

REGIONAL ROUND UP JULY 1988PRETORIA

Had succesful launch of KYR booklet attended by 60 people. Gary and Davin spoke and a township band played pleasant music. Planning to set up an advice service by August and have held training workshops.

JOHANNESBURG

Launch of KYR booklet was marred by petrol bomb at venue night before (no damage caused but had to move to new venue), and false press statement saying launch had been cancelled. But Jan Van Eck spoke well and event was attended by about 50 people. Very successful Angola meeting attended by 500 people addressed by Van Zyl Slabbert, Peter Vale, Tony Robinson (journalist), Roddy Payne (conscript) and David Bruce. Both public events got good press. Had phone in where people were able to offer their thoughts on conscription and alternative service. only about 81 callers as telephone lines were blocked for large periods of the day, but 81% supported alternative service. Had good concert/jorl for David Bruce attended by about 400 people. A vigil organised by COSG and ECC churches group attracted about 120 people and was very moving and emotional.

WITS

Been on holiday, but a group of about 12 people have been involved in an ASP for two weeks in the Eastern Transvaal building a school. They have just returned, are looking fit tamed and healthy and are working on publicity which includes press, and campus display boards with photographs.

PIETERMARITZBURG

Had a fund raising film premier attended by 200 people. Having a KYR book launch and meeting and involved in campaign planning. Nusas held their July festival at PMB with Clare V. giving a well received key note address and David Bruce spoke to two standing ovations. Nusas will be campaigning around the issue of Angola for the second half of the year.

DURBAN

Had a succesful book launch at which Prof David Mcoid-Maison was going to speak. Had a very succesful concert which raised R1 500 and are planning an even bigger beter follow up concert which could possibly be sent to PMB. New system of monthly GBs are working very well. Are geared toward broad membership and about 80% educational. Last one was on Angola and various conscripts spoke about their experiences. GB in August will focus on JMCs and the Sept. one on the municiple elections. An interesting ASSA

conference was held at UND with one of the sections devoted to militarisation. Both campuses have been quiet due to holidays and examinations, but a weekend away for both campuses has been planned.

Port Elizabeth

Had very impressive book launch in the foyer of the city Hall and speaker was a PE city Councillor. 70 people attended and they were very impressed by ECC. Lots of books (KYR) sold and a bookshop in PE sold out its 20 copies of the KYR booklet on the first day. Had a seminar on Angola addressed by Peter Vale and a psychologist which was attended by 35 people. Brought out the first edition of their new newsletter, which was quickly snapped up by the ECC supporting public and will be bringing out a bigger, better newsletter with a larger distribution.

Grahamstown

Had stall during Festival with pamphlets on Angola and campaign. Started up a church group of twenty people that is to meet monthly with a smaller coordinating committee that will meet more frequently. Will be running a six week counselling course and setting up an advice service at Rhodes with student Counselling Centre. Otherwise quiet because of examinations and holidays.

Stellenbosch

Have a new executive. Planning action round campaign and booklaunch. Quiet, holidays etc.

Cape Town

Say they are riding on a crest of a wave. Finished phase one of campaign which was KYR. Meetings went well apart from harassment and teargassing two of the meetings. Had successful Angola meeting attended by 250 people and addressed by Mathew Blatchford (Angola expert) and Nic Borian who both spoke well. Engaged in intensive planning for exciting rest of year which includes ASPs call-up, Angola, and concerts. UCT on Holiday.

We are looking stronger NATIONALLY at the moment, than any stage since the declaration of the state of emergency in June 1986, don't you agree?

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