

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

My Areas: - Churches
- Int Educ.
- counselling
- UNISA
- Working grp
- general body

AGENDA OF MEETING TO FORM ECC BRANCH IN PRETORIA: 16 MAY 1986.

1. Welcome: Prof. Simon (Dept. of Theology, UNISA)
2. Chairperson: Laurie Nathan (National Organiser, ECC)
3. Perspective on "Troops in the Townships": Mrs. Rosinah Mphahlele (Attridgeville Womens Organisation)
4. Overview of ECC: Stephen Lowry (ECC National Churches Co-ordinator)
5. Discussion and questions about ECC; signing of ECC Declaration
6. Formation of ECC Branch
 - a. background to ECC work in Pretoria
 - b. discussion on ideas for action and task groups
 - c. break into task groups for discussion (media, counselling campus, churches, internal education)
 - d. interim steering committee
7. Date and venue of next meeting

contacts: (sub-committee people)

- * - Ernst Johner (churches): 46-7300
- Derryl Barlaheizer (Int Ed): 98-4405
- * - Jan Redelinghuys (media):
- * - Ian Stevens: (Comm/W.G) 46-8956
- * - Antoinette Kokot: (Comm/W.G) 43-5316
- * - Dirk (media):
- * - Van (Int Ed) 59821; 861542.
- * - Erasmus Van Niekerk: (UNISA) 440-1053

contacts: affiliates/NOB people



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Contact Numbers

Ian Stevens: 012 46-8956

Antoinette Kokot: 012 43-5316

Steve Lowry: 011 643-4689

Clare Verbeek (ECC Chairperson, JHB): 011 648-9282

David Shandler (ECC National Office): 011 337-6796.

ECC NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRUCTURE

ECC NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ECC's national decision-making forum. Open to all ECC members. Meets twice a year. Mid-year
1986 Conference: July 19/20.

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ECC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Consists of one representative from each region, plus national workers. Meets six times a year to facilitate national co-ordination.

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ECC REGIONAL GENERAL BODY

Decision-making forum of regional branches in Johannesburg, Cape Town, PE, East London, Grahamstown, Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Stellenbosch. Consists of representatives from ECC sub-committees and affiliates.

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SUBCOMMITTEES

E.g.: Churches, Schools, Media, University, Culture, Contact, Mothers.

National Workers

Nat. Secretary

- David Stander

Nat. Treasurer

- Steve Lowry

Nat. Churches Co-ordinator

- Steve Lowry

Nat. Organiser

- Laurie Nathan

AFFILIATES

OP PAD NA 'n REGVERDIGE VREDE IN ONS LAND

'n VERKLARING OM KONSKRIPSIE TE BEEÏNDIG

Ons woon in 'n onregverdige samelewing waar basiese menseregte vir die meerderheid van die mense ontken word.

Ons woon in 'n ongelyke samelewing waar die land en rykdom deur 'n minderheid besit word.

Ons woon in 'n samelewing wat in 'n burgeroorlog betrokke is, waar broeder gevra word om teen broeder te veg.

Ons vra vir die beeïndiging van konskripsie.

Jong mans word vir militêre diensplig opgeroep om die onwettige besetting van Namibië te handhaaf, en om 'n onregverdige oorlog teen vreemde lande te voer.

Jong mans word vir militêre diensplig opgeroep om te help met die toepassing en verdediging van apartheidbeleid.

Jong mans wat weier om militêre diensplig te doen moet kies tussen ses jaar tronkstraf of ballingskap.

Ons vra vir die beeïndiging van konskripsie.

Ons glo dat die finansiële koste van die oorlog die armoede van ons land vergroot, en dat geld eerder gebruik moet word in die belang van vrede.

Ons glo dat die uitbreiding van konskripsie na kleurling en Indiër burger konflik sal vermeerder en ons land verder sal verdeel.

ONS GLO DAT DIE MORELE REG VAN SUID-AFRIKANERS IS OM VRYHEID VAN GEWETE UIT TE OEFEN EN TE KAN KIES OM NIE IN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE WEERMAG DIENSPLIG TE DOEN NIE.

ONS VRA VIR DIE BEEÏNDIGING VAN KONSKRIPSIE.

ONS VRA VIR 'n REGVERDIGE VREDE IN ONS LAND.

ECC: media subgroup meeting

29 May 1986

Agenda:

1. list of members and tel. numbers
2. liaison/contact member
3. possible activities:
 - (a) evening of poetry and music:
 - (i) intimate, casual, off-beat
 - (ii) Bakai for the music
 - (iii) established and unknown poets, township poetry
 - (iv) date, venue, admission, advertizing, talent-scouting
 - (b) speakers:
 - (i) commemorative (October 19 etc.)
 - (ii) informative (real state of affairs in townships) - *interview ed.*
 - (iii) names, dates, venues
 - (c) T-shirts, posters, buttons, stickers:
 - (i) funds
 - (ii) scope and nature of statements
 - (iii) available equipment and skills
 - (iv) dates and venues for work
 - (d) pamphlets:
 - (i) funds
 - (ii) advice/counselling bureau
 - (iii) ECC information pamphlet
 - (iv) pamphlets for special occasions/issues
 - (v) deadlines
 - (e) newspapers:
 - (i) advertizing meetings etc.
 - (ii) sympathetic/supportive coverage of activities
 - (iii) official spokesperson on behalf of ECC
 - (f) township youth organizations:
 - (i) information exchange
 - (ii) joint cultural/enlightment programmes
4. general matters
5. next meeting

AGENDA AND MINUTES 25/11.

1. Oukasie removals.
2. ECC diary.
3. Joburg ECC campaign.
4. Campus campaign suggestion.
5. Approving Natal Command letter.
6. Poem by Chris Mann.
7. Workshop.
8. Next meeting.
9. CIIR book.
10. National day of unity.
11. General.
12. List of personal details.

1. Oukasie removals.

The Black Sash has invited ECC to parttake in the re-building of roads in Oukasie on Thursday. It was also suggested that ECC make the necessary contacts so that we could plan a day of help, involving our mailing list.

2. ECC diary.

Pretoria has requested 50 copies for distribution.

3. Joburg ECC campaign.

Joburg has invited other regions to take up their "Eat a Caspir for Christmas" campaign. Pretoria would not take it up due to lack of distribution problems.

4. Campus campaign suggestion.

The campus group has suggested a mini campaign for Pretoria - "Anti-war toys". The General body decided it would ECC the necessary exposure in Pretoria, and it would be a relevant theme for the churches group to take up. All interested would hold a separate meeting to discuss details and would report back to the General body.

5. Approving of letter to Natal command.

Pretoria felt that some of the suggestions on the agenda were unreasonable (eg. ECC's relationship with the SADF.) Suggestions from Pretoria were to concentrate on points such as:

- the harassment and treatment of ECC members.
- have ECC voice their stand points, and them theirs.
- ECC's legitimacy.
- consciencious objection to military service, for various reasons, not just religious objection.

Durban ECC would be contacted with the suggestions.

6. Poem by Chris Mann.

Thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

7. Workshop.

Postponed to Sunday.

8. Next meeting.

Venue and time decided. Bring along supper afterwards.

9. CIIR book.

Discussion would be held next week.

10. National day of unity.

ECC Pretoria felt that we could not sign the declaration as it was not relevant to ECC as a single issue campaign, but we could still join in the actions on that day. This will be discussed when further details are made available.*

11. General.

A request for articles in the file to be made available for photostating etc.

Pretoria is invited to attend a cheese and wine in Joburg on Thursday.

Copies of the minutes would be made available next week.

12. List of personal details.

ECC PRETORIA. AGENDA FOR GENERAL BODY MEETING 30 MAY 1986

1. ECC Videop
1. ECC Video 'Marching Orders' will be shown.
2. Discussion on the contents of the video.
3. Reports from the task groups - Media, Churches, Counselling, Internal Education, Campus, UNISA.
4. National Report-back.
5. Discussion on the Afrikaans name of ECC.

1st Meeting of the Pretoria ECC's internal education group

The role of the internal education group has been defined as providing information about ECC and the role of the SADF to the membership of the Pretoria branch.

The following ideas were accepted as ways of doing this:

- 1) The group will organise an internal education workshop, open to all in ECC, on Saturday 7th of June from 1:00 to 5:00. A venue still has to be arranged. The workshop will include overseas TV coverage, discussion on why ECC opposes conscription, input on ECC structures and policy, and input on the law concerning conscientious objection. The Pretoria counselling group will be asked to prepare this input.
- 2) The workshop will be followed, either a week or two weeks later, by a training workshop on how to use the ECC survey. Participants in this workshop will then go out and survey the public. The main aims of the survey at this stage are to assist with the training of ECC activists and to gauge the opinions of white people in Pretoria on conscription.
- 3) Pretoria News journalists have approached ECC to do a story on the new branch. Steve Lowry, Gaby and Davin will handle this after the workshop on the 7th.
- 4) Members of the internal education group took responsibility

for collecting pressclips on ECC and the SADF from various newspapers. These will be displayed at ECC general meetings.

- 5) Various publications and articles on ECC and the SADF should be made available to ECC members. These include the PACSA factbook on militarization, the Human Awareness Programme's dossier on militarization, ECC's evidence to the Jeldenhuis Committee and the guidelines on ECC which Laurie is preparing.
- 6) It was felt that the fortnightly ECC general meetings should not only be business orientated but should include some input or education. At the next ECC meeting this would take the form of showing the ECC video 'Marching Orders'.
- 7) The following ideas for internal education were raised but not discussed fully: ECC members attending township funerals; social activities with township residents; undertaking a Working for a Just Peace-type constructive action in the townships.
- 8) The meeting ended with a heated debate on the reasons for the latest SADF raids into neighboring States.

PRETORIA REGION REPORT

Morale

The morale is very good. The group is enthusiastic and committed. New people are joining and we can have up to 15 people at a meeting. The group hasn't achieved too much yet but it is fairly positive about the future. *achieved own momentum.*

Security

There has been no police or right-wing harassment, so security for meetings became fairly slack. Recently, this has been tightened up and the group has started looking at general security issues and a security workshop is scheduled.

Activities

Continued to enlarge the mailing list - includes PFP, UNISA lecturers, Cathsoc, some Black Sash and other names gathered on an individual basis.

Two meetings have been held with scholars and parents, where we gave talks on Cadets, Alternative Service options and the Rights of Conscripts. This type of activity has been identified as a very effective way of working in Pretoria and we hope to hold several such meetings with different groupings. *Raise issues of schools grp (sub-com).*

Out of the above meetings, it was requested that we print a pamphlet on the rights of conscripts and cadets. The pamphlet has been drawn up and is waiting to be printed.

Contact has been made with PFP Youth and IDASA and this process will be continued with other organisations in Pretoria.

The National Organiser was with us for about two weeks and Nick helped us to focus on certain aspects. Target areas were identified and they include students, scholars and parents, and churches. Although no official sub-committees exist, the group has been divided and ways of working in these areas are being examined. As regards the emphasis on the Conscript, at this stage the area with the most potential appears to be the conscripted scholar or student. *What discussible.*

As yet, we have no direct access to tertiary education institutions but we have students from Tukkies, Pretoria College for Education, Technikon and the Nurses Home in the group and we hope to extend our influence indirectly through these people.

Conclusion

An area of concern is the predominance of English people in a mostly Afrikaans environment. The group is aware that this is a problem and effort will be made to encourage more Afrikaans people to join.

The group is fairly stable and Pretoria as a region is moving slowly ahead. Hopefully we will soon be able to contribute more to the overall movement.

Pretoria sends regards to all the other regions and is looking forward to meeting people at conference.

PRETORIA
OCTOBER 1987

Id. school children who are interested.

REPORT-OF-PRETORIA-ECC

HISTORY & STRUCTURE:

Pretoria ECC started in 1986 about a month before the SOE was declared. The initial support was very good but this dwindled after the emergency. Pretoria became fairly successful and was running mini campaigns (Yellow Ribbon Campaign) but relied fairly heavily on National. Then with a combination of the December vacation, raid on members houses at a stage when they were not ready to handle them and personal problems of members, Pretoria ECC virtually collapsed.

In April 1987 the National Coordinator conducted a series of interviews with individuals and with his help, it was decided to disband the old exec and structure and start afresh. It was decided to initially build up a core group who were aware of security risks through internal education and at the same time establish a mailing list.

ECC Pretoria consists of a group of 9 regular members with about another 3 who attend occasionally. Recently, however, we have recruited 2 more people and a number of others have ^{shown} interest and will be drawn into activities.

At present there is no formal structure and the group operates as a single body with a rotating chair. One person is in charge of national contact and after some confusion with the financial function, one person has assumed responsibility as treasurer.

MORALE:

Being inexperienced, the group got off to a slow start and was also noticeably effected by the July vacation. However, the active members are very keen and eager to do something active and recently the group has taken a definite step forward.

SECURITY:

The group has followed the usual security measures of not using the phone and having 1st and 2nd meeting places. Since regrouping, there has been no security or right wing action but then we have'nt really tested the reaction as yet through public activities.

PAST ACTIVITIES:

Internal Education: A session was conducted by Johannesburg members on the Democratic movement and where ECC fits in as well as a report back on the previous national meeting. The tours by Ivan Toms and Lawry also proved very interesting and informative.

A Mailing list of about 150 - 200 people has been established and is currently being extended. National pamphlets have been sent out.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Definite Activities:

1. Speaker from IDASA
ECC will help in a construction project in Mamelodi organised by IDASA in consultation with the community involved.
2. Official contact with other groupings in Pretoria, ie. Black Sash, Cathsoc, PFP Youth, Pretoria Institute for Reconciliation.
3. Extension of Mailing List

Proposed Activities:

1. House meeting explaining the rights of conscripts as well as alternative service option with three different groups
 - a) School Kids
 - b) Tech Students who have shown interest.
 - c) Cathsoc
2. Stall at the flea Market selling the Forces Favorite Books and T-Shirt (being investigated) and maybe buttons.
3. Semi-public meeting at a church hall or a meeting on Campus when the VVAW Tour is conducted.

Pretoria ECC sends regards to all other regions and wishes to thank National and Johannesburg for their support and help.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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