

Brief report from ECC National Discussion held in DecemberRegional Reports:

Cohesion and Morale: This was felt to be reasonably good in regions, and improved if the region is engaged in public work.

Public work: Different issues had been taken up in different regions, but the extent of public work was encouraging. War Toys campaigns in Dbn and PMB, Yellow Ribbon campaigns in Jhb and Pta, PMB, Dbn. PE and PMB setting up counselling services, PE had planned a campaign around Dominique but he was released, Rhodes held a concert and a Childrens Art Exhibition, Jhb and Dbn had cocktail parties and suppers to celebrate ECC's birthday. Some regions had AGM's.

Internal Dev: a weak area nationally. Those regions which had been doing well with internal education fared badly in this area when they were involved in campaigns. Some regions have had or plan to have weekends away which they would use for skills training.

Front: Few of the regions use the front structure, although they have good relations with other organisations. If a front is seen in a more flexible way, then a number of regions are doing well with the use of a 'front approach' although they don't formally have many reps in their general meetings. It was felt that Cape Town and Rhodes, the two regions where front structures are working the best, should write reports of how they set up their fronts and how they have functioned over the years.

Security: As usual, security is good in regions where repression is greatest, and it is clear that that is not good enough (e.g. Cape Town crackdown.)

Recruitment: Most regions had done little recruitment, but felt that it was important to continue to recruit.

Conceptual Discussion

It was felt that repression would increase over the next period, although within that general increase there would be times when things would be easier. But the waves of crackdowns would occur more frequently and more severely.

Within the white community we felt that there was a rapidly growing sense of hopelessness and powerlessness that was developing along with ever increasing fear. On the other hand there is a desperate right wing that is clinging with such commitment to its beliefs, although there have been lots of divisions within the right.

Within our constituency there remains a horror of having to go and fight in the war. This is likely to continue as the conditions of the war get worse and issues are even sharper. Therefore ECC's constituency is set to grow, and conscription remains a crucial issue.

However, the law and repression inhibit our work. Legally the December amendment to the conscription subversive clause apparently does not change things very much. We can still call for a just peace, focus on cadets etc. What has become clear is that where we engage in high profile public work, we will face detentions, possibly a banning. Therefore the style and content of our work will have to adjust to the conditions. The work that we do must make us as invulnerable to repression as possible, and must make the cost for the state to crack down on us as great as possible.

E.C.C.Internal:

Security: needs to be far tighter. Must consider the tension between being a secure organisation, and one that is open and democratic. We need to be both.

Relating to our most supportive constituency: Ideas for this included housemeetings, mass membership, encouraging our issue in other organisations, and working more closely with our member organisations.

External:

\* Discussion of whether ECC is tending to become pacifist in orientation with anti-war toys campaigns and War is no solution campaign. Felt that these

are softer and appropriate, but not pacifist. There was an attempt by the regions to contextualise the slogans so that they were not universally pacifist.

- \* Also discussed civil disobedience. In Jhb women had demonstrated outside Wits Command which is an act of civil disobedience. Felt that ECC needs to discuss this, and we need to find out what other organisations have thought about the issue. Mandated each regions to sound out orgs in their region.

### Campaign

A campaign was discussed in the light of the very serious situation in which we find ourselves. Obviously there is going to be comeback on campaigns, and the conceptual discussion should dictate whether we think that we should have a national campaign. A full proposal will be sent to each region. It was felt at NC that we should still go for a national campaign, and the two main themes that were suggested were: either an anti-war theme, or a focus on changing the laws around alternative service. We need to discuss this in great detail.

### Issues

- U.S. Tour: NC accepted the JHB proposal
- Nusas: ECC national delegation should meet with Nusas national executive to discuss ECC and Nusas relations on the campuses.
- Aida Parker: the counter publication should go ahead. To be handled by D. and Cape Town.
- Natal Command: the demands that ECC takes to the military should be reasonably realistic (or at least so the public thinks that they are reasonable)
- Namibia: Send a national organiser to a workshop there if possible.
- Trials: Cape Town trial: Although ECC might make some gains from a trial, it would be preferable not to have one, so we should try and get charges dropped if possible. Will try and sort out money.
- Question of challenging the regulations: Lawyers were pushing hard for us to challenge the regs, but the issues are not clear cut
- Restrictions: Joburg people may challenge the restrictions in court
- Banning: felt that we need to prepare for the possibility of a banning, discuss with member orgs and individuals
- Diary: Jhb diary seized from the printers
- National Publication: in detention, hold for a while.
- Organisational Pack: should be ready soon, things can only be added very formally i.e. if want to add something, take to NC and if agreed, then will be added to index. (to prevent others adding subversive literature).

### National Coordination

AGM's - should be coordinated time-wise nationally. Decided on late November  
Campuses - coordination between campuses has never been properly addressed.  
Planned weekend in January  
NC structure - propose one rep from each region, and one rep from each campus  
Employees - only three nominations, not all the regions had been able to have final discussion. Provisionally appointed at NC, regions still need to ratify.

International - steady work.

### Tasks: Report on Front

Nusas regions + ECC to meet.

APN publication

Harrassment document. (since beg. of <sup>WNS</sup> ~~WJP~~)

Decision on NC struc.

Speak to orgs re civil disobedience

**Collection Number: AG1977**

**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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