

ECC ASSESSMENT - 19 OCTOBER 1985

A. Troops Out Campaign

1. Overall gains

- reached very broad spectrum, including older people
- drew in some new recruits
- showed non-violent action is not irrelevant
- reached new constituencies eg. Jews Against Apartheid, townships, etc
- strong support from the churches (although this was not reciprocated from our side, eg Rondebosch vigil)
- schools - some encouraging support (eg Bishops - busloads of students at rally), but perhaps not as much as it could have been
- art exhibition added an important dimension to the campaign
- significant gains re non-racialism
- there was some debate over the success of the slogans : some felt that the "Just Peace" and "Troops Out" slogans confused people, others felt that they complemented each other
- ECC activists stopped smoking.

2. Distribution of work

- people and organisations (eg Rape Crisis) drawn in
- at times there was too little delegation
- the T.O.C. co-ordinating group worked very well, but sub-comms weren't drawn in enough
- there should have been more contact with CAG
- deadlines should have been more clearly set.

3. Public Events

Launch - one of ECC's worst planned meetings - lacked thinking through.

Open Forums - exceeded expectations, indicating that people are looking for information. Using journalists (eg Murray) works very well. Bigger TV screens should be used.

Vigils - too little support from ECC people.

Rally - stage management and layout very impressive.

Security - no real control over the meeting - marshalls not trained for handling mixed meetings.

Townships - should be approached through organisations, eg. WCCA, UWO, etc.

4. Cathedral Programme

- added to the atmosphere in the crypt and drew in a wide range of people and organisations never reached
- schools: initially quite well-attended, but then petered out
- programme was conceptualised too late; if organised earlier, organisations could have been drawn in more concertedly
- perhaps should have been advertised more widely.

5. Media and Publicity

- altogether, 1/4 million pieces of media - generally a very positive response
- stickers were particularly popular

- combi idea was excellent, and should be used again
- distribution was excellently co-ordinated
- nationally - very positive response to "where is the Border Now" poster and "Casspir" and fast stickers; but some complaints about delay in receiving t-shirts
- should have been at least one pamphlet focussing on the issue of "Troops Out"
- too many different kinds of media - perhaps we should have had a common identifying logo (but, did not the Fast Dove serve this purpose?)
- we should spell out ECC as End Conscription Campaign more often
- art exhibition table and media was thought of too late.

6. Press

- incredibly extensive press coverage
- the focus on Ivan as an individual was expected, and overall had positive effects
- the Steenkamp debate, teleletters etc. were useful, but there could be more of that
- journalists have complemented ECC on a very slick press campaign and excellently drafted press releases.

P.S. NVDA was dropped very quickly - need to think through this issue.

B. Campaign Nationally - (See separate report)

C. ECC Direction/Programme

1. Work in white community

The following sectors were identified as important :

- * schools and techs
- * Stellenbosch
- * women and mothers
- * serving conscripts
- * churches

General points :

- should approach PAAG re schools
- re-building the front is crucial to work with women & mothers
- schools - booklet could be produced on options; rights
 - school students discount at film festival
- should produce some Afrikaans t-shirts
- should introduce system of house meetings
- ECC people should go to meetings of front organisations
- churches are an important contact point for women, mothers and conscripts.

Action :

- * meeting to discuss women and mothers
- * meeting to discuss follow-up to TOC and initial discussion on conscripts.

2. Parameters of ECC work in the black community

- our organisational priority remains work in the white community and we should not attempt to play an organising role in the black areas, which is the function of groups democratically based in those communities
- but our work in the black areas has had important and very positive effects :
 - * assertion of our non-racial principles, through a presence at township events and through a township presence at our activities
 - * an important resource role.

Action :

- * continued presence at funerals, meetings, etc
- * continued assistance with resources when requested, but conscious of the dangers of resource dependency
- * should carefully work out media distribution in townships and flats should consider bringing out pamphlets in Xhosa.

3. Programme

Alternative Service Project :

- generally, a positive response to the idea, and the possibility of significant gains, but 2 hesitations
 - early January is the wrong time
 - we would have to be careful about how the project is projected publicly so that it is not seen as a liberal "hand-out" type project

Other suggested call-up actions :

- press articles, perhaps from the perspective of the conscript
- concert, perhaps at end of matric exams
- advice bureau pamphlet
- pamphlet on right of conscripts not to go into the township
- name list of national servicemen wanting to receive our media
- a petition directed at women, mothers, wives, girlfriends.

Other activities :

- continue with open forums
- continue to focus on current situation in Cape Town
- possible public debate : Evans vs Steenkamp
- maintain contact with people who signed visitors book, eg. letter from Ivan
- continued focus on "Troops Out"
- womens discussion.

D. Areas for Future Discussion

1. Structures

- 2. "The problem with ECC is not that we've put too much emphasis on building the organisation, but that we've put too little emphasis on building the front".

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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