



Some Cape Town ECC delegates at the national conference in Durban in January.

But more importantly, the conference was forward-looking. The forthcoming "Working for a Just Peace Campaign" was discussed extensively (see separate article). Plans were made for a national film festival and inter-regional culture conference in April; an anti-call up campaign in July and a massive Peace Festival in January next year.

Criticisms, too, were voiced. In particular, ECC's neglect of its on-going research into issues relating to conscription was pointed out – a shortcoming to be remedied by the establishment of research groups in all the centres and the publication of a national journal.

The establishment of a new post of full-time national secretary (David Shandler); the opening of a head office at Khotso House in Johannesburg and the creation of posts of regional workers are all indications of the expansion of the campaign.

The conference showed once again that ECC is not short on ideas, drive and, importantly, the ability to THINK BIG!!

Comment

Our Newsletter

This is the second year of "Calendar's" history. Last year, we brought out five issues. This year we intend to produce at least six at approximately six-week intervals. The focus will continue to be ECC and its activities.

"Calendar" is dependent for its survival on the financial contributions of ECC supporters. Readers are strongly encouraged to assist the campaign by subscribing to "Calendar". We would also like to thank all those who have contributed in this way over the past year.

Did you know?

* That the SADF gave away gifts of "armaments, supplies and three giraffes" worth R4,8 million to "foreign countries and a university" in 1984/85.

* That no Africans volunteered for service in the SADF in 1985.

* That Magnus Malan has refused to disclose the number of conscripts who did not report for military service in 1985. It seems that "particulars supplied last year were misused by a certain organisation which campaigns for the discontinuation of national service". No prizes for guessing who he is referring to.

Just to remind readers – in 1984, 1 596 conscripts failed to report for duty.

In the January 1985 intake alone, 7 589 conscripts failed to report for duty. (This figures includes those who applied for exemption on the grounds of studies.)

In 1986 – it seems the public is not going to know how many conscripts failed to report.

* That Deputy Minister of Law and Order, Adriaan Vlok, said in parliament that the police had banned the ECC sand castles on Clifton because they were too BIG.

In response to a question from Colin Eglin, he said that "Clifton is such a pretty area, but they built such large castles that people could not use the seashore". This elicited much mirth from MP's – and it seems they are in for more entertainment as Mr Eglin has indicated that further questions on the "Clifton castles" will follow.

From Newspaper reports.

ECC Dateline

- 13 March Open Forum on "Working for a Just Peace" at the Rondebosch Congregational Church Hall at 8.00 pm.
- 15 March ECC nationally collects demands for alternative service.
- 1 April A meeting for all those who are interested in working on projects at some stage of the next three weeks. At the Rondebosch Congregational Church Hall at 8 pm.
- 2 April Work on projects begins.
- 5 April Rondebosch fête/fair. Exciting shopping on a Saturday morning.
- 21 April Close of projects.
- 30 April Public meeting.



Paula Hathorn, newly employed secretary at our ECC office. The office is at no 1 Rhodesview, 435 Main Road, Observatory and the phone no. is 479170. The office will be open daily from 10 am to 2 pm. We hope that you will come in to the office where you can buy t-shirts, work for peace and sign up for a project or find out more about ECC.

OPEN FORUM : "WORKING FOR A JUST PEACE"

Join us at the Rondebosch Congregational Church Hall on Thursday 13 March at 8pm to find out:

- * why ECC is embarking on the national "Working for a Just Peace" campaign
- * what we mean by 'construction not conscription' and;
- * how you can get involved in 'working for a just peace'.

Our friends often ask us if there is any way in which they could aid the work of the ECC. If you feel you could undertake any of the following, please fill in the slip and return it to us.

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Newsletter of the Cape Town

ECC Calendar

End Conscription Committee

Campaign

Working for a Just Peace



This month has been our most active ever! In the midst of involving hundreds of volunteers in "Working for a Just Peace" we have held several other major activities.

On Saturday, April 5 Rondebosch Congregational Church Hall and gardens were packed with people visiting the ECC fair. We have only had positive feedback about the atmosphere at the fair, and in-between painting children's faces, music, puppet shows and comedy routines, the thirty or so stalls made a healthy profit for themselves and ECC.

The next evening our focus moved to the Baxter Theatre. The photo exhibition, "South Africa in Conflict: Resistance, Protest, Power" is a moving and powerful account of the violence in our country today. The exhibition runs until the 26th April.

Immediately after the opening of the photo exhibition, Alex Boraine opened the ECC section of the Cape Town International Film Festival. With a special dispensation from the Censor Board, we screened "The War at Home" for the approximately 600 guests who attended the opening. The film remains banned and it is not hard to see why. It is a documentary of anti-draft strategies in America at the time of the Vietnam War. The parallels with the growing resistance to conscription into the SADF are enormous.

In between all of this, volunteers have continued to flood in for the "Working for a Just Peace Campaign". We've filled hundreds of black bags with litter; we've painted; laid bricks; laid lawns and there is more to come.

Our activities will peak at the end of the month when on the 30th we hold a large mass rally at the City Hall (see advert on back page).

All in all, the campaign has never looked better!!

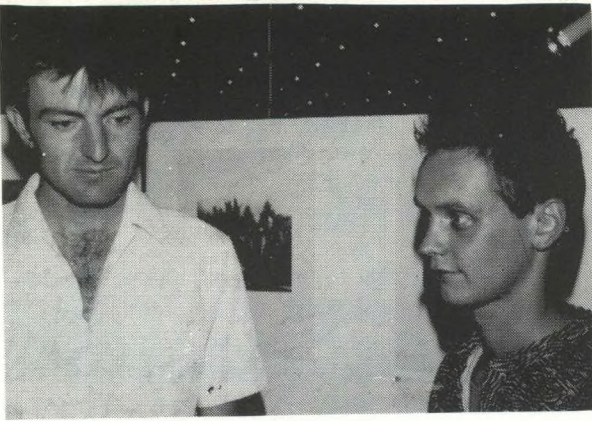
ECC FAIR



saturday shopping

LITTER DRIVE





International

ECC GOES INTERNATIONAL

Friday 21 March was a big day for ECC. On the commemoration of the Sharpeville and Langa shootings, ECC members addressed gatherings in France and the United States.

Port Elizabeth Chairperson, Janet Cherry addressed a conference organised by a French anti-apartheid grouping, SOS Racism. A number of other South Africans were also present at the conference.

In New York, Johannesburg executive member, Gavin Evans addressed the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. He presented a 230-page document to the Committee, detailing ECC's history, aims and objectives, particular requests to the UN and a selection of affidavits and statements.

Gavin is due to spend six weeks in the USA as a guest of the War Resisters League, a pacifist organisation.

ECC at the BAXTER



FROM PRISON... TO PARIS

On Monday 17 March, Janet Cherry, Chairperson of the Port Elizabeth branch of ECC and fellow ECC member, Dominique Souchan were arrested by the Port Elizabeth police. A R90,00 stash of mandrax was found in their outside bathroom after a "hot tip" from an "anonymous caller".

Nobody who knows Janet and Dom has any doubt that the tablets were planted. As Anglican Bishop, Bruce Evans, commented: "What is important to note is that the drugs were found in an outside bathroom that is always left open and which could be entered by anyone who might want to plant drugs.

"This is especially important when one considers the extreme harrassment to which Janet has been exposed. Her house has been searched again and again by the security branch, who apparently never found any drugs. The tires of her car have been slashed many times, her car has been set alight, and so on."

The obvious reason for the planting was that Janet was due to leave for France on the 19th of April. But the story has a happy ending: Janet and Dom were released within 24 hours, without charges being laid and a day later, Janet was off to Paris as a guest of SOS Racism, a French anti-apartheid organisation.

ADVICE BUREAU

The Advice Bureau on military conscription offers its services to people who are concerned about their military service.

The counsellors – lawyers, priests, psychologists and past conscientious objectors – are available through the bureau.

If you wish to contact the Advice Bureau, phone Anton at 47-6274 or Sue at 417-2340.

LIVE LIVE Cultural Evening

April 26

THE ANTI-WAR Film Festival ends with an evening of southern African music.

An exciting line-up of SIMBA MORRI (ex Mapantula guitarist) backed by Mozambiquan high-life dance band, PONGOLO, will play here for the first time. Saxophonist BASIL 'MANENBERG' COETZEE will trace the roots of township jazz. Also featuring are marimba players AMAJINGQI from Langa.

The evening will start about 10.30pm on Saturday, 26th April in the Baxter Theatre foyer. Tickets are R4.00, available from Computicket.



End Conscription RALLY!

April 30; 8:00pm



CITY HALL



Our friends often ask us if there is any way in which they could aid the work of the ECC. If you feel you could undertake any of the following, please fill in the slip and return it to us.

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ECC Comment

SADF raids into neighbouring states

The recent SADF raids into neighbouring states, and, closer to home, the ongoing tragedy in Crossroads, are stark reminders of the future that could await our country.

There are widespread allegations of the involvement of the police and army in facilitating the violence in Crossroads. There is a widespread fear that the Nationalist Party used the SADF raids to deliberately sabotage the EPG Commonwealth peace mission. If these are true, then the implications are extremely serious for us all.

Could it be that the government does not want peace in our country? Could it be that they choose instead to plunge us deeper into a bloody war, rather than accommodate or address any of the real demands of black South Africans?

Whether or not the raids into neighbouring states involved conscripts is irrelevant. Conscripts will be, and are being used in the war that is only intensified by such actions. Conscripts are being used in Crossroads. And it is all young South Africans, black and white, who are going to pay the price for the government's decision to try and solve South Africa's problems by force.

For ECC, this means that it is more urgent than ever to intensify our call for an end to conscription. We cannot remain silent and allow young whites to be forced to fight in a war that many may find unjust, a war that will portray them as oppressors in the eyes of many of our fellow black South Africans.

Right-wing attacks

Recently, ECC has come under attack from the extreme right-wing and from the government. These attacks have taken various forms, including threatening pamphlets to our supporters, several allegations from ministers in Parliament, and letters warning headmasters to stay clear of the ECC, from the National Student Federation. The most prominent and concerted of these attacks appeared in the newsletter issued by "investigative journalist" Aida Parker in April, under the headline "ECC: Naive Complicity or Dangerous Duplicity?". and goes to great lengths to link ECC to the "Communist Onslaught". (ECC has submitted the newsletter to the Media Council for consideration.)

It is an old trick of authoritarian governments everywhere to link any opposition to themselves to some dire threat (real or imagined) facing the nation.

Our response is that the issues that the End Conscription Campaign concerns itself with are genuine, and are rooted directly in the agonising moral dilemma which conscription into the SADF is creating for many young white men. We urge the government to address these issues, rather than sidestep them, by attacking ECC and attempting to discredit us.

Did you know?

* that in the year ending 31 March 1986, six soldiers were killed and 44 injured while on duty in black townships

The ECC Resource Collection is kept in the SRC Resource Centre in the Students Union, UCT. The resources are broken down into 3 broad sections: Militarisation, Armed Conflict and Resistance to Conscription. In these sections there are pamphlets, documents and articles on a large range of topics regarding the military in South Africa. The ECC Resource Centre is available for anyone to borrow material on a short-term loan basis. There is also a photocopy machine in the Centre.

National news

Parents' sub-committee

Two weeks ago ECC held its first meeting of the new Parents' Sub-committee. There we discussed the fact that many parents had suffered as much as their sons because of some of the inequities of the system of conscription. The group felt that its main function could be to play a supportive and informational role for parents whose sons were affected by conscription. The first major project embarked on will be the production of a booklet that will detail information about cadets, conscription and conscientious objection. Anyone wishing to find out more, or get involved, contact Paula at 47-9170 (10.00 am - 2.00 pm).

Philip Wilkinson

Philip Wilkinson, the conscientious objector who was hussed out of an ECC public meeting by about 10 plainclothed military policemen in Johannesburg recently, appeared in a PE court on Friday, May 23. He was charged with failing to report for a camp, and has made it clear that he will refuse to serve in the SADF again. The case has been remanded. ECC wishes to express its support for the courageous stand which Philip has taken.

Sebokeng · Soweto
Kwanobuhle · Tembisa
Duduza · New Brighton
Galeshewe · Bhongolethu · Joza
KwaThema · Alexandra · Zwide...

TROOPS OUT NOW!

ECC

End Conscription Campaign

Geldenhuys.

2 Years for what?

The Geldenhuys Committee was appointed on 30 March 1984 to "conduct a comprehensive in-depth investigation into the South African Defence Force and related aspects of Armscor".

On 15 April 1986, it placed before parliament a heavily abridged version of its findings. Twenty-one work groups involving 70 individuals had heard evidence from 115 people and organisations (including ECC), covering "the entire political and economic spectrum in South Africa".

If the censored 10-page version of its report which was made public, is anything to go by in assessing this two year exercise, the Geldenhuys Committee did no more than confirm defence force policy and direction.

The Committee asserted strongly that national service will not be ended, or even shortened, and that there would be no question of extending the current provisions regarding religious objection. In an unintended indictment of the SADF, the Geldenhuys Committee stated that recognising non-religious conscientious objectors, "will result in the Defence Force being reduced to inefficiency".

The Committee, no doubt aware of the potential impact which a period at university may have on conscripts, also recommended that "it would be preferable if military service were made compulsory before tertiary training". At the same time, they did acknowledge that there remained a need for national servicemen with "certain professional skills".

In response to ECC's own recommendations to General Geldenhuys and his colleagues, the Committee did no more than make the ominous proposal that "increased efforts should be made to counter the anti-national service campaign".

Did you know?

* that 198 coloured and 120 Indian SADF members were deployed in black townships during 1985

* that, according to the 1986 Defence White Paper, "In the same way that military service for whites was developed and adapted over the past years . . . it is envisaged to take the coloureds and Indians through this process as well. At present, the system of voluntary service will have to suffice. Thereafter it could possibly be extended to a selective national service system, before compulsory national service can be considered."

* that, again according to General Malan a "unique paramilitary unit providing technical skills and military training for underqualified coloured men" will be established at Kimberley next January (Star, 14/5/86)

* that soldiers who have completed their initial service are required to do 120 days of camp every two years; yet according to the recent White Paper, on average "campers" actually spend only 87 days in service every three years.

* that during 1985, 21 members of the SADF deserted; 16 committed suicide and another 260 attempted suicide

* that according to General Malan, it would be "too time consuming and expensive" to obtain figures for the number of SADF members who fail to report for service or go absent without leave (AWOL)

(These statistics have all been obtained from questions asked in Parliament.)



ECC Plans ahead

At a recent weekend assessment, ECC came up with ideas and plans for work over the next few months, including:

* July call-up campaign: focussing on the dilemma facing conscripts who must report in July for two years military service, at a time when the SADF is playing an increasingly controversial role — highlighted by the ongoing use of troops in the townships, and the recent SADF attacks in Lusaka, Gaborone and Harare.

* National survey: ECC volunteers go on the

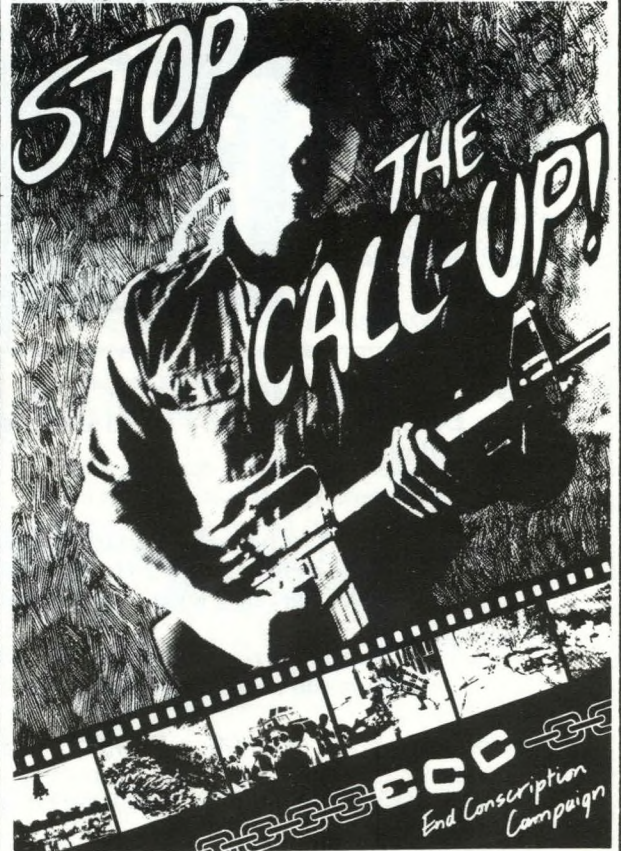
streets soon to canvass public opinion on conscription, troops in the townships and the End Conscription Campaign.

* July Conference: at which ECC members from all regions will gather nationally to assess, plan ahead and share experience.

* National cultural festival: plans are underway for an exciting cultural festival to be held in Cape Town in December.

* National publication: Cape Town ECC is involved in the production of the first edition of a national ECC publication focussing on conscription, militarisation and related issues.

If you want to find out more or get involved in these or other ECC activities, visit the ECC Office, at No. 1 Rhodesview, 435 Main Road, Observatory (7925), between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, Monday to Friday, or phone us at 47-9170.



Did you know?

* that during 1984 and 1985, temporary military bases were set up in the black townships of Manelodi, Soshanguve, Sebokeng, Tembisa and Katlehong

* that during 1985, 35 732 troops were deployed in 96 black townships throughout South Africa (this figure excludes the SADF's involvement in coloured and Indian suburbs)

ADVICE BUREAU ON MILITARY CONSCRIPTION:

If you are worried about your call-up contact us for advice and information on alternatives:

- Anton 47-6274
- Sue 417-2340
- Renee 69-9781

Legal and religious counsel also available



OPEN FORUM

ECC is holding an Open Forum on Thursday, 19th June, 8.00 pm, Rondebosch Congregational Church.

Conscription affects more than those called-up to serve in the SADF. This forum meeting will focus on the broader effects of conscription.

Please join us.



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ECC Calendar

End Conscription Committee

ECC FIGHTS BACK

ECC has been hard hit, both locally and nationally by the state of emergency. One of the subversion clauses in the regulations specifically targets the issue of opposition to compulsory military service.

In the Cape Town "gag orders" ECC was one of the 119 organisations that was hit.

It became illegal for us to "utter" which meant that ECC office bearers and members could not be quoted in the press, and ECC was unable to produce media or hold meetings.

The emergency also affected ECC through detentions and harassment. Four Cape Town ECC members have been detained. Other members have had to go into hiding to avoid detention. The ECC office was temporarily closed, and since it has been re-opened the security police have visited twice, on one occasion seizing pamphlets.

But once the gag orders had been lifted and ECC nationally had received legal advice on the emergency regulations, a campaign demanding ECC's right to speak was launched.



Another aspect of the campaign is a "Let ECC Speak" concert which will be held on 29 August at The Venue.

We hope that ECC supporters appreciate some of the difficulties we have faced over the past two months, and continue to give us their support.

In Cape Town we have put out

stickers and pamphlets asserting our right to oppose conscription. We plan to hold a public meeting early in September as a high point of the campaign.

ECC will be raising in parliament the demand for the right to speak and presenting documentation of repression faced by ECC.

A FOCUS ON ECC NATIONAL

One of the features of the End Conscription Campaign is how widely and how quickly it has grown.

From its launch in 1984, the Campaign has expanded from three regional committees in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban to nine regional committees and five separate campus branches.

This growth of ECC has been in direct proportion to the extent of SADF involvement in the townships and in neighbouring states.

This growth, plus the fact that new branches have been formed in the heartland of Nationalist Party power including Stellenbosch, Pretoria and East London, seems to have convinced the government to go onto the offensive.

Here we examine some aspects of how ECC nationally has

coped with the State of Emergency.

On June 12 the government imposed a state of emergency which included a phalanx of regulations governing public debate. The regulations also gave increased powers to the security forces to detain, interrogate and seize.

48 ECC activists were detained in the ensuing weeks. ECC leaders were hunted and forced into hiding and disguise. Teargas was pumped into flats and houses when security personnel failed to get responses to their knocks.

ECC leaders in Johannesburg narrowly escaped serious injury when petrol bombs were thrown into their bedrooms. Many tyres were slashed, documents seized and houses searched. In Port Elizabeth charges have been laid by ECC activists recently released from detention. Most serious of all, PE ECC vice-chairperson, Dominic Souchon, was issued with a deportation order. The government hopes that by treating us as criminals the public will be frightened off, the

organisation will be less open and democratic and we will become a smaller, fringe group. They hope to leave a tight, secretive group of activists, cut off from their supporters and too frightened and insecure to engage in open public debate about conscription.

The government didn't count on the depth of public support for the aims and objectives of ECC. They couldn't have foreseen the flood of conscripts coming to us for advice after the imposition of the state of emergency. It was this more than anything that reassured and reminded us of the importance and value of what we do.

In all the regions the church and civil rights organisations that form the backbone of ECC rallied strongly behind the campaign. Our first priority was to ensure that the member organisations kept integrally involved in decision making. Much initial effort was spent visiting organisations and individuals to keep them informed of how we were coping.

Our next priority was to get back into the public arena of debate. We need to show we are not criminals, and that we are not banned. We need to demand our right to speak and our right to call for an end to conscription.

In all regions we have launched a campaign demanding our right to speak. The campaign will be in the same style as our past campaigns. We hope to hold public meetings, pickets, produce pamphlets and media and hold various symbolic actions.

The government has tried to shut ECC away and it hopes we will soon be forgotten.

We feel we have a moral obligation to oppose conscription and will try OUR UTMOST to find legal ways of doing this.

Comment

ECC has been one of the government's major targets in its assault on extra-parliamentary democratic organisation over the past 10 weeks (see separate articles in this edition of Calendar).

The inclusion of the issue of conscription in the Emergency Regulations has resulted in many people presuming (and often publicly asserting) that ECC is "effectively banned".

Yet ECC is not banned. The Regulations prohibit the making, possession or publication of "subversive statements." These are defined to include "... a statement...which is calculated to have the effect or is likely to have the effect... of inciting the public...to discredit or undermine the system of compulsory military service."

What is crucial is that it is not illegal to oppose military conscription. As our lawyers informed us in a legal opinion: "The regulations still leave the ECC a fairly substantial margin of leeway within which to operate." It is only illegal to influence someone else to actively oppose conscription.

This means that ECC can still legally challenge the militarisation of our society, oppose the cadet system in

schools, call for troops to be withdrawn from the townships and from Namibia, campaign for the extension of alternative service and call for the right of people to oppose conscription.

So despite the emergency restrictions and the repression, ECC is ensuring that it does all that is possible within the law to bring an end to the system of compulsory conscription.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN SPEAKS

★ ALEX BORAINÉ

★ ECC SPEAKER

SEA POINT CIVIC CENTRE

8 pm

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4



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Assist in pamphlet distribution in the streets.

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Distribute pamphlets in my neighbourhood letter boxes.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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