

- 1) Our country is sinking into a deepening civil conflict.
- 2) The presence of troops in the townships further increases tension and bitterness in our divided country. Many conscripts consequently face a serious moral dilemma. They should be given the right to choose whether to participate in the SADF or not. This is why we call for an end to conscription.
- 3) In the interim, our right to choose would be respected if the government allowed for genuine alternative ways of serving our country.

Therefore we call on the government to:

- a) Provide alternative service to all conscripts who in good conscience object to service in the SADF.
- b) Reduce the length of community service from a punitive six year maximum to a maximum of four years.
- c) Make alternative service available in religious and welfare organisations

Presently for a person who has done no service :

- Military service is 2 years continuous and a total of 2 years camps.
- Alternative service is a continuous 6 years in a government department usually at a private's salary and available only to religious pacifists.
- Those who do not qualify face 6 years in gaol or exile.



CONSTRUCTION NOT CONSCRIPTION

ECC is to launch a programme of community projects in April. This is to symbolise our constructive alternative to a national service which is presently identical with military service. These projects have been undertaken in consultation with community-based groups about their communities' needs and ECC's role in helping to meet these needs. A theme which has evolved emphasises the youth. ECC feels this is fitting in that it is on the youth that South Africa's future rests.

The projects need as many volunteers as possible to show their commitment to community service as defined by the communities themselves. They are also an opportunity to learn about the social conditions in the townships surrounding Durban; to meet and work with the residents, and to be part of the new South Africa under construction.

Volunteers will be asked to meet at the Ecumenical Centre at the specified time for each project, and lifts to the areas will be provided from there. We would also need to meet sometime before that to fill ourselves in on the projects and to meet the people we will be working with.

ECC PROJECT OUTLINE

- \* Open Forum: Wednesday 2 April at 7.30 pm.  
This is to be an open, public discussion of alternative service. It will serve as the launch of the 'Working for a Just Peace' campaign. Anyone offering to help on any project is urged to attend.
- \* Ward Painting: Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 April at 1.30 pm.  
This project entails creatively decorating a children's ward. Most of the children are long-term patients (6 to 18 months), and need as much stimulation as possible.  
Project co-ordinator: Sarah at ph. 223414
- \* Wentworth bush clearing: Sunday 13 April at 11.00 am.  
This project involves clearing a plot of land in Wentworth. The Wentworth Improvement Project, a local organisation, plans to build a recreation centre there for school students to use after school.  
Project co-ordinator: Richard at ph. 3015663
- \* Klaarwater Creche & Vegetable Garden: Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 April at 11.00 am.  
Here, we will be building a creche with people from the area. The method to be used is known as Enter Arch. It requires little building skills, which will be taught on the spot, and the bricks dry very quickly. We will also be running a workshop on vegetable gardening, and hope to do the initial cultivation of the land.  
Project co-ordinator: Anita at ph. 3015663
- \* Children's Fun Day: Sunday 27 April at 12 noon.  
We are hoping this will be a huge event for children and parents from all over Durban. Life in the Park will be running games and face painting. There will be a mime artist, fun plays, music and a magic show. Children will be invited to paint a large peace mural. We will need to provide food and entertainment, bus people in and ensure the smooth running of the day. The venue is to be Himalaya Park in Merebank.  
ECC hopes the Fun Day will symbolise what our campaign is all about: non-racialism, co-operation and a constructive attitude to the future of our society.  
Project co-ordinator: Fiona at ph. 216129

For further information about the 'Working for a Just Peace' campaign, phone any of the project co-ordinators.

LET'S BUILD NOT FIGHT!

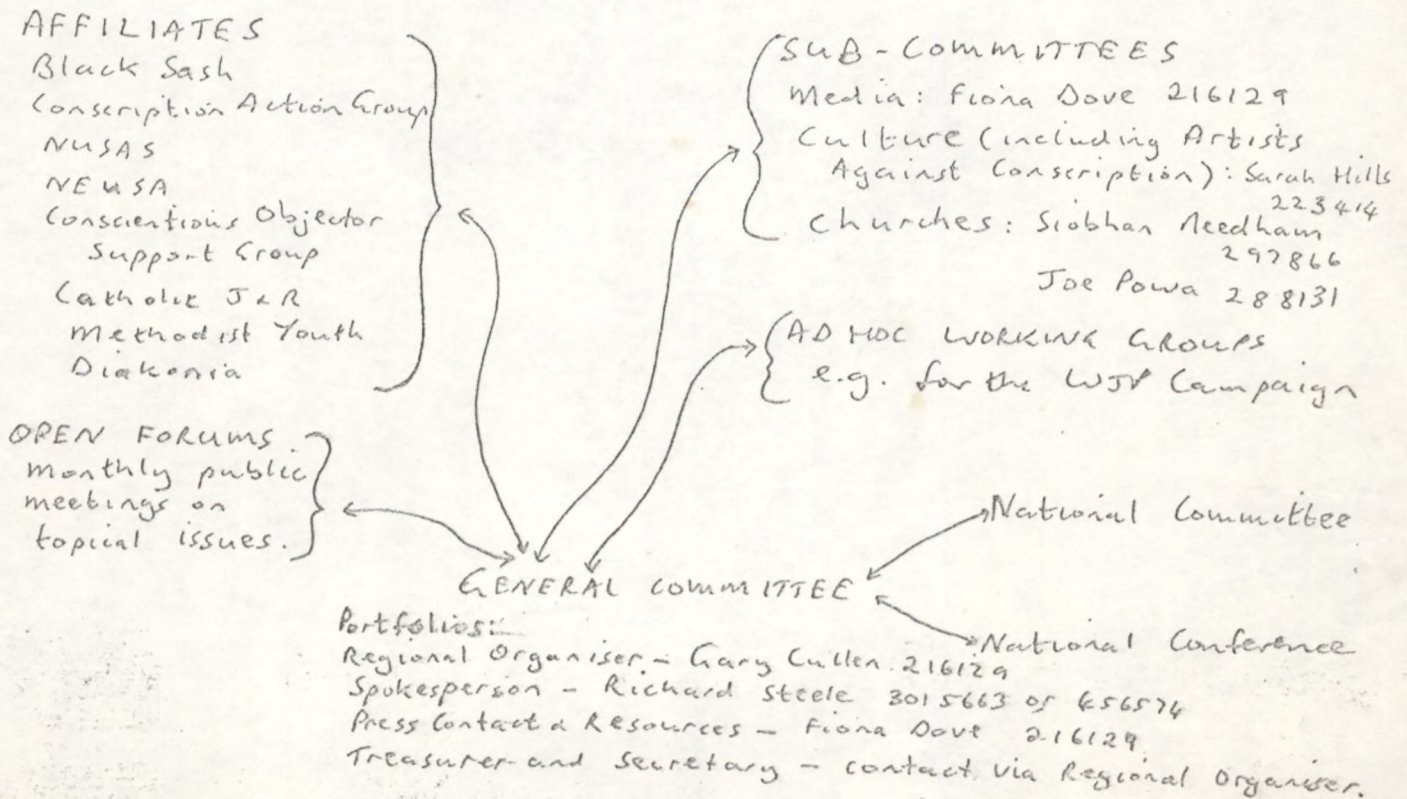


WORKING FOR A JUST PEACE, APRIL 1986 - project outline  
 Meet at the Ecumenical Centre, 20 St Andrews Street at the given times.

- \* Ward Painting: Thursday 3, Saturday 5, Sunday 6, all at 10.00am.  
 This project entails creatively decorating the children's ward at a local hospital.  
 Project co-ordinator: Andrew at 222240
- \* Wentworth Bush Clearing: Sunday 13 at 10.00am.  
 ECC will be working with the Wentworth Improvement Project (an umbrella body for local youth groups) to clear a plot of land in Wentworth. In due course, a recreation centre for school students to use after school will be built on this land.  
 Project co-ordinator: Gary at 216129.
- \* Dassenhoek Creche and Vegetable Garden: Saturday 19, Sunday 20 at 9.00am.  
 We will be helping to build a creche for 80 children with people from the area. Whatever skills are necessary will be taught on the spot. We will also be holding a workshop on vegetable gardening, and will lay out a small demonstration garden.  
 Project co-ordinator: Richard at 301 5663 or 456574.
- \* Children's Fun Day: Sunday 27 at 12 noon.  
 We hope this will be a huge event for children and parents from all over Durban. There will be lots of activities, including the Life in the Park bus. The venue is Himalaya Park in Merebank.  
 ECC hopes the Fun Day will symbolise what our campaign is all about - non-racialism, co-operation, and a constructive attitude to the future of our society.  
 Project co-ordinator: Fiona at 216129.

The End Conscription Campaign, Durban

ECC, Durban, is made of affiliate organisations and sub-committees, who send representatives to the General Committee meetings. The General Committee meets every two weeks, and is the coordinating body for ECC. The General Committee has a representative on the National Committee, which co-ordinates ECC nationally. A National Conference is held in January each year.



ECC OFFICE: 18 Ecumenical Centre, 20 St. Andrews Street.  
 No phone yet.



End Conscription Campaign  
20 St Andrews Street

Durban

4001

21 April 1986

Dear Friend,

The ECC would like to invite you to participate in our Peace in the Park day at Albert Park on Sunday.

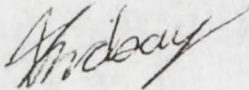
Any contributions for the cake sale; old lipsticks and other cosmetics for the face painting; or scraps of material, glitter, or other odds and ends for the peace mural would be much appreciated.

If you would like to help us prior to the event, we need people to distribute the leaflets. Enclosed are a few extras for your friends. If you would like to distribute some more in your area eg. tea rooms, shopping centre notice boards, please phone Fiona at 216 129 or Richard at 301 5663 (w) or 456 574 (h).

If you would like to be of assistance on the day, we are meeting at the chess board at 8.30am on the Sunday in the Park. We need volunteers to paint and fill balloons with helium; set up the events; fix up the electricity; put up signs; staff the information booth, cake sale, mural, silkscreening and so on.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Yours with love and hopes for peace,



Val Lindsay

Secretary



WORKING FOR JUST PEACE CAMPAIGN : JOHANNESBURG.

The campaign would be divided into 2 phases leading to the culmination

- a) Build-up period for the duration of March  
 During this time, the survey would be run, and various other activities would raise the issues of the WJP and gather lists of people prepared to work during the campaign.  
 Training for some of the activities in April would happen at this stage.
- b) The Actual Campaign 1-30 April  
 For the whole of the 1st week and for each of the following weekends in April, we would engage people in protest-action. Particular constituencies would be targeted at different points in the campaign. The whole campaign would be leading up to the culmination and organising people to take part.
- c) Culmination: Public meeting 30 April  
 This would be a very large protest. Our work in the 2 months would lead up to it. We would aim at 5000 people to it; high profile speakers.

A. BUILD-UP PERIOD (MARCH)

- a) Survey: We would raise issue of <sup>Truly</sup> Alternate Nat-Service also recruit for the actual campaign; finally we would survey results in April. (P.S. Should this be changed to a petition)
- b) Peace Ribbon: This would be painted at the following centres on the 1st 3 Saturdays of March: - Rosebank, Maitland, Plaza; The Market. Pamphlets would be handed out. Survey conducted at the same time.
- c) Mailing of pamphlet: A pamphlet with a tear-off return would be mailed widely to affiliate members + other support possible sympathisers, ideally by the 12 March. It would draw attention of WJP broadly, and specific actions.



d) The Training programme for the Holiday Activity; would train all volunteers by 23 March (Sunday). This would mean that we should have recruited volunteers by We would do this through (i) Wits (esp. Social Work + Sociology Dpts) (ii) Survey (iii) Affiliates of Black Sash. (iv) Churches (v) Newspaper appeal

e) Schools Focus:

A school's concert would be held on the last Friday of the term (21 March). We will aim to get school bands and one or two draw-card bands to play.

This would be advertised by a pamphlet (explaining a little about ECC, but mainly advert) handed out in the previous week.

f) Concert (15 March)

This would not be explicitly WJP-oriented, but would have all WJP media + a signing-up table for volunteers.

## B. THE APRIL CAMPAIGN

a) The Children's Holiday Programme

Worked out in conjunction with Concerned Social Workers. It would run from Tues 1<sup>st</sup> April to Fri 4<sup>th</sup> April, possibly from 9-1.30 each day. It would culminate in a Festival/Parade on Sat Morning.

We would aim to get 500 children, <sup>from Coronationville</sup> there, and one day could perhaps link up with the Casenays Holiday Programme in Berea.

Volunteers needed: Maximum of  $30 \times 4 \text{ days} = 120$ . (see above)

b) Painting

This would happen 12-13 April.

We would aim to get RAU students + other conscripts to do it.

Volunteers needed: Minimum  $20 \times 2 \text{ days} = 40$ .

RAU students would be recruited (hopefully) by other RAU people, who would work at it from 25 Feb onwards (the date of the 1<sup>st</sup> Afric. meeting). A pamphlet would be drawn up for this purpose, by the RAU people.

Other conscripts would come via (i) Newspaper ad (ii) Survey (iii) Churches (iv) Schools Concert (v) Concert.



### c) Building Park for Mentally Handicapped

would happen 19-20 April.

We would aim to get mothers + fathers via churches + newspaper, + Sash + Women for Peace, and the Youth to do this.

We would need to (a) Plan it all first <sup>what is needed?</sup> (b) arrange for wood/tyres/etc for equipment. (c) Organise people to <sup>pot</sup> plant out plants at home  
d) soil? / Sand for pit? etc

Volunteers: 50 x 2 days = 100.

### d) Picnic: (Sun 27 April)

Possibly at Zoo lake. The idea would be to have kids activities + adult discussion about the issues. We would aim to get the Holiday Camp people + families of all volunteers + others. Possibly think of a "sand-castle" type of action

### e) Public Meeting (30 April)

This would be Johannesburg City Hall's Biggest Event! Ideas for speakers: - All should have "a name". One should be talking from mother/father perspective; one from Church; one from ECC (Laurie?) There should be cultural input + participation from floor.

### f) Mother's Meetings.

Throughout April, we would ask groups of mothers (Black Sash, Women for Peace etc) to organise housemeetings at which mothers would discuss militarisation, role of SADF, cadets, what they could do for WJP, letter-writing, contributing the peace ribbon etc.

### g) Medical School

Still to be confirmed  
Throughout this period med. school students would be getting involved in emergency service programmes.



	MARCH	(A2) X	(A3)	(A4)	(B1) APRIL	(B2)	(B3)	(B4)	(B5)
M	3 X	10 X	17	24	31	7 survey	14	21	28
T	4 X	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29
W	5 X	12 MAILING	19	26	2	9	16	23	30 PUBLIC MEETING (City Hall)
T	6 X	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	
F	7 X	14	21 SCHOOLS CONCERT	28	4	11	18	25	
S	8 PEACE RIBBON + SURVEY	15 PEACE RIBBON + SURVEY	22 PEACE RIBBON + SURVEY	29	5	12	19	26	
S	9 X	16 CONCERT	23	30	6	13 PAINTING OLD AGE HOME	20 PLANTING MENTALLY HANDICAPPED	27 PICNIC (Zoo Lake)	

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAMME  
 (Coronationville)

Mothers meetings —————>  
 Med School Action —————>



# Suggested Method of working.

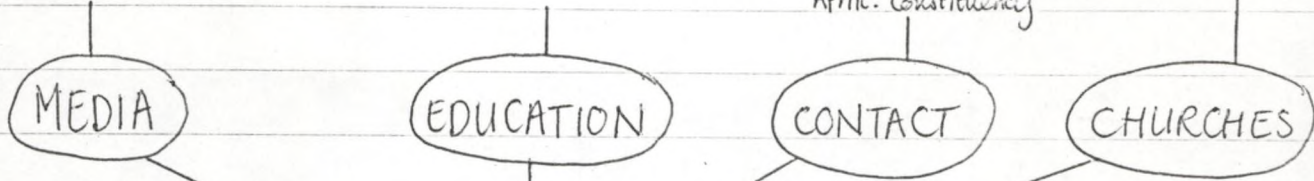
Print T-shirts (National)  
organise Peace Ribbon  
help groups with media  
organise concert 15<sup>th</sup>

organise survey  
organise schools action  
+ schools concert.

what is ECC pamphlet  
co-ordination of lists  
of volunteers  
Methuens Meetings  
Afrik. Constituency

Churches action  
help recruiting for  
all activities.

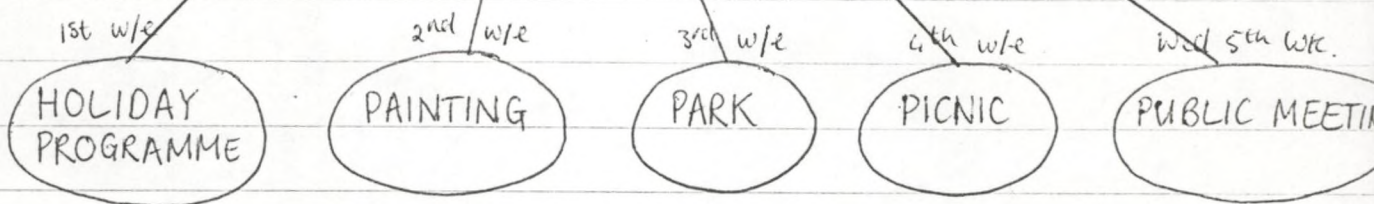
SUB-COMMITTEES



Must include  
• Press officer  
• Campaign Co-ordinator

NOTE: This is a large committee  
Reps from the Action Groups  
would come + go as the  
need arises.

ACTION GROUPS



1.	1.	1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.	5.	5.

## Responsibilities of each group are to:

- Plan the action (including media)
- Recruit the workers + train them if necessary
- Co-ordinate with other groups + with Press officer
- Be there on the day.
- As far as possible, do their own media.



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## Motivation for a focus on the call-up and alternative service.

### Challenging the call-up

The call-up is the time of year when conscription is uppermost in the minds of thousands of South Africans. Yet, until now we haven't responded (at least at a national level) in a way that captures the imagination of masses of people.

Since July there have been several developments which place us in a strong position to challenge the call-up in January.

- The Peace Festival and Troops Out campaign have greatly enhanced our strength, experience and public credibility.
- There has been a virtually total fusion of the SAP and SAOP in their fight against township residents.
- The escalation and spread of urban resistance to Apartheid.
- The declaration of the State of Emergency.
- A realisation (one would think) amongst many whites that Apartheid is strongly rejected internationally and that South Africa can never be accepted as 'normal' while white minority rule remains.
- A possible shift in white public perception of the role of the SAOP from the "boys on the border" to its internal operations.

These factors and others are bound to increase the feeling of unease with which many conscripts face military service. This means that once again large numbers are likely to evade service. Such resistances will give strong weight to our demands for an end to conscription. However our ability to harness this groundswell of opposition is somewhat limited. This is partly because as yet we haven't spelled out a clear enough alternative. This failing possibly makes it easier for us to be dismissed as radical, destructive and anti, as condemning but without suggesting an alternative.

We do actually deal with an alternative course of action when we call on people to "work for a Just Peace in our land". However this is activist language and can pass the average person by as simply a flowery cliché.

### Presenting an alternative.

What is needed perhaps is a national action, or regional actions demonstrate very clearly that:

- \* E.C.C. has constructive alternatives to conscription.
- \* makes the distinction between military service to uphold Apartheid and real national service in the interests of the country's people.



- \* demonstrates that ~~we~~ we are anti-Apartheid and not anti-South African.
- \* which we can use as an example of what we mean by working for a Just Peace. (This would be difficult in as far as we define political work as, "working for a Just Peace. Can we find ways to argue that this constitutes national service?")

### Explaining "National" Service

For most whites National Service (N.S.) is automatically understood to mean military service. We need to question this assumption but can go further by raising the question of what really constitutes N.S. Through a N.S. activity we can begin to build a definition to use in challenging ~~our~~ military service on an ongoing basis.

### Areas of N.S. action

#### 1) Humanitarian aid

This could involve aid in providing legal or medical advice or assistance. It could also mean crisis relief work such as organising food, clothing, blankets or money. This kind of work would suit the short term nature of our action, although it carries risks of paternalism and simply helping people to tolerate the conditions they face.

#### 2) Reconstruction

This area is important to stress as constituting

alternative N.S. because this is bound to be the kind of work necessary in a new South Africa. We can play a worthwhile function by preparing people for their future social responsibilities.

Reconstruction work however does bear risks. Now is not the time for E.C.C. to be building schools for pupils who are boycotting Apartheid education. However a project such as building a solar energy generator in a squatter area might be less problematic (though rather difficult).

#### 3) Reconciliation/Peace work

Perhaps the most practical and relevant for us at the moment. This could involve getting black and white pupils together in alternative education programmes, or things like the SASA WPCN women's forum held in Jo'burg. Such actions allow us to involve people from our support base and could enable us to generate a spirit of talking 'rather than the present lawyer mentality of so many whites.

The biggest difficulty with such actions is to justify them formally as N.S. - they could look like political expediency on our part.



## Defining a National Service project,

In general this needs to be done in consultation with grassroots community based organisations. We cannot move into a community, however depressed and seemingly unorganised, making assumptions about people's needs and what work we can do. Such consultation is necessary not only to avoid mistakes on our part, but in principle N.S. should always be defined through this procedure. This a point our action should make, as a guide to the future and as a critique of the way "national" service is presently determined.

With such an action we need to bear in mind that we are talking of a very short term project whereas most community services would need to be fairly permanent. It needs to be clear to the community concerned and general public that our action is a demonstration of real national service and not an attempt to set up services.

Such actions could also involve a significant amount of background preparatory work at a time of year when students are dispersed and many people are away on holiday. In launching a project we need to pay attention to the balance of effort between the project itself and our public campaign work to challenge conscription and present an alternative notion of

N.S.

## Involving the Public

This is an area needing some thought. It could prove difficult to involve large number of people in an N.S. action. We can involve specific groups such as teachers, lawyers and health workers in clinics, but this doesn't deal with the general public.

They could be involved in funding the N.S. project or in activities like cleaning up a polluted river, although these do not seem adequate suggestions. It is perhaps the above mentioned reconciliation category which best suits public involvement. However as said before, these actions are more difficult to justify as national service.

One obvious area would need to be a greater emphasis on advice services concerning the military.

## Approach

Two broad alternatives would exist for us.

1) Actions as proposed above which demonstrates what is real national service,

- These could be a more concrete, active demonstration of our alternative.

- They could be "credible" in the sense that action speaks louder than words.

- Through their novelty they should draw



press attention.

- They might particularly strike a positive note with our sponsors.

The two difficulties are involving the public and ~~the~~ financing and organising the "right" action.

2) The second option is a more of a mobilisation orientated action for example, a cultural festival through which we ~~are~~ challenge conscription and argue for an alternative form of national service.

- This would involve more of the public

- The work is more related to, and therefore likely to build E.C.C. structures.

- More concentration on propagating our message.

The major disadvantages seem to be the absence of the novelty of the first alternative and talking with no action.

Perhaps a combination is necessary. This could involve the first approach with a smaller, action demonstratively our message in practice. An alternative to a N.S. action could be to focus on the work of affiliates which we would define as constituting "national" service.

Other areas to consider.

1) Do we need a national slogan?

2) How do we deal with the Board for religious objectors? Through our action, are we challenging the legitimacy of the Department of Manpower's



concept of alternative service, or are we aiming to broaden their criteria?

3) Can we use this call-up and the N.S. question to place any public pressure on the Goldenshlyps Commission?



**Collection Number: AG1977**

**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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