

WITS REGIONAL REPORT

22 October, 1987.

Generally, our main problems has been our inability to keep new members interested in ECC. We have tended to get bogged down in discussions rather than campaigns. This, in turn, has affected our campaigning. Our Namibian Meeting was quite successful. Whilst the audience was small, it was predominantly white students who were not organisationally involved. The ECC speeches were good and having a conscript speak who had served in Namibia was very effective. *Havasnet*

Our Referendum was quite a morale booster, particularly as we had not worked with campus in general for a while. *Fachawm* Preparation previous to and discussion during the Referendum built up most peoples' understanding of ECC and consolidated membership. Taking ECC back onto campus made us aware of a lack of ECC profile and simultaneously, the support for our issue, once our position was clarified. The extent to which the Front participated in and supported the Referendum was also positive.

Recently, we have just changed our structures and elected a new Exec. While the result has been positive, the process leading up to these changes was particularly tense and negative. NUSAS, N/C, spies and personality conflict became issues of contention and private debate. The generally unfounded basis of these tensions is worrying, particularly as they did much to discourage newer members and divide ECC.

We would especially like to thank Nic and Clare in facilitating the sorting out of these problems.

Since our new Exec. and structures have come into office, we have held a Front meeting to find a means of getting more Front participation in defining campaigns and in making decisions.

The meeting was well attended and successful. An ad hoc decision to hold one meeting per term with the Front, plus our use of personal contacts, letters and attending their meetings, will hopefully, solve the problem.

*With Focus on* As regards "Focus On The Conscript", very little discussion has taken place. We have tended to define our own direction and through planning discussions this topic has arisen but very informally.

Generally, security is slack due to the difficulty of resolving openness with a developed security consciousness without organisation. We still have not developed an effective method of dealing with spies and informers yet; there is a strong feeling that we are well infiltrated by the State.

Repression has been quite heavy this year, with phone call harrassment and smear material being sent to ECC members. The morning of our Namibia Day Meeting resulted in the Security Police raiding five Executive Members' homes and the Security Police used between 12-14 officers in this operation. Rooms were searched and some material seized, including the speech to be made that day at the meeting. The house of a new Exec. Member was raided - and as this member had little profile in the organisation, this indicated to us the level of Security Police monitoring both within and outside our organisation.

Heavy, hard-core Gay pornography was sent to Roddy three days before the raid and there seems to be a strong link between these two events.

Generally, there was a deepening of commitment among membership and a realisation of the seriousness of their involvement within the campaign.