

war resisters' international
internationale des résistants à la guerre
internationale der kriegsdienstgegner
internacio de militrezistantoj
internacional de refractarios a la guerra



55 DAWES STREET, LONDON SE17 1EL, GT. BRITAIN PHONE: 01-703 7189

TELEX: WRI 8951182 GECOMS G

WRI #36

May 2, 1986

David Shandler, ECC
227 Khotso House
42 DeVilliers Street
Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear David Shandler,

I've just found that a publication there has charged the ECC not only with having links with WRI but that WRI is a front or has some special relationship with the World Peace Council based in Helsinki.

This would be amusing if it were not tragic. Let me answer as carefully as I can.

First, ECC itself has no links to WRI beyond our feeling very deeply concerned with what is happening there, worried about things such as the arrest of Philip Wilkenson, etc. ECC is not an affiliate of WRI and I doubt if it would choose to be one, since WRI is a pacifist organization, opposed to all use of violence as a social instrument under any circumstances, while ECC focuses solely on the issue of conscription.

There is no point pretending, however, that your people have not been in contact with us, because they have and such contacts seem to me entirely proper.

Second, on the issue of WRI's own politics, we have been accused of many things because pacifism is hard for some to understand. During World War II we were accused of being pro-Nazi because our men would not serve in the military struggle against the Axis powers. At the same time, within Germany our members were accused of being pro-British, and sent to concentration camps, executed, or forced to flee. And within the Soviet Union we were not then - and are not allowed now - to organize sections.

We have consistently, since our founding in 1923, opposed all totalitarian political forms, and all organized violence - included the violent imposition of racism upon the people of South Africa. We have defended political prisoners in the Soviet Union through decades, and do today. We have been very clear on such issues as the invasion of Czechoslovakia - we sent teams into Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, and into Red Square to protest the occupation. (I myself was in Prague by a lucky accident at the time of

of the invasion and was able to bear witness to the popular support the existing government had, and the nearly universal opposition I saw to the Soviet invasion).

One of our sections, the War Resisters League, sent a team to Moscow in 1978 to urge the Soviets take swifter action for disarmament - they demonstrated in Red Square (I was in the group) and that demonstration was almost instantly broken up by police.

The irony is that if some - clearly at least one publication in South Africa - view us as Communists, or Communist dupes, or dupes of a Communist front, others, and this includes the Soviet Peace Committee, view us as far too rigid in our disagreements with Moscow.

Key people from the WRI have been to Helsinki. I was there most recently this past October for meetings involving both the official peace committees from the Soviet Bloc and the independent groups in the Western countries. We have met with the Soviet Peace Committee, and with the World Peace Council, just as we would freely meet with government authorities in South Africa to discuss our concerns.

The World Peace Council has never made any secret of its general political line, which I feel close to the position of Moscow. It was, in fact, set up to advance that political line as widely as possible. Our disagreements with the World Peace Council are known to everyone who follows the politics of the peace movement. But we defend, fully and deeply, the right of the WPC to exist, and the value of full, free exchange of views. Beyond that, however, we don't feel it is the job of WRI to discuss or define the politics of the World Peace Council. They maintain an office and a staff in Helsinki and questions can be put to them quite directly.

Our own record is exceptionally clear. No secret police files are needed - our publications are on the record, as are our actions. If we are accused of opposing the U.S. government in Nicaragua, that is correct. If we are accused of supporting the Solidarity movement in Poland, that is correct. If we are accused of opposing the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, that is correct. If we are accused of opposing the use of terrorism by the PLO - or any other group, including the ANC - that is correct. If we are accused of opposing the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, that is also correct.

But to accuse us of being a front for the World Peace Council is a charge I think they would resent as deeply as I find it amusing. Our funds are very few but raised without aid from any government, either overt or covert. Our political position represents no nation - only our membership, which had its last Triennial this January, in India, as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, who left his mark on us, as he did on South Africa.

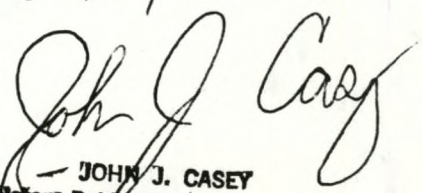
Peace,



David McReynolds
Chair, WRI
(New York address: 339 Lafayette St., NYC 10012)

STATE OF NEW YORK }
COUNTY OF NEW YORK } SS:

Sworn to before me this
22nd day of May, 1986.


- JOHN J. CASEY
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 41-4822965
Qualified in Queens County
Certificate Filed in New York County
Commission Expires July 31, 1988



Humanitas/International
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

ce
P.O. Box 818
Menlo Park,
California 94026
(415) 324-9077

Joan C. Baez, President • Jeanne Triolo Murphy, Executive Director

May 5, 1986

End Conscription Campaign
2279 Khotso House
42 de Villiers St
Johannesburg 20001
SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Friends:

We were most concerned to hear of the allegation that the ECC in South Africa, and a number of well-established peace groups in the United States, among them Humanitas International, were associated with the World Peace Council.

Humanitas is well-known for its work in international human rights and disarmament, and we have taken an especially strong stand on the harrasment and persecution of the independent peace groups in the Soviet Union. We are in no way associated with any official, semi-official or government agency of the Soviet Union, or any other country, nor do we have any reason to be so associated.

As you will see from the statement on the front page of our latest newsletter, Humanitas takes a purely non-aligned position, and that we are a human rights organization, and our primary goal is the defense of the sanctity and dignity of human life throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Jeanne T. Murphy
Jeanne T. Murphy
Executive Director

cc. War Resisters League
339 Lafayette St
New York, N.Y. 10012



QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE – GENEVA

Tel. (022) 33 33 97
Telegr.: AFSEFCO GENÈVE
3 May 1986

Quaker House
Avenue du Mervelet 13
1209 GENÈVE Suisse

Laurie Nathan
End Conscription Campaign
37 Polo Rd.
Observatory
Cape Town
Afrique du Sud

Dear Laurie:

We are shocked to hear about Philip Wilkinson and hope that he will be released soon.

We are glad that the Just Peace Campaign is spreading and send you our moral support.

We sent the following cable to you:

Cable to telex address 4-86519 SA:

Laurie Nathan
End Conscription Campaign
c/o South African Council of Churches

The Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva is a non-governmental organization which represents the Friends World Committee for Consultation and thus Quakers from all over the world. As anyone with knowledge of both organizations could readily confirm, we are in no way associated with the World Peace Council.

Joel McClellan
Director,
Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva

I telephoned London on Friday, 2 May 1986 and have sent with Judith to London a copy of your telex. In addition copies have been sent to the Centre Martin Luther King and the Communauté de l'Arche. There seems to be no such organization as Refugees from Chile (Switzerland).

It was nice to hear from you--you are all so often in our thoughts.

Much love from all of us,

Joel McClellan

cc: Cecil Evans, FWCC

Marie

 episcopal
peace
fellowship

Affiliated with the Fellowship of Reconciliation

620 G ST. S.E. / Washington D.C. / 20003 / 202-543-7168

May 6, 1986

The General Secretary
The War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y. 10012

Dear Sir:

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship Chapter at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church and the Vestry of St. Augustine's add their voices of support for the courageous actions of the End Conscription Campaign members in seeking justice for all people in South Africa.

A few weeks ago our EPF Chapter was fortunate in being able to meet with Gavin Evans during his visit to Washington. With eloquence he brought home to us the difficulty of the struggle to change government policy regarding race in South Africa. We respect ECC's determination to see that struggle through until justice prevails in that troubled land.

We are stirred by the anguish ECC and like-minded groups in South Africa must feel in taking a stand that pits brother against brother. We know the righteousness of their cause will sustain them. We send our prayers to add strength and courage to their resolve.

Sincerely,

Catharine W. Ward

Catharine Ward, Convenor
Episcopal Peace Fellowship Chapter
at St. Augustine's

Margaret McCan

Margaret McCan, Senior Warden
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
600 M Street SW
Washington DC 20024

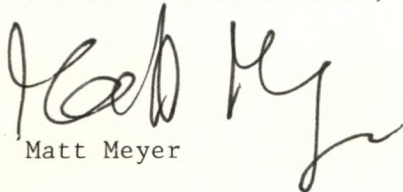
May 10, 1986

40 Ocean Parkway Apt. 6G
Brooklyn, NY 11218
(718) 871-7441

Dear Marlene Powell,

Gavin Evans, who I helped host on his six-week mini-tour of the U.S., gave me your address as a "safe" place to mail items of particular importance for ECC. As you can see from the enclosed, this particular piece of mail, which Gavin left behind in his rush to catch a plane to London, might be of considerable use to you in the future. Send my love to all.

For Peace With Justice,


Matt Meyer

Yves BOURGOIS

19, L'Grangevie

62223 St NICOLAS-les-ARRAS.

FRANCE.

Philip WILKINSON.

2001 JOHANNESBURG.

—
Arras le 10 Mai 1986

cher Ami,

Je viens de prendre connaissance de ta lettre par l'I.F.O.R. Je suis Objecteur de conscience également et avec tous mes amis français nous voulons te soutenir dans ta formidable et folle action.

Avec tous les amis de l'I.F.O.R nous envoyons en même ^{tant} que cette lettre, un courrier à ton Ministre de la défense, Magnus Malan, pour lui prouver que tu n'es pas seul dans cette action et que tes amis du monde entier te soutiennent.

Je suis Chrétien aussi, mais ici ma tâche est plus facile. Nous prions pour toi et tous les tiens, pour ton jugement prochainement.

L'Amour de Dieu nous fait faire des folies.

Continue Philip, dans cette action, saches que nous te soutenons, que le Seigneur te donnera toujours la force de surpater ces lourdes épreuves.

Tiens-nous au courant de tes actes et des décisions de jugement.

Nous sommes très proche de toi par la Prière et par notre action massive auprès du Ministre.

Bien Amicalement

Yves BOURGOIS.

Montplaisir / Jugeals - Magareth
19500 MEYSSAC

France

le 13 mai 1986

M. Magnus Malan
Ministre de la Défense
House of Parliament
Cape Town
South Africa

Monsieur le Ministre,

Nous avons été informés du fait que Phillip Wilkinson, un jeune catholique qui a déclaré en conscience ne pouvoir servir au sein des forces de défense de l'Afrique du Sud, doit passer en jugement prochainement.

Nous sommes très soucieux de sa situation et croyons, après avoir lu sa déclaration, qu'il est profondément engagé en faveur d'un changement pacifique en Afrique du Sud, par les moyens de la non-violence active. Il a choisi de rester en Afrique du Sud, bien qu'il puisse encourir une peine de prison de deux ans et neuf mois.

Nous en appelons à vous pour intervenir afin que Phillip Wilkinson soit reconnu comme objecteur de conscience et donc autorisé à effectuer un service civil. Il est prêt à cela, pour aider les gens de la communauté qui l'entoure. Nous sommes convaincus que ce serait là une bien meilleure solution, bien plus profitable tant à lui-même qu'à la société sud-africaine en général, que de l'envoyer en prison pour plusieurs années.

Espérant en une décision humaine pour Phillip Wilkinson, nous vous prions de croire, Monsieur le Ministre, en l'expression de nos sentiments respectueux.

L. Bénéix

directrice d'école honoraire

43 rue La Condamine
75017 Paris

14 May 1986

Dear *David Shandler*,

The special issue of Les Temps Modernes on South Africa is due to appear early in June.

As a contributor^{*}, you will receive two free copies. If you would also like offprints of your article, please let me know immediately how many you would like : offprints must be ordered before the journal is printed. Each offprint costs 8 French francs.

Please also let me have a personal address to which payment for your contribution can be made : French fiscal authorities do not allow payment to be made to professional addresses.

Best wishes,

Alide Kooy

Alide Kooy

* S.A. Outlook gave us permission to re-print the article on the SADF -

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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