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CONFERENCE OF HEADMASTERS AND HEADMISTRESSES

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President
Black Sash Organisation
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JOHANNESBURG 2001

10 November 1986

Dear Madam

I have been asked by the Chairman of the Conference of Headmasters and Headmistresses in South Africa to convey to you the following resolutions passed at their recent Conference in Cape Town.

1. "In view of the present state of violence and social disintegration in our country, and having regard to the needs of the country for extended teaching and health services, Conference respectfully requests Government to consider introducing community service for men as an option to the present national service in the S A Defence Force and, further, requests Government to introduce voluntary community service for women."
2. "The Conference of the Headmasters and Headmistresses of the Private Schools of South Africa believes that the present crisis in education is part of the greater crisis facing South Africa, and is not in the interests of the children of South Africa. Conference therefore calls upon Government:
 1. to release all children in detention;
 2. to release educational leaders in detention;
 3. to lift the ban on educational organisations;
 4. to negotiate with all South African leaders to build a just, democratic and non-racial society."

Yours sincerely



D E Turner
SECRETARY

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP AROUND THE 'CADETS OUT CAMPAIGN' ON 7/12/85.

Represented: E.C.C. (Media, Churches, Culture and Schools subcommittees),
UCT Education Students Council, PAAG, Black Sash, Women's
Movement for Peace, Gardens UDF, EDASA.

The meeting started at 2.00pm with an overview of militarization in white schools, with the cadets system being emphasised. Accounts of personal experience of this were given by teachers present. Objections to the cadets system were also heard.

A copy of sections 56 - 61 of the Defence Act, which concern cadets, was circulated and discussed. Basically it is compulsory to have a cadets programme at all government schools, and all boys have to take part unless their parents object in writing, or "he has been exempted from such training under prescribed conditions, ...". Also, one cannot specifically try to dissuade someone from doing cadets (section 121 C of the Defence Act).

After a tea break, a brainstorming session threw up many ideas in which the various organisations represented could take up the 'Cadets out campaign' within their own constituencies. Some of these were: an 'Art for Peace' competition in schools; facilitating discussion groups amongst parents; house meetings; debates; introduce the issue of militarization in schools into the HDE course; pickets by parents and pupils; pamphlets; stickers; gather affidavits from cadet objectors; concert; petition from staff and pupils to principals.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm

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