

RELEASE OBJECTOR CAMPAIGN

National Lobbying Strategy

Lobbying has been identified as being a key component of the new campaign. The reasons for this are as follows:

* the State approach at the moment is one of "conflict resolution". They appear to be anticipating potential conflict areas, and introducing changes before those areas become a source of embarrassment for them. (eg. The appointment of the commission of enquiry into death squads, happened the day a large march was due to happen in Cape Town.) We therefore need to make sure that the state is aware that objection is going to continue being a source of embarrassment to them, particularly with a number of trials coming up, with the re-emergence of ECC, and with the possibility of exiled objectors returning home.

* The country is gearing up for a process leading towards negotiations. A crucial debate within this period, will be around the definition of political prisoners. Unless we very forcefully raise the issue of objectors as political prisoners, to all parties within this negotiations process, they will be excluded.

It is therefore crucial that in addition to high profile campaign work we also embark on lobbying all parties to the negotiations process (particularly the State and the ANC). We also need to raise the issue with groups and individuals who will put pressure on the government to do something about the area (eg. embassies; Afrikaans church leaders; DP members; local Nat MP's).

What follows is a proposal to facilitate this process nationally and regionally.

- 1. The Democratic Party
 Meeting planned between DP leaders and ECC members. Some DP MP's have undertaken to assist with contacting members of government. Cape Town is to be responsible for parliamentary lobbying.

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A visit to FW de Klerk has been proposed, or if this is not possible, Kobie Coetsee, who has explicitly said people must approach him re the definition of political prisoners. National delegations will be sent on these visits, but Cape Town is responsible for setting them up.

- 2. ANC
 A memorandum has been sent to the ANC putting forward our position that jailed CO's should be included in any general amnesty towards political prisoners. In addition, we stated our position that exiled objectors should be permitted to return without fear of prosecution and that there should be a moratorium on all objector trials. We raised the issue of a system of Alternative Service being provided for all

JHB

objectors, as an interim measure en route to abolishing conscription. We requested that the ANC raise the issue in their interactions with the government on the definition of political prisoners. A copy of this document will be sent to all regions.

3. MDM

JHB Johannesburg is to take responsibility for raising the issue of jailed objectors with the MDM. A copy of the memorandum sent to the ANC will be forwarded to the MDM and a meeting with MDM leadership is being planned.

4. Embassies

JHB/CF As the embassies are divided between Cape Town and Durban, these two regions should take joint responsibility for this area. Mandy will co-ordinate embassy lobbying.

5. Churches

Mandy and David will be speaking to some sympathetic church people in order to find out about lobbying, particularly senior Afrikaans church leaders (eg Heyns). Locally we should identify church leaders who might either have access to government members, or who could exert pressure on the government in some other way. We should be trying to make inroads into more conservative churches, particularly some of the independent charismatic churches.

6. Universities

ECC branches should send information on the campaign to key people in their local university, eg the principal. This can be followed up with a visit.

7. General

Dave and Mandy will be drawing up a press package, which will include a declaration stating the demands and motivation of the campaign; and a sample letter that can be sent out by regions to their local MP's, university principals, newspaper editors, etc. We suggest that regional lobbying takes the form of a letter sent out fairly broadly to influential people, and that some of those people are then visited by a delegation of ECC members. If one can make use of objectors, parents of objectors (jailed or exiled), sympathetic church leaders, DP MP's, etc. so much the better. It may be more effective for some of these people to do lobbying on our behalf or for our delegations to consist of some ECC people and some outside people.

The lobbying process will be co-ordinated by Mandy who can be contacted at:

(011) 8368423 .
P.O.Box 591 Kengray 2100.

Date: 21 February, 1990^R

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National Lobbying Strategy

Lobbying has been identified as being a key component of the new campaign. The reasons for this are as follows:

* the government's approach appears to be one of "conflict resolution". Conflictual situations are anticipated and action is taken to prevent such areas becoming an embarrassment to the state. (eg. A commission of enquiry into death squads, was announced the day a large march was due to happen in Cape Town calling for such a commission.) We need to make sure that the state is aware that objection is going to continue being a source of embarrassment to them, particularly with a number of trials coming up, with the re-emergence of ECC, and with the possibility of exiled objectors returning home. We then need to present them with clear and reasonable alternatives for dealing with objectors.

* The country is gearing up for a process leading towards negotiations. One of the main debates during this period, will be around the definition of political prisoners. Unless we very forcefully raise the issue of objectors as political prisoners, to all parties within this negotiations process, they will be excluded.

It is therefore crucial that in addition to high profile campaign work we also embark on lobbying all parties to the negotiations process (particularly the State and the ANC). We also need to raise the issue with groups and individuals who will put pressure on the government to do something about the area (eg. embassies; Afrikaans church leaders; DP members; local Nat MP's).

What follows is a proposal to facilitate this process nationally and regionally.

1. The Democratic Party
Meeting planned between DP leaders and ECC members. Some DP MP's have undertaken to assist with contacting members of government. Cape Town is to be responsible for parliamentary lobbying.

A visit to FW de Klerk has been proposed, or if this is not possible, to Kobie Coetsee, who has explicitly said that people must approach him about the release of political prisoners. National delegations will be sent on these visits, but Cape Town is responsible for setting them up.

2. ANC
A memorandum has been sent to the ANC requesting that they raise the issue of jailed and exiled objectors in their interactions with the government. A copy of this document will be sent to all regions.

3. MDM
Johannesburg is to take responsibility for raising the issue of jailed objectors with the MDM. A copy of the memorandum sent to the ANC will be forwarded to the MDM and a meeting with MDM leadership is being planned.
4. Embassies
As the embassies are divided between Cape Town and Johannesburg, these two regions should take joint responsibility for this area. Mandy will co-ordinate embassy lobbying.
5. Churches
Mandy and David will be speaking to some sympathetic church people in order to find out about lobbying in this area. In particular we would want to lobby Afrikaans church leaders (eg Heyns). Locally we should identify church leaders who might either have access to government members, or who could exert pressure on the government in some other way. We should be trying to make inroads into more conservative churches, particularly some of the independent charismatic churches.
6. Universities
ECC branches should send information on the campaign to key people in their local university, eg the principal. This can be followed up with a visit.
7. General
Dave and Mandy will be drawing up a lobbying package, which will include a declaration stating the demands and motivation of the campaign and a sample letter that can be sent out by regions to their local MP's, university principals, newspaper editors, etc. We suggest that regional lobbying take the form of a letter sent out fairly broadly to influential people, and that some of those people are then visited by a delegation consisting of ECC members and others, eg. objectors, parents of objectors, sympathetic church leaders, DP MP's. In some instances it may be more effective for some of these people to do lobbying on our behalf.

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