

PROPOSAL FOR "CADETS OUT!" CAMPAIGN

A21.8

Issues around cadets and youth preparedness (YP) programmes in schools are to be tackled during the first term of 1986. Aims of the campaign are as follows;

- \* to inform school students that they have the legal right to refuse to do cadets
- \* to raise the issue of school militarization amongst school students and their parents
- \* to draw links between school militarization and the increasing militarization of South African society

The campaign is to focus on the issue of cadets and militarization in schools. It is envisaged that ECC will take the initiative in raising the issue, but that ECC should work together with other allied organizations representing school students, parents, teachers, student teachers and churches.

PREPARATORY WORK

It is envisaged that ECC members from other sub coms could be co-opted to help the schools group with the campaign.

A steering committee is to be set up consisting of ECC people as well as reps from different organizations. Organizations such as PAAG, Black Sash, EDASA, B Ed students, parent cadet groups and churches are to be approached before 24 November.

During this period, a research group will elicit details of the current position of militarization in various Cape Town schools. The research will focus on:

- \* what cadet and YP programmes consist of
- \* where and how cadet programmes operate
- \* how parents, teachers and school students feel about YP programmes and cadets
- \* collection of relevant resources

An afternoon workshop on 8 December is planned. All organizational reps and ECC activists are to be invited to this workshop. The workshop will consist of the following:

- \* input and discussion on the current state of militarization in schools
- \* why ECC objects to cadets, YP programmes and school militarization

- \* presentation of legalities around the right to refuse to participate in cadets
- \* presentation of "CADETS OUT!" proposal
- \* ideas of how the different organizations can participate in the campaign.

It is envisaged that ECC will do most of the ground work and provide resources for the other participating organizations. Much of the preparatory work would take place in early January.

### THE CAMPAIGN

At this stage it seems likely that the campaign should be run during the first term of 1986. Firstly, from ECC's position, such a campaign will fill the void that will exist between the January call-up and the Alternate Service Campaign. Secondly, with the issue of cadets being raised at the beginning of the school, other organizations could continue to organize around this issue for the remainder of the year. Thirdly, the "CADETS OUT!" campaign should be an important introduction to the Alternate Service Campaign, especially if alternate YP programmes are to be demanded by school students, parents and teachers.

Ideas for the campaign:

- \* Koncert against Kadets
- \* Press statements from parents
- \* pamphlets, stickers, posters
- \* schools debate
- \* pickets
- \* organizations lobbying for alternate YP programmes (ECC slot?)

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## **END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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