

ECC
End Conscription Campaign TO SCHOOLS.

c/o Room 432
Khotso House
42 Devilliers Street
JOHANNESBURG
Tel: 23-8405/648-9282
22 May 1985

Dear friend

We would like to invite your school to participate in an inter-school panel discussion at the End Conscription Campaign "Stop the call up" Peace Festival at the end of June.

The End Conscription Campaign

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) was launched at the end of 1983 after the Black Sash had called for an end to compulsory conscription at its annual conference that year. The campaign was seen as an appropriate response to the militarisation of our society, the role of the SADF inside and outside South Africa and the fact that white men are forced to serve in this army.

There are End Conscription Committees in Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Pietermaritzburg which are collectively comprised of over 50 affiliated organisations. Affiliated groups include Black Sash, Women for Peace, Nusas, PFP Youth (P.E.), YCS and Cathsoc.

Despite their having different political and religious perspectives all of these groups have endorsed the position contained in the ECC Declaration (attached).

Our broad goal is to work for young men to have the right to choose, on moral or religious grounds, not to serve in the SADF and for a just peace in our land.

ECC Peace Festival

The Festival will take place from the evening of Friday 28th to Sunday the 30th June at the Wits University Student Union in Johannesburg.

We have organised a Festival of seminars, workshops, music, poetry and drama which will involve people from throughout South Africa in discussion around the militarisation of our society and the ways in which we can work for peace.

A copy of the Festival programme is included with this letter.

Inter-school panel discussion

We would like your school to participate in an inter-school panel discussion at 2:30 on Sunday the 30th June.

This session will be run as follows: there will be six teams from different schools, each team consisting of 5 pupils (including a chairperson); each team will have 10 minutes to prepare and 10 minutes to discuss before the audience a given topic. The topics will cover the broad issues of war and peace which the teams can apply to the South African situation as they wish.

We believe that it is important for young people to be able to think about and debate these issues in an open and constructive atmosphere.

Because this is the aim of the session we have chosen not to turn it into a competition between the schools. The teams will be critiqued by the pupils themselves.

We would be glad to discuss further with you the Festival and the panel discussion if you wish, and you and your pupils are of course welcome to attend the entire Festival.

Could you please let us know at the above address if your school is able to participate.

Yours sincerely

Clare Verbeek

CLARE VERBEEK
FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATOR

Laurie Nathan

LAURIE NATHAN
ECC NATIONAL ORGANISER

PRESS RELEASE - PERSVERKLARING

GENERAL SECRETARIATE
of the S.A. CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

ALGEMENE SEKRETARIAAT
van die S.A. KATOLIEKE BISKOPSRAAD

from/van
Press Officer

for release/vir publikasie
IMMEDIATE

SA withdraws Cardinal Arns' visa

IT appears that a visa had been granted to Cardinal Arns to come to South Africa, but when it was learnt from newspaper publicity that he was to participate in the End Conscription Campaign peace festival, a foreign affairs spokesman conveyed to him that he was welcome in South Africa provided he give an undertaking not to associate himself publicly with the festival. He refused to give this undertaking and said that in view of the restriction he preferred not to come.

This is a grievous disappointment for Cardinal Arns is just the sort of person that South Africa needs in its present crisis. He is a man totally dedicated to human rights and the liberation of the poor and oppressed, motivated by a deep Christian commitment and characterised by a warm, affectionate and cheerful disposition.

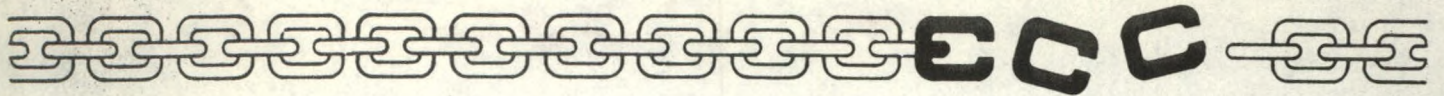
He could have proved to be a real inspiration to South Africa. He belongs to a Franciscan order and reflects much of spirit of St Francis. It is said that the Government is afraid of the influence he could exert. - This is a Christian peace-loving influence of a man with a great love for the poor oppressed.

Issued in the name of the Administrative Board of the Bishops' Conference

Re:	Released by the press/information officer Sarah Crowe	Date: Datum: June 26 1985	Ref.
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Khanya House, 140 Visagie Street,
P.O. Box 941, PRETORIA, 0001.
Tel: 323-6458/9/0 (code: 012)

Khanya Huis, Visagiestraat 140.
Posbus 941, PRETORIA, 0001
Tel: 323-6458/9/0 (kode: 012)



**PRESS
STATEMENT**

End Conscription Campaign

P.O. Box 23364
Joubert Park
2044

Tel: 011-643 3941

Major international Catholic Figure

Arrives in South Africa

Cardinal Arns, the Archbishop of Sao Paulo , Brazil, biggest Catholic Archdiocese in the world, arrives in South Africa on Wednesday 26 June. He will participate in the ECC Peace Festival.

The Cardinal will be met at the airport by Bishop Orsmond of Johannesburg, Fr. S. Mkatshwa General Secretary of the Catholic Bishop's Conference, Laurie Nathan , National Organiser of ECC , and Steve Lowrie Of the War and Peace committee in the Catholic Church.

Arrival time ; 12.15

Wednesday 26 June 1985

Jan Smuts Airport, International Arrivals

Reception Committee

Bishop Orsmond, Catholic Bishop of Johannesburg

Fr.S.Mkatshwa , General Secretary of the S.A.

Catholics Bishops Conference.

Steve Lowrie , War and Peace committee of the

SACBC

Laurie Nathan, National Organiser of ECC

and Catholic sisters and young people

and members of the ECC.

Endorsees of ECC Declaration:

Rev. Allan Boesak, Archbishop Dennis Hurley, Dr. Beyers Naude, Sheena Duncan, Helen Joseph, Molly Blackburn MPC, Bishop Evans, Prof. David Welsh, Prof. Mike Savage, Sir Richard Luyt, Dr. Margaret Nash, Prof. Francis Wilson, Bishop Selby Taylor, South African Council of Churches, United Democratic Front, Black Sash, Detainees Parents Support Committee, SAAK, Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, Conscientious Objector Support Group.

Cardinal Arns will be speaking at the opening meeting of the national ECC Peace Festival. "ECC welcomes his presence as a symbol of the unity of people throughout the world who are working for justice and peace." said festival organiser Clare Verbeek.

The South African Catholic Bishops' Conference and The ECC have planned a welcoming ceremony for the Cardinal. Bishop Orsmond and Laurie Nathan will make brief welcoming speeches to which the Cardinal will respond. The young people will sing. A considerable number of people will participate including Catholic youth groups.

You are invited to bring photographers.

For further information contact:

Festival Press Officers

Benita Pavlicevic	}	28 2251 ext 215
David Shandler		716 3073
		643 3941 (after hours)

B Pavlicevic

24/6/1985

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PO Box 208

Woodstock

795

PRESS RELEASE

P E A C E R A L L Y P E A C E R A L L Y

Monday October 7

8.00pm

City Hall, Cape Town

With Speakers: Dr Beyers Naude

Molly Blackburn

Michael Evans (ECC Chairperson)

Noma-India Mfeketo (United Womens'
Organization)

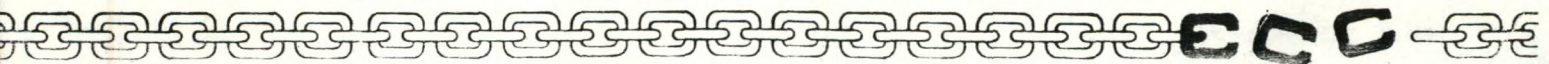
Archbishop hillip Russel (Chair)

The Rally will mark the climax of the End Conscription Campaign's "Troops Out" campaign. The ECC has been heartened by the enthusiastic response we have received. We expect a very large crowd, as a result, at the rally. 20 000 handbills, as well as 1000 posters have been distributed advertising the meeting. There will be street pickets on Monday morning.

The press are invited to attend the meeting. Please ensure that you are there by 7.45pm to ensure that registration can take place timeously. Both journalists and photographers will be expected to register.

For further information contact ECC Press Officer David Shandler at
47 0519.

4/9/1985



Gay Davies

EXCRUTIATING MORAL DILEMMA CONFRONTS CONSCRIPTS

The E.C.C. has observed with great alarm and disapproval the deployment of S.A.D.F. troops in townships throughout South Africa. This does not in the least promote the cause of a just peace.

Interviews with township residents by the E.C.C., as well as the testimony of independent observers, have shown that the security forces are seen in the townships as being enforcers of apartheid. They are seen as enemies, as opposing the interests of the great majority of South Africans.

In this situation of conflict the dilemmas and anxieties confronting conscripts are at their most acute. The conviction by court martial of Alan Dodson is a symptom of this. There are many more who feel just like him.

The need for individuals like Alan to be free to choose not to go into townships is urgent. The E.C.C. sees it as its responsibility to repeatedly say: Give conscripts the choice. We have made this position clear to the S.A.D.F. itself by submitting evidence to the Geldenhuys Committee.

Of course what is most immediate is to pull the troops out of the townships. This is one basis for building a just peace in South Africa. An end to conscription would be another. It would allow individuals to be free not to defend apartheid. They would then not have to face the life-shattering experience of being placed in this excruciating moral dilemma.

Issued by End Conscription Campaign Press Officer, David Shandler

21/8/85

SADF PAMPHLET ATTACK ON ECC

This pamphlet is a clear indication that the SADF's claim that it is not involved in politics is a lie. They make explicitly political statements in the pamphlet. Their very presence in townships furthermore, is the most explicitly political action they might wish to engage in.

Their presence in the townships is provocative in the extreme -they are seen there as symbols of apartheid- they are there in defence of apartheid. This pamphlet is fallacious in that it claims that the SADF is something that it quite clearly is not. The actions of the SADF give the lie to the pamphlet's claim that it is the protector of peace loving people! Is it as the 'protectors of peace loving people' that the SADF is being used to put down legitimate opposition to apartheid?

Crude propaganda such as this, directed against the ECC will do little to alter the views of the many conscripts township residents, and others who are calling for the troops to be withdrawn from the townships, and for justice and peace in South Africa.

Issued by ECC Press Officer David Shandler.

23/10/1985

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208
Woodstock
7915

PARISH PRIEST JOINS FAST FOR JUST PEACE

The Rev. John Freeth, rector of St John's Parish Wynberg has since Sunday 23/9/85 joined Dr Ivan Toms in his fast for a just peace in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town. He is to fast with Dr Toms until the culmination of the fast on October 7.

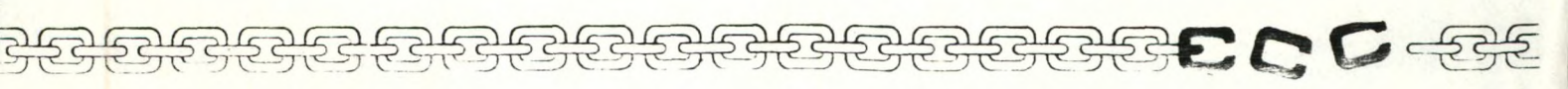
Rev. Freeth is Dr Toms' parish priest. He is fasting in solidarity with Dr Toms, as well as in support of ECC's calls for immediate troop withdrawal from the townships and for a just peace in our country.

For further information contact ECC Press Officer David Shandler at
021-470519

For the Cape Town press: Please find included a programme of activities to be held in the Cathedral this week.

"We want this programme to provide the opportunity for people to share, in discussion and action, the spirit of the fast. We are encouraging all to get involved, young and old. No matter what your age, all have a stake in justice and peace in our country," said Shandler.

23/9/85



PRESS RELEASE

ECC AND THE CHURCH

In a significant development the End Conscription Campaign has established a 'Churches Group' to unite the many Christians who have strong feelings of opposition to conscription. Already this inter-denominational group of committed Christians has distributed many thousands of pamphlets in churches nationally (find included).

In a statement a spokesperson for the group said

"Christ has called all Christians to be peacemakers. This call becomes particularly significant in times of conflict and violence. We need to promote peace by working for an end to injustice in whatever ways lie open to us. Involvement in ECC is a concrete way for Christians to express their commitment to peace and justice for all people.

"ECC calls for a just peace. Justice and peace are fundamental Christian concerns, and throughout history Christians have witnessed that the best way to achieve peace is to work for justice.

"ECC calls for an end to conscription. Through conscription young men are forced to implement and defend apartheid policies. Church and community leaders continually identify the SADF as an instrument of oppression and violence. Furthermore, conscription denies the right of the individual to exercise freedom of conscience - a right which has always been defended by Christians when confronted by secular authorities.



" ECC calls for the troops to be withdrawn from the townships. The presence of the South African army aggravates the state of conflict in our country. It forces young men into a situation of civil warfare which belies the South African army's claim to be a "defence force". The withdrawal of troops from the townships is therefore a pre-requisite for any serious attempts to find peaceful solutions to the unrest and violence in our society.

"The call of ECC is our call. Furthermore, ECC's commitment to non-violent ways of working for peace and justice allows Christians to participate fully in the work it is doing.

"The ECC Fast for a Just Peace and vigils provide a unique opportunity for Christian communities to express opposition to state action in the townships, solidarity with the suffering, and their commitment to a just peace in South Africa. Fasting has always played an important role within the Judaic-Christian tradition. In the Prophets, fasting was frequently linked with the cry of the righteous for justice and freedom:

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chain of injustice and untie the
cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?"

(Isaiah 58.6)

"In this time of crisis, our country needs prayer and signs of concrete commitment from its people. By participating on the Fast and other ECC activities, we are demonstrating our deep concern as Christians for the violence and injustice prevalent in our country. We affirm the fundamental Christian value of loving Christ through responding to the suffering of His people," concluded the statement.

For further information contact ECC Press Officer David Shandler
at 021-470519

For the Cape Town Press:

The ECC has noted with pleasure the response to our campaign that has come from the Jewish community. At a meeting of Jewish Youth this week, a strong call was made for an end to conscription and for a troop withdrawal from townships.

At the same time immense support was expressed for Dr Ivan Toms. About 100 members of the meeting agreed to join Dr Toms at 8.00pm on Saturday night (28/9/85) in the Cathedral. Rabbi Selwyn Franklin will address the group on the Jewish theological basis for an end to conscription. Members of the Jewish Community are urged to attend this significant event.

26/9/85

For further information contact ECC Press Officer:

David Shandler at 021-470519

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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