

MINUTES OF THE 24TH MEETING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE HELD

10 JANUARY, 1985.

PRESENT: COSG, SUCA, Black Sash, Claremont UDF, ABSR, Civil Rights League, Media Comm., Observatory UDF, Gardens UDF, War and Peace, NUSAS, UCT S.R.C.

APOLOGIES : Lesley, WPCC.

1. Reports

- (i) Concert - Financially the profit was small with costs barely being covered. It was estimated that 1000 people were present, many of whom managed to get in free when the doors were opened because of the teargas. In terms of general running things went pretty well, although a couple of bands were held up because of roadblocks which shifted the whole schedule and meant we ran over time and had to chop a skit. The response to the skits has been very positive; and they contributed to the clear political message at the concert. The political impact of the concert was felt to be significant, with a variety and quantity of media - posters, stickers and handbills - being distributed over the Christmas period. Beaver (with many supportive nods from the rest of us) congratulated the concert group for the mammoth task they undertook over their Christmas holiday.
- (ii) January call-up pamphlet - This was distributed at Claremont, Rondebosch, Sea Point, Gardens and Pinelands. It was the first time ECC distributed at Pinelands and the response was fairly good. Gardens was difficult, with heavy negative responses and pamphleteers being thrown out of shopping centres. The Baxter was also pamphleteered in the evenings, and the response was alright. Generally it was felt that people responded less aggressively than in July. A problem was raised with the ambiguity of the pamphlet - apparently some people thought it was an SADF pamphlet. Suggestions were to either have the ECC logo bigger or a headline which isn't ambiguous. It was felt that in July we should be more creative in our action around the call-up.
- (iii) Roadshow - This was presented to Habonim; and its impact was probably confirmed by the train incident which occurred a couple of weeks later.

The roadshow is available to be called on by organisations. On 19 January there is a braai at 55, Malleson Road for anyone working on or interested in working on the roadshow.

2. Executive

A variety of visitors have contacted the Executive (especially Mike or Lesley).

- (i) Two people from the Transkei who are starting to get people to consider setting up a Council for Peace and Friendship for the people of Southern Africa. It is at a very early stage which limits the degree of useful discussion we could have now, although it is on the agenda for the National Conference.
- (ii) Simon Fisher, an International Quaker who is based in Gaberone as their Southern African contact person. He was very encouraged by ECC.
- (iii) Jean Friedburg, an American from Humanitas Internationale. They are a small grouping, and wondered what they could do to support the campaign and suggested they could encourage Joan Baez to dedicate a song or a concert to us.

Once more, Mike raised that we haven't thought clearly enough about our international role, and should. At the least, we could send out media more regularly.

3. Forthcoming

- (i) Youth Day - Sat. 12-1; 10.30 - 5.00; Ron.Con.
To pool ideas and try to come out with a practical programme to take up the Youth campaign this year. The sections will be: Youth and Culture; Schools and Parents; Church Youth and Organised Youth.
- (ii) S.A. Outlook - 3 key areas were isolated as the focus of the publication: Civil War; Youth; resistance to the military. Practically every aspect of the SADF inside S.A. would be incorporated, and the run down included: culture focus; propaganda; international capital; legislation; schools; church; Nkomati; an interview with a Marienthal detainee.
Raw copy deadline - end of January
Final copy deadline - 14 February
Its aiming to be a slick, in-depth publication, which will be useful internationally and for organisations. Dot suggested an interview with a Namibian family be considered, and useful contacts might be Anton Lubowski or Tony Weaver.
- (iii) Assessment Workshop - Sat. 19; 1.45 p.m.; Beaver's house. People felt we needed a proper assessment of the past year. We divided ECC activity into different areas; Public meetings; media; concert; Namibia; Executive (to look at the Exec. and general ECC). Laurie, David and Ivan volunteered to handle public meetings. Each group should present a one page summary of strengths, weaknesses, potential and limitations to the workshop. In discussion we should

(iii) Assessment Workshop contd/.....

cover organisations and their participation in ECC. The workshop should also serve to prepare people for the Conference and Mike volunteered to give a run-down of ECC nationally. Other issues up for discussion would be the oft suggested monthly Friday discussions for ECC sympathetics; our response to call up days; our constituency and overall direction. For people who want to stay there will be a braai afterwards - bring your own meat and booze.

If you're stuck for transport or directions contact Beaver - 723468 or Mike -477407.

- (iv) National Conference - Definites going from Cape Town: Beaver, Richard; Andre; Laurie; Paula; Mike; Possibles: Chippy; Ivan; David; Debra; Fiona. We will leave on Thursday 24 at + 6.30 from St. Michaels Road; and should get back on Monday between 5.00 to 6.00 p.m.

4. Fieldworker

See minutes of 27/12 for tentative job definition. The field worker has been discussed at the last 2 ECC meetings, and the final decision as to who should take the position will be made at the National Conference. However, Cape Town needs to decide who they will put forward as a possibility. Beaver suggested Laurie, who said he would be available. We asked him to leave the room so that we would feel free to be as nice or horrible as we liked. Laurie got our unanimous support, his praises were sung regarding his diplomacy, creativity, training and general abilities. A possible problem area is churches, and it was felt that if Laurie were to become the fieldworker he would have to research this area, and rely on people who are involved in the churches to help him initially.

Paula, Laurie and Mike are to work on a motivation for Laurie at the National Conference.

The Quaker Mike has spoken to, had suggested a second fieldworker, but this would have to be discussed at the Conference.

5. General

- (i) Beaver received the bannings reasons.
- (ii) Beaver suggested we consider hiring stalls at R10/day at Claremont.
- (iii) ECC are meetings with the Ploughshares on 22 January. Anyone interested should contact Lesley.
- (iv) Anita Kromberg is giving a non-violent action workshop on Friday evening of 1st February and Saturday 2nd February. If interested phone the Black Sash Office 653513.

- (v) The issue of security in ECC was raised and discussed. It was felt that people should be careful of what they say on the telephone particularly regarding names of individuals and work they're involved in. We decided it would be useful to have further discussion and set aside Thursday 7th February as a possible date to invite ADAC to speak to us.
- (vi) Samples of pamphlets and posters are needed to send to possible funders. Please would people give copies of our media to Mike.
- (vii) Meetings:
 - No meeting on 24 January
 - 31 January - report back from Conference
 - 7 February - Security Workshop
 - 14 February - ECC
 - 28 February - ECC

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MINUTES OF THE 25TH MEETING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE HELD
ON 31 JANUARY 1985

PRESENT : COSG, UCT SRC, Black Sash, SUCA, WMP, OBS UDF, Claremont
UDF, Media, Roadshow

APOLOGIES:WPCC

1. Ploughshares

Some ECC people met with the Ploughshares who are a group of Americans doing a study tour of Africa.

2. Youth

a) We discussed the suitability of a letter drawn up by members of the youth committee to initiate contact with youth organisations. It was felt that contact with those organisations represented on the Western Cape IYY would best be facilitated through the ECC rep. on that committee. The letter, in a modified form would be suitable to send to Western Cape Youth League and SOYA. The youth committee should decide who would be the rep. on the IYY committee.

SUCA and ICY invited an ECC person to come to an initial meeting to discuss a regional church IYY committee.

b) A rep from the media committee would be needed to attend a Grassroots workshop

3. Video

CVRA sent a motivation for compiling an ECC video and requested help from some ECC people. Most of the work would take place in March.

4. Roadshow

Organisations should try to make use of the roadshow, but be sure to give ample warning to the cast (at least 2 weeks). It is important that the group requesting the roadshow to perform, sit down with the roadshow group to discuss the content of the script and its suitability for the constituency. Contact people are Penny - 664192, and David - 651031. Bear in mind that many roadshow people work, and it is most convenient if they perform in the evenings or weekends. The next performance is during the UCT Orientation Week.

5. COSG

The conference dates have been set for 19-21 July. COSG requests that ECC organisations consider how they can advertise the Advice Bureau on Military Conscription. We felt ECC media should advertise the Advice Bureau more than it has. COSG also suggested that organisations make use of talks which Advice Bureau people are prepared to do. These talks would serve to publicise the Advice Bureau, and educate around alternatives to military service. If ECC wants media distributed in Stellenbosch we should contact COSG for assistance, and should also consider having a debate at Stellenbosch (and contact SAAK).

6. Dates

- Non-violent workshop : Friday 1 & Saturday 2 February
- 6pm - 8pm - Thursday 14 - Public Speaking Workshop at Ron. Con.
 - 8pm - Thursday 7 - ADAC workshop
 - 8pm - Thursday 14 - ECC meeting

7. Conference Report

- a) At the national conference necessary bureaucratic tasks were completed ie. drawing up and ratifying a constitution, and formalising arrangements for national finance. A national committee was appointed (one rep and 2 alt from each ECC) to co-ordinate nationally. Laurie was unanimously elected ECC national organiser and it seems he faces a busy year.
- b) National conference: We discussed the idea of having a conference in July - geared for educative input and quite a high powered public image. It would probably be fairly short - 2 nights and a day, and organisations should assess the viability of holding it at all, and if so, which region would be most appropriate.
- c) National campaigns: 3 issues were isolated as feasible national campaigns :
- * Invasions of townships - it was felt this was an issue which could focus on civil war. We would either react at an appropriate time, or take it up around 3 Sept - Sebokeng Commemoration Day; and could use Sharpeville Day, or the Parliamentary debate to focus on the issue.
 - * Namibia - this campaign would need to be hinged onto something which creates public awareness around Namibia. If no such something had occurred by July, we would re-assess the possibility of using International Namibia Day.
 - * Youth - this would involve a Republic Day focus aimed primarily at schools and a July call-up focus.
- d) Media : Cape Town is the only region with a standing media sub-committee, so contact people in each area discussed the distribution of national media (ie. logos, letterheads, etc.) It was also discussed how each region could participate in producing national media for national campaigns. It was suggested that it would be useful for the Roadshow group to send scripts, poetry, songs, etc to other ECC's.
- e) PFP: Jo'burg motivated why it would be valuable for them to have a debate with the PFP, and Cape Town explained why we had reached a position of no contact with the PFP. Two main points emerged :
- on questions such as this regional autonomy should be stressed
 - that a debate is not contradictory to a position of no contact
- f) Security police raid
6 policemen arrived at the end of the conference after they had stopped a delegate at a roadblock. They were investigating a possible contravention of Section 121c of the Defence Act. Their presence and searching led to useful discussion about how to handle S.P., and give's added impetus to our ADAC meeting on security, etc.

END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 26TH MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 1985

PRESENT : Anglican BSR, SUCA, Black Sash, COSG, WPCC, Womens Movement for Peace, UCT Conscription Action Group, NUSAS, Quaker Church, Observatory UDF, Claremont UDF

VISITORS : Johannesburg ECC, Methodist Church of Southern Africa

1. ADAC WORKSHOP

New date was set for Thursday 21 at 8.00pm

2. YOUTH CAMPAIGN

Copies of the report of the youth committee were handed out and discussed. The following points were raised :

- * IYY presented many opportunities to keep contact with a range of organisations
- * It also presented possibilities of responding to state initiatives, eg IYY focusses in all government schools.
- * The IYY campaign must not lead to our neglecting work in the white areas. In this regard a plan of action for work in white schools was suggested - pamphlet, statement poster, comic, concert (on March 22), and then a workshop in about mid-April.
- * The youth committee must examine carefully how IYY work is being structured into ECC - where is strategising happening? How are other committees (media, youth culture, road show) involved in activities? Where are final decisions taken?
- * On the question of decision-making it was stated that ECC general meetings should make decisions on the overall direction of the campaign, but that the week-to-week decisions should be left up to the sub-committee.
- * The role of the youth committee would be to :
 - a) to co-ordinate the youth campaign (ie, with the media, youth culture and road-show sub-committees).
 - b) represent ECC on other co-ordinating structures, eg. CIYYCC and the "not-the-UDF" IYY.
 - c) initiate work in the schools.
- * The youth committee that its work in IYY structures must be with a view to specifically furthering the aims of ECC. Representatives must be careful not to take on so much general IYY work, that ECC work is jeopardised.
- * The youth committee was asked to bring specific tasks to the general meetings for representatives to take back to their organisations.

In the course of the discussion on the youth campaign some general points weremade regarding ECC work :

- * we should be careful of not taking on too many projects, without the resources to carry them through.
- * sub-committees should send reps to general meetings, and bring forward guidelines for policy decisions.
- * organisational reps should take more responsibility for promoting ECC in their organisations.
- * the ECC general body should take responsibility for the public profile of ECC.

3. MEDIA

The media committee will send reps to the Grassroots news-gathering committee - possibly 1 permanent and 1 alternative rep.

The end of March has been set as the deadline for the ECC video. A specific session to conceptualise the video was set aside for Saturday 16 February at 2.00pm at 14 St Michaels Road.

4. EASTERN AND SOUTHERN CAPE

Mike reported back on his visit to Grahamstown, PE & Oudtshoorn. Grahamstown - conscription is being taken up through NUSAS, GCD (Grahamstown Committee of Democrats) and the emerging COSG/Advice Bureau structure, but work did not seem far enough advanced to set up an ECC structure. However, this idea would be kept in mind as work continued.

Port Elizabeth - The Port Elizabeth Area Committee (PEAC) is already actively taking up the conscription campaign both through UDF and in their own area. They have approached organisations and church groups to meet in mid-March to discuss the possibility of setting up an ECC.

Oudtshoorn - Very exciting and encouraging work around conscription is being conducted there. Organisations campaigned around the involvement of the SADF in a particular school; the ECC publication and the NUSAS booklet were adopted, re-published and distributed; and a number of Cape Corps volunteers have indicated that they will have nothing more to do with the SADF when they are called up for camps. In this event they will face trial for breach of contract. 'Objector' is distributed throughout the Southern Cape.

5. JOHANNESBURG

The ECC/PFP debate is going ahead under the title "SADF: defending apartheid or shielding the nation." Dr David Webster will speak for ECC and possibly Van Zyl Slabbert for the PFP.

6. PFP YOUTH

Mike was approached to speak on a panel at the national congress of the PFP youth. The request was turned down on the basis of the earlier ECC decision. Some misgivings about the decision were expressed.

7. NATIONAL CONFERENCE
The executive motivated that this happen in Johannesburg on 5/6 July, to be followed by a day when ECC delegates meet. Johannesburg seemed the logical venue because of its centrality, the access to press channels, and the need to boost the campaign on a public level in the Transvaal. 5/6 July would follow immediately the NUSAS July Festival in Johannesburg. That weekend would fall within the vacations of all the schools and universities. Organisations were asked to discuss the proposal and come to the next meeting with any problems.
8. UCT CAG
During Orientation Week the ECC Cultural Roadshow will be performed on the Plaza at 12 noon on Thursday 21st. Videos will be shown throughout the week. The question of a possible PFP/ECC debate at UCT was raised.
9. BLACK SASH
A conscription sub-committee has been set up. The possibility of setting up a 'Parents Against Conscription' group is being discussed with other organisations as Civil Rights League and Womens Movement for Peace.
10. GENERAL
 - * The possibility of wide-scale forced removals of Crossroads residents to Khayelitsha was raised. It was agreed that ECC delegates and activists should be prepared to be called to an emergency ECC meeting.
 - * The COSG Advice Bureau was again advertised and organisations were encouraged to use it.
 - * The possibility of ECC making use of the UCT Speakers Corner was discussed. Volunteers to put themselves "on the line" were not forthcoming.
 - * ECC CT said farewell to Laurie.
11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Thursday 28 February, at 8.00pm

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MINUTES of the 27th Meeting of the End Conscription Committee held on
28th February 1985.

PRESENT: COSG, NUSAS, Black Sash, SUCA, UCT, Obs UDF, Claremont UDF,
Anglican BSR, Quaker Church.

1. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS:

- a) Black Sash - A conscription interest group has been set up, as well as a group focussing on IYY with reps from Race Relations, WPCC, Civil Rights, Women's Movement for Peace and Black Sash. Sir Richard Luyt will be addressing the opening of the Black Sash National Conference on Conscription.
- b) SUCA - In the restructuring of SUCA, more formalised task groups are being established one of which will be on conscription. The members of this group will hopefully be working closely with ECC. The SUCA church youth group was approached by Vishoek High School who seemed interested in using the ECC Roadshow.
- c) UCT - The Conscription Action Group had a booth during Orientation Week which was kept busy with much discussion, arguing, advising and advertising of CAG, ECC and the Advice Bureau. About 25 people joined CAG, most of whom came to the first meeting where Mike spoke.

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) ECC received a particularly encouraging letter from a possible school student.
- b) Mike got a letter from the PFP National Youth Office expressing their disappointment about ECC's position in relation to the PFP and sending us material.

3. ADAC WORKSHOP:

We assessed the workshop and felt it had been very useful. The guerrilla theatre exposed our lack of planning in relation to detention, although it was quite difficult to evaluate our reactions because of the short time span of the guerrilla theatre. The input was felt to be quite academic, and could possibly have included more on techniques for handling harrassment and preparation for detention.

4. SUBCOMMITTEES:

- a) Roadshow - sent apologies. They are performing for the Black Sash on 10 March and the IYY Launch on 29/30 March. They were congratulated for their excellent performance at UCT.
- b) Youth - the work of the Youth Committee has been primarily co-ordination and strategising. The committee met with CAG and now has a permanent CAG rep. It was felt more planning was needed around the committees own Youth Programme. On 15 March there is a government declared IYY weekend.

- c) Youth Culture - they are planning a concert for March 22 and are trying desperately to find a venue for it. A good line-up of bands has been organised and an appeal for plays was made - especially to SUCA and the Roadshow.
The group meets on Wednesdays, will be showing videos, is happy to expand its ranks and wants to change its name - "youth culture" is too presumptuous!
- d) Media Committee - they are working on a series of posters to coincide with the IYY launch; are doing a re-run of "Stop the Call Up"; are involved with the video and have just produced the A1 "Hands off Crossroads" poster. The Crossroads' poster has had a very good response (Basil nearly had a car accident when he saw it) and selling copies of it at the Claremont UDF meeting meant that we just about covered costs. The possibility of a re-run was raised and left to the media committee to decide. We thanked Media for producing such a wonderful poster.

5. FUTURE ACTION:

- a) We had some discussion about ECC's lack of public profile recently. One of the limitations of defining our campaign around a specific area is that it narrows our scope. We discussed the feasibility of ECC picking-up on Koeberg but felt that this is not really our terrain. It was suggested that we consider looking at the disinvestment campaign, particularly in relation to Armscor-related companies, and we felt this should be considered as a possible project for one of the area committees.

Areas we then outlined for profile are:

- Defence budget
- Call-up
- Republic Day
- Sebokeng Day
- other issues (eg: Crossroads)

- b) We also discussed how we incorporate the group of people who have expressed interest in getting involved in ECC. We differentiated between those whose involvement would extend to keeping touch with ECC and maybe doing occasional tasks and those who are wanting to work as ECC activists.

For the first (and broader group), we felt it would be useful to send out a regular ECC newsletter. We could also send a questionnaire asking people to tick off the type of tasks they would be prepared to do, eg: pamphleteering, picketing, silk-screening etc. On the questionnaire or in the newsletter, we should advertise ECC subcommittees. Possibly subscription fees could be paid for the newsletter and so it would bring in funds as well. The never-forgotten idea of monthly general meetings could also cater for this broader group and could be advertised in the newsletter. The executive was mandated to consider these ideas.

We then moved on to discuss those people who are wanting to become ECC activists. Many of them do not want to work in any of the affiliated organisations because they have been attracted specifically to ECC. We do have subcommittees - media, youth culture, youth and the Roadshow - but youth culture is the only committee that seemed to think it could accommodate more people at this stage and youth at a later stage.

We also identified the problem that there are too few people who are able and prepared to take on co-ordinating roles in subcommittees. The type of training in subcommittees would need to involve development of people such that they are able to take on these roles. Education could happen in different ways in the various subcommittees, eg: youth culture probably would not have formal seminars but then need to ensure that in the work that is being taken on as well as at an individual level, such education and development is occurring.

It was suggested that possibly every two months we have large ECC meetings which are attended by reps as well as everyone in ECC subcommittees. This meeting would facilitate this group feeling part of ECC as a whole and could possibly engage in active work together as well as learn about the rest of ECC and also have interesting input.

The types of problems which develop from ECC being both a front as well as growing into an organisation should be discussed further in subcommittees and affiliated organisations.

6. CONTINGENCY PLANS:

(Arising out of ADAC workshop.)

It was felt that to cope with possible emergencies we need to:

- * ask two non-ECC people to also be signatories for our account;
- * have a tree contact system;
- * have a lawyer;
- * meet at Ron. Con. at 8.00 the next ^{day} if such a situation occurs.

7. Our next meetings will be on the 14th and 28th March.

MINUTES OF THE ECC MEETING OF 11 MARCH 1985

Present: very few ECC members, mostly from sub-committees.

1. It was announced that Anton Lubowski was speaking at UWC on 17 April.
2. OPEN MEETINGS:
18 April - "personal responses to the call-up"
2 May - "War in Namibia - a correspondent's viewpoint"

These meetings are open to all members of ECC affiliates and anyone interested in ECC and its activities.
3. GELDENHUYS COMMISSION:
Will sit in Cape Town in June - need to discuss ECC's response at next ECC meeting.
4. PRESS CORRESPONDENCE:
Letters were written to editors of both Cape Times and the Argus, in connection with their responses to ECC advertisements for the public meeting on Uitenhage. No response has yet been received. A letter containing demands put forward at meeting, was also sent for publication to both papers.
5. NANSO:
Report back on UWC NANSO workshop, which Mike addressed on ECC. Good attendance, and much interest shown in ECC and its work. Discussion focussed also on difficulties of taking up such a campaign in Namibian situation...
6. OTHER CENTRES REPORTS:
Brief report back - more details at future meetings.

Jo'burg held a joint public meeting on Uitenhage/civil war, with JODAC, SASH, SACC, in Northern Suburbs. Good attendance, and content - speeches by Sheena Duncan and Beyers Naude. Problem - much of the work done by ECC and yet no ECC profile at the meeting.

Durban are holding a public meeting on the same issue on 18 April, with Curnick Ndlovu, Paul Davids (ECC Durban) and Beyers Naude speaking.
7. NATIONAL ORGANISER:
Laurie is currently in P.E. He visited Oudtshoorn and met with UDF/Saamstaan people to talk over common issues. Monday 15 April is PE's (internal) inauguration meeting, and a report back on this at next meeting.
8. FESTIVAL:
Dates are 28/29 June or 5/6 July. David S. is Cape Town coordinator for Festival. Festival will run from Thursday to Saturday night, but details of programme etc and Cape Town participation will happen at next meeting.
9. ROADSHOW:
Rep. from Roadshow attended to give a report, and asked for feedback from rest of ECC on Roadshow performances, in terms of content and response etc. Roadshow has many bookings coming up, but real problem is amount of time and energy required for each show, and changing composition of group. Some discussion on the success of

Roadshow followed. An appeal was made for materials for props and costumes to be given to Penny or Leigh. An appeal for financial assistance to cover the costs involved in producing shows was made and agreed to by the general body.

Roadshow is involved in process of assessment and will produce a report either at next meeting or some time thereafter. Roadshow members were commended for their hard work, and for their success in giving ECC profile. A request for their presentation at Festival was made too.

10. BLACK SASH CONFERENCE:

Our Black Sash rep. presented a report on the Black Sash conference held in PE recently. There was much attention focussed on the issue of conscription, from Sir Richard's talk to a lengthy discussion, with presentation from Sash reps to ECC's in different centres. Four papers on conscription were presented, and Black Sash committed itself to sending members from all SASH regions to all national ECC occasions. The Western Cape report on ECC was well-received (and well-presented), and the Sash has committed itself to active support for ECC.

11. ASSESSMENT:

Also on the agenda was a public meeting assessment and report backs from sub-committees on assessments held recently. Due to the small number of ECC members at the meeting, and the fact that sub-committees had not all met to do assessments, this was postponed until next ECC meeting (25 April). All sub-committees will have done an assessment, which is to be presented as a written (brief) report, and all members are to be encouraged to attend. This assessment will be the major item on the agenda at the next meeting, and is vital for assessing where we are at at the moment, and in which direction ECC must move forward, to continue doing the invaluable and ever-growing work we have started

See you there!

(P.S. Hope the minutes are suitable - as it is the first time I have had to do them.)

MINUTES OF THE 28TH MEETING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE HELD
ON 14TH MARCH, 1985.

PRESENT : NUSAS, UCT, COSG, Anglican BSR, Observatory UDF, Claremont UDF, Quakers, Women's Movement for Peace, Media, Youth Culture, Youth.

APOLOGIES : Black Sash, WPCC, SUCA, Roadshow

1. NATIONAL REPORT

Mike had just been to Jo'burg for the first national committee meeting of the ECC. A report has been written and so the details will not be minuted. However, it sounds as though ECC nationally is on the up and up, with Durban and Johannesburg both going very well, P.E. ECC being launched on Thursday and talk of forming an ECC in Pietermaritzburg.

2. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

This will be held in Johannesburg on 5th & 6th July. It is planned to be very high profile, and already Jo'burg ECC have set up a sub-committee to plan for the conference. The idea has been received enthusiastically by a range of organisations, including the World Council of Churches who have indicated that there is a possibility of holding international days of prayer to co-incide with the dates of the conference. Similarly it is possible that solidarity days will be planned by peace movement and anti-apartheid movements..

The conference will be launched with a mass meeting on the Friday night followed by low key workshops, videos etc on Saturday. Key motions are to be presented in the areas of Namibia (hopefully by Archbishop Hurley); ECC (by an objector); Townships/civil war; and Peace. The conference will close with a concert on Saturday night, and on Sunday the national council will meet. We need to discuss ideas for content of the workshops, and a title for the conference.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Media : is working on the IYY poster series, the first of which is due to be distributed on Monday and the second the following week. The revised 'Stop the Call-up' poster will go out in a couple of weeks time. ECC has been asked to help with the display on the theme 'Peace' for the regional IYY launch.
- b) Youth Culture : a concert is being held on Friday 22/23rd in Collingwood Road, Observatory (the venue is in an enclave into the grounds of the Rapid Deployment Force!) It will be a fairly small concert, with Mapansulas and Smiling Cats playing. SUCA are putting on a play at the concert. Youth Culture are also working on a comic and poster, and ideas for the future include an art exhibition and a film festival.

- c) Youth : The Roadshow now has a rep. on the youth committee, so all sub-committees are represented. The schools working group is getting going and developing contacts at some of the schools. ECC has been asked to have a stand at the regional IYY launch.
- d) Roadshow : The group couldn't send a rep. to this meeting because they were rehearsing. They have been very busy and have requests for productions at UCT medical school and Michaelis, the IYY launch and Fish Hoek High. They had very positive feedback from their last performance which was for the Black Sash. The Roadshow feel they could do with 5 more people in their group.

4. NAMIBIA

- a) NANSO : has asked ECC to help them with a conscription workshop being held at UWC this weekend.
- b) Thursday 21st, 8.00pm : Tony Weaver will be speaking to ECC at Rondebosch Congregational Church about the situation in Namibia. This will be a general ECC activity (which we identified as important at our last meeting) bringing together all sub-committees and reps.

5. NEW SUB-COMMITTEE

The executive was asked to consider what to do about various neglected areas of work. Their proposal was that a sub-committee should be established to deal with :

- * press and publicity
- * newsletter
- * two-monthly meetings

At this stage this would not entail a great deal of work.

6. DEFENCE BUDGET

The budget is coming up this Monday which is too soon for us to have much other than a press response. (People must remember to use teleletters). We should rather respond in a bigger way to the Defence debate which is usually in April or May.

7. GENERAL

- a) This morning there was an ECC press release about the 7589 people who have failed to report so far this year, in comparison to the 1560 who failed to report in all of 1984.
- b) Apparently Magnus Malan in reply to Helen Suzman said that in the first two weeks of July 1984 call-up, there were 60 attempted suicides, 10 of which were successful.
- c) There is to be a Sharpeville and Conscription focus at a school which some ECC people have been asked to speak.

- d) A UCT psychology honours student is interested in doing research on conscription. We felt it would be useful to do attitudes to conscription across parameters of age, sex, race, and people who have /haven't been into the army.
- e) Dot has been working on draughting a motivation about alternative service. The Geldenhuys Commission is looking into alternative service and ECC organisations should consider giving evidence.
- f) Mike met with the head of the Swedish delegation, who seemed fairly supportive of ECC.
- g) ECC meetings start at 8.00pm - NO LATER!

APPENDIX TO MINUTES OF ECC MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 1985

FIRST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, JOHANNESBURG, 6 MARCH 1985

We agreed not to minute the entire meeting, but simply to note the main decisions. So the following is not a comprehensive documentation of our discussion.

1. REGIONAL REPORTS

a) Johannesburg

Meetings are now regularly attended by over 15 people, and two new sub-committees have been established : a media committee, and a newsletter and research committee. They are working on a resource pack for the CIYYCC. Future plans include a legal workshop, and a series of workshops at their weekly meetings, focussing on youth and culture. Their debate with the PFP has been postponed until May. They have written letters to the press, Deurbraak, and van Zyl Slabbert regarding the PFP Youth's decision on conscription.

b) Durban

Overall, things are looking very encouraging in Durban. A co-ordinating committee has been established, and a media committee has had its first meeting with ten people and five others interested. They are busy producing media around their first project, the SADF's involvement in an IYY programme in Wentworth on 15/16 March. Other plans include an anti-war concert, publicity around the Hurley case, and presenting a standard workshop on militarisation for organisations. An encouraging development was the setting up of a militarisation group in NEUSA and the subsequent response to the SADF intervention into a school in Inanda. Durban ECC would like samples of all past Cape Town media.

2. NATIONAL ORGANISOR'S REPORT

Laurie will report back in depth at our next ECC meeting (28 March). In brief, his work in Durban has included meeting with ECC individuals and with most affiliates, meeting with non-affiliated organisations, journalists, church leaders and prominent individuals, co-ordinating and producing resources and debating during the Durban orientation week on the subject "which way to peace in South Africa: yes or no to conscription." Particularly encouraging has been his work with people in Pietermaritzburg, where there is a strong possibility of an ECC being set up in the near future. At present 4 Pmb people are attending Durban ECC meetings.

3. RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

a) National Co-ordination of resources

- * Each centre should circulate press-clips on :
 - local flash points/events that all ECCs need to know about and respond to
 - any story, editorial or letter mentioning ECC
- * Each centre should circulate analytic articles, talks and workshop material on militarisation.
- * Each centre should appoint a resource co-ordinator.

b) Resource Packs

Each centre should collect articles for a resource pack which will be put together in July and reproduced for resource centres and organisations.

4. NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

- * It was agreed that the parliamentary defence debate would be the occasion for a press/picket/info meeting-type focus
- * Republic Day focus : there should be maximum regional flexibility with no national media
- * 16-26 June IYY focus : each region should participate in local IYY activities
- * 'Peace and Friendship' : it was suggested that we produce a national pamphlet and poster on the 'peace' theme, to coincide with a provide content to the Freedom Charter's 30th anniversary. Jo'burg agreed to draft a pamphlet to circulate by early May. Regions were asked to discuss the possibility of a poster.
- * July call-up : action will coincide with the July festival
- * Namibia : decision as at January conference
- * September 3 National Day of Protest : decision as at January conference

5. NATIONAL FESTIVAL

Date : 5-6 July

Venue: Johannesburg

Title: to be discussed in regions

Nature: High powered, public, using big names and international endorsement and inviting all affiliates and others

Programme : To be discussed in regions, but possibly to begin with a mass meeting opening on the evening of Friday 5th, programmes during the day on Saturday (videos, talks, workshops, etc.) and closing with a meeting and a concert. Sunday 7th would then be available for a meeting of the national council

Motions: Possibly 4 areas - SADF in townships/civil war, Namibia, peace, and End Conscription

6. MEDIA

No firm decisions were taken, except that we should be more rigorous about circulating mock-ups of media which could potentially be used nationally, eg. ideas for buttons, t-shirts, etc.

7. INTERNATIONAL

Cape Town agreed to take overall responsibility for co-ordinating correspondence with sympathetic agencies and organisations overseas.

8. LAURIE'S PLANS

5-19 March	: Johannesburg
20-24 March	: Eastern Cape, including their inaugural meeting
25 March - 4 April	: Cape Town
5-8 April	: Easter weekend
9-30 April	: Natal (including Pietermaritzburg)
1-23 May	: Johannesburg

It was decided that we should postpone a final decision on Laurie's trip to Namibia.

9. GELDENHUYS COMMISSION

This has been set up under the Chief of the Army to explore alternatives to military service. ECC affiliates are encouraged to submit evidence by writing to:
Geldenhuys Commission
Ministry of Defence
Hendrik Verwoerd Building
Cape Town, 8001

MINUTES OF THE 29TH MEETING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 MARCH 1985

PRESENT : COSG, BLACK SASH, NUSAS, WPCC, ABSR, UCT, OBS UDF, CLAREMONT UDF, SUCA,
WOMEN'S MOVEMENT FOR PEACE, LAURIE

1. NATIONAL REPORT

Laurie gave a report of the activities and plans of ECC's around the country. He spoke of the effect which the campaign is having nationally, and the support it is being given. The mainline churches have taken an interest in ECC and the Catholic Bishops Conference has gone so far as to call on its members to join ECC. The Methodist Church is presently debating the question of supporting the call for end to conscription.

*The SADF has been used to man roadblocks in the Eastern Cape, and there have been allegations that Koevoet has also been involved in the area.

*It seems the SADF is taking some responsibility for the government's IYY, and has been active in Inanda and Kwazulu in the Natal area.

*There are rumours that Indian youth will be called up next year.

*The Geldenhuys Commission is investigating altering national service & camps. ECC and COSG's should consider submitting evidence to the commission.

*The conduct of the army in the townships last year has been investigated by the military, and it has been found that they had operated outside of their limits.

2. FESTIVAL

The suggested dates were 5 & 6 July, but it may have to be moved forward a week. Suggested speakers for the opening night are Beyers, Tutu, Sheena Duncan, someone from UDF, ECC and Namibian Council of Churches. We arranged a time for those who are particularly interested to meet and discuss the festival.

3. IYY LAUNCH

We discussed ECC activities at the launch and decided that we would participate as much as possible, but bearing in mind that IYY is not our priority.

4. MEDIA

The City Council wouldn't pass the advertising poster for the Tuesday meeting, so we discussed what plan of action we should take. The decision was to change the poster and try (once more) to get permission. This involved sticking a question mark after "civil war" and adding "meeting" onto the poster (eventually 'civil war' had to be cut off before the poster was passed).

5. MEETING

A public meeting was being planned for Tuesday 2/4 in response to the Uitenhage killing and the state of civil war. The decision to hold the meeting was made in the forum which was immediately accessible - ie. Laurie's review group. An emergency ECC meeting was called to discuss the meeting, but very few people attended. No high-profile type speakers were available to speak at the meeting. A statement of demands has been drawn up, to be circulated for endorsement to a range of individuals and organisations. We then had a long and useful debate about what type of meeting it should be, and what action our constituency would be prepared to take.

Apw

MINUTES OF THE ECC MEETING OF 11 MARCH 1985

Present: very few ECC members, mostly from sub-committees.

1. It was announced that Anton Lubowski was speaking at UWC on 17 April.
2. OPEN MEETINGS:
18 April - "personal responses to the call-up"
2 May - "War in Namibia - a correspondent's viewpoint"

These meetings are open to all members of ECC affiliates and anyone interested in ECC and its activities.
3. GELDENHUYS COMMISSION:
Will sit in Cape Town in June - need to discuss ECC's response at next ECC meeting.
4. PRESS CORRESPONDENCE:
Letters were written to editors of both Cape Times and the Argus, in connection with their responses to ECC advertisements for the public meeting on Uitenhage. No response has yet been received. A letter containing demands put forward at meeting, was also sent for publication to both papers.
5. NANSO:
Report back on UWC NANSO workshop, which Mike addressed on ECC. Good attendance, and much interest shown in ECC and its work. Discussion focussed also on difficulties of taking up such a campaign in Namibian situation...
6. OTHER CENTRES REPORTS:
Brief report back - more details at future meetings.

Jo'burg held a joint public meeting on Uitenhage/civil war, with JODAC, SASH, SACC, in Northern Suburbs. Good attendance, and content - speeches by Sheena Duncan and Beyers Naude. Problem - much of the work done by ECC and yet no ECC profile at the meeting.

Durban are holding a public meeting on the same issue on 18 April, with Curnick Ndlovu, Paul Davids (ECC Durban) and Beyers Naude speaking.
7. NATIONAL ORGANISER:
Laurie is currently in P.E. He visited Oudtshoorn and met with UDF/Saamstaan people to talk over common issues. Monday 15 April is PE's (internal) inauguration meeting, and a report back on this at next meeting.
8. FESTIVAL:
Dates are 28/29 June or 5/6 July. David S. is Cape Town coordinator for Festival. Festival will run from Thursday to Saturday night, but details of programme etc and Cape Town participation will happen at next meeting.
9. ROADSHOW:
Rep. from Roadshow attended to give a report, and asked for feedback from rest of ECC on Roadshow performances, in terms of content and response etc. Roadshow has many bookings coming up, but real problem is amount of time and energy required for each show, and changing composition of group. Some discussion on the success of

Roadshow followed. An appeal was made for materials for props and costumes to be given to Penny or Leigh. An appeal for financial assistance to cover the costs involved in producing shows was made and agreed to by the general body.

Roadshow is involved in process of assessment and will produce a report either at next meeting or some time thereafter. Roadshow members were commended for their hard work, and for their success in giving ECC profile. A request for their presentation at Festival was made too.

10. BLACK SASH CONFERENCE:

Our Black Sash rep. presented a report on the Black Sash conference held in PE recently. There was much attention focussed on the issue of conscription, from Sir Richard's talk to a lengthy discussion, with presentation from Sash reps to ECC's in different centres. Four papers on conscription were presented, and Black Sash committed itself to sending members from all SASH regions to all national ECC occasions. The Western Cape report on ECC was well-received (and well-presented), and the Sash has committed itself to active support for ECC.

11. ASSESSMENT:

Also on the agenda was a public meeting assessment and report backs from sub-committees on assessments held recently. Due to the small number of ECC members at the meeting, and the fact that sub-committees had not all met to do assessments, this was postponed until next ECC meeting (25 April). All sub-committees will have done an assessment, which is to be presented as a written (brief) report, and all members are to be encouraged to attend. This assessment will be the major item on the agenda at the next meeting, and is vital for assessing where we are at at the moment, and in which direction ECC must move forward, to continue doing the invaluable and ever-growing work we have started

See you there!

(P.S. Hope the minutes are suitable - as it is the first time I have had to do them.)

MINUTES OF THE 31ST MEETING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE

HELD ON 25 APRIL 1985

PRESENT: COSG, NUSAS, BLACK SASH, UCT SRC, SUCA, QUAKERS,
OBS UDF, CLAREMONT UDF, SUB-COMMITTEES

APOLOGIES: WPCC, CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE, TEAM.

1. Sub-Committee Assessments

(a) Youth Culture Committee

The committee identified various factors which resulted in poor attendance at the last concert - venue; advertising poster; types of bands etc. New ideas for projects include: an ECC stall at Greenmarket Square, art exhibition, film festival. It was felt that Youth Culture would define school children as a specific constituency outside of youth as a general constituency.

(b) Media Committee

The committee outlined the media they had produced this year; as well as plans for the next few months which include comic; media package; youth poster series; skills workshop. There are still problems being experienced with distribution of media, particularly in crisis situations.

(c) Youth Committee

The role of youth committee in practice is different from how it was originally conceptualised as there has not really been a specific ECC youth campaign, nor a concerted general IYY Campaign. The schools group which evolved out of the committee operates as a separate structure. The committee's major function has been that of co-ordination.

(f) Schools Group

The schools group have felt that they are relatively out of touch with school children, and need to learn from SIG's successes and failures. They are going to contact pupils and teachers in an attempt to gauge their feelings, commitments and priorities, and only then make plans.

(e) Cultural Roadshow

The road show had not completed their assessment and will present it at the next meeting.

(f) Contact Committee

The Contact Committee has only been in existence for a few weeks. Their major function has been defined as: liaison, maintaining ECC profile and co-ordinating irregular meetings.

The first newsletter "ECC Calendar" is at the printers - it will cover ECC activities and conscription activities taken up by other organisations.

2. General Assessment

The ECC general body then divided into smaller groups to discuss questions relating to the general functioning of ECC. Some of the suggestions which came out of the discussions were:

that the Executive should be expanded to include reps from each of the subcommittees to facilitate better co-ordination, strategizing and planning; Executive Meetings should be open so that problems and ideas can be raised in a forum other than the tightly packed two hour Thursday night meetings, there should be more regular assessments; and that there should be an internal education programme/forum which allows for more regions theoretical discussion than the open meetings.

3. Workshop

We planned a workshop for Saturday 4th May to further discuss some of the ideas and questions which came up in this discussion.

4. 40th Anniversary of the Victory over Fascism

This issue was raised with the Civil Rights League who have now decided to hold a meeting on Wednesday 8th May at 1.00 p.m. at St. Georges Cathedral. ECC speaker has been invited, and ECC may also distribute media at the meeting. We discussed what media would be suitable, and decided on the newsletter.

The Observatory area committee may be holding a workshop on Sunday 5 May focussing on the victory over fascism.

5. Geldenhuys Commission

We discussed the viability of ECC giving evidence to the commission which is looking into the restructuring of the army - including aspects such as conscription and alternative service. We decided we should give evidence, although it may be too late already.

6. The next ECC meetings will be on 9 and 23 May at 8.00 p.m. at the Rondebosch Congregational Church.

AN ATTEMPT TO CUT DOWN ON LENGTHY REPORTS AT ECC MEETING

25.4.1985

1. REGIONAL REPORTS

- (a) Johannesburg - successful joint meeting with SACC, Black Sash and JODAC on the Civil War - main speakers Sheena and Beyers - ± 500 attended.
- (b) Durban - have produced a series of excellent media as build up to their meeting last week - speakers: Laurie, Zac Jacob, Ann Colvin and Paddy Kearney - + 150/200 attended, and very good discussion from floor and in rap groups.
- (c) Port Elizabeth - ECC now officially launched - inaugural meeting gate-crashed by 60 UPE students, mainly drunk and very rascist - handled well by ECC people - have produced first newsletter.

HARRASSMENT

Besides the P.E. incident, ECC slogans ("No to SADF", etc) were sprayed on the walls of Khotso House, Freeway House and the Catholic Cahtedral in JoBurg. ECC publicly dissociated.

2. PRESS

As I said last week, I wrote letters to the editors of both the Cape Times and the Argus concerning coverage of ECC activities. Responses:

- (a) Cape Times (Gerald Shaw) - Thanked me for the "kind words" I said in public - said that the term "Civil War" has "awesome implications" and "should only be used with great care and circumspection and appropriate qualification".
- (b) Argus (A.P. Drysdale) - wording of our advert was "unacceptable" and "open to misinterpretation" - stated that my ascertainment that the Argus has an un-stated policy of blocking coverage of the conscription issue, was incorrect.

I sent a letter with the statement of demands and the endorsers (from the 2 April meeting) to both the Argus and the Cape Times. Neither has yet been published.

We're getting very odd national coverage, e.g. Natal papers gave superb coverage to the spray-painting issue, but nothing to the Durban meeting. Argus covered the Durban meeting, but not our own, etc, etc.

3. STATEMENTS

- (a) Issued a statement to the Argus and Cape Times on the "Dad's Army" call-up. Neither was published.
- (b) Did a statement of support for the CAYCO AGM.

4. ARTICLE

A book is being brought out to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. ECC was asked to make a contribution. This was done in the form of a joint interview with Pete Hathorn and Laurie on C.O., ECC and the Peace issue.

5. OPEN MEETING

The first "open" meeting was attended by 25 people, 10 of whom were from ECC - very useful discussion after talks on the history of CO, alternatives to conscription, the Board and prison.

6. TEAM, AND CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE AND THE QUAKERS

Dot is still recovering from her operation and hopes to resume attendance at meetings soon.

Robin Peterson (a new TEAM rep) will start attending meetings when he finally completes his Ph.D.

Victor has had to leave Cape Town and says farewell to all in ECC. We welcome Mary Ellis as the new Quaker rep.

7. P.R.O.

Being Chairperson of ECC lands one in the most surprising places in this case a dinner with the Swedish ambassador - good food and useful discussion.

8. DIARIZE

FRIDAY 28 - SUN 30 JUNE, JO'BURG - "STOP THE CALL-UP
- ECC FESTIVAL FOR PEACE"

ECC MEETING - 25.4.1985

1. ECC PROFILE

- a. Public meeting - what gains were made?
- b. - Why did so few attend?
- c. Meeting formular - are we being too standard?
- d. Areas of possible improvement.

2. SUB COMMITTEES

- a. Advances in the past couple of months
- b. Why has the level of participation + activity lessened over the past month
- c. Why were so few sub-committee members actively involved in the organisation of the public meeting

3. * A number of people have expressed the absence in ECC of a forum to
- i. air frustrations, unhappinesses with direction, etc
 - ii. conduct rigorous forward-planning + work out responses to immediate issues.

Discuss possible solutions, considering

- a. the function of Thursday night meetings
- b. the role of the EXEC meetings
- c. Other solutions

4. * What issues should ECC be organising around or responding to over the next 3 months?
- Merely raise the issues - we will discuss them in depth at the workshop on Sat. 4 May.

B8.1

AN ATTEMPT TO CUT DOWN ON LENGTHY REPORTS AT ECC MEETING 25.4.1985 . . .

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8. TO DIARIZE

- * FRI 26 APRIL, 7.30 PM, ST FRANCIS, LANGA — Grassroots A/CM opening with Currick Ndlovu (National UDF chairperson) plus NEW media video starring Chippie, Margot + Mike.
- * THURS 2 MAY, 8.00 PM, RON CON — 2nd ECC open evening focussing on Namibia, with Tony Weaver
- * SAT 4 MAY, 11.00 AM — ECC planning workshop (venue to be decided)
- * WED 8 MAY, 1.00 PM, ST GEORGES CATHEDRAL — Civil Right league meeting focussing on the 40th anniversary of the defeat of fascism
- * THURS 9 MAY, 8.00 PM, RON CON — Regular ECC meeting
- * FRI 28 — SUN 30 JUNE, JO'BURG — "STOP THE CALL-UP — ECC FESTIVAL FOR PEACE"

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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