirely self-sufficient with regard to administration and financing. Generally, finances have been obtained in three ways:

- i. For specific campaigns, organisations like the South African Council of Churches and the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference have been applied to (an example of one ad hoc application is appended to this application).
- ii. Finances have been generated through profitable projects; for example, holding concerts and selling T-Shirts and badges.
- iii. Affiliate organisations have paid small amounts of money to cover local administrative costs.

While this way of operating has suited E.C.C.'s needs up until now, it has given rise to certain problems. In particular, it has highlighted the need for national financial co-ordination. Consequently, a national E.C.C. bank account has been opened in Johannesburg and the services of auditors have been procured (details appended to this application). The national co-ordinating committee (with one representative from each region) will function as the responsible structure for the allocation of finances.

7. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS

i. South African Council of Churches

The S.A.C.C. was one of the first organisations to endorse the E.C.C. declaration, when it passed a motion to this effect at its annual conference in June 1984. (The resolution is appended). At a local level, the Western Province Council of Churches (the Cape branch of the S.A.C.C.) is represented on the Cape Town E.C.C., and the W.P.C.C. Ecumenical Officer sits on the Cape Town E.C.C. executive.

S.A.C.C. member churches have also given much support to the campaign. A number have endorsed the declaration, and some are represented on local E.C.C.'s. E.C.C., as was stated earlier, is represented on the S.A.C.C. International Year of the Youth Committee.

ii. United Democratic Front.

E.C.C. is not affiliated to the United Democratic Front, but the two groupings do have close working relationships. While U.D.F. has itself taken up the conscription issue, it has recognised E.C.C. as the foremost grouping heading the anti-conscription campaign. In all centres a number of E.C.C. affiliates are also affiliates of U.D.F. In Cape Town, U.D.F. is directly represented on the End Conscription Committee. And in Cape Town in Johannesburg, E.C.C. is represented on the anti-conscription sub-committee of the U.D.F. Nevertheless, despite this close working relationship, E.C.C. has felt it necessary to remain an autonomous campaign grouping, ~~un~~attached to any outside organisation.

iii. The conscientious Objection Movement

E.C.C. has maintained a very close working relationship with the Conscientious Objector Support Groups throughout the country. As was stated earlier, COSG played the prime initiating role in the setting up of the End Conscription Campaign. In addition, a number of past objectors have been centrally involved in E.C.C.

E.C.C. and the various COSGs play complementary roles. While E.C.C. is conducting a high profile public campaign, COSG is able to give personal support to those individuals who, having been challenged by the message of E.C.C., choose not to serve in the S.A.D.F.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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