

A77-8-4

NATIONAL ANTI-MILITARISATION WORKSHOP

Proposal to be discussed regionally by Monday ²⁸ 21 August, 1989.
Final responses to be sent to Paul Boulle
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1. Background:

There appears to be clear consensus on the need for a national anti-militarisation workshop. What follows is a final proposal based on feedback received from the different regions to an earlier proposal which was sent out by the Johannesburg Anti-Militarisation Forum (23 June 1989).

2. Purpose of Workshop:

National conceptual discussion and practical co-ordination around anti-militarisation work.

Inter alia, the workshop would consider:

- The present state of anti-militarisation work;
- Changes that have occurred in the military scenario
eg. Troops returning from Namibia
Increased use of black forces in township areas
Reduction in call-up periods
Etc.;
- In the light of the above changes, where anti-military work should be located and how broad its focus should be;
- Future strategising and co-ordination of anti-militarisation work;
- Possible new initiatives/movements around anti-militarisation work.

3. Process:

Regional day workshops should be convened either by the local COSG branch or by the Anti-militarisation Forum.

- These workshops should be as broad as possible, including not only members of different anti-militarisation organisations, but also church reps; MDM reps; Sash reps; etc.
- The regional workshops would discuss the issues which will be covered at the national workshop. For this purpose, a proposed agenda and a pre-workshop document will be drawn up and circulated nationally.

4. Representation:

Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town would be represented as follows:

- 1 local COSG rep
- 1 local CAS rep
- 1 campus rep
- 2 additional reps from the regional workshop.

The motivation for the above is that these are the only anti-militarisation organisations with branches in each of these centres. The names of all the

reps will be sent to the national co-ordinating group, who will assess whether there is balanced representation. If an organisation is not represented, the national co-ordinating group will approach that organisation to send a rep.

Those regions without anti-militarisation structures as such, should still try to have a workshop on the topic with reps from sympathetic groups. 1 or 2 reps would be sent from each of these workshops.

A national rep from the Sash and the MDM would be invited, and someone from the Centre for Policy Studies (Wits).

It is envisaged that the national workshop should be capable of coming out with definite proposals. The emphasis will therefore be on broad representation, preferably by activists with experience in the field of anti-military work.

4. Proposed Date: 6 - 8 October, 1989.

Whilst the national workshop is seen as a priority, it was felt that regional workshops would only be possible after the September elections.

5. National Co-ordination and Planning: to be through the national COSG worker, Mandy Taylor, and the COSG National Committee communication network. Co-ordination is to include ensuring balanced representation. The initial agenda and a pre-workshop document are to be drawn up by Mandy Taylor in conjunction with the Johannesburg Anti-Militarisation Forum.

6. Venue: Johannesburg.

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