

men who were allowed to do their alternative service with you.

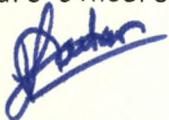
Like religious objectors currently working in Government departments, the men would be paid by the state at soldiers pay, and would serve a continuous period of between three and six years (depending on whether they have done their initial two years of military service). You would thus have time to train the men and be sure of their services for this period. We are certain that such full-time workers would be a valuable asset to your organisation, and facilitate its growth.

We will be approaching as many religious, welfare and community organisations to determine the viability of ECC's proposals for the broadening of alternative service. We intend to publicise the results of the questionnaires, and possibly submit them to the government. In doing so we will make it clear that positive replies to our questions do not imply support for ECC. We therefore ask that you fill in the questionnaire even though you might not agree with our stand.

As the role of the SADF has become more controversial, a rapidly growing number of conscripts are experiencing a profound crisis of conscience about serving in the military. They would prefer to do their national service in other, constructive ways. We believe they should have the right to do this.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely



Laurie Nathan
ECC National Organiser

QUESTIONNAIRE

1) NAME OF ORGANISATION:.....
.....

2) AIMS OF ORGANISATION:.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3) COULD YOUR ORGANISATION, IN PRINCIPLE, MAKE USE OF CONSCRIPTS FOR THREE TO SIX YEARS?.....

4) HOW MANY CONSCRIPTS COULD YOU MAKE USE OF, AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?.....
.....
.....

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

7 May 1986

Could your organization make use of conscripts who wanted to work for it for up to six years?

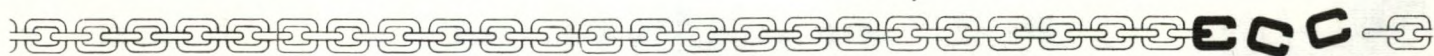
This a question of concern to a great many white men who would rather do their national service in a welfare, religious or community organisation than in the SADF.

At present all white men have to serve a total of 4 years in the SADF. Those who object to military service, and who are recognised by the Board for Religious Objection as religious pacifists, are able to do between three and six years alternative service in a government department.

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) believes that, until the system of conscription is ended, the scope of alternative service should be broadened. We are therefor calling on the government to make alternative service available to all conscripts who in good conscience object to serving in the SADF, and to reduce the length of alternative service to the equivalent length of military service.

We also feel that, as in most European countries, alternative service should be available in religious, welfare and community organisations, and not only in state departments. Conscripts doing their service in organisations like yours could make a meaningful contribution to addressing issues of social concern and to improving the quality of life in South Africa.

We would greatly appreciate your filling in the questionnaire attached, indicating whether your organisation could in principle make use of



End Conscription Campaign

men who were allowed to do their alternative service with you.

Like religious objectors currently working in Government departments, the men would be paid by the state at soldiers pay, and would serve a continuous period of between three and six years (depending on whether they have done their initial two years of military service). You would thus have time to train the men and be sure of their services for this period. We are certain that such full-time workers would be a valuable asset to your organisation, and facilitate its growth.

We will be approaching as many religious, welfare and community organisations to determine the viability of ECC's proposals for the broadening of alternative service. We intend to publicise the results of the questionnaires, and possibly submit them to the government. In doing so we will make it clear that positive replies to our questions do not imply support for ECC. We therefore ask that you fill in the questionnaire even though you might not agree with our stand.

As the role of the SADF has become more controversial, a rapidly growing number of conscripts are experiencing a profound crisis of conscience about serving in the military. They would prefer to do their national service in other, constructive ways. We believe they should have the right to do this.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely



Laurie Nathan

ECC National Organiser

QUESTIONNAIRE

1) NAME OF ORGANISATION:.....
.....

2) AIMS OF ORGANISATION:.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3) COULD YOUR ORGANISATION, IN PRINCIPLE, MAKE USE OF CONSCRIPTS FOR THREE TO SIX YEARS?.....

4) HOW MANY CONSCRIPTS COULD YOU MAKE USE OF, AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?.....
.....
.....

21 May 1986

Dear Friends

Greetings from the End Conscription Campaign in South Africa.

Our national "Working for a Just Peace" campaign has recently come to an end. ECC has grown tremendously through it. Our active membership has increased and we have added the new dimension of community work to our on-going campaign. All of these aspects are explained in the attached article. Please use it to publicise our work if you can.

Another dimension of our growth not explained in the article has been the establishment of three new branches. One is in the largely Afrikaans-speaking university town of Stellenbosch, another in East London and the third is in Pretoria. We have also established an interest group in the rural town of Middelburg. ECC is on the move!

I am also writing to inform you of a South African conscientious objector and ECC member Philip Wilkinson.

Philip, a 22 year old man from Port Elizabeth was meant to report for an army camp in Port Elizabeth's townships. As a pacifist, and holding the view that to participate in the SADF would reinforce injustice in South Africa, he announced his intentions publicly to refuse to render any further service in the SADF. He had already completed an initial two year period of service as well as a single one month camp.

Philip's application to be recognised as a religious objector for alternative service was turned down by the Board for Religious Objection. Despite this he still refused to go back into the SADF.

In effect this meant that he faced either being charged with refusing to render

military service or an alternative charge of refusing to report for duty. In the first instance he faced the prospect of being convicted and sentenced to a period of three years in jail. The three year figure is an estimate based on the law which states that conscientious objectors who are not bona fide religious pacifists should be punished through a jail sentence of $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the length of their remaining military service. Those who have done no military service face a sentence of six years.

In the second instance the charge is a common one and is laid against many conscripts who annually do not report for service. It does however have two key implications: firstly it carries a maximum sentence of eight years; and secondly, since it does not recognise the objector's to render any further service in the SADF, he can be called up again after completing his sentence. If he at this later stage once again refuses to render military service he can be charged and sentenced again. This situation can carry on indefinitely.

On 29 April Philip was arrested shortly before the start of an ECC Rally in Johannesburg where he was to speak. He was aggressively taken by a group of men in plain clothes who refused to identify themselves or produce a warrant for his arrest. This led to fears among ECC members that he had been abducted by a group of right-wing thugs who might have beaten him very badly, or even killed him.

Fears were allayed the next morning however, when the military police confirmed that it was them who had arrested him and were holding him. The nature of the arrest was broadly condemned throughout South Africa and received much publicity. What was particularly exposing about the way in which the military arrested Philip was their total disregard for his announced intentions to hand himself over to them where and when they required it.

Philip has since been charged and released on bail. The charge he faces is the second one described above. This would seem to be an attempt by the authorities to play down his stand by not recognising his expressed wish to no longer render service. He nevertheless faces the prospect of repeatedly being sentenced to jail for refusing to report for service. A provisional hearing has taken place where the case was remanded. The date of trial was set for 29 July.

Philip is resolute and intends to maintain his stand as strongly as ever. We in the ECC have immense respect for the courage he has shown. We are calling for as much international support as we can get for him.

There are a number of ways in which you might help. Here are some ideas:

- 1) Publicise his case and the situation for conscripts in South Africa;
- 2) Lend him personal support by writing to him care of ECC. He would also appreciate letters of support to his mother and a close friend. Their addresses are:

Mrs P M Caulfield
2 Kent House
37 Cutler Crescent
Port Elizabeth
6001
South Africa

and

Ms A F Swartz
9 Daphne Street
Gelvendale
Port Elizabeth
6001
South Africa

- 3) Write letters of protest to your local South African ambassador as well as to the South African Minister of Defence at:

General Magnus Malan
Ministry of Defence
Union Buildings
Pretoria
0001
South Africa

- 4) Financial support would be very helpful to cover legal, printing and travelling expenses. If you are able to contribute anything please send a cheque or international money order made out to:

The Philip Wilkinson Fund

Contributions can be sent to:

Chairman of the Board
Holy Rosary Convent

Western Road
Central
Port Elizabeth
4001

Your solidarity and help would be much appreciated. The strength we gain from international support is always a great boost.

Yours in the struggle for a just peace

David Shandler
ECC National Secretary

Enclosed find: 1) Article on ECC campaign
2) Statement by Philip Wilkinson
3) Pressclips on Philip Wilkinson

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

26 May 1986

Hello All

How are things?

This letter is a formal motivation to the campus conscription groups to consider a national campus co-ordinator. ECC National Committee (NC) considered this and thought it was a good idea. The feeling was that whoever does the job should become part of the NC. This would allow for close and thorough co-ordination between all sections of the campaign. What do you think?

The kind of person we thought would be good would need to be fairly experienced as well as be efficient and creative in the work. S/he would be passing on information, ideas, motivations and media between the campuses. It is of course important that the person should be agreed to by all.

In discussing this issue it would be useful to consider:

- 1) the need for a co-ordinator;
- 2) the nature of the work that the person would be required to do, and ideas of who it might be.

The earliest and most convenient time to pull together our ideas and to choose someone would be at ECC's National Conference on 19 and 20 July. This gives us plenty of time for discussion.

What do you think?

Good luck for the exams.

Love

David

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

28 May 1986

N. O. NEWS

Hi gang!

Following a suggestion from national committee, I've written this newsletter to keep you in touch with developments in Pretoria and around other issues.

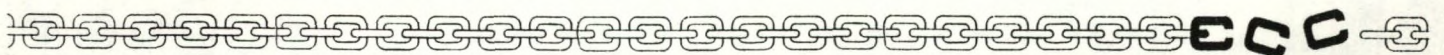
ECC in Pretoria

The formation of an ECC branch in Pretoria on Friday 16 May was a great success. The meeting was addressed by Prof. Syman from the UNISA Theology Faculty, Mrs Mpahlela from the Atteridgeville Women's Organisation, and Steve Lowry who gave an overview of ECC. After discussion on ECC and its potential in Pretoria, 35 of the 40 Pretorians present signed the ECC declaration to become members of the new branch.

We then broke up into 5 task groups - media, campus, churches, counselling and internal education - which are currently in the process of defining their role and activities. A steering committee of about 8 people has been meeting on a weekly basis for over a month, and will continue to co-ordinate activities until an Executive is elected. David and Steve are providing support from Jo'burg ECC's side.

The task groups contain a roughly equal number of men and women, and of English and Afrikaans speaking people. Many are involved in English church and also NGK groups. There are a fair number of married and older folk. The branch includes a number of people involved in other organisations, and we are attempting to get formally involved in the ECC the PFP Youth, the Black Sash, Lawyers for Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation groups, the Koinonia Group (- an NGK group under the guidance of Dr Nico Smit), and Ansoc, Cathsoc and Youth for Unity at Tukkies.

At this stage the priority of the branch must be to develop organisational skills and an adequate understanding of ECC and the various issues around militarisation and the role of the SADF. There is nevertheless a keen desire in the group to "get out on the streets" and to engage in joint projects with UDF organisations.



End Conscription Campaign

The ECC is unlikely to attract mass support in Pretoria! The city is the perfect illustration of white South Africa geared for war. The military ethos and presence in the white schools, at Tukkies and on the streets is overwhelming. We have nevertheless been surprised at the number of individuals who are already or who will soon be actively involved in the branch. We've heard many stories from teachers about schoolkids unhappy with cadets, and from parents and ministers about soldiers deeply unhappy in the army.

Listen, for example, to this letter sent to Philip: "I am an Afrikaans mother of a 16 year old son. I salute your brave stand. Your action is an example of true courage. I hope my son will be morally strong enough to do what you have done when he is conscripted into the SADF. If there is anything I can do to in some way aid you, please let me know."

One of the most exiting developments in Pretoria has been our work in the UNISA Theology Faculty. Alongside the UCT Religious Studies Department, the faculty is the most prestigious theological academic centre in the country and includes theologians from both the English and the Afrikaans churches. We already have the support of many of the professors, doctors and lecturers, and are holding a house meeting this week at UNISA to consider how they can get involved in action around conscription.

Regions that wish to make contact with our Pretoria branch can do so through Steve Lowry at this stage.

The Public Safety Ammendment Bill

One of the most drastic and ominous pieces of legislation in our history is about to become law. The government is currently caucussing support in the so-called Coloured and Indian Houses for the Public Safety Ammendment Bill (PSAB), which it hopes to have operative by June 16.

The PSAB effectively confers on the Minister of Law and Order the powers enjoyed by the State President to declare and pass regulations under a State of Emergency. The Minister will have the power to make any regulations which "appear to him to be necessary or expedient" in an "unrest" area or in any other area. The Bill, becoming known as "Le Grange's Law", specifically precludes interference by the courts. It is seen as a response by the state to positive interventions by the Supreme Court during the state of emergency.

The DPSC and Descom in Jo'burg believe that progressive organisations have not fully appreciated the severe implications of the Bill. They have invited a range

of organisations to participate in a campaign to raise public awareness around it. The Jo'burg ECC is involved in the campaign.

The implication of the PSAB for ECC are twofold. Firstly, it consolidates the process, begun in December, of conferring on troops the powers of the police and even the security police. Secondly, there is the possibility that it could be used to contain organisations like ECC without the fear of court interference.

I think that all ECC branches should familiarise themselves with the Bill. Through our media and at our meetings we should draw attention to its implications. We should look for ways of incorporating protest against it into our campaign work, and can consider possible direct action around it when it gets debated in parliament.

I have included with this letter a copy of the bill and some comments on it.

The Aida Parker Newsletter

The April edition of the Aida Parker Newsletter (APN), a far-right wing publication, was devoted entirely to ECC. Its allegations and style are quite similar to those of the Rapport "special" on ECC. The APN encouraged its readers to make use of the comment on ECC, and the National Student Federation has subsequently sent copies of it to headmasters in Durban and Jo'burg.

We have taken the matter to the Media Council (MC). The MC will invite the APN to defend itself, in which case it would be bound to comply with the Council's decision. If the APN declines to do this, the MC will still consider the matter and comment publicly on it. Our lawyers are confident that we will be successful.

Our complaint against the APN is centred around its allegation that the ECC is linked to organisations overseas, and especially the War Resisters' International, that are allegedly members of or fronts for the World Peace Council. The World Peace Council (WPC) is described as a "vast Soviet 'active measures' apparatus". None of the organisations with which we have contact is in any way connected to the WPC; many are in fact antagonistic towards it.

All regions should have a copy of the APN. If not, please let me or David know.

Organisational Skills Training

At the last National Committee it emerged that within ECC generally after the WJP,

and within our newer regions specifically, there is a real need to develop organisational skills. It might be a good idea to compile an organisational skills pack which covers such areas as public speaking, press contact, security precautions and strategising. I can pull this together, making use of resources from HAP and other organisations in Jo'burg. I would appreciate regions sending me any material that would be useful to include in the pack.

ECC Declaration Revisited

Part of our work in Pretoria at this stage involves our approaching prominent Afrikaansers to sign the Declaration. We want to use the declaration in the Afrikaans community in the same way that it was used to build credibility for ECC after it was formed. The addition of Afrikaans church, cultural and community leaders to the list of declaration signatories would also offer us a special kind of protection at a time when ECC is under attack.

I've included with this letter a copy of the declaration translated into Afrikaans. Could branches please try to get 4 or 5 Afrikaans-speaking "nobs" to sign it in your region.

Delmas Trial

At National Committee I was mandated to follow up rumours that ECC is mentioned in the indictment against UDF leaders and others facing charges of treason, subversion, murder etc. in the Delmas trial.

Here goes. The accused are alleged to have committed certain acts, in furtherance of the aims of the ANC and SACP or the UDF, to organise and mobilise the "black masses" and to incite them to actions and/or violence aimed at making SA ungovernable and at developing into ~~violence~~ revolution. Such acts include: "the organising and politicising of especially the black masses around the Government's policy and legislation with regard to military service and conduct". Several examples are given of UDF's anti-conscription work, especially in the Western Cape. There is no mention of ECC in the indictment itself. The state has however submitted as evidence a collection of documents critical of conscription and the SADF. The bulk of these documents are those of the UDF, but included are the ECC Declaration, COSG minutes, Objectors and certain ECC pamphlets.

This area of the trial will not come up within the next two months. At this stage it is unclear how the state will attempt to show that the UDF's anti-conscription ~~work~~ constitutes treason or an offence under the Internal Security Act. It is also not clear how the accompanying UDF, COSG and ECC documents will be used.

The Delmas lawyers believe that the trial contains no serious implications for ECC. There are no automatic implications for ECC even if the state manages to establish the link between the charges and UDF's anti-conscription work. There is of course the very remote possibility that the state will call as witnesses members of ECC.

Media to New Regions

At National Committee regions were asked to send copies of their media to our newer branches or groups that will not be able to produce their own media. Here are their addresses and the number of copies that should be sent to them:

Ken Southey, Box 367, Middleburg^(Cape), 5900. (10 copies).

Trudy Thomas, 18 Warrick Road, Vincent, East London (30 copies).

Emily Buchanan, (Knysna contact), Department of English, Rhodes University, Grahamstown (5 copies)

Farewell

OK. Bye. Love and strength.

Laurie.

P.S. Since the creation of the National Secretary (the position, not the person) I have not been receiving from regions copies of minutes, media and other documents. Please send these to me or keep copies for me. Ta muchly.

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

28 May 1986

N. O. NEWS

Hi gang!

Following a suggestion from national committee, I've written this newsletter to keep you in touch with developments in Pretoria and around other issues.

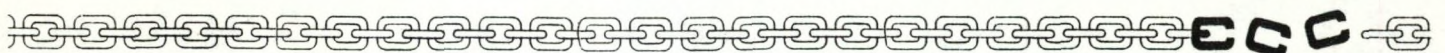
ECC in Pretoria

The formation of an ECC branch in Pretoria on Friday 16 May was a great success. The meeting was addressed by Prof. Syman from the UNISA Theology Faculty, Mrs Mpahlela from the Atteridgeville Women's Organisation, and Steve Lowry who gave an overview of ECC. After discussion on ECC and its potential in Pretoria, 35 of the 40 Pretorians present signed the ECC declaration to become members of the new branch.

We then broke up into 5 task groups - media, campus, churches, counselling and internal education - which are currently in the process of defining their role and activities. A steering committee of about 8 people has been meeting on a weekly basis for over a month, and will continue to co-ordinate activities until an Executive is elected. David and Steve are providing support from Jo'burg ECC's side.

The task groups contain a roughly equal number of men and women, and of English and Afrikaans speaking people. Many are involved in English church and also NGK groups. There are a fair number of married and older folk. The branch includes a number of people involved in other organisations, and we are attempting to get formally involved in the ECC the PFP Youth, the Black Sash, Lawyers for Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation groups, the Koinonia Group (- an NGK group under the guidance of Dr Nico Smit), and Ansoc, Cathsoc and Youth for Unity at Tukkies.

At this stage the priority of the branch must be to develop organisational skills and an adequate understanding of ECC and the various issues around militarisation and the role of the SADF. There is nevertheless a keen desire in the group to "get out on the streets" and to engage in joint projects with UDF organisations.



End Conscription Campaign

The ECC is unlikely to attract mass support in Pretoria! The city is the perfect illustration of white South Africa geared for war. The military ethos and presence in the white schools, at Tukkies and on the streets is overwhelming. We have nevertheless been surprised at the number of individuals who are already or who will soon be actively involved in the branch. We've heard many stories from teachers about schoolkids unhappy with cadets, and from parents and ministers about soldiers deeply unhappy in the army.

Listen, for example, to this letter sent to Philip: "I am an Afrikaans mother of a 16 year old son. I salute your brave stand. Your action is an example of true courage. I hope my son will be morally strong enough to do what you have done when he is conscripted into the SADF. If there is anything I can do to in some way aid you, please let me know."

One of the most exiting developments in Pretoria has been our work in the UNISA Theology Faculty. Alongside the UCT Religious Studies Department, the faculty is the most prestigious theological academic centre in the country and includes theologians from both the English and the Afrikaans churches. We already have the support of many of the professors, doctors and lecturers, and are holding a house meeting this week at UNISA to consider how they can get involved in action around conscription.

Regions that wish to make contact with our Pretoria branch can do so through Steve Lowry at this stage.

The Public Safety Ammendment Bill

One of the most drastic and ominous pieces of legislation in our history is about to become law. The government is currently caucussing support in the so-called Coloured and Indian Houses for the Public Safety Ammendment Bill (PSAB), which it hopes to have operative by June 16.

The PSAB effectively confers on the Minister of Law and Order the powers enjoyed by the State President to declare and pass regulations under a State of Emergency. The Minister will have the power to make any regulations which "appear to him to be necessary or expedient" in an "unrest" area or in any other area. The Bill, becoming known as "Le Grange's Law", specifically precludes interference by the courts. It is seen as a response by the state to positive interventions by the Supreme Court during the state of emergency.

The DPSC and Descom in Jo'burg believe that progressive organisations have not fully appreciated the severe implications of the Bill. They have invited a range

of organisations to participate in a campaign to raise public awareness around it. The Jo'burg ECC is involved in the campaign.

The implication of the PSAB for ECC are twofold. Firstly, it consolidates the process, begun in December, of conferring on troops the powers of the police and even the security police. Secondly, there is the possibility that it could be used to contain organisations like ECC without the fear of court interference.

I think that all ECC branches should familiarise themselves with the Bill. Through our media and at our meetings we should draw attention to its implications. We should look for ways of incorporating protest against it into our campaign work, and can consider possible direct action around it when it gets debated in parliament.

I have included with this letter a copy of the bill and some comments on it.

The Aida Parker Newsletter

The April edition of the Aida Parker Newsletter (APN), a far-right wing publication, was devoted entirely to ECC. Its allegations and style are quite similar to those of the Rapport "special" on ECC. The APN encouraged its readers to make use of the comment on ECC, and the National Student Federation has subsequently sent copies of it to headmasters in Durban and Jo'burg.

We have taken the matter to the Media Council (MC). The MC will invite the APN to defend itself, in which case it would be bound to comply with the Council's decision. If the APN declines to do this, the MC will still consider the matter and comment publicly on it. Our lawyers are confident that we will be successful.

Our complaint against the APN is centred around its allegation that the ECC is linked to organisations overseas, and especially the War Resisters' International, that are allegedly members of or fronts for the World Peace Council. The World Peace Council (WPC) is described as a "vast Soviet 'active measures' apparatus". None of the organisations with which we have contact is in any way connected to the WPC; many are in fact antagonistic towards it.

All regions should have a copy of the APN. If not, please let me or David know.

Organisational Skills Training

At the last National Committee it emerged that within ECC generally after the WJP,

and within our newer regions specifically, there is a real need to develop organisational skills. It might be a good idea to compile an organisational skills pack which covers such areas as public speaking, press contact, security precautions and strategising. I can pull this together, making use of resources from HAP and other organisations in Jo'burg. I would appreciate regions sending me any material that would be useful to include in the pack.

ECC Declaration Revisited

Part of our work in Pretoria at this stage involves our approaching prominent Afrikaansers to sign the Declaration. We want to use the declaration in the Afrikaans community in the same way that it was used to build credibility for ECC after it was formed. The addition of Afrikaans church, cultural and community leaders to the list of declaration signatories would also offer us a special kind of protection at a time when ECC is under attack.

I've included with this letter a copy of the declaration translated into Afrikaans. Could branches please try to get 4 or 5 Afrikaans-speaking "nobs" to sign it in your region.

Delmas Trial

At National Committee I was mandated to follow up rumours that ECC is mentioned in the indictment against UDF leaders and others facing charges of treason, subversion, murder etc. in the Delmas trial.

Here goes. The accused are alleged to have committed certain acts, in furtherance of the aims of the ANC and SACP or the UDF, to organise and mobilise the "black masses" and to incite them to actions and/or violence aimed at making SA un-governable and at developing into ~~viole~~ violence revolution. Such acts include: "the organising and politicising of especially the black masses around the Government's policy and legislation with regard to military service and conduct". Several examples are given of UDF's anti-conscription work, especially in the Western Cape. There is no mention of ECC in the indictment itself. The state has however submitted as evidence a collection of documents critical of conscription and the SADF. The bulk of these documents are those of the UDF, but included are the ECC Declaration, COSG minutes, Objectors and certain ECC pamphlets.

This area of the trial will not come up within the next two months. At this stage it is unclear how the state will attempt to show that the UDF's anti-conscription ~~work~~ constitutes treason or an offence under the Internal Security Act. It is also not clear how the accompanying UDF, COSG and ECC documents will be used.

The Delmas lawyers believe that the trial contains no serious implications for ECC. There are no automatic implications for ECC even if the state manages to establish the link between the charges and UDF's anti-conscription work. There is of course the very remote possibility that the state will call as witnesses members of ECC.

Media to New Regions

At National Committee regions were asked to send copies of their media to our newer branches or groups that will not be able to produce their own media. Here are their addresses and the number of copies that should be sent to them:

Ken Southey, Box 367, Middleburg, ^(Cape) 5900. (10 copies).

Trudy Thomas, 18 Warrick Road, Vincent, East London (30 copies).

Emily Buchanan, (Knysna contact), Department of English, Rhodes University, Grahamstown (5 copies)

Farewell

OK. Bye. Love and strength.

Laurie.

P.S. Since the creation of the National Secretary (the position, not the person) I have not been receiving from regions copies of minutes, media and other documents. Please send these to me or keep copies for me. Ta muchly.

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

29 May 1986

UPDATE ON ECC

Hello all.

This is a general pulling together of different areas of ECC work nationally at the moment.

For a campaign that is essentially between focuses at the moment we are amazingly busy. Of course this is largely due to the actions of the state in its mad path of destruction through Southern Africa. Rambo lives! A large part of ECC work over the past ten days or so has been devoted to responding to the raids. Action in protest was so widespread that it assumed the proportions of a national ECC campaign. Snappy responses in most of our regions ensured that ECC was at the forefront of protest.

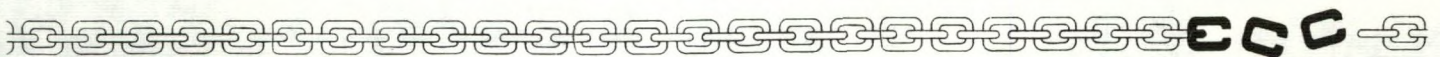
There are two other major items on the ECC National agenda at present. The first is the issue of the widespread harrasment of ECC and the other is the planning and build up to the July call up. Although no region has finalised its plans yet for the call-up campaign, developements are such that we are set to have a vibrant and forceful campaign nationally. A particular trend that is emerging in the planning is a move towards creative action around this campaign. This adds to a lot of our established patterns of organising at a public level.

On the issue of the attacks on ECC I refer you to the letter of motivation for action as well as the update below.

What follows is a rough and uneven account of developments in the regions at present. I apologise to regions for leaving areas out. This would be more in ignorance than deliberately.

Johannesburg

Jo'burg responded to the raids with media as well as a lunchtime meeting. Pickets, stickers and posters were produced and distributed very quickly. The public meeting held in a central city venue was attended by about 100 people.



End Conscription Campaign

Paul Goller of ECC chaired and the speakers were Steve Lowry, Philip Wilkinson and Curnick Ndlovu (UDF). The loony right used the occasion to make a bomb threat but the people at the meeting voted to ignore it and to continue. 1.00pm, the time at which the supposed bomb was meant to explode, came and went without incident.

ECC has started to plan for the call-up campaign, although the breathing space between campaigns is being used to consolidate sub-committees, for education, etc. A very successful workshop on "the conscript" was held last week which looked at the position of conscripts and CO and the law. What made it a memorable event was the sharing of stories by two vets at present studying at WRAU.

ECC on campus is busy with a focus week on troops in the townships. It will consist of low profile events (video shows) as well as high (a rally on Thursday). Last Friday night saw a very successful ECC concert on campus attended by about 400 people.

Stellenbosch

The big issue at the moment is the university council's ban on ECC. A lot of energy is being put into reversing the ban. A petition calling on the university to recognise ECC's right to organise is being circulated on the campus. A letter has been sent to the university council by ECC calling on it to reconsider its stand.

A group of 31 academics have endorsed a statement in support of ECC and it is hoped that the University Lecturer's Association might take a sympathetic stand.

If you can it might be useful to get the SRC of your local university to pressurise its admin to call on the Stellenbosch Council to reverse its decision. The Stellenbosch SRC has said that it might help. Even though it does not support ECC's aims it does recognise our right to exist and organise. The same is true of the Stellenbosch student parliament.

As if Stellenbosch ECC does not have enough on its plate it has taken up the issue of organizing support for Crossroads. ECC people have spoken at churches and resses and have collected a load of material. It has also been organizing people to go to Crossroads - as a white presence - to keep the security forces at bay.

Port Elizabeth

Work is going well. A General Body meeting of 25 people started working on

ideas for the call-up, around Philip's trial, and the survey. Sub-groups are taking forward the plans. The Port Elizabeth group is growing and is being consolidated.

Work on the creche in Walmer carried on last weekend. A picnic for Walmer and ECC people is to happen soon. Also planned for P.E. is an NVDA workshop for mid-June.

Grahamstown

Campus ECC held a successful focus week last week. It started with a cheese and wine at which videos were shown. A meeting to protest at the raids was held on the Tuesday evening. Nic Borain spoke at it. Anti-war videos were shown on the Wednesday. On Thursday there was a panel discussion organised by the Christian affiliates of Campus ECC. This was on the topic of The Christian and War. This Saturday there will be a fare/concert organized jointly by Grahamstown and Rhodes ECCs.

A planning workshop was held this past weekend. It presented an opportunity for everyone in ECC to get together and have a good general discussion. Sub-committee work is underway with the schools group having already addressed a few school groups. Churches too is getting into gear. Contact has organised house meetings and meetings with affiliates. Rape Crisis has expressed a lot of interest in getting involved.

Other plans include an NVDA workshop jointly hosted by the Sash, as well as preparing ECC input to the Grahamstown festival. The festival coincides with the call-up and so will provide a very useful focus for ECC activities.

A number of fake/smear pamphlets attacking ECC have been distributed in Grahams-town. These are covered in another section below.

Cape Town

Much of the recent work has consisted of responding to the raids. Pickets and pamphlets went out and a public meeting was held. The meeting was jointly called with the UDF (Observatory and Claremont) and the Black Sash. Nic chaired and speakers included Prof Savage, Mary Burton, Philip Wilkinson and Cheryl Corolus of the UDF. About 500 people attended. A rally addressed by Chippy Olver was also held at UCT.

This week CAG on campus are holding a focus with the theme "Botha we have had

enough". Open air drama, a debate in a res, an advice bureau presentation and a rally all form part of the weeks activities. A banner with the slogan "If we had the choice, we would not go into the townships" is to be displayed. Students will be asked to endorse it by making a mark on it. This "petition banner" will then be presented to the press.

Other activities in Cape Town have included an ECC weekend away and ongoing sub-committee work.

Pietermaritzburg

Responding to the raids has also been to the fore in Pietermaritzburg's recent work. There were street pickets, an ECC speaker at a black student meeting on campus, as well as a joint ECC/Sash/PACSA meeting at lunchtime on Friday in town. Jac was the ECC speaker.

Ongoing work is concentrated on consolidating the group of people who joined the work projects during the WJP. To this end there was a very successful afternoon workshop attended by about 35 people. It was an introduction to ECC as well as a brainstorming session for the call-up campaign.

Durban

Emphasis at the moment is being placed on smoothing out the coordination of the organisation as well as education and training. Thought is going into the possible establishment of a contact group.

CAG on campus has changed its name to ECC and is to structure itself as a front. The name change is to ensure that ECC gains in profile on campus. The group recently had a weekend away.

There was also a response to the raids in Durban. This consisted of street pickets (some of which were torn up by overzealous right wingers) and the stringing of a 15 metre long banner across a major highway. It carried the slogan "We say no to SADF raids -End Conscription Campaign". It stayed up for an astonishing 15 minutes.

East London

E.L. has had its second monthly meeting. It was a focus on troops in the townships with speakers giving a national perspective as well as a local one. The next meeting is planned and will have as its topic CO and the law.

Philip Wilkinson

Philip appeared in court on Friday June 23. He was not asked to plead and his case was remanded until July 29. At present he is preparing his case together with the lawyers. The idea at present is that he will be running a high profile defence i.e. with a Bishop or Archbishop of the Catholic church, a soldier, a township resident etc. giving evidence. Regions should consider ways of giving support and raising public awareness.

Harrasment Update

Since the last NC meeting there have been a number of instances in which EECC has been threatened in various ways. You should already have recieved the motivation I sent out for action in response to the harrasment.

Since Malan's last attack on us which was at the same time as Barabara Orpen was attacked in Port Elizabeth there have been a number of instances of harrasment. I've drawn up a list of those that I know of.

Grahamstown has had a spate of smear pamphlets and posters which came out to coincide with the Campus focus week. Items were:

- 1) A poster advertising ECC's fare was put up but it had the wrong date on it. This was an obvious attempt at disinformation. It had the slogan, "Secure a better future - conscript" printed on it. This came out on Saturday 17 May.
- 2) On Monday 19th hundreds of photocopies of the Aida Parker Newsletter were spread throughout Rhodes campus.
- 3) On Tuesday 20th a pamphlet in the style of an earlier ECC one came out. It had an image of a dove on it with the title "War or Peace?". Slogans on it included "End the Call-Up and Peace flies out of the window" and "Choose to reject the ECC". It was put out in the name of the EECC (End the End Conscription Campaign) and used the ECC chain.
- 4) On Friday 23 ECC blitzed town with the Philip Wilkinson pamphlet. A while later a similar but larger pamphlet came out with a picture of Philip and the wording "Philip Wilkinson - Conscientious Objector or Coward?" printed on it. It was also put out in the name of the EECC.

All of this media was crudely produced. It was typed and blown up on a photocopier. All had been photocopied.

During the pickets in Durban, Maritzburg and Jo'burg picketers were harrassed by police, pickets were torn up, names and photographs were taken, and one picketer was arrested and held in PMB for a short period.

There was a bomb threat at the Jo'burg public meeting and a large police presence at the Cape Town one.

A new edition of the Aida Parker Newsletter has been released with an article on Gavin's tour in it. We have also heard that the Afrikaans daily Beeld has taken official policy not to carry any ECC stories.

Finally, on the 8.00pm TV1 news on Tuesday 26 May a Mrs Malan, who heads the 500 000 strong Vrouefederasie was interviewed. She was commenting on the VFs concern at the "revolutionary situation", and the "Marxist onslaught" against South Africa. A large part of her comment was devoted to the ECC which she described as cowardly, as working to prevent their sons from going to the SADF, and as working under the guise of seeking peace. She called for something to be done.

It is important that we keep one another informed of developments like these in the regions.

Op Manouvres

Two significant developments in the SADF have become evident of late.

The first is the widespread mobilization of the dad's army especially in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape. Some units have been mobilized for early June (possibly to coincide with June 16), while in others men have to register by July 1. The operation to mobilize these units is officially known as Operation Buttermilk. It's their idea not ours so dairise it.

I have had one or two indications that campers are being specifically called up for duty around June 16. In one case a man was called up to do a case in Alexandra township. Have you noticed similar developments in your areas? It would certainly be useful to monitor these developments and possibly act on them. Action could possibly be linked to the call-up campaign, and in this case specifically include appeals directly to campers and a strong troops out call (possibly the troop stayaway call).

A final bit of news of a military nature is that a couple of soldiers have sent us letters asking whether they can join ECC. Interesting wouldn't you say?

Gavin's Trip

I've enclosed a copy of Gavin's report.

Women and the Military

This was an area of considerable informal debate at the National Committee meeting. I've enclosed a few papers which can form the basis of further discussion in the regions.

Cultural Festival Speakers

NC came up with a few suggestions of foreign speakers. They are Joan Baez (veteran US peace activist, singer and chairperson of Humanitas International a US based civil and human rights monitoring group. They have sent us messages of support as well as a small donation in the past.), Bruce Kent (senior person in the British Catholic Church and very highly respected international peace activist. He was the past General Secretary of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.), Petra Kelly (a leading member of the German Green Party. The Greens are an activist-type political party which take up issues of ecological and social concern.), Pérez Esquivel (renowned Argentinian advocate of non-violence and winner of the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize. He has along history of involving himself in struggles throughout Latin America. He was imprisoned under the regime of the generals in Argentina.), Ngugi wa Thiongo (Kenyan author with a long history of involvement in the struggle for justice. He was imprisoned for his political activities in Kenya), and Thomas Mapfumo (a Zimbabwean musician who was famous during the chimurenga for the songs of liberation that he composed. He was imprisoned⁵ too for a number of years by the Smith regime.).

Be free to add to the list. We need however to have a list of 3 or 4 that we can prioritise and send to CIIR to follow up for us. Could regions consider the list and give their priorities.

National General

- 1) I have not been receiving minutes from the regions. Please send these to me.
- 2) Could all regions send me copies of their pressclips from the beginning of the year until now? I want to pull the lot together and compile a bound volume of all of our coverage until now.
- 3) Please send your call up campaign ideas to other regions, and also ask regions

whether they want copies of your media.

- 4) Some regions have given me responses on certain issues that require national decisions. Here is the complete list on what we need answers on. Please let me know your regions feelings on them very soon.
- a) Barbara Friedman to do the CIIR research job.
 - b) We require your list of nob's who have signed the statement of demands by the 5th of June.
 - c) Your list of local welfare, church organizations etc.
 - d) What does your region think of a "Troops stayaway from the townships" call.
 - e) Any ideas on the proposal of a "peace walk" raised at National Committee.
 - f) Could you forward names of anyone doing research in your region on the psychological effects of militarisation.
 - g) Have you discussed the idea of another National Organiser?
 - h) Could you please pull together a list of the names, addresses and phone numbers of your sub-committee co-ordinators?

So Anyway Doll!

I'm so glad we've had this time together blah.

Go well, very well.

All my love and solidarity,

OK Bye

David

End Conscription Campaign

24.2.2

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

29 May 1986

UPDATE ON ECC

Hello all.

This is a general pulling together of different areas of ECC work nationally at the moment.

For a campaign that is essentially between focuses at the moment we are amazingly busy. Of course this is largely due to the actions of the state in its mad path of destruction through Southern Africa. Rambo lives! A large part of ECC work over the past ten days or so has been devoted to responding to the raids. Action in protest was so widespread that it assumed the proportions of a national ECC campaign. Snappy responses in most of our regions ensured that ECC was at the forefront of protest.

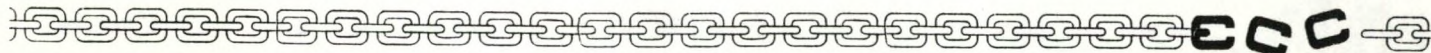
There are two other major items on the ECC National agenda at present. The first is the issue of the widespread harrasment of ECC and the other is the planning and build up to the July call up. Although no region has finalised its plans yet for the call-up campaign, developements are such that we are set to have a vibrant and forceful campaign nationally. A particular trend that is emerging in the planning is a move towards creative action around this campaign. This adds to a lot of our established patterns of organising at a public level.

On the issue of the attacks on ECC I refer you to the letter of motivation for action as well as the update below.

What follows is a rough and uneven account of developments in the regions at present. I apologise to regions for leaving areas out. This would be more in ignorance than deliberately.

Johannesburg

Jo'burg responded to the raids with media as well as a lunchtime meeting. Pickets, stickers and posters were produced and distributed very quickly. The public meeting held in a central city venue was attended by about 100 people.



End Conscription Campaign

Paul Goller of ECC chaired and the speakers were Steve Lowry, Philip Wilkinson and Curnick Ndlovo (UDF). The loony right used the occasion to make a bomb threat but the people at the meeting voted to ignore it and to continue. 1.00pm, the time at which the supposed bomb was meant to explode, came and went without incident.

ECC has started to plan for the call-up campaign, although the breathing space between campaigns is being used to consolidate sub-committees, for education, etc. A very successful workshop on "the conscript" was held last week which looked at the position of conscripts and CO and the law. What made it a memorable event was the sharing of stories by two vets at present studying at WRAU.

ECC on campus is busy with a focus week on troops in the townships. It will consist of low profile events (video shows) as well as high (a rally on Thursday). Last Friday night saw a very successful ECC concert on campus attended by about 400 people.

Stellenbosch

The big issue at the moment is the university council's ban on ECC. A lot of energy is being put into reversing the ban. A petition calling on the university to recognise ECC's right to organise is being circulated on the campus. A letter has been sent to the university council by ECC calling on it to reconsider its stand.

A group of 31 academics have endorsed a statement in support of ECC and it is hoped that the University Lecturer's Association might take a sympathetic stand.

If you can it might be useful to get the SRC of your local university to pressurise its admin to call on the Stellenbosch Council to reverse its decision. The Stellenbosch SRC has said that it might help. Even though it does not support ECC's aims it does recognise our right to exist and organise. The same is true of the Stellenbosch student parliament.

As if Stellenbosch ECC does not have enough on its plate it has taken up the issue of organizing support for Crossroads. ECC people have spoken at churches and resses and have collected a load of material. It has also been organizing people to go to Crossroads - as a white presence - to keep the security forces at bay.

Port Elizabeth

Work is going well. A General Body meeting of 25 people started working on

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.