

MINUTES: ECC/COSG CONFERENCE PLANNING

May 4, 1992

Present: David Tennick, Rob Goldman, Richard Steele, Michael Graaf
Apologies: Illa Thomson, Craig Freese

1. Public meeting on Thursday July 2nd, Durban

Time: 7.30pm.

Venue: St Thomas' Church Hall (Richard to ask Sue to book). Failing that, Norwegian Hall.

Theme: legal situation regarding the call-up; resistance to conscription and the high rate of refusals to render service; future of conscription/military service.

Speakers: Chris de Villiers (Michael to contact), Laurie Nathan (Richard to contact), a local objector (Richard to arrange).

Chairperson not yet decided.

Publicity: notices sent out to mailing lists; newspaper adverts; pamphlets?

2. Conference 3-5 July, Durban

Venue: Richard to approach Glenmore Centre

Who should participate? Past and present members of ECC/COSG/CAS, anyone else interested in or involved with anti-militarisation issues.

Numbers: about 50 in total

Outline agenda:

- * state of the nation
- * state of militarisation
- * state of the anti-militarisation movement in the regions, and as a national "force"
- * do we believe we should continue?
- * if so: which issues should we address?
 - what are our capabilities?
 - in what form should we continue?
- * the way forward

3. Budget

3.1. PUBLIC MEETING

Venue	150.00		
Catering	200.00		
Publicity	3 000.00		
Transport (speakers)	1 500.00		
P.A. system	300.00	5 150.00	
Less "collection"		200.00	R4 950.00

1222.5

3.2. CONFERENCE

Accommodation and catering	5 000.00		
Transport	4 800.00		
Administration	200.00	10 000.00	
Less Conference Fee			
(R50.00 - employed			
R30.00 - unemployed)		1 800.00	R8 200.00

3.3. TOTAL COSTS

R13 150.00

3.4. FUNDING FOR THE ABOVE BUDGET: we propose that ECC funds the public meeting in full, and two-thirds of the conference. COSG to fund one-third of the conference. (Richard to request ECC, Michael to request COSG.)

Meeting between Johannesburg & Cape Town C.A.S. reps on 14/05/88

- 1) Cape Town gave a report on its structures, and future plans, and the workshop.

Links with ECC were raised - there is a good relationship although there have been problems with the new campaign. These have been sorted out - there was agreement that the Advice Service is important and needs to be separate from ECC.

- 2) Jhb report:

COSG & CAS meet together once a month.

The office is open 4.30 - 7.00 every Tuesday. They get 1 or 2 people per week. There are about 7 calls per week to individual's numbers.

Advertising is mostly through local and church papers and at public and other meetings.

They are negotiating with Radio 702 for a mention .

Their office may be relocated to 702's crisis centre in Hillbrow.

Training workshops are held about twice a year. They last for one day and are organised with the same subject breakdown (more or less) as ours.

Jhb CAS is affiliated to ECC.

- 3) Logo:

We need a national logo. Jhb has been using the "question mark & boots" in the absence of anything else.

Cape Town produced drafts of the various options we have so far. What is lacking is a central "idea" for the logo so centres should keep thinkin.

- 4) Finance:

There is a need for national records of CAS finances so that regional statements can make up a national statement which goes back to donors. There needs to be a common bookkeeping system.

In order to divide future monies up, the national treasurer should get from each region an estimate of how much they'll need, in the context of what other regions there are and what others' needs are.

A rep from each region should consult with the national treasurer re the allocation after the initial estimates have been submitted.

- 5) National Meeting:

We decided that as finance and media needs to be discussed nationally very soon, Cape Town will convene a national meeting of 2 or 3 reps from each region sometime in July. The proposed agenda would be along these lines:

- 1) Decide on budget allocation.
- 2) Media & national logo - get decisions on these and discuss our 'image'.
- 3) Collection of national resources (national factsheets, etc).
- 4) Getting things going nationally - encouraging other centres.
- 5) Relationship with ECC - need for a uniform approach to ECC.
- 6) What about a national conference - is it necessary and is it feasible?
- 7) WRITTEN reports from each region must be submitted.

MINUTES OF THE DURBAN CONSCRIPTION ADVICE SERVICE HELD ON THE
7th OF NOVEMBER 1988

PRESENT : Paul Graham, Richard Steele, Anita Kromberg, Rob Goldman.

1. The meeting agreed with the constitution in principle. It will be put for ratification at the AGM (see pt. 12).
2. It was suggested that a document containing a set of working principles for counsellors be drawn up. The working principles should include the need for regular case study meetings, and guidelines on when to refer counselees for professional help. It was not suggested who would do this.
3. It was agreed that a telephone tree for counsellors would be established. It was not decided who would do this.
4. It was proposed that CAS takes over occupation of the ECC office in conjunction with COSG w.e.f 1.1.89. This will be put to COSG at their next meeting.
5. It was agreed to use the counselling record sheet with immediate effect. Will evaluate later. Each counsellor to number their sheets using the initials of their first and surnames with consecutive numbering. eg Anita's first counselee's sheet will be numbered AK1, the second, AK2.....AK47 etc.
6. Richard and Anita's work no. to be provisionally used for national advertisements.
7. Durban will advertise in local suburban newspapers and the Sunday Tribune from now until the February call-up. Also to investigate the Daily News 'Tonight' section. Rob to action.
8. We recommend that Jhb places a national ad in the Sunday Times, and correct the Durban contact name and number in the Weekly Mail ad.
9. A certain level of competence for counsellors was necessary. To facilitate this we agreed on the following:
 - an initial assessment interview for all prospective counsellors, where the most appropriate training programme for them would be worked out;
 - new counsellors would undergo a probationary period;
 - Lifeline training courses could be a resource;
 - we should run workshops for first-line people, eg clergy;
 - ongoing in-service training for ourselves, open to others eg LRC, DASSA, prospective counsellors.

10. Counsellors could develop expertise in a specific area of counselling to which they had an affinity, eg the Board, exile. This expertise could then be shared with the rest of us at an in-service training.

11. The meeting mandated Anita and Richard to complete the national pamphlet and set the agenda for the next national meeting.

12. Our next meeting will be our official launch in Durban, in the form of an AGM. It will be at 7.30pm on the 29th of November in the Peace Room. The agenda will include:

- adopt the constitution
- elect a committee
- make decisions re the office
- advertise future counsellor training meetings
- recruitment of members.

Work to be done:

- Richard to book Peace Room and invite psychologists/OASSA, LRC, campus counselling service;
- Rob to invite COSG, NCSG, and people at the Conscription workshop;
- someone to invite Durban Mental Health and DDA (what about Sash, Diakonia - a thought from the typist);
- Anita to organise tea and rusks.

Through a process of drawing lots Richard ended up having to chair the AGM, and Rob the taking of minutes.

The meeting ended happily, and exactly on time.

CONSCRIPTION ADVICE SERVICE

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING
MEETING OF THE
CONSCRIPTION ADVICE SERVICE
EAST LONDON, 24-25 JUNE 1989

1. REPORT BACKS FROM CENTRES

East London

After the PE conference in February, there was an enthusiastic group of 15. 7 from this group became counsellors.
International CO Day was organised by CAS and Black Sash. Uncertainty as to whether this is CAS's role.
A broader militarisation group is needed. Should it take on other issues too?
International CO Day a success. Lunch-time talk, good newspaper coverage.
A mothers group is forming.
CAS has held meetings (with speakers from CASs in other regions) on asylum, the Board for Religious Objection, and counselling skills.
Advertising: in newspapers only. Church ministers reluctant.
There has been security police harrassment.

Pretoria

Contact phone number at St Albans Cathedral. Messages are taken and passed on to counsellors. Had an office at the Cathedral but not using it (problem with getting keys after hours).
There has been a fair number of replies to Weekly Mail and Vrye Weekblad adverts. 5 people in the group, but now down to 2 who are handling the counselling.
The CAS pamphlet and the SACBC pamphlet have brought callers.
The Catholic Womens League received literature from Veterans for Victory; they invited CAS to talk to them about the work of CAS.
At a 'Christians and the Military' conference Veterans for Victory dropped a smear pamphlet in which CAS was mentioned, but there was positive reaction against the pamphlet.
Have referees (lawyer, psychologist) who would like to attend a counselling course.
Have had several calls from school pupils. Some parents are keen on 'know your rights'-type house meetings.
CBC school play 'See You Upstream' raised the issue of conscription amongst scholars.
'SA Youth for Tomorrow Today' organisation formed - CAS has contact.
Pretoria Boys High has granted CAS a 40 minute period with its Std 10s.
Looking to present a counselling course.

Grahamstown

GRACONS became CAS.
CAS has only just started having formal meetings. A co-ordinating committee has been elected and a constitution adopted.
Advertising - many local journals grant CAS free advertising. Article on CAS in local 'Grocotts Mail' newspaper.
Counsellors training course next month.
Have personal contact with local church ministers.
Plan on getting into schools.
National Arts Festival: will distribute pamphlets and posters at it.
3 counsellors, others in a working group of 10 members. 5 experienced people.
Back-up of referees.
3-4 callers a month.
Plan adverts in Daily Dispatch and EP Herald.

Durban

Ongoing counselling done by a group of 4; 2 others who take calls.
Have an answering machine.
Broad forum of anti-militarisation groups - CAS part of this.
Training: next month, a Friday evening and all-day Saturday course is planned.
Have had discussions about CAS's role.
Meet on an ad-hoc basis when needed.

Pietermaritzburg

Since restrictions on ECC, a gap has been created.
CAS tried to fill the gap; the International CO Day overseas visitors created impetus. Question of CAS's identity arose, and the meetings were advertised under COSG. 3 meetings held: evening town meeting, student meeting (poorly attended), and in-depth symposium (20-30 people).
Meetings generated phone calls to CAS, but don't have a great many calls.
Have lawyers and psychologists for referral.
Working group meets on an ad-hoc basis.
Have a university group organised which offers an advice service.
CAS was asked to supply a person for the 'Christians and the Military' meeting in Pretoria; did not liaise with Pretoria CAS - we should have.
Plan a training course in August. Will run a pilot programme before it; will draw in people who won't become involved in CAS, but who need to know the information.
Looking to work in schools.
Wider 'Standing for the Truth' campaign - idea is to form a broad front.

Cape Town

Share offices with Quaker Project.
Weekday evenings 5.30 to 7.30: 2 counsellors at the office.
Team of 12 counsellors.
Referral system to lawyers and psychologists.
There is a campus advice service which employs someone on Fridays; independent of CAS.
Have had about 100 cases since February: 30% questions about going overseas, 20% about deferment, 20% questions about options; rest non-combatancy, registration, psychological problems, etc.
March/April: 40 people on a 'Coping with Conscription' course; only 2 came into CAS (incentive to revamp course).
Extra Mural Centre UCT: rerunning the course at its Winter School; plan to invite guidance teachers and lawyers.
Advertising: suburban newspapers, 'This is CAS' pamphlet, try to have a table at public meetings, UCT radio has produced a campus radio ad.
Resources: have produced 10 pamphlets and booklets.
Schools: have a programme to run at private schools.
4 people working on contact with churches.
Contact with womens group - tried to encourage them to take up conscription.
Producing a introductory video on conscription.
Have links with anti-militarisation forum which meets once a month.
Working group meets every 2 weeks.
Counsellors group meets once a month.

Port Elizabeth

There has not really been a CAS until now.
2 people were doing counselling.
Answering machine installed.
6 people now in CAS; minister and a lawyer involved.
Have had 4 meetings on elementary counselling.
Sent letters to guidance teachers.
Have posters in churches and libraries; little response.
Concentrating on counselling and advertising and building the group.

Johannesburg

Office at Central Methodist Church open Tuesdays 4.30 to 7.00 pm. Not entirely satisfactory as we don't have our own office but are shunted around from week to week. Average of 1 or 2 callers per week; picks up over call-up times. Telephone calls: average of 2 or 3 per week. Recently installed an answering machine which will improve this.

Advertising: Weekly Mail, Vrye Weekblad, The Star 'People in Crisis' column, and pamphlets at public meetings.

Work group of 4-5 people meets when required; about every 3 weeks.

Counsellors group meets once a month.

Running a training course at the moment: started with a full-day Saturday session and followed with six Monday evening sessions. About 12 people attending, hope that many of them will become CAS counsellors.

Have a representative on the 'Alternative Service Commission'.

Have built up contacts with lawyers and a psychologist, and have had contact with Radio 702 Crisis Centre.

CAS has felt rather small and struggling.

2. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF ANTI-MILITARISATION ORGANISATIONS AND OF CAS'S ROLE

Relationships to other groups

Since the demise of ECC, there is not a sense in the country of a strong anti-militarisation movement.

In centres where there are active campaigning groups, this campaigning may generate people coming to CAS, but in centres where there is no such campaigning, CAS operates in a vacuum.

This creates an identity problem for CAS, especially in smaller centres. If CAS does not do the anti-militarisation work, who does? CAS has been invited to participate in anti-military service campaigns - do we participate?

Problem of 'changing hats' in smaller centres: Pietermaritzburg did International CO day as COSG, not CAS (but simply changed hats), East London did ICO Day as CAS, with Black Sash.

Is our identity as an independent service organisation offering non-directive counselling compromised?

Distinction between being neutral and being independent: we are not neutral - we clearly stand somewhere - but this does not compromise our non-directive counselling.

Distinction between forums and campaigns. In broad forums where ideas are being exchanged, our participation is not a problem. CAS can feed its resources to such forums; this is compatible with CAS's identity.

Our participation in campaigns may be problematic. They have to be considered on a one-by-one basis. The question to be answered is, 'Can we involve ourselves without prejudicing our identity as independent and non-directive?'

We must bear in mind that our participation in forums and campaigns may cause problems for our wider network of referral: lawyers and psychologists may feel compromised. Smear campaigns may result from our participation.

The Alternative Service Campaign

The feeling is that this campaign is compatible with CAS's work. CAS, as a service organisation, has the most immediate interest in seeing the options available to our clients widened. However, our participation in this campaign needs constant review.

Questions remaining

Does this policy restrict smaller centres?

What is the priority - is CAS just going to be an answering machine and adverts, or can it do anti-militarisation work?

What, if any, is the overlap between CAS's 'educational work' (in schools, for example) and active campaigning?

3. ADVERTISING

People were generally unhappy with the media package presented by Durban at the PE conference.

Cape Town has produced a different media package: posters, calling cards, stickers, pamphlets, campus radio ads.

Requests for stickers and cards and radio ads, as well as feedback on the package and suggestions about the wording, to be forwarded to Cape Town.

Regions are encouraged to produce their own media and to share this with other centres.

Radio adverts

Johannesburg to contact Radio 702 about a radio ad; Pretoria's number to be included in this ad.

Grahamstown to contact Capital Radio about an advert.

Newspaper adverts

Johannesburg to look into placing national CAS adverts in 'Early Times' and the First National Bank 'Bob T' newsletter.

'Vrye Weekblad': they are placing a national CAS advert free: we must offer to pay at least something towards this from the CAS national account.

'Objector'

No objection to CAS column in Objector, but it must be clearly typographically separate from other articles.

Johannesburg responsible for writing and placing this column.

4. RESOURCES

Resources available for counsellors

The 'Coping with Conscription' Course file (CT)

Old SACC green 'Conscientious Objection' counsellor's resource manual

Training resources notes (CT)

Course file (overheads, etc) (CT)

Slide shows - Liability/options (CT)

History of Conscription (exists in draft form) (Jhb)

Videos - Board/Exile/Prison (Ivan) (CT)

Anybody's son will do (CT)

Joseph Schultz (CT)

My Neighbour's Son (Dbn)

Resources for counsellees

Set of pamphlets for initial enquiries (CT)

1. 'Concerned about your call-up?' (Revised old blue Durban pamphlet)

2. 'Am I liable for National Service?'

3. 'Dad's Army Service'

4. 'Deferment and Exemption from military service'

5. 'Your Rights in the SADF'
6. 'Non-combatant status and/or township duty' (Jhb to complete)
7. 'Religious Objection'
8. 'Evading military service: the legal consequences'
9. 'Leaving the country'

These pamphlets presently exist in draft form.

Feedback to Cape Town by 15 July.

Pamphlets still to be produced: 'Foreign citizens'
'Government options' (Jhb)

Booklets for those seriously considering choices

'Facing Prison: a handbook for conscientious objectors' (supplies running out - Cape Town to see to producing more)

The Board and community service (in production; CT helping CSG)

Non-combatancy (in production (Jhb))

Educational resources

'These are your options/these are your rights' booklet for general bookstore distribution (ECC KYR style) - Johannesburg has not managed to get this underway. PE and Grahamstown to take over the task of producing it.

New general video on militarisation/choices/options: Cape Town to give Liz Fish the go-ahead to produce this.

Lesson plans/worksheets/resource package for teachers - being produced by Catholic Justice & Peace/Catholic Institute of Education (David Schmidt).

Resources file: Durban. (Sue) will ask IFOR for assistance

Press cuttings: East London (Sharlene) to distribute to the other centres.

5. NEEDS OF SMALLER CENTRES

Needs

Experienced counsellors, or the training of new counsellors.

Training course for counsellors (a joint course for E Cape was suggested).

Organising of educational programmes.

Pretoria needs Afrikaans resources.

National newsletter

A national newsletter will keep centres informed of what is happening in other regions and will facilitate national communication.

Pretoria (Linda) is to produce this newsletter three times a year, between the national meetings. Linda will phone the contact person in each centre to gather material for the newsletter.

Stellenbosch

CT may run a course in Stellenbosch which may lead to the establishment of a CAS there.

Bloemfontein

Sue to follow up community servers contacts in Bloemfontein, with the view to establishing a CAS.

6. THE VAN LOGGERENBERG COMMITTEE

The establishment of this committee was announced by Minister Malan in parliament.

It comprises: Gen Jan van Loggerenberg, Chief of the Air Force
Gen Kat Liebenberg, Chief of the Army
Johan van Vuuren (Arm Scor)
Marinus Dalling (Sanlam)
Derek Cooper (Barlows)

It will consider 5 areas: management structure of SADF
Arm Scor
air traffic
defence manpower policy
environmental factors.

CASs need to keep records and statistics of all cases; these will be useful in any submission by CAS to the committee.

Johannesburg to find out how and when submissions are made to the committee. Submissions to the committee by CAS will be on the agenda of the next national meeting; if it needs to be done sooner, Johannesburg will initiate the process.

7. STRUCTURE AND WORKING OF THE NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

The committee comprises one representative from each centre.

A centre's representative need not be the same person from one meeting to the next.

Meetings will be held every four months (2 national co-ordinating committee meetings, plus 1 national conference per year).

A National Convenor and a National Treasurer shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting.

* Neil was appointed as National Convenor until the next AGM.

Date of next meeting of the committee: 21-22 October 1989, Port Elizabeth. PE to find a venue, and to compile and distribute an agenda.

8. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Suggested date and venue: mid-February 1990, East London.

10. FINANCE

The financial year is to be the same as a calendar year.

All CAS fundraising is to take place nationally. One centre may not raise funds on its own: all decisions about fundraising are to be taken nationally.

Johannesburg is to apply for the next cycle of funding from the SACC. Pretoria was approached by the Japanese consulate with an offer of funding; this will be held in abeyance, but we will tell the SACC of this offer when we apply for the next cycle of funding.

The national fund is to pay for the expenses of this national meeting.

Durban may go ahead with its application to the Canadian consulate for funding for computers for Durban (and Johannesburg, if this is what was understood by Anita).

The following people have signing powers for the national account: Janet, David, Anton, Neil.

APPENDICES

1. Jobs arising from the meeting.
2. Provisional Constitution.
3. Financial Statement.
4. Address list of participants.

APPENDIX 1

JOBS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

- ← Feedback on the media package to Cape Town - all centres.
- Requests for stickers, calling cards, campus radio ads to Cape Town - all centres.
- Radio 702 advert - Johannesburg.
- Capital Radio advert - Grahamstown.
- Campus radio adverts - all centres (where applicable).
- 'Early Times', FNB 'Bob T' newsletter adverts - Johannesburg.
- Payment (partial?) for 'Vrye Weekblad' advert - Janet.
- Ongoing CAS column in 'Objector' - Johannesburg.
- Completion of 'History of Conscription' slide show - Johannesburg.
- Requests for video resources to Cape Town - all centres.
- Completion of Non-combatancy 'initial enquiry' pamphlet - Johannesburg.
- Completion of Foreign citizens 'initial enquiry' pamphlet - Cape Town.
- Completion of Government Options 'initial enquiry' pamphlet - Johannesburg.
- Feedback on 'initial enquiry' pamphlets to Cape Town - all centres (by 15 July).
- Completion of Board and Community Service booklet - Cape Town.
- Completion of Non-combatancy booklet - Johannesburg.
- Production of 'Options/Rights' booklet - Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown.
- New general video on militarisation/choices/options - Cape Town.
- Compilation of resources file - Durban (Sue). → → each region own
- Distribution of press cuttings - East London (Sharlene).
- Production and distribution of national newsletter - Pretoria (Linda).
- ✓ Following up of community servers contacts in Bloemfontein - Durban (Sue). →
- ← Compilation and analysis of case records for submission to van Loggerenberg committee - all centres.
- Information about submissions to van Loggerenberg committee - Johannesburg.
- Venue and agenda for 21-22 October national meeting - Port Elizabeth.
- Application for funding - Janet and Johannesburg.
- Distribution of stickers, calling cards, pamphlets, videos, etc - Cape Town.
- Consider the national constitution - all centres (by next national meeting).

⇒ ERIS.

Bibliography
Case histories

APPENDIX 2

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION, provisionally accepted until next AGM.

CONSCRIPTION ADVICE SERVICE

CONSTITUTION

NAME

The name shall be the CONSCRIPTION ADVICE SERVICE.

OBJECTIVES

To give conscripts information and advice about their legal rights and alternatives to military service.

To educate the community about alternatives to military service.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all persons who subscribe to the objectives of the organisation and who participate in its activities.

OFFICE BEARERS

A National Convenor and a National Treasurer shall be appointed annually at an Annual General Meeting.

They will be accountable at all times to the Co-ordinating Committee.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

This will consist of the National Convenor, the National Treasurer and at least one person nominated from each regional CAS to each meeting.

The Co-ordinating Committee will meet at least twice per annum.

A quorum of a Co-ordinating Committee shall include representatives from at least four regional CASs.

Notice of a Co-ordinating Committee meeting shall be given to each regional CAS at least two weeks prior to that meeting.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

To be responsible for co-ordinating activities between the centres.

To see to the raising and allocation of funds that the Service requires for its meetings.

To call, and prepare the agenda of, the Annual General Meeting.

FINANCES

A bank account will be opened in the name of the Conscription Advice Service.

Money received will be deposited in this bank account.

Signing powers for cheques will be vested in any two of the National Treasurer, the National Convenor and two others appointed by the Co-ordinating Committee.

Disbursement of money shall be ratified by the Co-ordinating Committee.

DISSOLUTION

Dissolution will be agreed upon at an AGM by a two-thirds majority.

Funds will revert to the donors.

AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority at an Annual General Meeting.

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Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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