

Chris  
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MINUTES OF NATIONAL ANTI-CONSCRIPTION CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE

DATE: 13 - 15 October, 1989  
VENUE: Bobalink, Johannesburg

Organisations represented:

- The Conscientious Objector Support Group (COSG)
- The Conscription Advice Service (CAS)
- Give Our Sons a Choice (GOSAC)
- Register of Objectors
- The Black Sash
- The PE Action Committee (PEAC)
- The East London Action Forum (ELAF)
- The Grahamstown Democratic Action Committee (GRADAC)
- Cape Democrats
- Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee (JODAC)
- NUSAS
- Students towards Peace (STOP)
- Militarisation Action Committee (MAC)
- The End Conscription Campaign (ECC)
- The DP Youth
- The Centre for Policy Studies
- Five Freedoms Forum

Centres represented:

Cape Town, Stellenbosch, East London, Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, Pretoria

Session 1: The History of War Resistance in SA

A paper was presented by Laurie Nathan on the development of the war resistance movement in South Africa.

The key issue raised for discussion was that whilst ECC had made forays into new constituencies, eg. conscripts and the Afrikaans community, the base nevertheless remained largely middle class intellectuals.

In discussion we drew out positive and negative lessons from the history presented. What follows are some of the points raised. We did not necessarily have consensus on these points.

1.1. Issues addressed:

ECC's success was largely determined by political conditions eg. Angola and troops in the townships. However, in spite of changed conditions, the call up crisis remains, although it appears to be less of a major public issue.

ECC's most successful campaigns were around clear and cogent issues. When ECC took up broader/observer issues, its campaigns had less public impact.

Conscription as an issue allows access into the white community as well as providing space to raise broader anti-militarisation

issues.

ECC was able to build unity between differing responses to the call up crisis, because of its focus on the single issue of conscription.

Immediate direct issues have the most resonance with the public.

#### 1.2. Content/Message

A broad message has less impact than a specific message.

Where we have been able to provide a service eg. info/advice this has been well received as being very constructive.

We debated whether there is a conflict between an anti-apartheid message and a message expressing sympathy with the grievances of conscripts. Some people felt that we didn't sufficiently meet people where they were and that we should have underplayed the anti-apartheid component to our work whilst others felt that we did not sufficiently convey an anti-apartheid message.

#### 1.3. Constituency

Whilst we want to develop broad opposition to conscription, we need to identify particular constituencies and develop strategies for each of them. At the same time we need to beware of presenting different messages to different groupings.

#### 1.4. Organisational Form

- \* Front Structure - Has both positive and negative sides. It is particularly positive when we are weak or being harassed, but it is negative in that an organisation needs to develop its own organisational form, attract membership in its own right, etc.
- \* Sub-committee structure - was very effective for ECC, in drawing people in with specific skills. ECC did not deal with different levels of membership as effectively as it could have.
- \* Internal Working - ECC was successful in building democratic practices, discipline, tolerance of differing viewpoints, promoting non-sexism, and training and developing activists within the organisation.
- \* National Structure - The national structure of ECC was important in providing support for the different regions.

#### 1.5. Campaigning Style

ECC's creation of an anti-military culture was discussed. We recognised that it was successful in drawing in some people who may not have got involved otherwise, but also acknowledged that it didn't necessarily gel with troopie reality. It was pointed out that the style can sometimes override the message.

Some thought that ECC had a non-confrontational campaigning style which was positive.

The way that ideas were generated in ECC facilitated creativity and the very creative style of operating allowed for easy participation of members.

#### 1.6. Relationship with other groups

##### \* Parliamentary groups

We could have developed better links. With regard to the PFP, ECC worked mainly with their youth wing and this had the effect of marginalising the youth in their support for an end to conscription. Our approach should be much broader than this.

##### \* Extra-parliamentary groups

Our emphasis and approach was on the whole well accepted and understood. We were able to create an understanding of white constituency work. We positioned ourselves correctly viz a viv the UDF, however our ongoing liason with them was not good enough particularly since the State of Emergency was 1st declared.

We did not raise the issue of conscription sufficiently in the black community. Nor did ECC address the issue of blacks in the SADF. It was thought that this issue could have been addressed more thoroughly.

#### Session 2: An Assessment of Anti-militarisation Work over the last year

##### 2.1. CAS

- Active in 8 centres
- Running training courses
- Consolidating networks of ministers, lawyers, etc.
- Concentrating on media
- Number of enquiries have increased generally, but peaks at call up time
- Major issue dealt with is deferment

##### 2.2 COSG

- Active in 3 regions
- Has had some good campaigns
- Problem with recruitment
- Need to build on the momentum of the 771
- Will be campaigning for political prisoner status for CO's, in so far as such a campaign does not condone the imprisonment of CO's.
- The newsworthiness of objection seems to be declining
- COSG has been too small to fully utilise the potential of the issue.

##### 2.3. The 771

- The September stand was a success with good media
- Priorities: Promote the register  
Hold mass public actions around  
conscription and objection at call up  
times.
- The 771 need to structure support for participants

and in this regard needs to work out its relationship to COSG.

#### 2.4. GOSAC

GOSAC has developed over recent months into a national initiative. It is still in its formation stage and so still needs to consolidate its aims. Up to now its main aim has been supporting and educating mothers around conscription issues. At this stage it is retaining its focus on mothers and there has not been any discussion on extending the group into a parents group. A difficulty has been that as the group has grown it has lacked national coherence.

#### 2.5. Campuses - NUSAS report

- No national NUSAS positions on issue
- As ECC grew so NUSAS took up issue less and less. When ECC was banned NUSAS saw itself having a greater responsibility to take up issue on campuses.
- MAC was formed on WITS campus and STOP at UCT, and for a while RAW (Resist Apartheid War) operated on Durban campus. There has also been some activity on other campuses.
- The issue is regularly discussed at a national level but there is quite a bit of confusion as to what should be done around the issue.
- Way forward: ANS being taken up but not as a major focus  
Objection seen as being very important  
A political critique of the military very NB  
Organisationally there is a desire for a new initiative.

#### 2.6. NCSG

- Branches in CT and Durban.
- The Durban group sees itself mainly as a support group for community servers (CS) whilst the CT group is more of a lobby group around issues affecting CS.
- The Jhb group folded although there is currently discussion happening about reviving the group.
- There seems to be a much greater spirit of resistance amongst CS than previously.

#### 2.7. CANSP

- Active in Jhb, CT, Durban and Grahamstown
- Its main aim is to raise the issue of conscription in churches
- CANSP has recently reassessed its direction, and decided that the volunteer programme should not be the central focus of the organisation. This means that CANSP will be placing much more emphasis on its more educative role.
- CANSP has the official backing of a number of denominations.

## 2.8. National Assessment (Input by Mandy Taylor)

### Positive points:

- In spite of the restriction of ECC, work in the AM arena has continued to the extent that we were able to pull together this national workshop.
- Conscription issues have continued being raised publically during the past year through:
  - \* the trials of Charles Bester and Saul Batzofin
  - \* the stand of 900 mothers
  - \* the Release Objectors campaign (international CO Day)
  - \* the launch of the register and the stand of 771 objectors
- Ongoing more low-key work has continued through CAS, COSG and CANSP.
- There have been two new initiatives during the past year viz. GOSAC and the Register.

### Negative points:

- Whilst there have been a number of organisations working in the area, there has been very little co-ordination between them. As a consequence, work has been very dispersed, lacking in coherence and with very little overall public impact.
- Because there has been no organisation effectively raising public awareness about the role of the military, things like objection, conscription advice and the churches ANS work has largely happened in a vacuum.
- The lack of a national organisation has meant that we have missed opportunities to raise public awareness about conscription issues. eg troops returning from Namibia.
- Organisations have not managed to attract new activists and there has been a sense of stagnation rather than growth.
- ECC's focus on the conscript has not been taken up by any other organisation during the past year.

### General Discussion:

- \* ECC was an important networking organisation. It was the campaigning group whilst CAS and COSG were service organisations. We have given the incorrect tasks to CAS and COSG. They should be support rather than campaigning organisations.
- \* We discussed whether the problem was primarily a structural one and decided that at least in part the problem was structural. There has been inadequate co-ordination between groups locally and there has been no national co-ordination.
- \* However a new national organisation will not in itself solve all our problems. Objective conditions no longer lend themselves to the same type of actions as previously. Any new initiative will have to respond to the changing climate and will have to slot in with the current positive political atmosphere eg. negotiations.

### Session 3: The broader context

#### 3.1. The State of the Nation (Input by Gavin Evans)

Important, non-cosmetic changes have been happening with unprecedented speed in the post-election period. We need to ask why this is happening.

There are both demographic and economic pressures on the state. Demographically whites comprise only 12.5% of the total population of SA and this percentage is declining.

Economically SA is in a crisis. There is a serious skills shortage, growing unemployment, a high rate of inflation, and a decline in foreign investment. The lack of foreign exchange means that SA is dependent on loans and this makes the country very vulnerable.

Internationally the climate has changed and this has a bearing on events in SA. The USSR is placing much more emphasis on political rather than military solutions to regional conflicts and accordingly is putting pressure on the ANC to seek political solutions. In Southern Africa the ANC is being forced out of more and more countries. Both these above factors may have the effect of a reduction in MK activities.

Within the country there has been a phenomenal growth of support for the MDM and a growth in the legitimacy of the ANC - locally and internationally.

#### Discussion:

In negotiations all parties feel the need to be in a strong position. This could mean that insurrection could continue, security force action, death squads, etc.

Whilst the MDM is strong there are weaknesses primarily as a result of COSATU's restriction and the LRAA.

#### 3.2. The State of Militarisation (Input by Dave Shandler)

The regional balance of forces, as well as the SADF's perceptions of this balance has changed.

USSR: The SADF has grudgingly recognised that the USSR is playing a new role in world politics but they warn that we should not be deceived by the euphoria of peace.

Namibia/Angola: SA received a serious setback in the Angolan war. Economic factors played a part in the SA defeat. Withdrawal from Namibia has huge implications for militarisation in SA - particularly re possible service reductions. It also means that SA now has a new border to patrol and that the SADF has to shift its orientation from bush to desert warfare. The modernisation of its armed forces will be necessary in this shift. We need to ask what ongoing impact the Angolan defeat had on white morale.

Frontline States: Their armed forces have become more sophisticated. SA says these states are providing cover for ANC bases, and believes that there is consequently an increasing need for development of technological skills and weapon systems. Probable that white soldiers will be used in more skilled jobs and blacks will be used as ordinary troops.

SADF inside the country: Its role has changed, with troops not being used in township areas to any great extent. There has also been a dropping off of township resistance - although this is changing. SAP has reduced numbers but kitskonstabels are increasingly being used. There has been an increase in extra-legal repression eg. vigilantes.

SAP - increasing conflict within police ranks eg Rockman and growth of right wing factions. Conscripts will be used in policing roles. They will be handpicking about 3000 conscripts to be used for policing tasks.

Constraints on conscription: Severe manpower effect; drain on high level manpower; population of white 18 year olds is declining. Result of this is that blacks will be increasingly relied upon. Conscription of Indians and "coloureds" unviable and there will be a need for high level skills. Probable that SADF will develop its professional component and boost salaries to attract people.

Political issues: Negotiations issue is on the agenda and introduces a new climate. Public will be seeking a demilitarised situation although the converse will in all probability be the reality. The possibility of an "open" group has implications for conscription. Will blacks in that group be conscripted or only whites?

Van Loggerenberg committee is significant and provides an opportunity for the AMM to engage the SADF.

#### Discussion:

- The need for high tech skills will have an impact on the campuses.
- If an "open group" is allowed, it may be linked with the introduction of an ANS system.
- Whilst the SADF accepts the principle that a professional army would be more effective and efficient, the numbers required would arguably not be cost effective. Therefore what is likely to happen is that the professional component of the military will be increased but that conscription will continue.
- A second black battalion for township work has been set up
- According to govt thinking there is a real possibility of a reduction in military service and/or the introduction of ANS. ANS will probably be restricted to universal pacifists and be of 4 years duration.
- There is a lot of dissatisfaction within the police force.

#### General Discussion:

Small group discussions were held looking at two questions which related the wider context to AM work. A session of plenary discussion followed where big differences emerged between the

small groups.

1. We identified limits and possibilities for AM work in the light of the earlier discussion on the broader context.
- \* Some people argued that militarisation will increase in importance with negotiations taking place. However there is likely to be less of a sense of urgency from conscripts about their call up. Consequently there will be a need for us to be sophisticated in our analysis and strategies.
- \* In a climate of negotiations it is important for us to have a positive message and not to just be critical. Suggested slogan: "Prepare for the future; don't fight it!"
- \* We need to develop a more non-racial approach to our work. It will be important to consult with the MDM in this regard.
- \* The restriction of ECC was seen as a limitation

Summary: We all agreed that we need to understand the changed context and use it to our advantage. This means amongst other things, promoting a positive message. We also need to be asking why there is an ongoing need for the military when we are at peace with our neighbours and entering a period of negotiations within the country. Troops out of Namibia, reduction in service liability etc. vindicate our work over the last years and we need to make capital from this. There have been shifts in the white community which may make people more open to an anti-conscription and anti-apartheid message.

2. In the light of our unanimous feeling that there has been a large gap left by ECC, we proceeded to identify the nature of the gap and then to set objectives for ourselves in terms of that gap.

We identified two gaps - creative campaigning  
- national and regional co-ordination.

#### Objectives:

Our over-arching objective is: the ending of apartheid. The issue of conscription is therefore chosen as the best way of contributing to that objective.

We agreed that there remains huge potential around the issue of conscription viz a viv this objective and that we should therefore continue mobilising around the issue of conscription. In the current FW period of a seeming move towards peace and negotiations, we need to be asking - Why then continue with the system of conscription? Inter alia we should focus on people's objection to the cost of the military for the economy.

There is much more legal space than previously, and it is crucial that we use this time to reraise issues of conscription.



Summary of objectives:

To build opposition to conscription thereby undermining the SADF's ability to uphold apartheid.

To involve whites in anti-apartheid work.

To build a new non-sexist, non-militarist and non-exploitative culture.

To build non-racialism.

Session 4: Different options for the way ahead

4.1. Durban

In favour of a new organisation which should have a broad focus rather than being restricted to conscription.

Priorities: call to end conscription  
sustain existing organisations  
support for all objectors  
lobbying for a change in the law  
critique of SADF and political education  
constructive programme  
non-racialism

Structure: Similar to ECC. Own identity with subscriber organisations.

- \* Felt initiative for a peace movement must come from the black community
- \* ECC can never be completely laid to rest. ECC should continue to exist as a ghost body. It could affiliate to the new body.

4.2. Pietermaritzburg

Hadn't managed to hold a workshop.

Suggestion that the difference between ECC and the new body is similar to the difference between the old State President and the Prime Minister (ie ECC is brought out for special occasions - largely symbolic value)

4.3. Johannesburg (2 Reports were presented)

Report 1: Motivation for new organisation to be conscription based (See attached report).

Report 2: Motivation for new organisation to focus on broader anti-militarisation issues (See attached report)

It was felt that there weren't great differences between the two positions. It was rather a matter of emphasis.

4.4. Pretoria

Decided that a new organisation was necessary. It would need to harness the new objector initiative. The new organisation must challenge the government in a very direct way. Must draw in as wide a range of organisations as possible. There was no consensus in the Pretoria workshop about whether the new organisation should focus on conscription or militarisation.

#### 4.5. Cape Town (2 Reports were presented)

##### Report 1: (Majority position)

New organisation focusing on conscription  
Should be explicitly anti-apartheid  
Largely ECC constituency, especially conscripts  
Should include Afrikaners and DP Youth  
Idea of conscripts charter (similar to ECC Declaration) - right to CO  
- right to ANS  
- right not to serve in townships, etc.

##### Report 2: (Minority position)

Revival of ECC in the long term  
Reasons: The situation is changing fast and we need to move now. ECC is already there as an available vehicle for immediate work.  
ECC worked and we should not try to distance ourselves from it.

#### 4.6. Port Elizabeth

PE did not hold a workshop but delegates thought that a new structure was not feasible for PE. However they supported the emergence of a new conscription focused organisation.

#### 4.7. Grahamstown

Support for a new anti-militarisation organisation with conscription as a primary focus. Felt that an anti-conscription organisation could be undercut by the state so the conscription issue should be taken up but housed in a broader anti-militarisation focus.

Some felt that a new initiative should be a co-ordinating umbrella body.

They thought it would be a bad idea to revive ECC and this would alienate some potential supporters.

The new initiative should not align itself with the MDM.  
There would be a problem with person power in G'town.

#### 4.8. East London

Supported idea of new organisation focusing on conscription but expressed similar concerns about person power. They favoured a front of organisations.

#### 4.9. Individual proposals

Mandy Taylor put forward a proposal for a campaign which would reraise the issue of conscription and prepare the public for the unbanning of ECC.

Reason: we should anticipate the state of emergency being lifted it would obviate the need for lengthy consultations and would facilitate immediate action.

we could build on the positive history of ECC

Components: ECC defiant actions

Other organisations publically raising issues of

conscription and calling for unbanning of ECC.

Session 5: Group report backs

We broke into small groups and discussed the various options presented.

Group 1: Resurrection of ECC not viable although regional ECC acts fine. We need to move with the times and ECC has too much baggage.

The new organisation should be conscription based as this is the broadest issue, affecting people most directly. The new organisation should not try to cover too many issues. There is much more space to work now.

Issues - what are we being conscripted for?  
- economic issues  
- registration of 16 year olds

Constituency - conscripts, veterans, parents, etc.  
Form - An independent organisation to which other groups can subscribe.

Group 2: Supported the idea of a new organisation as they felt that we couldn't mobilise people under an ECC banner whilst ECC was still restricted. Agreed that ECC could continue acting regionally.

New organisation should be conscription focused but should pick up on broader issues. It should be broadly anti-apartheid.

Constituency - Afrikaners NB  
- white community orientated  
- Conscripts and veterans  
- DP

Group 3: Thought that ECC should not revive other than symbolically - but thought that we had a lot to learn from ECC.

Supported formation of new organisation with a conscription focus. Its target should be the white community and it should seek to develop work amongst Afrikaners. It should have a front structure and constituent groups should have autonomy. It should use culture in drawing support.

Group 4: ECC should only be revived symbolically.

A new organisation should have militarisation content  
It should be anti-apartheid  
Broad constituency  
Should complement the programme of action of the MDM.

Group 5: No to ECC revival

A new organisation should be broad and should have a positive orientation

It should be a front of organisations.

Group 6: No ECC revival

The new organisation should focus on conscription. It should be broad and anti-apartheid. It should present a positive policy alternative and it should not be a front or an alliance.

Group 7: 2 phases

- 1 - Let ECC speak from an alliance of organisations
  - ECC continues symbolically
  
- 2 - New organisation: broad, anti-apartheid, anti-conscription
  - Afrikaans and English
  - Conscripts charter

Suggested name: VASBYT

Group 8: There was consensus that the new organisation should be conscription focused and national and that there was a need for immediate action.

There was no consensus on ECC' revival. If the new organisation would just be ECC in disguise then some thought that we should rather go for ECC.

POINTS OF OVERALL CONSENSUS:

1. ECC should not be revived
2. Conscription as focus - but not exclusive
3. Organisation with early alliance form
4. Bilingual
5. Conscript constituency very important
6. Positive focus
7. Anti-apartheid content

Session 6: Constituency

Is the conscript the primary focus?

Arguments:

- \* Yes, because conscripts' opposition more important than any other groups' opposition.
- \* No, because conscripts are so broad a category
- \* Conscripts are those men liable for national service in the army, or those liable for camps. They are an essential group.
- \* Concern over role of, and focus of women.
- \* Analogy with MDM and primary role of working class.
- \* Debate over whether "primary" is a useful word in this context.
- \* We are talking about a new consciousness/totally new approach.
- \* We are not yet sure how effective conscripts work will be and so have to also be developing other areas of work.

Three positions were presented in order to draw out some of the implications of the different positions.

### 6.1. Ivan Toms

An organisation sensitive to the needs of conscripts and which consults with conscripts but where conscripts are not the primary focus of the organisation.

- Need to develop a broad opposition to militarisation
- Constituencies: English and Afrikaans "gatvol conscripts; Students; churches,; those families and conscripts who have had bad army experiences; trendies; etc.
- In addition we need to be developing support from within the black community.
- Implications:
  - \* These are the groups we are part of and have experience of. With the primary emphasis on conscripts we would be going into unchartered waters.
  - \* We would be developing on the good of ECC.
  - \* We would be able to take all our activists with us, Some of whom are uncomfortable with the conscript emphasis.
  - \* Problem with women feeling awkward with conscript emphasis
  - \* A conscript focus may make our relationship with the MDM more difficult.
  - \* CO's should feel at home in the new organisation. We could create an "uneasy bedfellows" situation between objectors and conscripts.
  - \* It is however important to strategise who we should have on our platforms.
  - \* If we try to be something we are not, we will be seen to be manipulative. A conscript emphasis should be allowed to develop over time.

### 6.2. Chris de Villiers

We do want to go broader than ECC. Our primary constituency is the white community. This does not mean that we do not want to reach the black constituency or international constituency. There can be slightly different emphases when dealing with different constituencies.

#### Implications:

- \* We need to be broader and the bottom line is that we must remain credible with conscripts.
- \* No preference given to conscripts' membership. We are not a conscripts' union
- \* The use of veterans on platforms is a strategic matter.

### 6.3. Laurie Nathan

Conscripts are a special category in the white community. They are affected by conscription as no one else is. Their opposition is going to be more damaging than opposition from elsewhere.

#### Implications:

- \* Could be either conscripts organisation or could be social movement that spans all genders, ages, etc.
- \* We are all talking about the latter ie. a broad social movement.
- \* Implications need to apply in practice

- \* Never want situation where people feel they don't belong
- \* Don't think that MDM links will be damaged
- \* Soldiers will not be on the fast track to the top. We apply the same criteria as always wrt leadership - ability and experience.
- \* Tactically we would use ex-conscripts on the platform.

#### 6.4. General Discussion

- 2 worries about conscript focus
  - Does it mean we must tailor our message for the average troopie to such an extent that we end up not saying very much?
  - Does it mean that we must change our style to the extent that we lose current activists.
- We all agree that we are talking about a social movement. What do we mean by this?
  - combines many things
  - Different groupings will develop with their own particular focus. These different groups will run parallel to one another.
- A social movement must reflect society
  - We need to go for main stream suburbs, schools, universities. Getting the conscript as the vanguard will enable us to bring the rest of society along.
- We need to be clear that we oppose conscription and not conscripts. As a social movement we can't just reflect white society; we must change it.
- We are all affected in a special way by conscription. An organisation will be stereotyped in terms of its fringe - so maybe we should try to look at organising conscripts separately.
- The soldier will always be alienated/threatened by us. We must always be conscript friendly, but to focus on the soldier will not get us anywhere. We need to clarify our message 1st.
- Social movement sound too vague. Even a social movement needs a core. We should make conscripts at the core and not the fringe.
- We do need to target conscripts and reach them, but not only conscripts.

#### CONSENSUS POINTS:

- \* Anti-conscription
- \* Anti-apartheid
- \* Inclusive

Form - Social Movement  
 - Bilingual

Target - White community (primarily)

- Conscripts are a gap (Special focus)

ECC should continue symbolically.

### Session 7: The Way Forward

AIMS: Long term - Set up new anti-conscription organisation  
Short-term - Consultation with broad range of individuals  
and groups about - nature of organisation  
- their participation.

WHO: Regional AMF's are to be responsible for ensuring that the  
above process happens  
There must be national co-ordination.

METHOD: Consultation must be open ended and open minded  
We must be inclusive.

PROCESS: 1. Regional consultation  
2. National consultation  
3. Consultative conference (March 1990)  
4. Launch of new organisation.

INTERIM: It should be a regional task to be raising the issue  
of conscription publically.

#### Discussion:

##### 1. Process

- Concern that the above process would exclude smaller and new regions. It was suggested that one of the tasks of the national co-ordinating body would be to include these regions.
- We must broaden our base beyond the AMF's.
- National co-ordinators should be able to co-opt others.
- National consultation should be after some preliminary consultation.

##### 2. Method

- National group to pull together a document to help with consultations. This should include guidelines about who to consult and what we want from them.
- Inclusivity - Everyone is welcome if they support the bottom line. No single group can demand exclusion of another group.
- Should be open to talking to people who are close to the state.
- Allow all positions and ideas to come to consultative conference.
- We need to explain who we are and where we come from when we consult.
- We must be sensitive in the way we approach different groups.
- See consultation as a process - not just one visit to an org.
- Need to be explicit re new organisation being a campaigning organisation.

##### 3. Interim

- If activists are tied up in setting up new organisation, public work around militarisation could take a dive. We need to try to continue keeping the issue alive.
- We should rely on existing organisations to take issue up and

we should build on the enthusiasm of this conference.

Public projection: We agreed not to go public at this stage.

Co-ordinating Committee:

- Regions to elect reps
- Should be someone who was at this weekend
- Smaller regions have to be represented and the committee should co-opt contacts in new regions.
- Centre representation rather than regional

Deadline: 6 November, 1989 (Names of reps to Mandy).

National Co-ordinator:

Mandy is to take on co-ordination.

Need a full-time co-ordinator who can travel. The conference supported the idea of Dave Schmidt being such a co-ordinator, if he is available.

#### ASSESSMENT OF CONFERENCE

- Issues very exciting to take back to our organisations.
- Timing of the conference was very good.
- Congrats steering committee and Mandy.
- New mood and energy in this area.
- We must get off our butts and go our there.
- Composition of gathering not particularly broad.
- Debate good.
- Could have got further.
- Nice place and food.



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**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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