



THE ECC 'FAST FOR A JUST PEACE' HAS RECEIVED AN ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM MANY QUARTERS. SPEARHEADING THE FAST WILL BE IVAN THOMS IN CAPE TOWN, ~~DAVE HARTMANN~~ IN GRAHAMSTOWN AND RICHARD STEELE IN DURBAN. IVAN AND DAVE WILL BE FASTING FOR 3 WEEKS FROM 17 SEPTEMBER TO 7 OCTOBER, WHILE RICHARD'S FAST WILL BE OF TWO WEEKS DURATION FROM 22ND SEPTEMBER TO 7 OCTOBER.

an active member of the Cape Town ECC,

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DR IVAN THOMS IS A MEDICAL DOCTOR WHO FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SETTING UP AND WORKING IN A TEAM IN THE EMPILISWENI SACLA CLINIC - A CHRISTIAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINIC SERVING THE HEALTH NEEDS OF THE 100 000 PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE CROSSROADS SQUATTER CAMP. AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN IN 1976 HE SERVED 2 YEARS IN THE SADF. WHILE IN THE SADF IVAN SAYS THAT HE WAS "UNABLE TO RECONCILE THE CHRISTIAN INJUNCTION TO LOVE MY ENEMY AND THE DEMAND OF THE SADF TO SHOOT HIM, SO I APPLIED FOR, AND RECEIVED, NON-COMBATANT STATUS."

HIS EXPERIENCES IN CROSSROADS SOLIDIFIED THESE FEELINGS. "THERE", SAYS IVAN, "I HAVE LEARNED FIRST HAND OF THE VICIOUSNESS OF APARTHEID AND THE EXTREME OPPRESSION OF THE BLACKS. I HAVE WITNESSED PEOPLE SHOT INDISCRIMINATELY BY RIOT POLICE AND THE SADF, PEOPLE'S SHELTERS RUTHLESSLY JORN DOWN DAY IN AND DAY OUT FOR 3 WEEKS IN 1983."

"COULD I CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THE SADF WITH WAR DECLARED ON THE VERY PEOPLE I WORK WITH AND BELIEVE I AM CALLED BY GOD TO SERVE? COULD I PUT ON THE SADF UNIFORM - THE SAME UNIFORM THAT SYMBOLISES THE OPPRESSORS IN THE TOWNSHIPS? SOME PEOPLE WANT PEACE AT ANY PRICE, I BELIEVE THE ONLY PEACE THAT IS MEANINGFUL IS A JUST PEACE - WHERE APARTHEID IS ABOLISHED AND PEOPLE CAN LIVE FREELY AS CITIZENS OF A UNIFIED COUNTRY, WITH A TRULY DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT."

IVAN'S VIEWS HAVE CONVINCED HIM TO BECOME A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR. HE IS LIABLE TO SERVE 3 YEARS IN JAIL IF CALLED UP FOR FURTHER CAMPS. IN THE MEANTIME IVAN CONTINUES HIS WORK AS A DOCTOR AS WELL AS BEING AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF STAFF OF THE ST JOHN'S PARISH, WYNBERG. ~~AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN.~~

"FASTING HAS A LONG CHRISTIAN AND POLITICAL TRADITION", SAYS IVAN ~~AND~~
"I HAVE CHOSEN TO FAST IN ORDER TO PROTEST AGAINST THE OPPRESSION OF BLACKS IN WHAT IS NOW A CIVIL WAR."

HE IS ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE PLIGHT OF THE INDIVIDUAL CONSCRIPT. "THE SADF'S MARCHING INTO THE TOWNSHIPS AMOUNTED TO A DECLARATION OF WAR ON FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS, IT IS YET ANOTHER STEP TO UPHOLD APARTHEID AT ALL COSTS."

"IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS WHERE YOUNG MEN ARE EXPECTED TO FIRE ON FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS, THE VERY LEAST WE CAN CALL FOR IS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CONSCRIPT BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO DECIDE NOT TO GO INTO THE TOWNSHIPS."

"FOR THE THREE WEEKS THAT I FAST IN ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, CAPE TOWN, MY PRAYER IS THAT MANY WILL RECOGNISE, WITH THE ECC, THE INJUSTICE OF THE USE OF TROOPS IN THE TOWNSHIPS, AND WILL SUPPORT THE ECC'S CALL - THAT TROOPS BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE TOWNSHIPS NOW, AND THAT WE WORK FOR A JUST PEACE IN OUR LAND."

** will be fasting in Cape Town's St George's Cathedral*

"WE CALL PEOPLE NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY TO JOIN IN A 24 HOUR FAST TO EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING AT THE HANDS OF THE SADF IN THE TOWNSHIPS AND IN SO DOING CALL WITH US FOR A JUST PEACE IN SOUTH AFRICA."

End

DAVE HARTMANN, A CAPE TOWN PHOTOGRAPHER AND MEMBER OF THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS SUPPORT GROUP AND THE ECC, COMPLETED HIS SCHOOLING AT ST ANDREWS COLLEGE, GRAHAMSTOWN IN 1978. HE STUDIED FOR A BACHELORS DEGREE IN FINE ARTS AT GRAHAMSTOWN'S RHODES UNIVERSITY, FOLLOWING THIS WITH A MASTERS. IT WAS DURING THIS PERIOD OF STUDY THAT DAVE UNDERWENT GREAT CHANGES.

"I BECAME MORE AWARE OF THE SOCIAL INJUSTICES UNDER WHICH THE MAJORITY OF SOUTH AFRICANS LIVE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME DEVELOPED AN AWARENESS OF NON-VIOLENCE THROUGH BEGINNING THE PRACTICES OF VEGETARIANISM AND MEDITATION", SAYS DAVE.

WHILE COMPLETING HIS MA HE SPENT MUCH TIME TRAVELLING AROUND SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND BOTSWANA. IT WAS DURING THIS TIME, HE SAYS, THAT HIS "COMMITMENT TO COMMUNICATION AS A MEANS OF OVERCOMING CONFLICTS, AS OPPOSED TO THE USE OF VIOLENCE, BECAME TOTAL."

"ALONG WITH THIS AWARENESS, AROSE MY COMMITMENT TO STAY IN SOUTH AFRICA AND OBJECT TO MILITARY SERVICE AND ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES." THIS, HE FELT, WOULD CONTRIBUTE MORE TO PEACE AND UNITY THAN GOING INTO EXILE. IN NOVEMBER 1984 DAVE APPEARED BEFORE THE BOARD FOR RELIGIOUS OBJECTION, BUT HIS APPLICATION WAS TURNED DOWN BECAUSE HIS OUTLOOK DID NOT SATISFY THEIR NARROW DEFINITION OF RELIGION. THE BOARD, HOWEVER, TOOK A SYMPATHETIC VIEW, REFERRING HIS CASE TO THE SUPREME COURT, WHERE IT IS STILL UNDER REVIEW.

DAVE SEES HIS FASTING AS A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. SAYS DAVE, "IN THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE SEEN THE INCREASING USE OF VIOLENCE THROUGH THE PRESENCE AND ACTIONS OF THE MILITARY AGAINST VOICES EXPRESSING THE LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES OF SOUTH AFRICANS. AS OPPOSED TO RESOLVING THE ROOT CAUSES OF UNREST, THE MILITARY HAS MERELY EXTENDED THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN BOTH ITS PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SPHERES."

"THE FAST IS A POSITIVE NON-VIOLENT MEANS THROUGH WHICH WE CAN CONSCIOUSLY APPEAL TO ALL INDIVIDUALS TO SERIOUSLY QUESTION WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR SOCIETY, THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY AND THE ROLE WHICH WE, AS INDIVIDUALS, CAN PLAY IN RESTORING A JUST PEACE IN OUR LAND. IT IS A MEANS OF EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH ALL VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, BE IT RACIAL OR PHYSICAL."

13 RICHARD STEELE IS THE CARETAKER AND PROGRAMME COORDINATOR OF THE GHANDI PHOENIX SETTLEMENT IN DURBAN. HE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN AND THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR SUPPORT GROUP. IN 1980 HE SERVED 12 MONTHS IN MILITARY DETENTION FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION. DURING THIS TIME HE FASTED ONE DAY A WEEK, AND ON ONE OCCASION FOR 3 DAYS TO PROTEST REPEATED PERIODS OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

RICHARD, WHO DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A "POLITICAL PACIFIST, COMMITTED TO JUSTICE AND EQUALITY THROUGH NON-VIOLENT ACTION" IS ALSO INVOLVED IN FACILITATING NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION TRAINING WORKSHOPS.

HE SEES HIS FAST AS "A CLASSIC NON-VIOLENT ACTION IN THE FACE OF MASSIVE VIOLENCE ON THE PART OF THE MILITARY, THE STATE AND EVEN

BETWEEN COMMUNITY GROUPS."

"WHEN OUR SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND EMOTIONAL ENVIRONMENT IS IN TURMOIL, WE TEND TO REACT IN STEREOTYPED PATTERNS, USUALLY CHARACTERISED BY FEAR AND AGGRESSION. I SEE FASTING AS A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO STEP OUT OF THE SPIRAL OF SUCH STEREOTYPED BEHAVIOUR," SAYS RICHARD.

"I HOPE THAT THE ECC FAST WILL OPEN UP A SPACE WHERE WE CAN BE OPEN IN NEW WAYS TO OURSELVES, EACH OTHER, GOD, OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OUR SOCIETY. I FEEL THAT THIS NEW OPENNESS CAN HELP US UNDERSTAND MORE FULLY WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR COUNTRY AND HOW THROUGH OUR ACTIONS WE CAN REACH OUT FOR AND GRASP HOLD OF A JUST PEACE."

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(MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FOR THE FASTERS AND FOR THE "TROOPS OUT OF THE TOWNSHIPS" CAMPAIGN, CAN BE SENT TO -

TELEX NO. (SA) 5722323

ADDRESS - 37 POLO ROAD, OBSERVATORY 7925 SOUTH AFRICA

PHONE NO. (FROM 17 SEPTEMBER TO 7 OCTOBER ONLY) (SA) 021-247361 EXT.3

IN HIDING **Grandmother flees her home after alleged rape by soldiers**

Sunday Tribune 1 Sept '85

By Linda Vergnani

A CRADOCK grandmother, who was allegedly raped by two soldiers, has gone into hiding in fear of her life.

The 70-year-old woman, who is "still bleeding internally" from the attack, fled after "men in a Hippo" troop carrier visited her home. She claims she was raped on August 3 after being abducted by soldiers in a Hippo.

Her affidavit on the alleged rape was among six statements that the Attorney-General of the Eastern Cape, EC Heller, referred to senior police for investigation last week. The affidavits were presented to President P W Botha by a delegation of churchmen led by Archbishop Philip Russell.

Brian Bishop, vice-chairman of the Civil Rights League, said he had spoken to the Cradock grandmother at her hiding place this week.

"She told me she was afraid for her life but was determined to carry on with the case. She had great pain in her legs and was still bleeding internally, but was afraid to visit a doctor or the hospital."

Mr Bishop also spoke to one of her daughters who alleged she had been picked up by men in a Hippo and taken to the security police office where the "senior officer investigating the case" had questioned her.

The officer had told her aggressively that her description of the vehicle in which her mother claimed she had been abducted differed from her mother's. He also said two women had instructed the older woman to make her statement, and

warned that there "would be trouble".

After speaking to the grandmother and her daughter, Mr Bishop sent a telegram to Mr Heller, the Attorney-General, recommending the "immediate withdrawal of the present investigating officer" from the case. The telegram said "harassment" had driven the alleged rape victim into hiding and that full details would follow. These would also be sent to Archbishop Russell and the State President, it said.

Mr Heller said he had "no comment" to make.

Colonel G van Rooyen, police liaison officer for the Eastern Cape, said: "We took a statement from this old woman on August 4, which is quite some days before Mr Bishop took a statement from her. We have been investigating this since August 4, and I must tell you that the statement she made to us is vastly different from the one she made to Mr Bishop, which was given to the State President. We are still investigating."

He said neither the police nor the army had any Hippos at Cradock.

Asked to comment on the grandmother's going into hiding, Colonel van Rooyen said: "We believe she is at Dimbaza in the Ciskei at the moment."

In the affidavit presented to Mr Botha, the grandmother said she had been raped by two soldiers who forced her into a Hippo. Earlier in her statement, in referring to the vehicles in which the soldiers were travelling, she said: "I think they are called Hippos."

The statement was taken by Mr Bishop in the presence of United States Federal Court of Appeals Judge Nathaniel Jones. Mr Bishop said he believed Cradock residents mistakenly referred to all troop carriers as "Hippos".

He said he was telephoned on Tuesday by residents of Lingelihle who said the rape victim had gone into hiding after men in a Hippo had called at her house three times. "Each time the crew asked for her without giving a reason."

When Mr Bishop saw the grandmother in Cradock on Thursday, she said that on the first two occasions they called she hid in her home because she feared for her life. After she was moved to a safe hiding place by other township residents, the men in the Hippo called at her home again.

He said he had recommended that the grandmother give a statement to the officer investigating the case. However, he changed his opinion after speaking to her daughter.

"It is intimidating and insensitive to have sent a Hippo to the old woman's house. Mr P W Botha promised clean government when he came into power, and he promised the church delegation an investigation by a senior magistrate. If the police are now conducting a private investigation the onus is on the State President to ensure its objectivity.

"The old woman was very brave to have allowed her statement to be submitted to the President and deserves protection."

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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