



88.4.2.7
END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (CAPE TOWN BRANCH) ANNUAL ASSESSMENT IN
PREPARATION FOR THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF JANUARY 1984

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Chronology of activities-1985

- JAN** - Pamphlet distributed to coincide with the call up
- Workshop to plan the IYY campaign
- First National conference at Botha's Hill, Natal - ended with raid by Security Police
- FEB** - ECC represented on IYY committees of churches and UDF
- Workshop on security and detentions, with assistance from ADAC
- Production of "Hands off Crossroads" statement poster.
- Roadshow perform for UCT orientation week and Black Sash
- MAR** - Public meeting on Civil War - addressed by Trevor Manuel and Laurie Nathan.
- Concert in Observatory
- ECC participates in IYY launch
- APR** - First meeting of the national committee in JHB
- Participated in NANSO workshop at UWC
- Assessment of sub-committee work and broadening of executive to include sub-comm. representatives.
- Held first schools workshop
- Held first 2 open forums on alternatives to conscription and Namibia
- First edition of ECC Calender
- MAY** - Participated in Civil Rights League meeting celebrating 40 years since the defeat of facism
- Planning work for Peace Festival
- JUN** - Open forum on Civil War
- ECC writes SA Outlook, focussing on conscription
- Fund raising supper
- Pamphlet distributed to schools
- Highly succesful Peace Festival in JHB, attended by 400 delegates and over 2000 participants - extensive international support
- JUL** - Second National Conference in JHB
- ECC speaks at UDF meeting on State of Emergency
- Early planning for Troops Out Campaign
- AUG** - ECC gives evidence to the Geldenhuys Committee
- Participated in Habonim panel
- "Troops out" statement poster

- Public meeting on Troops in the Townships attended by 200
 - 4th open forum on "40 years since Hiroshima" and the international cold war
 - Hold first creative action workshop
- SEP
- Public meeting in the Cathedral hall to co-incide with Sept.3 Sebokeng anniversary
 - Detention of Chairperson, Mike Evans
 - 5th open forum on "State of the Nation" attended by 250
 - Meeting and vigil to launch Ivan's 20 day fast
 - Launch of 2 week "Art for Peace" exhibition at the Baxter - attended by 500 people
 - Regular services, lunch time programmes and evening workshops in the Cathedral
 - One week programme for schools to co-incide with the vacation
 - Vigils at Cathedral, Ron Con and Manenberg
 - Relay fasts at St. Mary's Cathedral and by UCT SRC
 - Pickets on the United Nations International Day of Peace, Sep 17
 - Production of 250 000 items of media for Troops Out Campaign
- OCT
- 6th open forum on "State of the Nation"
 - Church services to begin and end 24 hour fast
 - Altogether nearly 2000 people sign visitors book in Cathedral
 - "Peace Rally" attended by 4000 people, addressed by Molly Blackburn, Archbishop Russel, Nomainda Mfaketo, Mike Evans, Ivan Toms and Christmas Tinto
 - Assessment and planning workshop
 - ECC initiates coming together of 23 organisations in response to declaration of State of Emergency
 - Statement poster against State of Emergency
- NOV
- Another newsletter released
 - Alternative service co-ordinating committee meets
 - Churches sub-committee formed
 - ECC continues participating in range of activities with 23 organisations
 - LAG produces "No news is bad news" T-shirt
 - The first Cape Town AGM is held and a new executive elected
- DEC
- "Cadets Campaign" planning workshop held
 - ECC concert with poster exhibition: good school student attendance
 - Stall at CAP's open day
 - 4 new T-shirt designs printed
 - '23 organisations' pamphlet and candle light vigil
- JAN
- Service for conscripts
 - Pamphlet for churches distribution
 - 8000 call-up pamphlets released
 - Stickers and poster "Conscripts with no right to choose"
 - Picket held to protest call up

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- 2 successful creative actions - a sand castle and a jog-in
- Planning for alternative service and cadet campaigns
- Open forum with Laurie and Pete

Introduction

This report was drawn from an afternoon assessment and planning session. We started the assessment by (very briefly) re-examining why we take up the campaign in the first place. In doing so we attempted to establish a reference point for our planning and assessment. This report is divided into three main sections: A - Successes and Failures; B - E.C.C. Internal; C - E.C.C. External.

A. Successes and Failures

i. Successes

The first that came to mind was the "Troops Out" campaign, in particular the Peace Rally, and the Art for Peace exhibition. Both were very well attended, and provoked considerable public interest. The Peace Rally was a landmark in Cape Town political history, swaying many undecided people onto our side. The exhibition was the first of its kind for many years, and created a ripple effect within the arts community.

Other successes were our media 'presence', and our reputation as a dynamic political organisation.

Contact work in the form of 'open forums', the newsletter, press work and international liaison has been very successful.

Other points of note are our non-hierarchical methods of organisation and our ability to cope with crises e.g. Mike's detention.

ii. The Failures

Our IYY campaign was, in a word, a flop, into which we had channelled considerable planning and energy. In part this was due to objective conditions and the demise of the IYY campaign generally in the Western Cape, but we certainly failed to address ourselves to Western Cape youth.

The Claremont Civic meeting following the Uitenhage massacre was poorly attended. We had considerable problems with the City Council over our advertising.

Organisation for the meeting to launch the fast was poor, and created some friction. The cathedral programme organised during the fast was planned too late, poorly publicised, and poorly attended. Follow-up to the fast was non-existent.

Other low points, are our lack of skills training, the neglect of front structure, poor publicising of SADF activity beyond the townships, internal education programmes. Cape Town ECC also has a very poor grasp of the national ECC dynamic.

B. ECC Internal

i) Recruitment into ECC structures

This has been a major problem area. Not only do we fail to involve new contacts in areas of ECC work, but we are faced with a high activist turnover rate, and have provided poor follow-up to campaign work so as to pull in peripheral supporters. A number of approaches to these problems have been suggested:

i) the need for an 'Orientation' group to provide new recruits with an overall grasp of ECC work, and the arguments behind it, and to present them with an exciting and enjoyable "first contact" with ECC.

ii) the opening up of new constituencies into which we can channel activists.

iii) the creation of more initiatives like CAG (loosely affiliated grouping).

iv) the awareness of a group of peripheral supporters who do not want to work in sub-committees - we must provide regular suitable activities such people can participate in.

ii) Making space for individuals' participation and development in ECC?

Activists are often too busy to be passing on skills, and we need to set up regular skills work-shops. We should also be developing leadership skills with ECC. (assessment workshops are a small part of this). Certain patterns of domination within group discussions have become entrenched, reflecting a limited perception of humanism within ECC. The need to address the area of feminism in ECC work has been expressed. While internal education has failed to get off the ground as a viable answer to these problems, there is a programme in the pipeline that may well go some way to redressing them.

iii) Building the ECC front structure

The organisation vs front dilemma has been raised a number of times over the past year. In its formative stages Cape Town ECC put a lot of work into its front structure. Later, as campaign orientated work became a priority, far more attention was focussed on sub committee work and building up an organisational machinery. The front structure has as a consequence been neglected. Contact committee has done much to correct this, but it is seen as a priority for 1986 and will receive far greater attention.

C. ECC External

i) Popularising ECC

The last year has provided us with a number of opportunities of which we have taken advantage. In particular the Troops Out Campaign. The bulk of our profile has been through good media, press and public relations work. This has given us an image that is at times 'larger than life', and helped to make ECC a household name. We have generated a fairly popular and 'trendy' image amongst younger constituencies. Our international profile has been given an enormous boost. Certain key constituencies, however, have been neglected (see later).

ii) Exposing the role of the SADF in South Africa

While our media has conveyed the overall pattern of SADF actions within the townships, we have failed to provide detailed information on these actions, and we have neglected to emphasize SADF activity beyond the townships (border conflict, resettlement, etc.). In many ways this reflects our failure to adequately collate this material, and an information group has been set up to fill this gap. It has been suggested that we bring out an informative magazine on SADF actions that acts as a counter to Paratus.

iii) Presenting Alternatives to the SADF

This has been a major omission of our work, and is very much behind our motivation for taking up the alternative service project. It is vital that ECC presents itself in a positive light and is seen to be engaged in looking for new alternatives.

iv) Building Non-Racialism

While our priority has been organising whites we have had some successes in building non-racialism through the efforts of some of our activists. The Troops Out Campaign was pushing demands that were relevant to a township audience, and the Peace Rally was well supported by township residents. Informal contacts with CAYCO have been maintained, and we have produced a play jointly with their NYI branch. ECC media has also penetrated the townships on a number of occasions. The Sand Castle action was an expression of non-racialism. We are lacking in a more formalised approach to work in black areas, but we are surprised at the widespread knowledge of ECC and its objectives within the townships.

v) Target Groups

a) Schools

Although continually identified as a priority area, our gains have been small. Our media has achieved a presence and identity in some schools. It is other organisations like PAAG that have made greater inroads. Our concerts have attracted some school students.

b) Conscripts

This has been our most neglected area, and prompted our recent January call-up focus. It has been suggested that we form a 'conscripts' group. 'Campers' constitute a numerically very large group and need attention.

c) Students

While our presence on UCT campus through CAG is good, we are not maintaining our gains there. We must liaise through CAG and NUSAS and clearly strategise our future work on campus. The Technikon has to date been ignored (except by MSM!).

d) Academics

A neglected area. Other centres e.g. Johannesburg have made far more use of this constituency.

e) Yuppies (Young upwardly mobile professionals).

They have been clearly targeted by ECC and are a heterogeneous grouping. Where are the Yuppie breeding grounds?

f) Churches

The ECC churches group is starting to make inroads in this area, considerably improving our previously in strategised approach.

g) The Liberal White Public

Again, hard to define as a group, but certainly we have addressed ourselves mainly to this constituency during the year's work. This area has probably been where the majority of our gains have come from, but a definitive 'right of centre' has become evident and they view ECC with grave suspicion.

h) Afrikaans Constituency

We are very tentatively making initiatives in the Stellenbosch community, and may well develop these further soon.

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