

A7.1.9

Peace Project

P O Box 941

Pretoria

0001

First Copy sent: 8 August 1989

Dear Friends

CANSP NATIONAL MEETING

By now you should all have received the CANSP questionnaire and are hopefully addressing the issues. A National meeting to discuss CANSP has been planned. Please would the Churches involved each send one representative and the various regional groups send two representatives.

Date: 22 September 1989 (Friday)

Time: 10am - 3pm

Venue: St Marten's in the veld

cnr Cradock and Eastwood avenues

Preparation: We will be discussing the questionnaire and the future of CANSP. Please come prepared accordingly.

RSVP to Douglas Banks 011-7162625 (work)
011-7886023 (home)

Yours in the struggle for justice and peace
CANSP National Steering Committee

Mandy,

*Would it be possible for a COSG
representative to come along - as we would
value their input.*

Doug



Churches' Alternative National Service Programme

P O Box 9293

Johannesburg

2000

16 August 1989

Greetings,

National Committee Meeting 22nd September 1989

The Johannesburg regional working group has been asked by the Steering committee to set up an agenda for the National meeting on the 22nd September. By way of introduction we would like to summarize the need for this meeting, and give a brief rundown on CANSP's present situation as we perceive it.

At the last national meeting, in January this year, it was decided that CANSP should definitely go ahead. Those present recognized a need for a campaign for alternative National Service which is open to all who have religious, moral or ethical or political objections to serving in the SADF. It was suggested that we have a low key launch around August 1989. It was hoped that the CANSP programme would have the official support of at least three of the larger Churches by then. It was also hoped that there would be at least one or two volunteers prepared to take up the CANSP programme. Furthermore it was suggested that CANSP recruit a full time worker, who would assist in the administration and co-ordination of CANSP.

Unfortunately CANSP has encountered three problems:

i) The programme has only been formerly adopted by the Anglican and the Catholic Churches. It is however still being discussed by the Methodists and as far as we know by the Presbyterians. The Methodists have a major conference coming up in October this year, and CANSP will be on the agenda.

ii) We have no formal volunteers yet, (although Douglas Torr is working for the Church and he has refused to serve).

iii) We do not have a full-time worker.

Our knowledge of the activities of the various regional working is not detailed, and so we can not give you a detailed run dow. what other folk have been up to. We do know that:

The Cape Town group are in the process a making a poster promoting CANSP. They also plan to produce an animated slide tape show which discusses the need for alternative National Service, and also details some of the ways in which it could be carried out. Links have been built up with some parishes in the region.

The Johannesburg group has sent a questionnaire based on the one which the Cape Town group sent out last year to members of the Witwatersrand Council of Churches. Some favourable responses have been received. We are in the process of following these up and arranging small informal workshops/discussions about the options which face conscripts and the possibilities of alternative national service.

We do not know what is taking place in the other regions (Grahamstown and Durban)

Given the position that some of the primary goals of CANSP have not yet been met, but that some definite progress has been made, and some enthusiasm generated, the questions arise: where do we go to next? How do we carry the campaign for alternative National service forwards? Do we carry it forwards as a separate Church body, or should those within the Churches who want to remain involved join with other non-ecclesiastical organizations? Do we change our emphasis, or are we happy with the present goals and modus operandi. The attached sheet of questions sent out by the National Steering Committee should help to clarify our answers.

The Johannesburg regional working group has some definite ideas, some of which we think could be very useful and exciting. We do not wish to set those out now, as we think we need to discuss various groups and Churches vision for the future of CANSP. Hence the National meeting. We feel it is very important, since CANSP is a Church organisation, that the Churches be represented at that meeting by people who can speak from within the respective Churches, and preferably for the Churches. In this way we hope that the programme, which will become more defined as a result of the September meeting, will have the direct support of the highest structures in the Churches

Below is a preliminary agenda. It will be revised on Friday the 22nd before we start the meeting. However if there are any major items which have been left off, please let us know, as it would be good to at least have a rough idea of the 'plan for the day' ahead of time.

We have left off the usual things such as welcome, etc for now.

Date: 22 September 1989 (Friday)

Time: 10am - 3pm Lunch will be provided

Venue: St Marten's in the veld
 cnr Cradock and Eastwood avenues

- 1 Report from Steering Committee
- 2.1 Report from each region as to activities and progress to date.
This includes the position with regard to volunteers, placement possibilities, response from and interaction with local Churches, workshops, involvement in Church activities, interaction with other interest groups, (COSG, CAS, parliamentarians etc), group strengths and weakness.
- 2.2 Report from the Church representatives as to how they perceive CANSP, and particularly on the level of involvement which can be expected from their Churches.
- 2.3 Discussion as to progress to date, criticism, praise, reasons for the apparent 'slow start'. How do these impact on the future of CANSP?
- 3 Presentation of scenarios for the future of CANSP. Please would each region and each Church representative be prepared to speak about this.
- 4 Discussion of the above, and from this define a well thought out set of principals, structures and goals.

We look forwards to seeing you there.

Douglas Banks

For: Johannesburg Regional Working Group

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN CATHOLIC
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE**



**KHANYA HOUSE
140 VISAGIE STREET
PRETORIA
0002**

**SUIDER - AFRIKAANSE
KATOLIEKE BISKOPSRAAD**

**TELEGRAMS: "CHURCHWEL PRETORIA"
PHONES: 323-6458/21-1793
TELEX: 3-20776 SA
FAX: 21-1795
P.O. BOX 941
PRETORIA
0001**

**TELEGRAMME: "CHURCHWEL PRETORIA"
TELEPHONE: 323-6458/21-1793
TELEKS: 3-20776 SA
FAXS: 21-1795
POSBUS 941
PRETORIA
0001**

20 July 1989

Dear CANSP Members

Over the past 2 years a number of problems have been experienced in motivating and launching CANSP. While most churches have no objection to the campaign they do not see it as a burning issue and it is constantly thrown off their agenda. To date only the Catholic and Anglican churches have officially adopted the programme.

As a result the National Steering Committee is experiencing enormous problems maintaining itself and the programme. In the light of this we felt the need to evaluate the programme. A dynamic broad based campaign around conscription / militarisation is needed in the church. Is CANSP this campaign or do we need to restructure it ?

Some guidelines for discussing the problems are attached. Please could you discuss these and any other issues in your group. (By the end of August a national meeting will then be held to work out a way forward.

Yours in the struggle for justice and peace

National Steering Committee

QUESTIONS

1. What is the key burning issue for Christians re militarisation? Why?
2. What are the major needs of conscripts?
3. What are the major needs of their families?
4. Does CANSP address these issues?
If **yes** how?
If **no** what should be done to address them?
5. What do you see CANSP achieving in your region?
6. What has the response been so far? Why?
7. Why do you think we have no volunteers?
8. Can the programme exist without volunteers?
If **not**, what changes need to be made?
9. How do we involve the other churches in the issue?
10. How do we build on the support already generated?
11. What should be done about national co-ordination?
12. How do you suggest we move forward?

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.