

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT: To meet with and learn from groups in Europe involved in the issues of war, peace, conscription, conscientious objection, etc amongst both Church and secular groupings. As part of my work I am involved with the End Conscription Campaign and so I also took the opportunity of following up the contacts the ECC had made in the course of its activities.

I have structured the report by going from country to country and describing the various groups I met. Apart from learning what the work of the various groups was, I obviously talked about the situation in South Africa. The topics I covered were the Church and specifically the Catholic Church, the situation at present, particularly the developments under the State of emergency, my work on issues of militarisation, the ECC in general and the Peace Fast and Troops Out campaign in particular. After the detentions of the four ECC activists I also distributed the facts of the detentions as widely as possible, and did what publicity work was possible around the detentions. This was generally the format of the work I did, changing the angle of my input to the needs and particular interests of the group I was meeting or the meeting I was addressing.

Pax Christi: an organisation including laity, hierarchy, religious and clergy. Groups focus on issues of International Peace including the Arms race, nuclear power and war, and the world economic imbalance. Thus third world solidarity is an important part of their programmes. Essentially existing in Europe and North America the organisation is trying to set up sections in third world countries and has already made some headway on the South American continent. Pax Christi groups are actively involved in the European Peace Movement contributing quite significantly to the movement of European disarmament. Groups I met included:

- The Netherlands, which included a visit to the National office and meetings with their Africa co-ordinator.
- The International General Secretary at the International office in Antwerpen.
- Talks given to and meetings with the groups in Limburg, W Germany, Brühl, and the Walloon and Flemish sections of the organisations in Belgium.

Justicia et Pax, Holland; as a commission of the Dutch Bishops Conference it is involved with various issues of justice including third world issues and European Peace issues.

Kairos, a protestant Southern Africa solidarity group. Very important as they have very up to date information on South African issues and follow events closely, initiating solidarity and awareness raising campaigns on SA. War Resisters International, an organisation committed to non-violence as a means of struggle. Very interested in developing solidarity links with

the anti-war movement in SA.

Sanity, is the official mouthpiece of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) in England. The editor is very interested in broadening it's perspective by including issues affecting Peace and Justice in the underdeveloped world. Campaign, CND's magazine for action groups. The editor also interested in running articles appealing for solidarity action for SA.

National Conference of Priests, were meeting in Birmingham on the theme of 'The Priest in the modern World'. I addressed the meeting of some 80 priests and Bishops on the issue of the spiral of violence in SA. I also met with a number of the participants including Archbishop Warlock and Mgr. Bruce Kent. While their and later I met with Fr Austin Flannery OP.

CND; Other than the meetings with the editors of their publications I met with Bruce Kent, which involved briefing him on developments in SA and the ECC detentions in particular.

J & P Commission, Ireland; this commission has done a lot in support of the Dunnes Stores strikers including an examination of the issue of conscientious objection in the framework of workers refusing to handle SA goods.

Student Christian Movement (SCM) and Irish CND: met with the secretary of the SCM who is centrally involved in the Irish CND. Meeting was very productive and he was very excited about developments in SA particularly with regard to ECC.

National Federation of Youth Clubs: The secretary had visited SA and had as a result launched campaigns in support of the struggle.

AFRI: a third-world solidarity group which has been very supportive of the Dunnes stores strikers. SA work is one of their priorities.

J & P Commission Meeting: addressed the meeting about SA and particularly the role of the Churches. People were very interested in SA and questioned me at length about the struggle and the role that various groupings played.

Young Christian Workers, in Limburg is very involved in SA solidarity work including petitions, and awareness-raising campaigns.

Catholic Civil Service Organisation: In W Germany I met with a number of these groups in Limburg and Bonn. This organisation which has similar structures in other Churches organises people objecting to military service. They are responsible for helping applicants for alternative service, the placing and employment of such objectors. It also involves the co-ordination with the

authorities. Such objectors work in welfare agencies, hospitals, peace movements and can also volunteer to work in developing countries. The civil service is 20 months whereas military service is 15 months in length.

Green Party; addressed a meeting in Limburg of a grouping of people interested in militarisation in SA, which included Green Party members, Social Democrats and local Church representatives. In Bonn I attended the Green Party hearing on Namibia, which was very successful with some 200 people participating. The Greens are very supportive of the struggle in SA and were fairly in touch with the situation.

Information Service on Southern Africa: they co-ordinated the hearing on Namibia with the Greens. Met with them and filled them in about the SA situation in general and the ECC in particular. Very pleased to get some first hand account of developments in SA.

Quaker Council for European Affairs, Brussels: very interested and supportive about SA. They are responsible for watching and commenting on all European affairs for the Quakers. Also met with a member of the Quaker United Nations Office. They were all very interested particularly on the subject of CO in SA and in the ECC. Did some very good work about the ECC detainees.

European Economic Community: Met with the head of the Development section and another of the Foreign affairs department. They were particularly interested in the ECC and prepared to bring the campaign to the notice of other departments and member nation officials.

J & P Commission, Action Committee SA, Socialist Solidarity; all three groups involved in SA support work.

European Bureau for CO: addressed a management board meeting of EBCO. They are a co-ordinating body of all European CO movements. They were very interested in SA particularly from the perspective of CO.

European Nuclear Disarmament: a meeting of the liaison committee meeting with some 40 national Peace movements represented. The meeting was a review of the last Gathering of the movements in Amsterdam. They also focussed on European Security and Third World solidarity. Quite disunited and split over a number of issues. Very Euro-centric view of the world especially when looking at the developing world. I spoke to the meeting about the peace movement in SA equating the anti-apartheid struggle with the struggle for Peace. Fairly responsive to SA in general and ECC in particular.

International Movement of Catholic Students; In Brussels the European Team and in Paris the International Team. Very supportive and interested in SA.

Amnesty International, France: did a lot of work for the ECC detainees.

Apart from the organisations described briefly above I met with a number of Reporters, Press agencies and Radio reporters.

As I am also involved in ECC I was also involved in visiting various of the European funding agencies on behalf of ECC.

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