

88.4.12

REPORT BACK ON PLENARY SESSION - FORWARD PLANNING

**** PHILIP WILKINSON:**

To be tried on Friday 2 for failing to report for camp. Issue important to ECC because of the strength of his stand and the personal aspect. Group had lots of ideas - including mill-ins, guerilla theatre, feature stories, pamphlets, pickets etc. CT to do national schools pamphlet.

* Decisions: Because Philip to be tried for failing to report, sentence is likely to be a fine, and trial may be remanded or further trial possible. ECC will run a more high profile campaign when he is tried (or if) for refusing to serve, or if jailed tomorrow.

* Proposed action: posters up tonight (if decided necessary?) schools pamphlet to be done when necessary.

**** NATIONAL SURVEY:**

Planned by mid-June - a training workshop and blitz/pilot on 7/14 June Group to be set up at GB - volunteers from ECC, front org's, new recruits

**** TROOPS OUT/NON VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION (NVDA):**

Discussion arose from proposal from National Committee (NC) that we consider the demand for troops out of townships in light of ongoing troop presence in townships and consequent increasing racial polarisation. Some tactics suggested took form of NVDA - ideas involved fairly confrontationist symbolic actions demonstrating non-racialism.

* Decisions: We felt this should not be a campaign, but integrated in on-going way into activity/campaigns

- NVDA - potentially useful tactic, as shown by creative action group. We need to be careful of 'confrontationist' actions - likely to alienate our constituency

- Some concern expressed because of possible national implications of any one region going ahead with types of action mentioned at NC ?

* Proposed action:

- Military Research Group (MRG) to document ongoing troop deployment/SADF actions

- possible topic for an Open Forum - info. on troops in townships

- June 16 - likely to be widespread action by SADF against resistance. ECC must be ready to react.

**** JULY CALL-UP CAMPAIGN:**

Possibly last July call-up, and our involvement with planning cultural festival, mean this should be a big campaign in each region. Emphasis should be anti-conscription, not anti-conscript, but maintaining and asserting our opposition to the role conscripts are forced to play (role of SADF, troops in townships etc). Also important to reach conscripts klaaring out, especially because their 2 years has been period since troops in the townships.

* Proposed action:

- survey, VIP statements, questionnaires, "know your rights" booklet (link up with parents' group)

- support groups, advertise Advice Bureau, "veterans group"?

- group to be established to co-ordinate campaign, with reps from sub-comm's and others interested

**** NATIONAL PUBLICATION:**

CT needs to set up group of 8 coordinators for following areas:

* overall coordinator, features, arts, production, advertising, design, resources, Afrikaans translation. Any volunteers for areas welcomed.

Nationally, Nic is a rep from NC, and we need 1 rep from each region to take proposals to their region, coordinate feedback and feed in newsworth items.

NATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL:

The group had a thorough and productive discussion/brainstorm covering the following areas:

participation (open to public)

duration (3-4 days)

venue (UCT and other venues)

overall picture of events (1 major public drawcard event per day - ideas included fair, art exhibition, concert, multi-media evening)

national (need national participation. Each region could take on an area/event?)

Proposed action:

set up organising/planning group with sub comm reps and others interested

CONSOLIDATION OF ECC:

From our assessments over the weekend and a proposal from the executive, we discussed questions of consolidation, internal education, leadership and training and the role of the executive.

came up with the following proposals/ideas:

Projects committee: we felt the continuation of WJP work should take the form of relevant symbolic actions possibly 4 times a year. A small group is drawing up a proposal in this regard.

Consolidation of sub-committees: WJP as a general ECC campaign has drained the sub-comm's. There has been an influx of new members on the one hand, and tired and drained more experienced members who are feeling frustrated. A proposal from the exec to deal with training and developing leadership skills and political education was discussed.

It was suggested that each sub comm elect a coordinating committee. This committee would be responsible for coordinating the subcommittee and its internal education programme (dealt with below). This would also allow more experienced members, democratically elected, to develop organisational and leadership skills more systematically. It was emphasised that such a committee must be accountable to its sub comm, and membership thereof should rotate to enable these skills to be acquired by more ECC members. The period of such rotation should not be too often as this would negate the aims of such a structure, but it should not become a static body.

Internal Education: It was felt that while the general education programme was useful, it:

- * was not well attended by sub comm members
- * did not cater for the specific needs of each sub comm
- * was not necessarily the best place for participation and discussion

Therefore, it was proposed that in addition to an ongoing general internal education programme, each sub comm develop its own programme.

Important points arising from the discussion:

that programmes must still focus on issues related to ECC and our work it should be accessible to all members of the sub comm and reflect their needs. It should not be alienating to Joe Bloggs. The exec. genl. could play a role in ensuring that there is feedback between sub comms

in discussion around "developing a line" it was felt that debate, discussion etc should be emphasised, rather than dogmatic, "top-heavy" input. Also, the idea came up that papers/inputs could be circulated around ECC

ROLE OF EXECUTIVE:

It was felt that the exec had been underused in terms of strategising or providing direction for discussion. Although the exec is not a decision making body it was felt that as a democratically elected group, with reps from sub comms, it has a mandate to provide some direction in order to facilitate planning/strategising etc.

IDEAS/PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION AT GENERAL BODY

Some of these just require formal decisions from GB, while others need discussion within sub comms before we can take decisions:

PHILIP WILKINSON: posters - tonight?
schools group to discuss national schools pamphlet

SURVEY: group to be set up from GB to implement/plan survey

TROOPS OUT/NVDA: MRG to document troop deployment/SADF actions
Contact committee to discuss possible Open Forum/info evening
Creative action to discuss possible NVDA actions

JULY CALL-UP: campaign group to be set up from GB, with sub comm reps(1/2) and others interested
campaign group to link up with parents group on plans
possibility of conscript/veterans group to be discussed

NATIONAL PUBLICATION: Set up coordinating structure - 8 coordinators

NATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL: Set up organising group with sub comm reps and other interested volunteers

CONSOLIDATION/STRUCTURES:

PROJECT COMMITTEE: volunteers interested in joining planning committee?

SUB-COMMITTEE COORDINATING COMMITTEES: Sub comms to discuss proposal for coordinating committees/process involved.

SUB-COMMITTEE INTERNAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES: Sub comms to discuss proposal

ROLE OF EXECUTIVE: Sub comms to discuss role played by exec, and proposal outlined above.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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