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# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

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## INVITATION

TO A COMBINED CONFERENCE OF  
the END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN,  
the CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR SUPPORT GROUP,  
and the CONSCRIPTION ADVICE SERVICE.

Dear Friends

This is a crucial time for the struggle against conscription.

\* More and more conscripts are coming out in opposition to having to serve in the SADF. The government is finding the conscription laws near impossible to enforce.

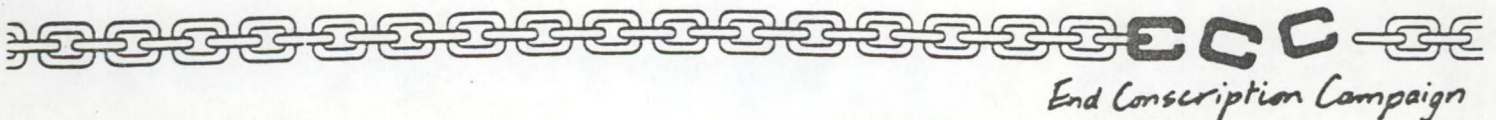
\* But the government is still trying to maintain the conscription system. They recently passed legislation to tighten up loopholes in the conscription laws. Individuals are periodically being hauled into court for failing to report. One camper, Merrick Douglas, has been charged with refusing to do military service.

ECC, COSG, and CAS have a common interest in seeing to it that conscription is brought to an end. We need to put together a strategy so that our organisations can work together more effectively towards this objective.

All members of CAS, COSG, and ECC, past and present, as well as anyone who is interested in getting involved in anti-conscription work, is therefore invited to a conference to be held at Woodmead School, Bryanston, on the weekend of the 7/8/9 of August.

For further information contact David at the ECC office (telephone/fax number as above). A conference discussion paper and conference programme will be in the post soon.

BOBOLINK, MYOE PARK, JOHANNESBURG.



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## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### COMBINED CONFERENCE OF

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and the CONSCRIPTION ADVICE SERVICE.

#### FRIDAY 7th AUGUST

6.00 - 7.30pm

Registration

7.30 - 8.30pm

Panel Discussion: Protecting  
communities against violence.

8.30pm onwards

Welcoming party

#### SATURDAY 8th AUGUST

##### Breakfast

9.00 - 11.00am

Introductions  
Review of conference agenda  
The State of Conscription  
- discussion  
The Defence Amendment Act  
- input

##### Tea

11.30am - 12.15pm

The Richard Rule/ECC court  
application - input  
The State of our  
Organisations - discussion

12.15 - 1.00pm

Negotiations, the SADF,  
conscription and the interim  
period - input

##### Lunch

2.00 - 4.00pm

##### Strategy discussion

1. Conscription Advice  
- improving the advice  
service  
- a CAS 087 number?
2. Campaign of non-  
cooperation - see discussion  
paper

##### Tea

4.30 - 6.00pm

3. Section 121(c)
4. ECC Petition

##### Supper

8.30pm

"Death & the Maiden" at the  
Market Theatre.

#### SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST

##### Breakfast

9.00 - 11.00am.

Small group discussions

- A. Recruitment and  
strengthening organisations.
- B. Campuses
- C. Legal work
- D. Finances and employees

Small group report backs

##### Tea

11.30am - 1.00pm

Campaign discussion  
Conclusion

##### Lunch

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The conference is being held at Bobolink, 33 Killarney st,  
Sandhurst.  
Estimated cost per delegate - R85.00.  
Petrol costs can be covered by ECC.  
People who wish to fly to Johannesburg should discuss this with  
David at the ECC office.

Please confirm whether you will be attending the conference ASAP.



*End Conscription Campaign*

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# *Conscientious Objector Support Group*

56 Ecumenical Centre, 20 St Andrews Street, Durban 4001

**Telephone:** (031) 3045883

**Fax:** (031) 3016611 (*Attention:* COSG)

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November 8, 1990

Dear friends

Herewith are the COSG National Conference minutes and various enclosures. Please take particular note of the draft letter to WRI. Unless I hear to the contrary by November 30th I will assume that the letter is acceptable, and will send it to WRI. I have already sent them a copy of the minute relating to our discussion, so they are aware that we are going to apply.

Enclosed for your information is an article on Michael Graaf's last court appearance. He is due to appear again on November 28th. He is now in the process of applying for indemnity in accordance with the Pretoria Minute. Doug Torr is doing the same.

In peace



Richard Steele

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12 June 1992

To: the Durban Conference Planning Group  
Fax No: 031-301-6611 No of pages: 2

Dear Friends

The following is a motivation from the Johannesburg branch for our anti-militarisation movement conference to be postponed for a period of four or five weeks.

Our reasons for wishing that the conference be postponed are as follows:

1. We haven't done very much groundwork for the conference. Our perception is that if the conference is going to be properly worthwhile then people in the various branches, (as well as other delegates who may be invited), need to be motivated and prepared to participate in the conference. In recent ECC conferences, for example, there has been an increasing tendency for discussion to be dominated by "heavs". We need to try and prepare people for the conference to encourage greater involvement in it.

2. Our regional structures are mostly very weak. In their present position they will not be in a position to carry forward tasks which may be identified by the conference. We need to get people in our different organisations as well as other individuals (eg. lawyers doing conscription work) to come together to discuss the conference. We should also try and identify other people who may be able to play a role in revitalising our organisation/movement in the period after the conference.

3. There has been insufficient preparation of the agenda and there is insufficient clarity about what the issues are that need to be discussed. For the conference to be really fruitful we need clarity on what the main issues are that need to be discussed. In addition it would be useful for discussion papers to be prepared in relation to each of these major issues in order to give conference participants a feel for the debates that need to be addressed.

4. There is a tension between the different issues that need to be addressed at the conference. On the one hand our existing organisations need to be pulled together and we need to work out a thorough and dynamic strategy for ending conscription. This should involve:

i. An evaluation of where we stand at the moment, what our strengths and limitations are, as well as what the different dynamics are which influence the conscription issue.

ii. Assessing different fields of activity, such as the press, lobbying, the court application, support work for conscripts, legal assistance, support for objectors, the international community, campuses, other regional branches, research and analysis, and funding.

iii. A look specifically at present disaffection with conscription, how we can link up with those who are disaffected, how we can channel this disaffection into resistance.



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- iv. Identifying whether and how ECC, COSG, and CAS can more effectively pool their energies for the purpose of hastening the end of conscription.
- v. Clarifying how we see the relationship between ending conscription and other issues that are facing the country such as violence, private armies, negotiations, and peace.
- vi. Can and should our existing structures play a role in the development of a peace movement? How will this influence them in their primary task of ending conscription?

5. On the other hand the initial motivation for the conference was that it would set the groundwork for the establishment of some kind of peace movement. Before the conference we need to begin discussing questions such as:

- i. Is there already a peace movement in South Africa?
- ii. Is there a need to set up some kind of separate peace movement? What role would it play? What would be its distinguishing features?
- iii. Would it be appropriate for our organisations to be involved in setting up this movement? Would the movement that we are talking about continue to reflect the existing racial/ethnic character of our existing organisations?
- iv. In what way do we envisage that such a movement would intervene in the current situation?
- v. How would it be financed? Who would it recruit?
- vi. Would the movement adopt a specific position on the issue of violence/non-violence?

Question: are the terms "anti-military movement" or "anti-militarist movement" (cf: "peace movement") better to define the movement that people have in mind?

6. We need to decide whether certain issues, which ECC in the past has said that it needs to discuss and develop policy on, should be part of the conference agenda. The issues are:
- a future defence force
  - civilian national service
  - civilian defence

7. We need to identify other organisations and individuals who should be invited. These could include people who were previously involved in ECC and members of organisations that have a direct interest in the issues that we are addressing. The reasons for inviting them should be that they will help us to achieve greater clarity on the issues that we are discussing and/or that they may be willing to participate in our work in the coming period.

We apologise for our own negligence in not giving attention to these issues at an earlier date. If our motivation for having the conference postponed is accepted it would probably be a good idea for me to come down to Durban in the near future and for us to discuss things that need to be done.

Cheers

David

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