

ECC Statement 28.5.1984
UDF meeting - Claremont

125.6

Building Peace At Home

A statement by the End Conscription Committee

23 years of Republic ~~has been~~ 23 years of growing militarism.
23 years in which budget
The military has risen more than fifty fold to nearly R4 billion.
23 years in which
The size of the SADF has increased from 10 000 volunteers to 100 000 conscripts. ~~In time~~ ^{shortly no doubt} this will expand still further with the extension of conscription to coloured and indian youth. And violence on our sub-continent continues to escalate.

As Republic Day approaches it is therefore appropriate that we ~~gather~~ ^{are} here to speak of building peace. Opposing militarism and conscription is a vital component of building peace at home.

The End Conscription Committee unites 19 organisations to call for an end to conscription. ~~It~~ ^{We} stands in solidarity with UDF and all ~~the~~ organisations taking a strong stand on the issue.

We say NO to conscription because conscription does not resolve ~~viole~~ violent conflict in our society. It makes it worse. For the conflict does not stem from some external communist-inspired "total onslaught" Rather there is a civil war engendered by a political system which denies most South Africans basic political and human rights. Attempts to stop this conflict by increasing conscription and military expenditure only result in escalating violence, and further division in our country. Conflict is resolved and a just peace instituted by dismantling this apartheid system and recognising all South Africans as full citizens.

We say No to conscription because it helps prolong the war in Namibia. South Africa's continued occupation of that country is ~~illegal~~ ^{in terms of international law} and is a cause of the war. ^{Many church bodies} The Catholic and Anglican bishops, The Namibian Council of Churches, the SACC and many other church and human rights groups have called for the withdrawal of South African troops, for the speedy implementation of UN resolution 435 and the holding of free and fair elections so that the people of Namibia can determine their own future. We endorse this. Let there be an end to the war. Let there be an end to the loss of life, the maimings, the psychological damage and the general destruction.
all the other costs

We say NO to conscription because it violates a human right,-- the right of any individual to refuse in conscience to render military national service and be granted instead a non-military alternative. Present conscription does not recognize this right. Instead it ~~has~~ pushed ⁵ ~~many~~ ^{for us} young South Africans in ^{to} exile or prison.

We say NO to conscription because of its symbolic effect. Conscription conditions us to accept ever higher defence budgets at the expense of better housing, equal education, less poverty.

Conscription conditions us to accept the intrusion of the military into all areas of life-- our schools, the media, even to the highest levels of political decision making.

Conscription conditions us to accept destabilisation, raids into neighbouring countries, war in Namibia, Koevoet, ^{and involvement in} army resettlement ~~excess~~ unquestioningly.

^{and} There are many questions to be asked. Yet we are not allowed to ask them freely. Why? Why the defence Act that makes accurate reporting of military matters impossible? Why the secret invasions of Angola, the secretive State Security Council, secret funds? Why are ^{almost} all the publications that question the role of the military banned? Why the flood of army propoganda?

The people of South Africa want peace - peace that begins at home not in London or in Komatipoort. ^{and} The people of South Africa shall have their peace. Let us work towards that day. Let us build a new South Africa - a South Africa that does not have to defend itself from its own daughters and sons with the most powerful military machine in Africa.

ECC Statement 17.6.1984
VDF Mitchell's Plain meeting

Brothers + Sisters, Comrades

Message of support from the End Conscription
Committee

In 2 months time Hendrikse and Rajbansi
will enter the corridors of the treacherous parliament

The extension of ^{the call-up} ~~conscription~~ cannot be too far behind

The immediate question will be: How are we
● respond to further forced conscription?

But many people have already had to answer
this question of forced conscription

They have chosen to go to prison or to leave
the country, rather than to go to the army.

For them there has been one theme:

● We will not fight in Botswana's army

We will not fight against fellow South Africans
and Namibians

We will not defend apartheid

But the call-up affects far more people than
those who have chosen to resist in this way.

That is why 19 organisations have come together
in the End Conscription Committee to say 'No
to the Call-up'



SOUTHERN

We in the End Conscription Committee stand in solidarity with the UDF and all other organisations opposing the call-up. And we give our whole-hearted support to today's meeting.

But why do we say No to the Call-up?

We say No because conscription does not solve the violent conflict in our society. It makes it worse. The army is fighting a civil war against our own brothers and sisters. The cause of the war is the apartheid system which denies most South Africans basic rights, political and human rights.

We say No to conscription because it prolongs the war in Namibia. South Africa's occupation of Namibia is illegal and is a cause of the war. Many church bodies have called for the withdrawal of South African troops and the holding of free and fair elections so that the people of Namibia can determine their own future. We support this. Let there be an end to the war. Let there be an end to the loss of life and the suffering.

We say No to conscription because it violates a human right - the right of people to refuse to render military service.



SOUTHERN

We say No to conscription because of the affect it has on our lives.

Conscription conditions us to accept ever higher defence budgets at the expense of better housing, equal education, less poverty + no hospital in Mitchell's Plain

Conscription conditions us to accept the involvement of the army in our schools, our communities, in the media and in the government

● Conscription conditions us to accept destabilisation, raids into neighbouring countries and army involvement in resettlement.

The people of South Africa say No to ~~the~~ the call-up
The people of South Africa say Yes to peace
~~let~~ And the people of South Africa shall have their peace.

Let us work towards that day

● Let us build a new South Africa — a South Africa that does NOT have to defend itself from its own sons and daughters.

ECC STATEMENT — NANSO MEETING
— Namibia Day — 26 Aug 1984

SA is currently waging an unjust + illegal war vs the people of Namibia. Thousands of Namibians are dying yearly, + the country is being raped by the armed wing of apartheid, the South African Defence Force.

Military ~~occ~~ of your land is ~~ensured~~ militarily occupied by young SAs, ~~to~~, because of conscription, ~~become the active~~ agents of Pretoria's ~~through~~ by ~~wh~~ who are conscripted to protect Pretoria's interests in Namibia.

~~These conscripts~~ are brainwashed. ~~They~~ are moulded into military machines prepared to kill — even to die. And they do this to preserve apartheid's eco + pol interests.

The ECC calls for an end to the war in Namibia. We add our voice to the ~~the~~ ^{majority} ~~majority~~ of Namibians calling for

- immediate independence
- immediate troop withdrawal
- ~~map~~ " map of RN Res 43

The ECC stands in solidarity with the people of Nam. This is being actively shown through our campaign vs conscription which forces people to fight in an unjust war. Your enemy is our enemy. Our struggle to end conscription is part of your struggle to free your country.

Forward to a free Namibia in which the people of Namibia shall govern

2. That, friends, is the context in which we meet tonight. ~~we refuse to be immobilised by the violence which is being perpetrated throughout the country. We are here to mourn the deaths of those that have died ~~at the hands of the police we are here to~~ and to re-affirm ~~again~~ our commitment to building a just and peaceful South Africa.~~ ^{we refuse to be immobilised by the violence which is being perpetrated throughout the country. We are here to mourn the deaths of those that have died and to re-affirm our}

So I welcome you all to this meeting, including the organisations and individuals represented on this platform who have added their voice of protest to that of the ECC

LIST

+ solidarity greeting

- Alicia Beesak
- Abel Hendricks
- Prof. Mike Savage
- Arch. Naidoo + Murray
- Mrs. Noel Robb

I feel that it is ~~very~~ ^{it} vital appropriate at this time that ECC should be holding a meeting such as this. The last ECC public meeting was held in Cape Town in November, soon after the troops had invaded the township of Sebokeng.

Now we have it confirmed that SADF troops have been extensively involved in the townships of the Eastern Cape. ^{elsewhere} For us it is an extremely ~~serious~~ ^{disturbing} situation, that young conscripts are being forced to go into the townships to back up the police in their on-going campaign of ~~destruction~~ ^{repression} of township residents.

But there is another reason why we ~~are gathered~~ ^{here today} to ECC believes it is important that we gather here this evening. Because we believe that the government and the security

forces are leading us inexorably into a state of intensifying civil war — a war in which the root cause is the injustice and violence of apartheid.

We believe that if the violence and destruction is to end, and peace achieved, then ^{peace-loving} ~~progressive~~ South Africans need to stand up and be counted.

* * *

But before we move ahead with the meeting itself, I want to raise ~~one other~~ ^{one or two} issues a couple of issues concerning the build-up to the meeting.

We've already had the security police snooping around and asking questions. They seem to think that we had some inside information to ~~be~~ have organised this meeting ^{even before} it was announced that the defence ^{force} had been present in the townships.

Well, Lt Steenkamp of the SB, we don't need you, or Magnus Malan or Adrian Vlok to tell us about SADF activities — the people of Uitenhage, of Kimberley, of other areas know ~~what~~ what it is when they see a tank blocking their entrance to the townships, or a soldier in military uniform carrying a R1.

But there is a more disturbing aspect to our build-up. And that concerns the attitudes

the City Council and the press
of ~~some of the bastions of~~ Cape Town liberation.

Many of you will have been aware of some
of the problems which we have had with
the City Council

- 1st — rejected posters which said 'Civil War Protest' — statement + no mention of meeting
- 2nd — we made the suggested changes — 'Civil War? Protest Meeting'
But still they turned ~~out~~ us down because
our posters, they said, carried an "objectionable message." Also - *may cause offence*
- 3rd — left with the shoddy efforts which you
may have seen on the lamp-posts.

Now in ECC we do not believe that to
raise the question of civil war is objectionable
— it is reality, and the ^{council} can't try
to hide that reality from us. ~~we are having to face the reality of~~ ^{increasingly} ~~we should see~~ ^{the police in the townships which causes grievous offence to millions of S.A.N.s}
Clearly, too, the Council deviated from its
stated policy of political neutrality and
made a decision which reflected a
~~definite conservative~~ ^{definite} bias

Then, too, we have been extremely concerned
at the attitude of the press.

The editor of the Argus over-ruled our adver-
tise-ment, while the Cape Times insisted that
it be watered down to the form it appeared
in this morning's paper — 'State of the Nation Review'

Now I'm sure that all progressive thinking Cape townians have been encouraged over the past few months by the Cape Times' honest and critical approach to a range of issues. I hope that their attitude to our advert does not indicate any backing down.

But to the Argus we say: God forbid the day that right-thinking South Africans heed the warning of prime minister Botha, and refrain from speaking out against the injustice and violence of apartheid. I'm sure I speak for many when I say that we ^{are} worried that the Argus is defining itself as an irrelevant organ in the struggle for change. We hope its slide is checked.

* * *

At a UDF meeting last week, Revd Alan Boesak said:

"Uitenhage is not ^{just} a town somewhere in the Eastern Cape; Uitenhage is not just a place; Uitenhage is the state of SA today."

3. Trevor Manuel . . .
UDF secretary,
national exec of UDF.

4. Some of you might have been asking: where has ECC been since its successful

launch in Oct. last year?

- On-going process of consolidation + broadening on the ground.
- increasing support on a daily basis.

Strong ECCs in CT, Dbn, Joburg.
 In process of setting up E-Cape
 Within a month - Pmb.

Reflecting our expansion has been the employment of a national organiser. He is Laurie Nathan, who will . . .

5. Questions / comments.

6. Revd Syd Luckitt → statement of demands.

7 Comment → endorsement.
 ↳ local + international press.

Anthem

Pa

Announcements

1. Schools → Tomorrow 2pm
2. Pamphlets
3. Money
4. ECC contact list

ECC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT TO CAYCO AGM - 19.4.1985

The End Conscription Committee welcomes the opportunity to send a message of support to CAYCO on the occasion of its AGM

Over the past year the ECC has mobilised a growing number of people against compulsory conscription, against the SADF's ideological and repressive activities and against South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. We know, though, that 'peace and friendship' will only exist in a non-racial united and democratic South Africa where apartheid is no more. To achieve this goal it is essential that ~~the~~ struggle is waged in every area of society. The ECC believes that CAYCO has played a crucial role in the Western Cape organising and mobilising youth.

But the comradely bond between our 2 organisations does not only arise from our common goal. It arises also from the fact that ^{it} is the youth who are primarily affected by conscription.

- it is the youth who are forced to fight in Botha's army
- it is the youth who, because of unemployment and poverty, 'volunteer' for Botha's army
- it is the youth in the townships who are gunned down by Botha's army

But organising against conscription is no easy task. We hope that CAYCO seriously addresses this issue this weekend.

The ECC wishes you strength and success in your AGM and in your on-going work to bring about our common goal - a just peace in our land where the people govern.



NUSAS

NATIONAL UNION OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS

131 Lower Main Rd., OBSERVATORY, Cape Town, 7925. Phone: 47-2875. Telex: 57-22923 SA. Cables: NATUSAS.

ECC Statement of support to Cabac AGM 27/10/84

The End Conscription Committee (ECC) welcomes the opportunity to send a message of support to Cabac on the occasion of its AGM.

Over the past year the ECC has mobilized a growing number of people against compulsory conscription, against the SADF's ideological and repressive activities and against SA's illegal occupation of Namibia. We know though that 'peace and friendship' will only truly exist in a non-racial, democratic and united South Africa where apartheid is no more. To achieve this goal it is essential that the struggle is waged in every area of society. The ECC believes that Cabac has played a crucial role in the Western Cape in the area of housing and other community-related issues, and fully supports its demand for 'houses, security and comfort'.

The ECC wishes you strength and success in your ongoing work to bring about our common goal - a just peace in our land, where the people govern.

South Africa is facing a Civil War.

The massacre of mourners in Uitenhage is the latest of a grim toll of violence killing our country.

We believe this conflict between township residents and the security forces is rooted in the unjust discriminatory practices of this government.

Peace can only come through the building of a democratic, non-racial, undivided South Africa.

We demand an immediate stop to state violence.

We demand that the army and the police force stop implementing indefensible state policies.

We demand the abolishment of all apartheid laws.

We demand the release of security detainees and negotiations with the silenced leaders of our people.

We demand that the government stop conscripting young South Africans into a war of its own making.

We demand the cancellation of the July call-up.

WE CALL FOR A JUST PEACE IN OUR LAND.

NKOSI SIKEL'EL' IAFRIKA

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakamu phondo lwayo
Yiva lemithandazo yethu

Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapholwayo

Yiza moya (sikelela, nkosi sikelela)
Yiza moya (sikelela, nkosi sikelela)
Yiza moya oyingcwele
Usisikelele thina lusapho

Morena boluka sechaba sa heso
O fedise dintwa limatshwenyeho
Usiboloke, usiboloke
Usiboloke, usiboloke
Sechaba sa heso
Sechaba sa Afrika
Usiboloke Morena
Usiboloke
Usiboloke Sechaba
Usiboloke
Sechaba sa heso
Sechaba sa heso

Makube njalo, makube njalo
Kude kube ngunaphakade.

Lord bless Africa

May her horn rise like a ship's mast

So also hear our prayers

Lord bless us

We, the families of Africa

Come Spirit ... bless us Lord, bless us

Come Spirit ... bless us Lord, bless us

Come Holy spirit

And bless our families

Lord take care of our nation

Stop the struggle and frustrations

Save it, save it

Save it, save it

Our Nation

Our Africa

Save it God

Save it

Save our Nation

Save it

Our nation

Our Africa

Let it be so, let it be so

Until eternity

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS STATEMENT

In supporting the campaign to end military conscription I wish to articulate the rapidly growing voice of resistance to and rejection of the SADF as "defender" of all the people of this country and of Christian standards.

What is abundantly clear to the vast majority of Black people in S.A. is that the SADF is concerned only with the defense of the interests of the white Nationalist government and of those who support them and help to maintain their power. The chiefs of the SADF have sworn to support and protect this government and its policies.

With the enforcement of the New Constitution and Tricameral system the extension of conscription to 'coloureds' and 'indians' has been put high on the agenda.

What this in fact means is that people who are the victims of grossly un-Christian and inhumane policies will be told to help defend and thereby prolong their subjugation and suffering. To expect coloureds and indian youth to willingly support Apartheid and become the agents of their own oppression, is to insult their intelligence and integrity.

Our people have not been taken in by the pathetically embarrassing attempts of the SADF to win their support with their 'hearts and minds' campaign. They recognize it for being 'soft attack' to insiduously destroy their resistance and woo their loyalty. We do not forget that the very arms which hold our children up before TV cameras hold assault rifles pointed at people in our communities at this very moment. One need only refer to the statement of the minister of Law and Order over the weekend with regard to SADF and SAP co-operation and the fact at this very hour SADF troops

are/...

are patrolling the streets of Soweto. Such is the extent of the militarization of our society. The concept of making S.A. safe for our children as expounded by the Nationalists, is in effect making S.A. safe for white children. By the conscription of coloureds and indians, a new frontline will be created, which will serve as a buffer behind which the safe development of whites may continue. The implications and awful potential of this is that what we shall in fact be seeing more of is confrontation between Black SADF troops and Black communities. This is of course in essence what would serve those in power best, the breakdown of Black solidarity and community.

This, together with the moral indefensibility of the system on Christian and humane grounds, makes conscription of coloureds and indians fundamentally unacceptable.

REV. CANON COLIN JONES
CHAPLAIN UWC

8 OCTOBER 1984

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.