



End Conscription Campaign

PORT ELIZABETH END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

STATEMENT

The ECC calls on all soldiers, conscripts, families and friends to join us in the search for a truly just peace.

Many soldiers realise that under the State of Emergency, the Security Forces, which have almost unlimited powers, have not brought peace, but are intensifying conflict.

We do not condemn the individual soldier who is forced into a situation in which he has no choice. But in this situation, all conscripts should consider the moral implications of their actions.

Many conscripts experience an acute crisis of conscience in having to take up arms against their fellow citizens, in defence of apartheid.

The ECC believes that every soldier should have the right to choose not to go into the townships.

ECC AUGUST 1985

1 Spicer Road
Kensington
Port Elizabeth
6001
1 April 1987

Dear Reader

I want to thank you for sending me the pamphlet and sticker about Philip Wilkinson. The green sticker screamed out its message on my red bag as I carried it around on the UPE - campus.

I have very little knowledge about the objectives of the End Conscription campaign, but I am against forced conscription and the unwelcome presence of troops in the Townships and so I include this small donation.

Yours sincerely
(Miss) L. Barnard

ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES AND CONVEYANCERS.
ADMINISTRATORS OF ESTATES.

Pagdens

R.X. PARKIN
F.C.S. BELL
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Assisted by:
J.G. DAKIN
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OUR REFERENCE:

Mr Bracher/jgg/hr

YOUR REFERENCE:

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24 September 1987

Miss Janet Cherry
10 Cherry Street
Newlands
7700

Dear Janet,

I confirm our recent consultation. You will let me know who is to join in the action against St Andrew's College and we will thereafter proceed.

As you may know, I am leaving Port Elizabeth at the end of December to practise in Johannesburg. Please consider who should take over your matters after my departure.

Regards,



Patrick

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12 October 1987

Miss Janet Cherry
10 Cherry Street
Newlands
7700

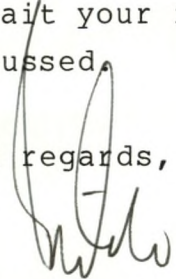
Dear Janet,

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN/AIDA PARKER NEWSLETTER

I attach a copy of letter received from Crankshaw's
attorneys and a copy of my reply.

I await your instructions when the matter has been
discussed.

Kind regards,


Patrick Bracher

enc

Mr Bracher/jgg/hr

Mr Wynne/kb

12 October 1987

Espin & Espin

DOCEX 6 : GRAHAMSTOWN

D O C E X

Dear Sirs,

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN/AIDA PARKER NEWSLETTER
YOUR CLIENT : MR A V CRANKSHAW

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16 September 1987.

We note from paragraph 3 of your letter that your client remains unrepentent. We are at the moment awaiting instructions to sue and the matter need not be dealt with in correspondence any further, therefore.

Yours faithfully

PAGDENS

Espin & Espin

Attorneys, Notaries & Conveyancers

Messrs. Pagdens
Attorneys
Docex 7
PORT ELIZABETH

RECEIVED 22 SEP 1987

P.O. Box 105

DOCEX 6

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Consultant :
Neil Gilmour Hutton B.A. 27173

96 & 98 HIGH STREET
GRAHAMSTOWN
6140

Your Ref. Mr Bracher/jgg/hr

Our Ref. Mr Wynne/kb

16th September, 1987.

Dear Sirs

We act for Mr Anthony Victor Crankshaw a teacher and the officer in charge of the St. Andrews College Cadet detachment No. 3 of Grahamstown.

We were consulted during June of this year about your letter of the 4th May, 1987 addressed to the Headmaster of the College which contains certain allegations about our client, a copy of which had been handed to him by the Headmaster for comment.

We are instructed that a letter has been addressed to you by Messrs. Wheeldon, Rushmere and Cole of our City at the instance of St. Andrews College and ostensibly at the instance of our client Mr A.V. Crankshaw in reply to your aforesaid letter. This reply was not authorised by our client and we respond thereto as follows:-

1. Our client denies that during the last week of February, 1987 the April 8th 1986 Edition No. 79 of the Aida Parker Newsletter was handed out to cadet officers of St. Andrews College by him.
2. Our client denies that he "re-iterated certain defamatory views contained in the Newsletter regarding the End Conscription Campaign". No particularity has been furnished our client is accordingly unable to deal therewith.
3. Only the End Conscription Campaign appeared at the hearing of the Media Council and the evidence was not tested under cross examination. Accordingly our client denies that its findings are conclusive.
4. The reports which appeared in the Daily Dispatch, E.P. Herald and Weekly Mail contained many inaccuracies. The reporter/s did not see fit to verify information which he had obtained from adolescents and which was incorrectly reported. Attached is a Statement by Messrs. C. Kenyon and J. Beard confirming the aofregoing.

5. .../

5. Your clients egregious demands are therefore refuted with contempt and any action instituted will be defended.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ESPIN AND ESPIN', written in a cursive, stylized font.

ESPIN AND ESPIN

Dear Sir,

Concerning: Misreporting in the Eastern Province Herald

The First paragraph was incorrect as it alleged that one of us had said that the Aida Parker Newsletter concerning the ECC was handed out this year. They were, as far as we know, not handed out this year, and we did not say that they were.

Mr. Crankshaw's initials were incorrectly stated, as A.B. instead of A.V.

Neither of us recall saying that Mr. Crankshaw "ranted and raved" about the ECC.

Yours Faithfully

J. Beard

~~C. Kenyon~~

J. Beard

C. Kenyon

Message Of Support

Ministers of the Algoa Christian Leaders' Committee, in considering the stand that the "End Conscription Committee" is making in inviting people to fast and pray about the matter of forced military service (especially in the black townships), given their support to this three week period of fasting and praying.

They ask God's blessing upon the people who will keep vigil in St. Augustine's Cathedral during the period September 17 th to October 7 th.

Supported by

Bishop Bruce Evans, and ~~all~~ leaders of the Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches in Port Elizabeth.

alg copy



End Conscription Campaign

PRESS STATEMENT - END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

July 2.

Last night hundreds of anonymous anti-ECC stickers were pasted up in PE. The stickers carried the slogans: 'Peace Off ECC,' 'ECC - Every Cowards Choice' and 'Philip Wilkinson - Coward - The Trial Continues'.

ECC Publicity Secretary, Catherine Turner, said: "A member of the public reported the stickers to us last night. We removed some, but within hours they reappeared."

Miss Turner said: "Identical stickers have recently appeared all over the country in all the large centres and University campuses."

"We have no doubt in our minds as to who is responsible. The stickers are glossy and expensive. The smear is cheap, unfounded and unmotivated. Who has the resources to carry out a nationally co-ordinated smear campaign like this? Similar tactics were used in the recent elections against the PFP.

"Unable to debate the issues with us - these people have chosen rather to scurry around at night making cowardly, peurile and anonymous allegations against us.

"The ECC has campaigned for the right of young men to choose whether or not to serve in the SADF. Many National Servicemen are facing a growing moral dilemma stemming from the role they are forced to play in the SADF. The SADF, like the SABC TV, is becoming little more than an instrument of National Party policy.

"Our campaign has been positive and creative. PE ECC has built a crèche in Walmer township to show what we mean when we call for true National Service.

"No amount of harassment will stop us from working for a just peace in South Africa. In a way these smears are a testimony to our effectiveness. We campaign around something that is close to the hearts of many South Africans. Undemocratic governments have always feared the truth.

"We call on the Public and our supporters to reject the smear and join us in working for Justice and Peace in our land."



End Conscription Campaign

TO: IDASA REGIONAL OFFICE EAST CAPE.

The Port Elizabeth END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN general body wishes to disassociate itself entirely from the anonymous smear pamphlet attacking IDASA (entitled "Comrades! Attention Comrades!").

We reject the incorrect political ideas and cowardly personal attacks contained in the pamphlet.

We view this kind of attack as part of government strategy to use disinformation tactics to divide the democratic movement.

The statement: "The NUSAS - SANSCO - ECC alliance will carry forward the struggle" shows the political ignorance and/or the malicious intent of the anonymous authors.

We reiterate that we are not part of any alliance.

The END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN is a coalition of many organisations united by our opposition to a single issue - conscription. We campaign specifically around the laws and ideas that force thousands of white South Africans to defend apartheid.

We condemn the attack on IDASA.

We regard IDASA as a valuable forum where all South Africans can meet and debate issues and solutions for our country. In our experience of IDASA forums we have been able to put forward our issue, meet and inform people we would never normally reach.

We therefore completely reject this smear, with the contempt it deserves.

Yours in the struggle for a just peace.

PEGGY KILLEEN
CONTACT PERSON
PORT ELIZABETH END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN.



End Conscription Campaign

The END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN notes the Nominated MP, Mr Daniel van Gend's call for an investigation into the activities of the ECC.

"The members' comments indicate a lack of understanding and knowledge of the END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN", Says ECC Press Officer in Port Elizabeth, Miss Catherine Turner.

The END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN is an entirely legal organisation campaigning for a change in the law with regard to Conscription. Freedom of Choice is a fundamental human right and an internationally upheld principle. The denial of this right to South African men compels many to participate, against their will, in S.A.'s continued occupation of Namibia (declared illegal by the International Court of Justice), in the Destabilization of neighbouring states and in the growing civil conflict inside South Africa itself.

The ECC represents the sincerely held belief of thousands of patriotic South Africans, over 50 organisations, major Church groupings and international human rights organisations, that we should be free to choose the manner in which we serve our country.

Until such stage as Conscription is ended, the ECC demands that alternative to National Military Service should be available to all, on ethical, political as well as religious grounds. Such service we believe, should not be punitive in duration or nature and should not be confined to service in Governmental bodies. Further, we demand that individual soldiers are not forced to serve in Namibia or in S.A. townships.

"We understand it to be our democratic right to campaign for changes in the law. In this light, we see no justification for Mr Van Gend's call for an investigation into the activities of the ECC," said Miss Turner.

"In 1985 the ECC presented evidence to the Geldenhuys Commission of enquiry into the SADF. In this evidence, the ECC's aims and objectives were made clear. An enquiry into the ECC would uncover no more than what was presented to the Geldenhuys Commission."

"We see Mr Van Gend's call as merely an expression of fear of the effectivity of the popular support and international standing of the END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN."

Issued by
CATHERINE TURNER
(PRESS OFFICER - PORT ELIZABETH END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN)

MINISTRY TO THOSE CONSCRIPTED INTO THE S.A.D.F.

The Need

Our churches have made many statements about the misuse of the SADF in the townships to crush legitimate protest.

We have a responsibility to our congregations and others who have understood this role of the SADF and have a crisis of conscience about serving in the SADF.

The increase in suicides in the SADF is a good indicator of the crisis facing conscripts. Conscripts need advice on - 1) Their rights in the SADF; 2) What their options are if they want to be non-combatants or not go into the townships etc.

Present Situation in P.E.

There is a group of concerned people who have consulted church leaders; Revs. Irvine, Evans, Coleman and Carmichael about issuing a pamphlet to inform people that counselling is available through them.

Suggestions

- That this issue be put on church decision making agendas.
- That a person be responsible for this ministry in each denomination.
- That these persons meet and constitute an Advice Service.
- That the Conscription Advice Service meets to share ideas, trends and skills.
- The Conscientious Objectors Support Groups nationally are willing to send information about counselling experiences.
- That the Conscription Advice Service publicise their service to organisations like Life Line and to Military chaplains.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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