

INTRODUCTION

THE ORGANISATIONS WE BELONG TO ARE ENGAGED ALBEIT IN DIFFERENT WAYS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE. PEACE IS INTERPRETED DIFFERENTLY IN DIFFERENT PLACES. IN YOUR COUNTRY AND FOR YOUR ORGANISATION, IT MEANS BEING FREE TO REJECT YOUR CONSCRIPTION INTO A DEFENCE FORCE WHICH IS CONCERNED WITH DEFENDING A POLITICAL SYSTEM -- APARTHEID -- WHICH VIOLATES ALL FUNDAMENTAL DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND HUMAN RIGHTS AS ENSHRINED IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND RESPECTED BY MOST CIVILISED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.

WE DO NOT HAVE CONSCRIPTION IN BRITAIN, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY ORGANISATIONS TO PARALLEL YOURS IN THE REST OF EUROPE. IN BRITAIN, OUR PEACE MOVEMENT HAS CRYSTALLISED AROUND THE ISSUE OF THE SPIRALLING NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. I KNOW THAT TO MANY PEOPLE WITH MORE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND REPRESSION TO FACE, THAT THIS MIGHT SEEM A RATHER PRIVILEGED ISSUE ON WHICH TO STAND. WE WOULD ACCEPT THIS, BUT WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS TO MATCH OUR REALITY IN THE WEST WITH YOURS AND OTHERS WHO SEARCH AND STRIVE FOR A GENUINE PEACE IN THE WORLD. PEACE CANNOT BE SEEN MERELY AS THE ABSENCE OF WAR. IT NEEDS NO GENIUS TO SEE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE OPPRESSION OF BLACK PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA WITH THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND WHAT IT STANDS FOR. I WOULD ADD, AS AN ASIDE, THAT NOW THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS RECOGNISED AS HAVING A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, IT IS AN ISSUE THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE ON BOARD IN YOUR MOVEMENT.

UNTIL FAIRLY RECENTLY I WAS UNAWARE OF THE EXISTENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA OF A MOVEMENT OF THE NATURE OF ECC. WE HAVE OFTEN WONDERED WHY SUCH A MOVEMENT DID NOT EXIST. FROM TALKING ABOUT MY TRIP TO THIS PEACE FESTIVAL TO MANY PEOPLE THEY HAVE SHOWN MUCH INTEREST/ENTHOUSIASM FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING. I THINK FROM WHAT I HAVE UNDERSTOOD ABOUT ECC -- OUR 2 MOVEMENTS SHOULD BE FORGING LINKS BECAUSE ALTHOUGH WE COME FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE GLOBE - WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.

THE EUROPEAN PEACE MOVEMENT

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH YOU WILL HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE PEACE MOV'T
IN BRITAIN AND IN EUROPE -- I SUPPOSE THAT DEPENDS A LOT ON HOW
YOUR MEDIA FILTERS THE NEWS COMING FROM EUROPE.

TO GIVE A FEW WORDS OF EXPLANATION --

IN THE MID/LATE 50's A MASS POPULAR PEACE MOVEMENT EMERGED IN
BRITAIN WHEN IT WAS BECOMING PLAIN THAT BRITAIN WOULD BECOME
A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE. THE MOVEMENT BECAME KNOWN AS THE
CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT -- CND. THE MOVEMENT HOWEVER
GRADUALLY LOST MOMENTUM ^{IN} PARALLEL WITH THE END OF THE COLD WAR,
THE ADVENT OF DETENTE BETWEEN THE US AND USSR, AND THE SALT 1 and
2 NEGOTIATIONS.

SO THAT AT THE BEGINNING OF 1979 WE WERE A SMALL ORGANISATION OF
2-3000 MEMBERS WITH 3 STAFF IN A SMALL OFFICE. TODAY WE HAVE MORE
THAN ~~20~~⁴⁰ FULL-TIME STAFF, HAVE HAD TO MOVE OFFICES THREE TIMES AND
WE BOAST 150,000 FULL MEMBERS AND PROBABLY MORE THAN THE SAME NUMBER
OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS. (Mention here role of B. Kent).

THERE ARE TWO MAIN REASONS FOR THIS DRAMATIC GROWTH IN THE PEACE
MOVEMENT -- FIRST, THE NATO ALLIES DECISION ON 12th DECEMBER 1979
TO MODERNISE AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE,
AND SECONDLY THE ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT REAGAN ON THE SCENE.

EVERY TIME HE ANNOUNCES NEW "DEFENCE MEASURES" - MX/STAR WARS -
OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP RATE DOUBLES.

SOME OF YOU MIGHT WELL SAY - "WELL WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THE DEPLOYMENT
OF MORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ?" - A LOGICAL REACTION INDEED WHEN ONE CON-
SIDERS THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH OF THEM TO DESTROY THE WHOLE WORLD
10 TIMES OVER. BUT WHAT PROVOKED THIS MASSIVE REACTION OF PROTEST
WERE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS NEW GENERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS -
CRUISE AND PERSHING MISSILES THAT MARKS A DEPARTURE IN THE CONCEPT
OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR DETERRENCE WHICH PRESUPPOSED THAT NEITHER
SIDE WOULD DARE INITIATE HOSTILITIES THROUGH THE THREAT OF M.A.D.
AGAINST LARGEST CITIES AND TOWNS.

FIRST STRIKE.- RISE OF EUROPEAN PEACE MOVEMENTS

FIRST STRIKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS THREATEN THE BALANCE OF NUCLEAR TERROR BECAUSE THESE WEAPONS-CRUISE AND PERSHING- ARE HIGHLY ACCURATE. WHEREAS STRATEGIC WEAPONS EVEN IF THEY MISS THEIR TARGET BY A MILE OR SO, ARE STILL AN EFFECTIVE DETERENT. CRUISE MISSILES BY THEIR VERY ACCURACY CAN BE USED FOR PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES AGAINST MILITARY AND NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS- THEY THEREFORE THREATEN THE WHOLE PHILOSOPHY OF DETERENCE.

THEY ARE INTEGRAL TO A MILITARY PHILOSOPHY WHICH a) ACCEPTS THE FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND b) BELIEVES THAT A LIMITED NUCLEAR WAR CAN BE FOUGHT, AND CAN BE WON.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS THAT HAVE CAUSED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TO TAKE TO THE STREETS IN PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS ALL OVER THE WESTERN EUROPE-- UNDOUBTEDLY SPURRED ON BY A NEW PHASE IN THE COLD WAR EXACERBATED BY THE PRESENCE OF A CERTAIN MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE !!

THE TACTICS OF NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE

MANY SAID THAT THE PEACE MOVEMENT WOULD BE HERE TODAY AND GONE TOMORROW BUT WE'VE PROVED THEM WRONG. WHEREAS OUR FIRST REACTIONS WERE MASS DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CAPITAL CITIES IN EUROPE ^{the largest since} ~~World War II~~ ¼ million IN BRUSSELS, ¼ MILLION IN LONDON, 400,000 in AMSTERDAM, ½ MILLION IN ITALY, ½ MILLION IN MADRID..... IN TERMS OF THE POPULATIONS OF BELGIUM AND NETHERLAND THESE ARE STAGGERING FIGURES -- OUR FORMS OF RESISTANCE AND MASS PROTEST ARE NOW MORE DIVERSE, IMAGINATIVE AND CUNNING.

I WOULD LIKE TO DESCRIBE TO YOU SOME OF OUR TACTICS OF NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE WHICH YOU MAY OR NOT KNOW ABOUT.

GREENHAM

CRUISE MISSILES HAVE BEEN SITED AT A PLACE CALLED GREENHAM, COMMON IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE A FEW MILES FROM LONDON -- BEFORE THEY ARRIVED A GROUP OF WOMEN SET UP A PEACE CAMP OUTSIDE THE FENCE OF THE MILITARY BASE TO PROTEST AT THE IMPENDING SITING OF THE MISSILES - NEEDLESS TO SAY THEY ARRIVED -- BUT THE WOMEN ARE STILL THERE AFTER 4 YEARS. THESE WOMEN COME FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE. THEIR ACTION COMPRISES -- ENCIRCLING THE BASE, HANGING FLOWERS AND OBJECTS OF PEACE ON THE FENCES AND SINGING PEACE SONGS. THEY HAVE WITHSTOOD PERSECUTION, TRIAL AND CONVICTION AND EVEN IMPRISONMENT. BUT THEY ARE STILL THERE !!

CRUISE WATCH

LINKED TO THIS IS AN ACTION CALLED CRUISEWATCH. BY MEANS OF A TELEPHONE TREE CND WATCHES AND TRACKS THE MOVEMENT OF CRUISE MISSILES WHEN THEY ARE TAKEN OUT FOR ^{SECRET} WALKS FROM THE BASE -- NOTE THE SO-CALLED SECRECY OF OUR MILITARY MANOEUVRES IN BRITAIN.

WOMEN AND PEACE

WOMEN HAVE ALSO BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ORGANISING ACTIONS AGAINST THE HEGEMONY OF THE SUPER POWERS -- IN THE LINKING OF ARMS BETWEEN THE US AND SOVIET EMBASSIES IN EUROPE.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PEACE

MORE THAN 160 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS IN BRITAIN AND WALES HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE STRUGGLE BY DECLARING THEIR AREAS AS NUCLEAR FREE ZONES AND REFUSING TO TAKE PART IN RATHER FARCICAL GOVERNMENT CIVIL DEFENCE PROGRAMMES.

LETTER TO THE ARMED FORCES

ANOTHER INITIATIVE HAS BEEN TAKEN BY 22 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT INCLUDING A PROMINENT LAWYER, MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY (BRUCE KENT WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY... FAMOUS WRITERS, POLITICANS AND EX-SERVICE MEN.

WE HAVE ADDRESSED AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ARMED FORCES WHICH WE READ OUT OUTSIDE ONE OF OUR MILITARY BASES WHERE CRUISE WILL BE INSTALLED. OUR LETTER WARNS MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES THAT THE GUARDING, MAINTAINING OR TRANSPORT OF ANY NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF FIRST USE IS ILLEGAL UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE HAVE URGED MEMBERS OF FORCES TO REFUSE TO OBEY ILLEGAL ORDERS SUCH AS THOSE REQUIRING THEM TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH FIRST-STRIKE WEAPONS.

THE PENALTY FOR OUR ACTION, IF WE WERE CHARGED WITH INCITEMENT TO DISAFFECET, COULD BE 2 YEARS IN PRISON BUT I DOUBT WHETHER OUR STATE IS VERY KEEN ON TAKING EX-AIRFORCE OFFICERS OR CATHOLIC PRIESTS TO COURT AND CONVICTING THEM. WE ARE CONTINUING TO DISCUSS WAYS AND MEANS OF CONTINUING OUR ACTION.

THERE IS A LOT OF SCOPE FOR YOU IN YOUR MOVEMENT TO CITE INTERNATIONAL LAW (GREENHAM WOMEN HAVE TRIED TO TAKE THE US GOVT TO COURT FOR BREAKING INT. LAW) AND USE IT PERHAPS IN DIFFERENT WAYS. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AFTER ALL IS BREAKING A WHOLE HOST OF INT. LAWS AND CONVENTIONS.

BROAD CHURCH

ONE OF THE FACETS OF OUR MOVEMENT WHICH HAS GIVEN US SO MUCH STRENGTH IS THE DIVERSITY OR PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN IT : WITHIN CND WE HAVE A MULTITUDE OF AFFILIATED GROUPS: CHRISTIAN CND, SCIENTISTS, JOURNALISTS, DOCTORS, EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AGAINST THE BOMB, TRADE UNIONISTS AND GROUPS FROM ALL POLITICAL PARTIES.

IT IS THIS BROAD-BASED NATURE OF OUR MOVEMENT THAT HAS BEEN OUR ENDURING STRENGTH, AND WE HAVE ACHIEVED THIS BY REPRESENTING THE DEEP FELT DESIRE OF THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN EUROPE, THAT CHANGE IS A NECESSARY REQUIREMENT IF WE ARE NOT TO BE PLUNGED INTO AN IRREVERSIBLE SPIRAL OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION -- POSSIBLY OF THE HUMAN RACE.

EXACTLY HOW THIS CHANGE MIGHT BE EFFECTED IS PERHAPS NOT AS CLEAR AS WE WOULD ALL WISH, BUT WHAT WE ARE CLEAR ABOUT IS THAT THIS CHANGE IS A MORAL, POLITICAL AND AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY. I BELIEVE THAT YOUR MOVEMENT REPRESENTS ALSO, A FUNDAMENTAL IMPERATIVE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF YOUR COUNTRY. BY REMAINING RESOLUTE WE HAVE RAISED THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE TO THE TOP OF THE POLITICAL AGENDA AND KEPT IT THERE. BY REMAINING RESOLUTE, WE HAVE NOT BEEN UNDERMINED BY THOSE WHO WOULD ACCUSE US OF BEING THE LACKEYS AND STOOGES OF THE SOVIET UNION. I EXPECT THAT THIS ACCUSATION HAS ALREADY BEEN LEVELLED AGAINST YOU. WE HAVE ACHIEVED THIS BY REJECTING SOVIET NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON THE SAME BASIS AS WE REJECT NATO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. INDEED WE HAVE TAKEN OUR ANALYSIS FURTHER BY CHALLENGING THE SUPERPOWER DOMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. WE REJECT THE DIVISION OF EUROPE INTO TWO HIGHLY MILITARISED AND ARMED CAMPS. I TOLD YOU EARLIER OF SOME OF THE INITIATIVES OUR MOVEMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN -- THE LINKING OF ARMS BETWEEN THE SOVIET /USA EMBASSIES IN MANY OF OUR CAPITAL CITIES. IN OUR MASS DEMONSTRATIONS OUR BANNERS CALLED FOR THE REMOVAL OF SS 20's AS WELL AS CRUISE AND PERSHING MISSILES.

IN OUR ANALYSIS OF THE TROUBLE SPOTS IN THE WORLD WE SEE THE CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF THE 2 SUPERPOWERS AS THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE MAJORITY OF THESE CONFLICTS AND WE ARE UNEQUIVOCAL IN OUR SUPPORT OF THOSE COUNTRIES THAT STRIVE TOWARDS NON-ALIGNMENT AND INDEPENDANCE OF THE SUPERPOWERS - WE MAINTAIN THIS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF ALL COUNTRIES TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

I BRING SEVERAL MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO YOU TODAY - FROM CND, END, QUAKERS, WILPF, WEPAA, LABOUR PARTY, SOCIALIST GROUP IN THE EP, US CATHOLIC COUNCIL.

IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WE HAVE LONG SHOWN CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HAVE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR AN END TO MILITARY/NUCLEAR COLLABORATION WITH S.A. AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NON-RACIAL DEMOCRATIC STATE - THE ONLY ROAD TO A SECURE REAL LASTING PEACE IN STRIFE-TORN AFRICA.

WE HAVE ALSO CONCERNED OURSELVES WITH THE QUESTION OF THE RIGHT TO CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION BECAUSE EVEN IN WESTERN EUROPE THERE STILL EXIST DISPARITIES BETWEEN NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS. SOME RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT TO C.O. ON A NUMBER OF GROUNDS AND OTHER STATES STILL APPLY SANCTIONS TO YOUNG OBJECTORS WHICH WE IN THE EURO PARLIAMENT, AS EXPRESSED IN A 1982 RESOLUTION, FOUND TO BE IN BREACH OF PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE EURO CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. SPAIN AND PORTUGAL SOON TO JOIN THE EEC WILL WORSEN THE SITUATION WHERE SEVERE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CO'S STILL EXISTS. OUR CALL IN THE EP TO EEC GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT EUROPEAN LEGISLATION RECOGNISING THE RIGHTS OF CO'S HAS SO FAR MET WITH NO RESPONSE EITHER AMONG EEC GOVERNMENTS OR THE EEC COMMISSION (CIVIL SERVICE).

I WOULD LIKE HERE TO ALSO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE EXISTENCE OF UN RESOLUTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY ACCLAMATION URGING UN MEMBER COUNTRIES TO GRANT ASYLUM TO SA WAR RESISTERS. AS YOU KNOW MANY SA DRAFT RESISTERS HAVE SOUGHT AND HAVE BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM IN WESTERN EUROPE.

WE NEED TO RECTIFY THE MEANING OF C. OBJECTION, WHICH MUST NOT BE SEEN AS AN EXCEPTION TO THE PRINCIPLE OF MILITARY SERVICE, BUT AS A DIFFERENT MEANS OF AFFIRMING PEACE AND OF GUARANTEEING SECURITY. AN ITALIAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT HAS JUST RECOGNISED THIS CONCEPT.

I AM A MEMBER OF A WORKING GROUP NOW WHICH WILL BE DRAWING UP A TEXT FOR EUROPEAN LEGISLATION ON C. OBJECTION AND THE AFFIRMATION OF CONSCIENCE. IT WILL REQUIRE A CONSIDERABLE CAMPAIGN TO GET IT ADOPTED BUT NOT NEARLY SUCH A MASSIVE CAMPAIGN AS YOURS.

(MENTION CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO MILITARY TAXATION)

CONCLUSION

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS SEEN AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR TROUBLE SPOTS. MANY IN THE PEACEMOVEMENT FEAR THAT A MAJOR WORLD CONFLICT COULD START IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE PEACE MOVEMENT IN EUROPE STARTED AS A RESULT OF THE EVER SPIRALLING NUCLEAR ARMS RACE - THE ARMS RACE THREATENS THE EXISTENCE OF THE WORLD - IN ONE WAY YOU COULD SAY THAT THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE IS A FORM OF APARTHEID BY A FEW STATES OVER THE REST OF THE WORLD.

YOUR CAMPAIGN IS, I BELIEVE MUCH BRAVER THAN OURS IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUR POLITICAL REALITY. YOUR WORK IS CRUCIAL AND MUST CONTINUE, BROADEN AND INCREASE IN SCOPE. I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE MOUNTING A VERY EFFECTIVE CHALLENGE TO SO-CALLED MORAL VALUES OF A SOCIETY WHICH HAS INSTITUTIONALISED RACISM AND BROKEN COUNTLESS PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE CAN NEVER HAVE PEACE IN A SOCIETY WHICH TREATS THE MAJORITY OF ITS CITIZENS WITH PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE AND DENYS TO THEM BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS OF DIGNITY AND FREEDOM.

I PRAISE YOUR COURAGE IN ARTICULATING WHAT MANY OF YOUR FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNGER GENERATION, MUST FEEL BUT DO NOT DARE TO EXPRESS OPENLY.

YOU, LIKE US, REALISE THAT IF WE DO NOT WIN THERE WILL BE NO WINNERS. THAT IS WHY I AM HERE WITH YOU TODAY TO BRING YOU GREETINGS AND SOLIDARITY FROM MANY PLACES BUT ESPECIALLY FROM THE BRITISH AND THE EUROPEAN PEACE MOVEMENTS

AS I HAVE SAID, NOT MUCH IS KNOWN OF YOUR MOVEMENT IN EUROPE - BUT I WILL DO MY BEST, WITH OTHERS, TO SPREAD THE WORD AND ENSURE THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR MOVEMENTS ARE INCREASED AND STRENGTHENED.

ICLLE ON ECC PEACE FESTIVAL FOR WAR RESISTERS INTERNATIONAL

More than 2000 people attended South Africa's first ever peace festival organised by the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) at the end of June in Johannesburg.

The ECC was formed in 1984 as a broad front of over 50 political, womens, religious and student groups. It demands an end to the compulsory conscription of white men into the South African Defence Force (SADF) and the withdrawal of troops from Namibia and the townships. These demands are part of ECC's broader call for "a just peace in our land."

According to Laurie Nathan, ECC National Organiser, "the Festival was a statement of our determination to oppose the violence of the State and a celebration of our belief that all South Africans can live as equals and at peace in a democratic society." The weekend of seminars, workshops, concerts, public meetings and anti-war culture involved participants in dynamic and creative activities and discussion around militarisation and resistance.

Key note speakers at the Festival included Archbishop Hurley, Dr Beiers Naude, Bishop Tutu and representatives from the United Democratic Front, SWAPO and the Progressive Federal Party. At emotionally charged public meetings they spelt out the basis of ECC's opposition to conscription :

- * in Southern Africa the SADF is an aggressive force and an obstacle to peace
- * in SA the army's primary role is to defend apartheid
- * the SADF's enemy is not a foreign aggressor but the people of SA and Southern Africa
- * massive military expenditure contributes to the poverty of the country and ought to be used in the interests of peace
- * the development of a war psychosis dehumanises every individual and raises the level of violence in society as a whole
- * it is a breach of a fundamental human right to deny young men the right to refuse to be part of the army on grounds of conscience.

"One of the most exciting features of the Festival", said Clare Verbeek the Festival Co-ordinator, "was its focus on the international struggle for peace. The participation of Carol Tongue, Euro-MP, and the contact that we made with many church, peace and anti-apartheid groups overseas broadened our vision and gave us strength."

The Festival suffered some setbacks with the earlier detention of Janet Cherry, a regional ECC chairperson, and when the SA government withdrew the visa of Cardinal Arns, Archbishop of San Paolo, because he was due to speak at the Festival. But the ECC emerged from its Festival more committed than ever to the belief "that if you want peace you don't prepare for war but work for justice."

Recently the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) organised SA's first ever peace festival. The Festival was attended by over 2000 people from all walks of life who unanimously supported a motion calling for an end to the compulsory conscription of white men into the South African Defence Force (SADF).

The motion read: "The building of peace in Southern Africa is threatened by the presence and actions of the SADF in Namibia and elsewhere in Southern Africa, and in SA's townships. We call on the government to immediately withdraw all these troops. We call for an end to conscription which forces young men to fight in these situations."

The ECC was formed in 1984 as a broad front of over 50 political, womens, religious and student groups. According to Laurie Nathan, ECC National Organiser, "we have received phenomenal support from the generally conservative white community because a significant sector of it find it intolerable that white men are compelled to be part of an army whose primary role is to defend apartheid."

At present every white man is legally obliged to serve two years "national service" and do annual camps till the age of 55. The options for the majority of those who refuse to serve are six years in jail or a life in exile. A third option of six years "alternative service" is limited to universal pacifists with a proven Christian commitment.

The ECC 'Stop the call-up' Peace Festival in Johannesburg united the different groups that oppose conscription. It consisted of a weekend of seminars and workshops, concerts, a prayer service, public protest meetings and anti-war culture which involved delegates in action and discussion around militarisation and resistance.

Key note speakers at the Festival included Archbishop Hurley (President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference), Bishop Tutu (Nobel Peace Laureate), Dr Beiers Naudé (Secretary General of the South African Council of Churches) and representatives from the United Democratic Front, SWAPO and the Progressive Federal Party.

A highlight of the Festival was a panel discussion with conscientious objectors, entitled "Some Say No". Richard Steele, who served a year in detention barracks in 1980 and recently addressed the UN Commission for Human Rights on conscientious objection in SA, declared: "The military is designed to train people to destroy one another and misuse the land. I see the military as a pillar of an unjust society and saw my steps as an act of non-cooperation with apartheid."

Pete Hathorn, who was jailed for his political objection in 1983, said that he was committed to the Freedom Charter and that serving in the SADF "would mean sharing in and perhaps even adding to the atrocities of apartheid."

Also on the panel was David Pijpers, the first person to publicly object to serving in the Cape Corps, the all-Coloured unit. David had volunteered for service because it was a "family tradition" but his experiences in Namibia had caused him to desert. He now faces a court martial for refusing to complete his 10 year contract.

Another highpoint of the Festival, and a new development for ECC, was the focus on the international struggle for peace. Carol Tongue, Euro-MP, spoke about the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the European peace movement, and made an important contribution to broadening the understanding of ECC. The other invited international guest, Cardinal Arns, the Archbishop of San Paolo, was denied a visa by the South African government when it learnt that he was due to speak at the Festival.

Despite this act of State harassment the Festival was regarded as a huge success and showed clearly that there now exists within the white South African community a growing movement for peace and justice.

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