

24.2662
AGENDA FOR PEACE AND WAR SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING 3 JUNE '87

1. PRAYER
2. INTRODUCTION- Why people invited
Function of the group
3. ISSUES ARISING:
 - A. Declaration on the war in Namibia
Consultation idea - participants and agenda
 - B. Letter from Loeke Goemans, Board
Pamphlet
 - C. Philip Wilkinson's case
 - D. Alternative Service Campaign
History
Proposal
Process- to whom and deadline
4. GENERAL
5. NEXT MEETING

Present: ArchBishop Daniels, Jacqui Boulle, Steve Lowry, Noel Stott,
Adele Kirsten.

Absent: Steve Sadie.

1. The meeting was opened with a prayer by ArchBishop Daniels.
2. ArchBishop Daniels welcomed all the sub-committee members and explained that people had been invited because of their ability to contribute.

We then went on to discuss the function of the sub-committee. It was agreed that it should serve as a forum for brainstorming issues related to peace and war that should be taken up by the J&P commission.

3. Declaration on the war in Namibia.

At the J&P commission meeting ArchBishop Hurley raised the question of declaring the war in Namibia unjust. The consequences for Catholic soldiers would have to be considered. The Board approved this project and suggested that it be jointly taken up by the Peace and War sub-committee and the Theological Advisory Commission. The idea of having a consultation had been raised. Both Bishop Osmond and ArchBishop Hurley thought this was a good idea. The suggestion was that the consultation include representatives from S.A. and that the report have 2 sections - one on the war in Namibia and the other on the war in S.A.

The meeting discussed 2 possible ideas:

Plan A

Having 2 consultations one simply on Namibia and one on S.A. . The aim of the consultation on Namibia would be to declare the war in Namibia unjust. (A lot of ground work has been done in this area e.g. The Report on Namibia.) The findings of the consultation should be educative. Why the war is unjust and what the situation in Namibia is should be stated. A clear signal must be given to the people in Namibia and in S.A. It was pointed out that as we are declaring the war unjust we would not simply be referring to the S.A.D.F. , but to all the forces fighting the war.

Suggestions for the consultation:

- use the just war criteria and assess the war in terms of this.
- pitch the blame at the govt. rather than at the individual soldier.

Who should be invited to the consultation?

- Bishops from Namibia
- A few of the Bishops who were involved in the S.A.C.B.C. visit to Namibia.
- SWAPO members (it might be useful to invite some chaplains)
- Council of Churches in Namibia
- J&P representatives from Namibia
- refugees from Namibia
- 2 rep. from the Theological commission and the Bishop
- rep from Peace and War and from J&P.

The maximum number of participants should be 30.

Because we would like to include refugees the consultation would have to be in another country.

Regarding the consultation on S.A. it was pointed out that far less work has been done on the situation in S.A. by the Church. Some people might even argue that the use of the S.A.D.F. in the townships is necessary. As such we would have to do an analysis of S.A. and the forces at work as part of the consultation. This would take a weekend in its self. The 2 consultations should be held close together.

Plan B

To have one consultation involving rep. from Namibia and S.A. The outcome could then be done in 2 sections :

1. War in Namibia
2. War in S.A.

The aim of the consultation would be to consider declaring both wars unjust.

It was felt that if we opted for this the S.A. section would dominate.

Who should draw up the agenda for the consultation/s?

It was suggested that 2 people from Peace and War together with 2 people from the Theological Commission work on the agenda. The Peace and War people suggested were:

Jacqui Boulle

Steve Lowry (with Noel Stott as a back-up if Steve cannot find the time.)

Letter from Loeke G.

A letter was recieved from Loeke after Martin Birdwhistle appeared before the Board suggesting that the pamphlet "You and the Army" be rewritten. This was agreed . The new pamphlet should:

- a. Make category 2 clearer as it is very confusing as it stands in the pamphlet.

- b. Suggest that objectors do not change category in mid course.
- c. Suggest that objectors work with someone who has experience of the Board.
- d. The contact address should be changed to Khaya House.

Philip Wilkinson's case.

A pamphlet of Philip's statement has been produced by ECC. A booklet of all the evidence given is also in the pipe-line. It was suggested that this be jointly published by S.A.C.B.C. and ECC.

Alternative Service Campaign.

The draft proposal and covering letter was read. It was agreed that we should go ahead and circulate the proposal. However the covering letter is inappropriate and it should be rewritten. A meeting should be held towards the end of August to gauge other Churches responses to the idea before going ahead.

4. General

A letter from the Presbyterian Church was recieved inviting a representative from the Catholic Church to a meeting on issues of violence, non-violence and militarisation. It was felt that the letter was too vague and that we need more information. Once this information has been obtained, ArchBishop Daniels and Jacqui could decide who should go.

5. Next meeting.

Thursday 30 July at 3pm

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