

A8.17.2

WAR IS NOT COMPULSORY - LET'S CHOOSE PEACE
THE DURBAN CAMPAIGN SO FAR March 13, 1987

The Durban campaign was officially begun on UND Rag Day - March 28. Campus and Regional collaborated on the building of a float. The float was a colourful peace garden which was surrounded by a graffiti wall which had various ECC slogans spray-painted on. The float was followed by an evil-looking SADF worm which never caught up to the ECC garden! The worm, in fact, collapsed half-way through the procession! Five thousand leaflets, explaining the campaign and the idea of the peace park, were distributed during the procession.

Prior to the campaign, our mailing list stood at approximately 800. It now numbers well over 4000. To inform the Durban public of our new campaign, it was decided to greatly increase the circulation of our media in order to reach out beyond known supporters and sympathisers. Names on our mailing list now include members of professional bodies, lecturer associations, art institutions, and city councillors.

The first mailing included the following items: a pamphlet entitled "What is ECC?", a pamphlet explaining the new campaign, and peace call-up papers.

From an assessment point of view, the media in general was considered good, especially the call-up papers. The latter did have problems though: it attempted to provide too much information on one piece of paper, and the actual events planned were lost in the paragraphs.

In any event, the mailing caused a stir as the chairperson of the local "neo-nazi" club - the Civic Action League - who has been fighting for beach segregation, received a call-up. He blew his top. Durban Arts (he was on their mailing list, which we had obtained) got quite upset, and we received some publicity in the newspapers.

On Thursday 9th April the volunteers meeting was held. A disappointing turn-out of only 50 people. Possibly because of the above mentioned problems with our advertising and that our public work was beginning to get lost in the election hype.

Subsequent events, however, cheered us up immensely. The following night we held a very successful concert in town. The theme of the concert was "Rock against the War" and we brought down the Cherry Faced Lurches to play with 3 local bands. Over 300 people had an amazing jorl. We really made a good public presence with the event. One minor hassle was the power point being fiddled with by "outside forces". Power was out for about 15 minutes.

Prior to these events, the next edition of AT EASE, an 8 page bumper edition, was produced and distributed. The circulation of this edition was increased from 500 to 7000. An attempt was made to explain the campaign in some detail with a front page story leading onto the 2 centre pages.

On Sunday 12th April, our peace call-up projects went ahead:

- * Peace Park clearing
- * mural painting
- * creche decorating.

The first two took place in the Casbah area, a depressed "mixed" area in Durban. Approximately 100 people were involved during the course of the day. The project was carried out in cooperation with the Central Durban Residents Association, although the bulk of the person-power was provided by ECC. The residents of the surrounding streets had been canvassed in a survey and were fully behind the project. One the day, many residents pitched in to help. Amid the dense bush, rubble and garbage was removed. The Keep Durban Beautiful association assisted by carting off the rubbish in 3 hopper loads, which they funded to the tune of R100 per load. Earlier,

a proposal for assistance had been forwarded to the City Council. They procrastinated. We went ahead with the project anyway. The Council has finally indicated that they will probably assist by leveling the area, and by providing grass and park equipment. The irony is that the councillor for the area is also a colonel in the SADF, and is the PRO for Natal Command! He desperately tried to down play ECC's involvement, which of course we would not hear of! The day after the event, anti-ECC graffiti appeared near the park. One of the slogans was: "ECC = ANC".

The other project took place in Asherville, an Indian community on the outskirts of Durban. This involved creating a colourful environment for kids at a local creche through the painting of murals on the creche walls. 35 people were involved in this project, including a few of the kids who attend the creche.

All in all, the first high profile part of the campaign was successful. We certainly did, however, experience a certain amount of burn-out, trying to cram a lot into a short time period.

We originally had planned a major public meeting for the National Day of Concern on the 23rd. The City Hall was booked by us for the 22nd, and Helen Joseph accepted to be the main speaker. We soon ran into problems with the anti-white elections coalition who wished to hold a public meeting the same week. As a result, we handed over both the venue and speaker to the coalition. We had a table in the foyer to sell and distribute our media.

For the Day of Concern, a large sympathy card was constructed. 450 people signed the card during the day on campus and then that evening at the meeting. The following morning, on the 23rd, the card was handed over by a 5 women delegation at the main gates of Natal Command. The reception was hostile and the five and a photographer were detained by military personnel for about 45 minutes.

A lunch-time prayer service was held around the fountain in the courtyard of the Ecumenical Centre. Approximately 50 people attended. That evening, ECC members planted 5 trees at the peace park. Pamphlets explaining the Day of Concern were distributed at the public meeting and on Tech and Varsity campuses.

The "General" slogan was placed as an advert in the Daily News the night before the elections, and posters with the same slogan appeared at both Varsity and Tech.

Numerous ECC members were involved, as individuals, in the UND Berea Road placard demonstration on Election Day. Of the 40 arrested, about 10 were ECC members. Again, numerous ECC members were in the protest march on the UND campus on the following day. 2 members were sjambokked, and 2 arrested and held overnight. ECC organised a legal placard stand for the following morning - May 8th. 15 placard-holding teams (two in each team) stood at 15 major intersections in Durban during rush-hour traffic. The placards read: "LEGALISE PREACEFUL PROTEST". There was a good response from the general public.

During the course of the Durban Film Festival, we had a table at most of the "civil rights" type films. We distributed media, and sold buttons, campaign t-shirts and records. Quite a few new members were recruited through the table.

General

1. We felt it was a real struggle to wage a campaign at the same time as the elections, because of all the election hype, and because the mood of the election campaigns was so reactionary. Perhaps if we had tried to specifically orientate ourselves to the election as such, we might have had an easier time. But then we were not that comfortable

getting so close to the election. In summary: we ran a very good campaign, but it might have been even better, and reached an even wider audience, if we did not have the elections to compete with.

2. The peace park project has been phenomenally successful. This is mainly due to good ground work by ECC activists who live in the area and have the trust of the people. They have not only mobilised the people of the area, they have also mobilised the City Council to take the area seriously (see newspaper cuttings). The ECC has gained a tremendous amount of respect out of the project. The local ratepayers association has agreed to maintain the park and pursue its development, but ECC will always be credited in the local history with having taken the initiative in this project.
3. In the campaign so far, we feel we have addressed the issue of positively choosing peace, and working for it, and we have raised the issue of the costs. We feel that the next phase of the campaign could focus on the issue of choice, with possibly a major focus on Namibia. Of course, troops out of the townships would be an important theme. A new campaign coordinating sub-committee is being formed. We have made it clear though that we really want the bulk of the work to be done by the general sub-committees, as a way of developing them.

SUB-COMMITTEES

Kulcha

Functioning well. 8 "regulars". Recently recruited another 6 "regulars". Meets on a weekly basis. Have produced wonderful banners, buttons and a campaign t-shirts. Virtually our entire stock of saleable media is now sold. Responsible for co-ordinating of table at the Film Festival. Arranged and coordinated the "Rock against the War" concert, at which a small profit of R300 was made!

Exciting new projects:

- * an anti-war film festival;
- * formation of a drama group, working on two productions for the near future;
- * hopefully another big concert.

Media

Started with a bang. However, most of the original 15 dropped out, placing a strain on the remaining 5 or so who had to produce the second edition of AT EASE. However, it is now revitalized, having about 10 "regulars". Many bring with them media skills and experience. Future for Durban media looks promising.

Churches

What last year was possibly the strongest sub-comm has encountered some organising problems. They have failed to mobilise the support they used to have. However, about 6 people are rallying around and are planning activities. They have already produced a pamphlet which has been sent to the churches, and are planning to produce a resource list of relevant war and peace material and people who can address the issues.

Schools

Started for the first time in Durban in February. Originally about 16, now down to about 7 "regulars".. As expected, there are numerous teething problems, including harassment of the pupils. Main function at the moment is to start a "fanzine" aimed at pupils. First edition hopefully to come out at end of June. Other activities include media skills and button making workshops, fortnightly meetings, and 3 braais. Attempting to integrate more into general ECC activities. Predominance of females.

Education

Recently started. Will arrange a monthly seminar. Will provide a more consistent educational input, including a focus on skills training.

Contact

Recently revitalized. Has divided the work into 3 clusters:

1. press
2. general liaison (affiliates, other organisations, VIPs etc.)
3. recruitment and orientation of new members. This group has produced a draft membership document.

CAMPUS

Campus ECC has been very successful this year, maintaining a constant presence on campus through pamphlets, posters, stickers and an information booth which is set up on campus at various times.

Relations with NUSAS are good. During the recent student protests, ECC members (not officially as ECC) played a key role in strategising and organising the activities.

DSA has been a problem, but ECC has now challenged them to a public debate.

G E N E R A L A S S E S S M E N T

On the whole, we feel good about the WINC campaign work we have done. Campus has recruited over 170 active and associate members. Regional has recruited 70 new associate members and 20 new active members. The sub-committees are starting to work well. We have about 30 members at our General Body meetings.

We are still able to meet on a regular basis, which helps with our general cohesion. We have changed to a cluster rendezvous system, where each Coordinating Committee person is responsible for making arrangements for getting to the meetings with the same group of members each time.

We have more people, more enthusiasm, and more structures (!) than at the beginning of the year. The Education sub-committee will ensure internal development takes place in a purposeful manner.

On the whole, morale is good and cohesion is improving. However, we all feel rather depressed about national developments, and share an anxiety over future state action against ECC.

National coordination and our feel for national issues is not so good, partly because communication under the security circumstances is difficult. Also, Durban specific issues tend to dominate our meetings, because of their immediacy, and because national issues have a lower priority time-wise in meetings.

Inter-regional contact has not been very good. We had good contact with PMB earlier in the year, but that seemed to wither away as we both became more busy. Lack of such contact with other regions is a pity, but the fact is that it is not crucial. All the regions proceed with their campaigns anyway. The National Day of Concern was a positive experience of national unity. Even though we did not know precisely what all the other regions were doing, it was nice to know that other regions were all doing something, even if only fasting!

Our front work is virtually non-existent at the moment. The contact group has taken it as a matter of urgency to assess the situation and make recommendations. One of the things we have realised is that, from a time and energy point of view, we cannot expect front reps to fully participate in our activities. We think this kind of expectation has tended to scare

away possible reps. So we need to look for a new way of incorporating them which is beneficial to both parties.

The way we came out on the alliance/coalitions question was:

1. Stick to our single issue as a priority.
2. Take up other issues which directly affect us e.g. detentions, freedom of speech and press.
3. Have observer status on groupings which deal with other issues, and pull in as individuals as much as possible.

We realise though that we will have to face the issue again when the next coalition issue comes along. The results of the election, and the threat all extra-parliamentary groups are under, may cause us to reevaluate at that point.

We have had some discussion of the general question of ECCs future direction. Besides the obvious concerns about banning, funds cut off etc., the group looked at our target group and how the election results influence our strategy in reaching them.

The election showed that a "moderate" ticket is a bit of a blind alley. "Moderates" have been at the centre of our defined constituency up until now. Perhaps we need to go for the fringes - groups like punks, nightclub goers etc. One member in our group feels very strongly that we have a great potential following there. The establishment is not where its at.

The issue of expanding to black areas, especially "coloured" and Indian was also discussed. On the one hand, they are a logical area to expand into because of potential conscription, and because we have a lot of support there anyway. On the other hand, the point of view was put that our natural base is in the white community because for them/us it is a gut issue, and it has an immediate sense of urgency. When/if it becomes such an issue for those communities, then would be the time to organise there. And anyway, we have to be careful of intruding on other groups organisational terrain.

In general, with respect to expansion and direction, ECC should be cautious, and not do anything which may sacrifice the gains we have made so far, especially in the white community.

DURBAN REGIONAL WORKER'S REPORT 1987

It has been a very busy year.

My tasks were to :-

- run the administration of Durban ECC
- staff the office
- do the general 'shlep' work ie running around
- assist with the re-establishment of sub-committees
- assist with the expansion of the organisation.

All of this somehow happened, with certain areas being neglected. I tended to put a lot of effort and time into the latter 3. ~~Not~~ Not that the administration collapsed, or the office wasn't staffed but these 2 areas could have been more adequately worked at, had I devoted them more time and energy.

- In terms of general administration a lot of the work was not carried out in a very consistent manner. Finances were worked on in quite an ad hoc basis with the treasurer. I maintained the filing system and vastly increased its contents but never got round to actually re-organising it. A task for the next worker! With the help of others our membership and mailing lists have increased dramatically. Part of the mailing list is kept on computer disks. The rest have to be photo-stated onto labels as we require them. Updating and general re-organising of these lists to make their use more efficient must be a

priority for the next worker. Newspapers, magazines, etc were scanned on a daily basis for interesting articles and we are in the process of compiling an enormous pile of newsclippings into Resource files under numerous categories. Yet another mammoth task still to be completed (actually an ongoing one.)

- Staffing the office. Until recently I have attempted to be in the office for most of the day unless I was at a latin lecture or I was running around doing 'shlep' work. Particularly during busy times of the year, this meant I sometimes only spent minutes in the office, dashing in and out on errands. The answering machine has been of invaluable use. The problem with this arrangement was that for visitors or ECC members without keys, unless an appointment was made, seeing me was sometimes hit and miss. There should be a set time during the day where the worker will always be in the office. This time should be advertised. 'Shlep' and other work should be done outside this period. I tried to make the office more of a working office by bringing in 2 small desks for others to work at, and having tea & coffee available. There were times when the office was like a little factory (actually the size is a problem - more than 4 is a bit of a squash!) but I felt sub-committees could have made more use of the office.

- The running around ~~consumed~~ often consumed a major part of the day. Fetching, transporting, arranging, errands etc. Many an hour was spent in the motor-car.
- Establishment of sub-committees and general expansion.
In 1986 sub-committees had collapsed and many members lost due to the circumstances in that year. I felt one of my key tasks was to help get sub-comms going again. This was the 'unpaid' part of the job and meant attending countless meetings and being involved in a lot of 'after-hours' work. Except during particular times, I did not ~~play~~ spend much time with Churches and Campus but was regularly involved with all other sub comms - media, culture, schools, contact (and co-ordinating committee). Where there were particular gaps I tried to fill them or attempted to motivate/train others to do it. Thus media took up a lot of time. Culture - being a busy committee I merely attended meetings to more or less take 'instructions' ie to do things for them. Schools (now referred to as Pupils Peace Group) had to be started from scratch.
Being in touch with most sub-committee (a role for next year's Vice-Chair) I took on a general co-ordinating role and was ^{often} generally (wrongly) seen as head of ECC.

On the positive side all committees were revived and generally functioned well during the year with a comparatively large influx of new members (most

unfortunately of the LAG ie dormant type). On the negative side this level of activity, besides taking its personal toll on me, meant I was 'spread' ~~pretty~~ very wide. Often not being able to give a lot of attention to any one particular area, but doing a bit here and there, & the development of some activists and the restructuring of the organization (in terms of the co-ordinating committee) I believe, will ensure that advances made this year will be consolidated and built on.

In conclusion, a tiring (but sometimes enjoyable) year - ~~I do to be a plan time together~~. 1987 was crucial in that we had to 'come together' and assert ourselves as a viable organization in Durban. In terms of the Admin worker next year, I believe it wise that the job be defined strictly to limit the work to administration. This person should then limit his or herself to not more than 2 subcommittees (for reasons of sanity!)

DURBAN ECC REPORT - 24 MARCH 1988

NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS:

Durban lost a significant number of experienced active members at the end of 1987 and the beginning of 1988 (overseas, to ECC National and to other regions). We have found this reduction in numbers, coupled with a more decisive autonomy of the Campus Branch, to be a serious problem. What remains is a maximum pool of 25 from which GB attendance can be drawn, and perhaps 25 additional members in sub-coms. Getting new members has become a priority. It is disturbing that sub-coms sometimes seem to consist of the same small core group of people under different names.

REGION'S ACTIVITIES

This period has not been a big one as far as public activity is concerned. We have covered the following:

- (a) Ivan Toms - a successful vigil and a fairly small public meeting. Churches sub-com has been strong. (Campus - see separately).
- (b) A public Know Your Rights meeting. Attendance was small but it was generally felt to be useful.
- (c) An issue of At Ease has been prepared and is nearly ready for distribution - BUT no money.
- (d) Talks with Idasa over their plans for setting up a branch in Durban.
- (e) Talks with the US Embassy and a member of the US National Security Council. We established useful links. (and got rid of 7 diaries).
- (f) Preparation for a Kulcha Concert of music on the 1st of April.
- (g) Set up of a Kulcha sub-com off-shoot called 'Music Com', launched mainly to bring Durban musicians together to support ECC and produce an album ("Durban Poison").
- (h) A successful Outreach meeting was held for new members and others interested in knowing more about ECC. Over 40 people attended. A brief dramatic beginning proved extremely successful as did the guest speaker (Peter Kerchoff). Quite a number of new members signed up. Also encouraging was the spread of ages and the general enthusiasm (reflected in the results of an end of meeting survey). These meetings form part of a general membership drive.

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT

- * An effort is being made to use outside resources for training and education wherever possible. Several useful courses/seminars have been attended by members.
- * A workshop was held on advice counselling, with some useful practical demonstrations. Attendance was about twelve. This will be followed up with a training course.

- * GB's are now divided into two distinct sections - a business section and a less formal educative/discussion section. Two immediate areas planned for discussion are participation in meetings, and the national campaign.
- * Note that we have a catch 22 situation in Durban - the problem of not wanting to really concentrate on training and education until we have recruited enough new members, and yet at the same time needing to do so immediately.
- * A security session was held which included items such as preparation for detention.

MORALE

This has fluctuated wildly since the general high experienced by the twenty Durban people who attended conference, with individuals and groups of individuals experiencing quite marked highs and lows. This has led to some morale problems which are being evaluated. Part of the problem may be that Durban ECC needs to become more action oriented. Some members are having trouble feeling that we are making a meaningful and real contribution to peace and justice in South Africa.

SECURITY

- * We take our security procedure re infiltration quite seriously and have had occasion to apply it in practice.
- * Security as regards meetings has been the subject of some debate and has not yet been satisfactorily resolved.
- * Our session on security was noted above.

FRONT

We hold a monthly organisational forum with reps from ECC and subscriber organisations attending. The main purpose of these meetings is two-way communication, concentrating particularly on ECC issues. There are currently six paid up subscriber organisations but we are hoping to increase this soon. Note that in Durban we do not operate as a front.

NATIONAL CONTACT

National contact has not been good, but this has mainly been the fault of the region. Clare was unavoidably not able to work in Durban and we missed her.

REPRESSION

Very little in this period. In fact nothing beyond minor, isolated instances of personal harassment.

DURBAN REPORT TO NC - 31 MAY 1988

1. Number of active members

We have between 25-30 active members but from our membership drive we hope to draw more people into the organisation by enabling them to participate actively in the Campaign for Alternative National Service (ANS).

2. Region's activities

2.1 April was basically taken up with the resignation of Tam and the entire co-ordinating committee (which then functioned as a "caretaker committee"). We then undertook a thorough re-appraisal of our structures and came up with an unanimously agreed new structure. And then we had elections for a new co-ordinating committee, which were again unanimous. We now have a fully functioning committee, except for a treasurer, which we're still looking for (we have a caretaker treasurer at the moment).

2.2 Kulcha Com organised one of the most successful activities done in Durban: a concert which drew about 450 people. They had a rather smaller concert more recently.

2.3 Plans are going ahead for the production of an album featuring Durban bands, to be called State of Urgency. There will be a competition for the cover and a know-your-rights sheet will be included in the cover. We hope to have this discussed at NC.

2.4 We hosted the anti-war movie The Journey at the Durban International Film Festival. Tam and Gary gave input at the start and during intervals.

2.5 Another At Ease hit the streets in April of which we are all very proud. It has been distributed at public meetings, flea-markets etc. Media Com are working on another one for mid-June. We need to improve our distribution channels.

2.6 Churches sub-com held a successful skills-and-direction-development weekend away. They produced a pamphlet and press statements for Cassinga Day and held an early morning Memorial Service on the beach in front of Natal Command on the 4th of May. About 40 people attended.

2.7 Contact Sub-com had a useful meeting with the Portuguese Consul and is thinking of making regular PR visits to the consulates in Durban.

2.8 Our most recent activities have focussed on the ANS Campaign. Our last GB was devoted to this and we now have the following campaign working groups: KYR Book Launch; KYR meetings; alternative service projects; call-up protest; lobbying and fund

raising. Kulcha Com will take responsibility for media. Our campaign group consists of about 20 people, almost half of whom are new. We hope to draw in more people as we go along.

3. Internal development

None has happened recently. With our new monthly GB format of 1/3 business/campaign and 2/3 education, we aim to develop our internal education. The next GB's topic is Alternative Service - looking at what happens in other countries, the history of efforts here, the current situation, the SACBC project etc. Future internal education will look at such issues as JMC's, Angola, women and militarization.

4. Morale

After the April slough of despond there is a definite up-beat vibe in the organisation now. The co-ordinating committee is feeling good about itself and having 30 people at the May GB (first of the new-type format) was a real boost. We have had grassroots participation in the formation of our ANS Campaign and there is a sense of direction and anticipation for the next few months.

5. Security

Our meetings are a lot more open now, but we still need to keep our ear to the ground. We will be implementing a "how to handle police intervention" process for our GB meetings. We are currently using our investigation procedure with a possible informer.

6. Front

While we do not operate as a front we have monthly Organisational Forums for our subscriber organisations where we swap information and co-ordinate activities. This area needs to be given more attention.

7. National contact

While Gary felt that his time was somewhat wasted during April it was helpful to have him here over that period. Now that we are up and running again we are looking forward to having Claire with us for a few weeks. We haven't made any effort to link up with PMB.

8. Repression

There have been no smeArs against ECC in Durban and only one activist has received a threatening phone call. We can expect repression to increase as the campaign intensifies.

DURBAN ECC'S DYNAMIC PLAN OF ACTION FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER
1990:

- AUG: Motivation for fieldworker to N.C.
War toy campaign (send material to magazines)
Start planning At Ease
- SEPT: SADF Know Your Rights campaign begins
Clean up and Know Your Rights' workshop in
Amawoti
Plan & begin drafting At Ease
Recruitment - new membership forms to be drawn
up by exec.
Mike Graaf - public meetings (4)
Draft Know Your Rights' media
Meet ANC
- OCT: Employ fieldworker (hopefully!)
Begin monitoring
Oct 2 - Mike Graaf's trial
SADF Know Your Rights' consultation process
begins
Plan war toys campaign
- NOV: Begin planning peace festival
Plan welcoming evening for returned exiles
At Ease comes out mid-month
Distribute Know Your Rights' media
- DEC: Welcoming evening for exiles
War toy action.
- FEBRUARY: Peace festival.

Explanations:

- At Ease' = ECC Durban newspaper/publication
Know Your Rights' = campaign to let township (especially)
know what their rights are with regard to the SADF.
Peace Festival' - see proposal
Fieldworker' - see proposal

Tanya.

ECC - UNIVERSITY OF NATAL, DURBAN BRANCH REPORT

Durban Campus branch has not really featured much in the time from the National Conference to now. The NC was held in May and following this was exam time on campus. We distributed the CCB pamphlets from UCT at exam venues and around campus. Unfortunately, because students were writing exams and then holidaying - no real follow up work could be done on this issue. This semester campus has not been active. Attempts to get meetings off the ground have not been successful and the majority of the group are involved in working within the regional organisation as well as other groupings, such as the ANC etc. ECC has taken part in general campus activities such as the Natal violence campaign that has been hosted by NUSAS and SANSCO and various other days of protest action including the calling for the release of political prisoners including the release of COs. There have been no pure ECC campaigns as such though. We are awaiting posters from UCT and were going to do some more media and input into this particular campaign but this has not yet arrived and so, as the initiative is rather low at the moment, nothing has been completed.

The group is very small at present but we all seem to be able to relate to one another and get on well with each other. There is a problem with commitment at the moment to the campus branch itself but most of them are regular attendants at the regional meetings. There are many good campaign ideas that are flying around campus at the moment from the members but nothing concrete is being done about them.

There are no internal education and training programmes at the moment - the members generally attend the majority of "political" meetings on campus but there is not much specific conscription and militarisation E & T happening. A

major reason for this is the difficulty in getting meetings together. The production of full blown campaigns is in itself an education process but these have not occurred so education is at a low point at the moment.

We have a good standing with other organisations and are always invited to join and assist any campus campaign work. We held discussions with various campus organisations to consult around the planned Welkom action and this proved very fruitful and productive. I personally know many of the campus activists and am on a sound footing with them and this is used to the advantage of ECC as we get publicity in the campus newspaper and are always consulted as regards campaign work.

We feel that campus ECC has much potential and can become a great force to be reckoned with on campus. We need to host a large and hopefully successful recruitment drive as well as a couple of campaigns to highlight important conscription related issues, COs as well as looking at the role of the so-called unbiased security forces and their role in the continuing Natal violence. We are coming up for the September vac and after that hit the final term which we must make good and positive use of. Campus has to wake up a tad and get moving again. WE HAVE BEEN SILENT FOR TOO LONG !

DURBAN ECC REPORT FOR N.C. - AUGUST 1988

1. NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

Our membership has increased to 60 and we have drawn in a handful of new members into active work, bringing active members to about 30.

2. REGIONS ACTIVITIES

The period since last N.C. has been the busiest this year, as we reached the peak of the A.N.S. Campaign. See attached letter for overview of the Campaign in Durban.

SPECIFIC CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES HAVE INCLUDED

- 4 Know Your Rights meetings on a house meeting format. They were small but significant in that they used some of our subscriber organisations (eg. Cosg, Diakonia) and broke new ground (eg. a workshop for Church Workers, an address to a Womens Institute meeting);
- KYR book launch attended by a disappointing 40 people, including 3 M.P.'s from PFP and NDM. Prof. McQuoid-Mason, Dean of the Law Faculty, spoke.
- KYR in the SADF booklet advertising and distribution. It is for sale on campus and in about 6 town bookshops and has been selling quite well.
- 3 street actions: pamphlet distribution at the Durban July, the Durban Tatroo, and the call-up, where 15 activists distributed 2000 KYR pamphlets, David Bruce pamphlets and stickers.
- a Service for Conscripts and their families the Sunday before the call-up week.
- some media/stickers, but we need new ideas!
- sent out a lobbying letter to leadership/public figures in different sectors, asking them to support the lobby for alternative service, and to support a public statement (the one given out at last N.C.)
- groundwork has been done for ASP's. There have been difficulties with renewed violence/assasinations in the townships, which has prevented us from finalising a project.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 2 David Bruce meetings.
- a small David Bruce placard stand.
- a meeting with a PFP MP to raise our concerns re Dave Bruce's sentence, and alternative service; in parliament.
- a hugely successful fund-raising concert.
- another amazing At Ease has hit the streets!
- 2 joint meetings with PMB - but follow-up lacking.

Our evaluation of our work over this time is that we have done a huge amount, without about 5 key activists who were not around for various reasons, and we did this with minimum burn-out. Our call-up action was the most successful and well-prepared ever done in Durban, However, as always, there were areas for improvement: more peripheral members should have been drawn in; advertising for KYR meetings could have been more organised...

3. INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT

It was good to have Claire with us, although her time was not as constructive as it could have been due to her having to travel frequently between Durban and PMB. However, her input and national perspective were very valuable, particularly the security workshop run for members of ECC and our subscriber-organisations.

Internal development has also happened at our monthly GB's. In June we looked at alternative service - in S.A. and elsewhere; in July we had academic/analytical input on Angola and experiential input from four vets who have done service outside R.S.A.; in August we had expert input and discussion on the states' WHAM strategy, JMC's etc, and implications for our work.

We have had one meeting to integrate new members.

4. FUTURE PLANS

Priorities for the next 2 months are (not in order of priority)

- setting up a vets/conscripts group.
- beginning to implement the activists' training programme - this is crucial for our longer-term well-being.
- membership drive.
- get our ASP up and running.
- a joint public meeting on Angola with other organisations.
- a protest action workshop.
- looking at the October Municipal elections at our September GB.

5. MORALE

There's been a sense of cohesiveness within the structures of the organisation; we've been working well together and relationships have been good; we've been getting out to the public and onto the streets; branch has been caught napping on a few occasions and we've won a few rounds of the battle. All of this adds up to a sense of enthusiasm, of feeling good about ECC and a generally good level of morale

6. SECURITY

This has been lax and we've agreed that we need to be more vigilant. We have had indications of branch getting inside information. Although this doesn't seem to have helped them at all, we need to be more careful, but not paranoid.

7. FRONT

Our monthly Organisational Forum meeting with subscriber organisations has not been working. We are looking at the reasons why, and exploring other possible ways of being in touch with them.

8. NATIONAL CONTACT

As already mentioned, Clare has provided us with valuable national contact and perspective, and it has been nice not to have to find vacant phone-booths every week. There has been some concern that the new phone-around system may be taking the seeming slackening of state security too much for granted; we need to continually assess this.

9. REPRESSION

Continues to be minimal. A number of activists have received threatening/strange phone calls and visits from odd people. No further developments on investigations under "subversive statement" Emergency regulations for our Cassinga pamphlet.

VIVA ECC!

Durban



Regiment

TEL. 373468/9

DR/
PRIVATE BAG
SNELL PARADE
4074

14 February 1992

Dear Member

I am writing this letter to you because I am convinced that 1992 is going to be one of the most critical years in the history of our Country and our Regiment. We fellow South Africans and members of a fine Regiment will need to stand firm as we are the last line of stability. If we break and forget our loyalty to our Country and our Regiment then all that is left is anarchy. No right thinking person wants chaos and mayhem.

It is important that we constantly bear in mind that our Regiment defines our enemy as "any person or organisation who tries to replace the existing legally elected government structures by means of violent or other unconstitutional means". In this respect we are not the Regiment of a specific political party but we owe our professional status and respected position to the fact that we are the upholders of the constitution.

The S.A.D.F. and the S.A.P. are presently facing the most determined challenge in their history to the very roots and fabric of their structures. This attack is of such a magnitude that it is not yet clear whether they will survive. We, the Durban Regiment, are an integral part of the S.A.D.F. and we should question the reasons for this attack. Granted there are valid arguments why the S.A.D.F. should become smaller and have less of the budget allocated to it, the unfairness of the present National Service system, the disruption caused to the economy by the camp system. No person can really disagree with these arguments but the major problem is that no one appears to be making the case for the retention of a strong, effective and credible S.A.D.F. We, the members of Durban Regiment, can make that case. We must be prepared to stand up for what we believe to be right or we must face the risk of being damned by history as a Regiment that failed its country during her time of need.

Our loved ones and the South African population need to have the knowledge that when the chips are down we will rise to the occasion as the men of past generations have done. As your Commanding Officer I am relying on you to do your duty as a man. It will tax your ability to the limit but I am sure that you will succeed.

Good luck for the future and best wishes to your loved ones.

N GOLDSTONE
Officer Commanding : Durban Regiment Cmt.

GIVE OUR MEN A CHOICE

Names of the Natal women who have signed the petition calling for alternatives to military service:

1. B Emslie; 5 Musgrave Mansions, Musgrave Road.
2. Name withheld
3. S Burns; 9 Forest View Drive.
4. R Rycroft; 15 Meyrick Ave, Glenwood.
5. J Bradbury; 11 Elgie Road, Glenwood.
6. P Geerds; 28 Falmonth Ave, Glenwood.
7. W Anneeke; 21 Chistlehurst Close, Brighton Beach.
8. J Karlsson; 511 Windermere Road, Durban.
9. B Schofield; 12 Brookland Court, Durban.
10. A Feuilherade; 7 Kent Gardens, Durban.
11. Y Smith; 4 Northmoor Avenue.
12. Name withheld
13. Name withheld
14. C de Klerk; 11 Aubrey Drive, Glenashley.
15. M J Ellis; 17 Glenmore crescent.
16. C J Stewart; 5 Everglades North, Prospect Hall Road.
17. J Luyt; 134 Clark Road, Durban.
18. A Hobden; 80 Adams Road, Hayfields, PMB.
19. C Spitals; 82 Forsdick Road, Glenmore.
20. P Calmeyle; 4 Durnford Ave, La Lucia.
21. R Koffman; 10 Wills Court, Durban.
22. H Barker; 8 Wills Court, Durban.
23. A De Badt; 6 Wills Court, Durban.
24. H Marler; 17 Courtney Mansions, Durban.
25. S Stokes; 3 Forest Hill, Durban.
26. G Wheal; 50 Athlone Rd.
27. M J Howard; 6 Dorianna House, 124 Madeline Rd, Durban.
28. N Ramsden; 33 Waller Cres, Roseglen.
29. M Bailie; 36 Willowvale Rd, Glenwood.
30. A Tucker; 3 Church Place, Mt Edgecombe.
31. E Jones; 15 Kildare Rd, Glenwood.
32. Y Hunt; 92 Esselmount Ave, Berea.
33. C Govender; 145, 11th Ave, Morningside.
34. B Stott; 272 Sydenham Rd.
35. P Moore; 339 Florida Road, Durban.
36. Name withheld.
37. C Vinse; 37 Earlswood Place, Durban North.
38. J A R Stretton; 19A Davenport Road.
39. Name withheld.
40. K E Smith; 47 Nelson Road.
41. R Posel; 2 Chancellor Mews, Berea.
42. J Davis; 15 Petrea Place.
43. R Olivier; 209 Cowey Rd, Durban.
44. A L Lang; 5 Southwold, Pinetown.
45. R Kidson; 265 Ridge Road, Durban.
46. A Jackson; 134 Clark Road, Durban.
47. P A Clarke; Box 17218, Congella.
48. C Scott; 6 Philmyr Crt, Overport.
49. S Grobler; 461 Frere Road, Glenwood.

50. C A Prescott; 2 Derfred, Glenwood.
51. C Battiss; 1 Nunhead Rd, Durban.
52. G Battiss; Panorama Farm, Port Edward.
53. E Stephens; 9 Leslie Ave, Rosehill.
54. V Francis; 9 Leslie Ave, Rosehill.
55. L Phipson, 4 Morris Hudson Ave, Glenwood.
56. C Lockett; Dept of English, UND
57. M Daymond; Dept of English, UND.
58. L Palazzo; Dept of English, UND.
59. L Wass; 23 High Ridge, Durban.
60. Name withheld.
61. Name withheld.
62. Name withheld.
63. Name withheld.
64. Name withheld.
65. Name withheld.
66. Name withheld.
67. Name withheld.
68. Name withheld.
69. Name withheld.
70. K S Burns; Box 171 Gillitts.
71. P J Benson; 10 Hillside Cres, Cowies Hill.
72. P C Frow; 17 Edward Drive, Gillitts.
73. A J Gumede; 3521 40th Ave.
74. M S Mogoba; 62 Salisbury Ave, Westville.
75. D Ngubane; 53 Maurice Nichols, Pinetown.
76. E M M Kane; 716 Kings Rd.
77. J Brien; Box 374, Eshowe.
78. B Esselen; Box 169, Kokstad.
79. M Franks; Flat 12, 14 Villa Road.
80. P Harris; 360 Florida Rd, Durban.
81. S Goldman; 40 Anerley Rd, Morningside.
82. A Frost; 23 Stanley Teale Rd, Westville.
83. J Lawrenson; 203 Iranema Beach, Umhlanga.
84. H Hawke; Box 163, Bothas Hill.
85. G Lockley; 40 Abelia Rd, Kloof.
86. M Grice; 148 Everton Rd, Gillitts.
87. A Gunthorp; 34 Entabeni Rd, Sarnia.
88. A Colvin; 321 St Thomas Rd, Durban.
89. L Jubb; 59 Blenheim Rd, Pinetown.
90. P Didcott; 129 Rosetta Rd, Durban.
91. J Keith; 90 Coedmore Ave, Yellowwood Park.
92. G Leslie; 409 Innes Rd.
93. P Kiernan; 114 Rapson Road.
94. N Foord; 17 Cunningham Rd, Durban.
95. J Sutherland; 71 Innes Road, Durban.
96. J Mindry; 17 Cunningham Road, Durban.
97. Name withheld.
98. Name withheld.
99. E Lyster; 72 Hunt Rd, Durban.
100. J Mackellar; 12 Latham Gardens.
101. T Baskin; 24 Lochleigh Park.
102. S A Nilsen; 37 Broadway.
103. S Keil; 20 A Adrienne Rd, Ballito.

104. J Zingel; Box 379, Kloof.
105. L C Sutton; 114 Girvan Ave, Durban North.
106. L Jedson, 309 Willsborough, Seaview.
107. A Gritten; 619 Main Rd, Northdene.
108. Z Hermes Baird; 45 Kenmom Rd, Bellair.
109. V Tallis; 3 Redhill Rd, Seaview.
110. S Holland-Muter; 3 Redhill Rd, Seaview.
111. J McKay; 3 Redhill Rd, Seaview.
112. C Argent; 51 Pietermaritz Street, Pmb.
113. J Cullinan; 6 Mansfield Rd, Durban.
114. A McKay; 11 Kingsley, 23 Brand Rd, Durban.
115. Name withheld.
116. Name withheld.
117. A Kroon; 10 Endel Place, Seaview.
118. D Thaw; 21 Sycamore Rd, Glenwood.
119. S Jonsson; 133 Davenport Rd, Glenwood.
120. L Browning; 150 A Botanic Gardens Rd, Durban.
121. P Steele; 60 Silver Ave, Durban.
122. E Lewis; 290 Blackburn Rd, Durban.
123. R Louw; 80 Cherry Avenue, Overport.
124. J Lockett; 134 Clark Rd, Glenwood.
125. A Kromberg; 24 Dalton Rd, Bellair.
126. A Broughton; 50 Seaforth Ave, Durban.
127. J Shier; 322 South Ridge Rd, Durban.
128. B Townsend; 73 Pioneer Rd, Northdene.
129. L Bedford; 21 Cherry Place, Overport.
130. L Lewis; 16 Carol Rd, Durban.
131. A Sampson; 19 Greenwich Crescent, Malvern.
132. L Torr; 133 Penzance Rd, Glenwood.
133. B Woods; 14 Cecil Fisher Rd, Cowies Hill.
134. C Munro; 14 Carol Rd, Glenwood.
135. D Posel; 98 Manor Drive, Manor Gardens.
136. Name withheld.
137. S Hassim; 33 Imerson Rd, Durban.
138. J Williams; 11 Ocean Serenade, Vause Rd, Durban.
139. V Kruger; 10 Latham Gardens, Durban.
140. M Louis; 24 Chelmsford Rd, Berea.
141. H Brooks; 35 Wynwood, St Andrews Street, Durban.
142. N Hurt; 28 Ocean View Rd, Winklespruit.
143. D Kerr; 45 Covendale, 296 Cowey Rd, Durban.
144. S Dewar; 10 Cycad Park, 23 Underwood Rd, Durban.
145. Name withheld
146. S Uys; 21 Charles Rd, Glenwood.

To C. & P. ministers invited in 1992 Sunday (PESA)
x to Naureen x Stephen Berkes.

28 Lower Main Road,
Observatory.
7925 Cape Town.
Tel 021-47-2881

10th October 1992

Dear Friend,

NON-COOPERATION WITH THE CALL-UP SYSTEM

I have undertaken to contact ministers of the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches who might want to support the current opposition to military conscription in a tangible way. (I must apologise for being a bit tardy in doing so.)

As you may know, the Government recently passed the Defence Amendment Act which extended the area of legal objection to military service, somewhat modified the penalties for non-compliance, and tightened up loopholes in the call-up system. Conscription as such, however, remains.

Richard Rule, supported by the End Conscription Campaign (ECC), applied unsuccessfully to the courts for a declaration that the conscription of "whites only" is discriminatory and unjust since the repeal of the Population Registration Act. Legal opinion is that this argument might still be successful if offered as defence in court by a person refusing to serve, but such a case has not yet arisen.

The ECC, in consultation with the CO Support Groups and the Conscription Advice Service, has now launched the Register described in the enclosed leaflet, and is seeking persons of some prominence in the public field who will support those who sign the register by indicating that they recommend and encourage such non-cooperation. This can be done either by:

- (a) using some public occasion to state one's support, such as Remembrance Day (noting that in both World Wars the SA Government of the day did not impose conscription), or
- (b) allowing the ECC to publish one's name as an advocate of this refusal to comply.

In doing this one should note Section 121(c) of the Defence Act which states:

Any person who...uses any language or does any act or thing with intent to recommend to, encourage, aid, incite, instigate, suggest or otherwise cause any other person or any category of persons or persons in general to refuse or fail to render any service to which such other person or a person of such category or persons in general is or are liable or may become liable in terms of this Act, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand rand or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

(This clause was introduced in 1974 when the SACC National Conference adopted a motion from Beyers Naude and Douglas Bax calling on conscripts to "consider being conscientious objectors".) One should therefore be reasonably clear as to one's motivation in the unlikely case that a charge is laid against one.

If you are prepared to take up the course of action indicated in (a) above, would you kindly notify me? I am myself planning to do this in my sermon on 8th November. I will not make your decision public. If you take option (b) would you please notify the organisers of the Register at the ECC offices Box 537, Kengray 2100, Johannesburg. Their phone number is 011-836-8423 in case you want further information.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Robertson.

Rob Robertson

DURBAN ECC AGM 14 MAY 1990

The fact that the ECC is having an AGM here to elect a new Exec. Committee is evidence that we do not believe the time is yet ripe for us to disband. While we hope our life as an organisation will come to an end within the near future, our assessment of the situation is that there is still work for us to do.

My task is to outline some of the issues which will be of importance in our work in the coming months.

1. Firstly, our priority remains to **end conscription**. Despite encouraging developments which we hope will lead to the creation of a climate for genuine negotiations, the machinery of the apartheid state still remains firmly in place. Despite the euphoria we may rightly feel about significant victories won in our struggle for liberation we must not let that blind us to this grim reality : the SA state remains fundamentally undemocratic & unjust & represents only the interests of a white minority. The SADF still remains the last bastion to preserve apartheid minority domination.

Our goal of ending conscription therefore remains valid & we will continue to work towards that end. We also welcome the ANC's non-conscription policy for a post-apartheid South Africa.

2. From that it follows that conscientious objection remains a valid political choice. We will therefore **continue to campaign for the release of all objectors from jail, for the suspension of all CO trials & for the changing of legislation so that CO is not a criminal offence**. CO's are not criminals! Objectors should be honoured rather than criminalised. Hopefully in a new SA that will happen. I have a vision of all objectors who were jailed being appointed in the new SA to head up a collective Ministry of Defence, whose mandate from President Mandela will be to dismantle the SADF.

Their first task will be to get a SAAF helicopter and dispatch Magnus Malan off on a permanent sabbatical to Chile, together with a lifetime's supply of army dog-biscuits. Their next task will be to find creative ways of converting casspirs & buffels into comfortable vehicles for people's public transport, and turning Bedfords into bus shelters. They will convert navy battle-ships into pleasure cruisers to the newly created People's Peace Park on Robben Island. They will convert Armscor factories into warehouses for self-help projects. Detention barracks will be demolished & turned into market gardens. The walls around Natal Command will be used to form another fishing pier and the buildings inside will be converted into accessible, open-plan ANC offices. R1 rifles will be used as stakes in

a national program to reclaim soil-eroded land. The submarines will be grounded and used as massive dip-tanks with yellow, orange, green, blue & purple dye. All army uniforms will be dipped and one piece of clothing handed to everyone. We will then join hands in our multi-coloured clothes and toi-toi together in the streets singing "Let there be war no more!" Well, you've got to have dreams... Now back to reality. That was my personal dream by the way, and not official ECC policy (yet!).

3. Another area of work for us is **the safe return of exiled objectors**. We have been working to get this issue, as well as the release of objectors from prison, onto the national negotiations agenda. We have also been in contact & had meetings with COSAWR, the organisation of exiled objectors, in preparation for their return. We hope to have a representative from them at our National Conference later this month.
4. We are determined to **build nonracialism** into our programs & campaigns. We want to build a sound basis for communication and action with the ANC, the Civics, SAYCO & other UDF affiliates, as well as with our traditional allies in the white community. We want to embody more & more now, the nonracial society we are working towards.
5. Another issue we will be paying attention to is **the Civil Co-operation Bureau**. I don't think even ECC at its creative height could come up with such an Orwellian and cynical name for an organisation whose chief aim is to eliminate unco-operative civilians.

Our concern is that not enough public attention is being paid to this scandal. We are therefore embarking on a campaign calling for

- * the resignation of accountable Ministers
- * a guarantee of suspension of all CCB cells & activities
- * the extension of the Harms Commission's brief to include external assassinations, bombings etc.

6. Lastly, we want to be part of the process, in whatever way might be helpful, of bringing an end to the carnage & restoring peace to Natal. We are at present doing monitoring work. The future, in consultation with other organisations, may make other demands of us.

Perhaps at this point I should say something about the issue of troops in the townships. Our position remains the same : they should be out. This is still one of the factors on the national agenda for the creation of a climate for negotiations. The fact that we are giving qualified support for their presence in certain townships where the people have asked them in, does not

mean that we have changed our view of the SADF, or that the SADF has suddenly changed its spots. We recognise this cry for their presence as not so much a praise-song for the military as an indictment on the police for their dismal failure to fulfil their role as an effective, neutral peacekeeping force. The SADF, in these areas, has become the better of two evils.

So, in conclusion, we have plenty of work to do. We hope soon to reach the point where our continued existence is no longer warranted & we can then put our energies into other organisations. That point has unfortunately not arrived yet. So, while you've still got the chance, why don't you join us for the final push?

Rob Goldman
Durban ECC Chairperson

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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