

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PO Box 208
Woodstock
7915

12 April 1986

Dear All

We in Cape Town have been receiving bits of news from all the centres but nothing meaty enough to satisfy our lust for what appears to be GOOD NEWS all around. So here is a letter from us describing recent events and asking for letters in return.

Overall

Things are now going very well!!! CT ECC is on a high, and all our activities seem to be working better than planned. ECC is the talk of the town and we are feeling chuffed with ourselves. One disappointing area has been the press. They seem to be taking less of an interest in us than usual, despite the earth-shattering successes we have had. We are going to be looking quite seriously at some of the creative action ideas from other centres (balloons, planting wheat, olive trees etc.)

Working for a Just Peace

We are well into the campaign at this stage and we have completed/started most of the projects. Over 300 people have volunteered and they keep streaming in. All the volunteers who have done work seem to have enjoyed it immensely.

We are finding that (as expected) the campaign is giving us an extremely positive public image. We have distributed tens of thousands of pamphlets (and are continuing to do so) and we find that knowledge about the campaign is very wide.

The major political question that confronts us is 'where to from here?' - to what extent can we expand our organisational structures to cope with an influx of people?; how will this affect the smooth functioning/ democratic workings/ friendly atmosphere of the organisation?; how can we accommodate the people who want to be involved in ECC, but from the angle of community type prospects?; do we need to reassess the decision to limit the WJP type work i.e. have some kind of ongoing involvement in this area?

We feel this campaign has finally and conclusively established ECC in CT as a popular and 'reasonable', 'responsible', creative and dynamic force in the political arena.

The Fair

At the risk of going over the top we would probably claim that the fair has been our greatest single success yet. There were about 45 stalls that catered for every conceivable taste/fantasy. The main elements of the 'success' are hard to pin down. The atmosphere was very festive, lots of children, lots of families and lots of youth culture; and somehow it all seemed to gel. Inbetween the puppet shows, live music, comedy routines, kites and screaming children with painted faces we made quite a bit of money and firmly established a political resistance type context which was apparent at all times. Its difficult to estimate, but about 4000-5000 people visited the fair during the day.



1
Goatonsboro
11/4/86

Dearest Dave

Hey there! How's it going? The WSP
really seems to be budding, nationally.
All our branches are reporting great
successes. This letter deals firstly with
a proposed national committee agenda,
and secondly with a nomination to continue
the WSP projects after April.
Why am I writing at such a stupid
angle? Well may you ask.

National Committee Agenda

Last year we decided to draw up national committee agendas early and send them to all the regions. This would allow us to discuss national issues on the basis of the feelings of our respective general bodies. It will obviously be difficult to discuss fully all the agenda items, what with WSP on the go, so I've indicated with a star those areas that would be particularly useful to have been discussed in regions before national committee meets.

In no particular order:

- 1) Finances
- 2) ECC expansion
 - developments within Afrikaner communities (Stellenbosch, Pretoria, Jhb Afrikaner sub-committee)
 - East London, Middleburg, Krugersdorp, Bloemfontein
- * 3) December Cultural Festival
 - discussion of ideas from regions so far, and process from now
- 4) International work
 - report backs of Gavin and Janet's tours
 - international correspondence
 - * - process of national decision-making around ECC reps on overseas tours
- 5) Harassment of ECC and security issues
- 6) Jyeldenburg Committee
- 7) Philip Wilkinson
- * 8) May Survey Campaigns
- * 9) July National Conference
 - at the ECC Conference in January we did not make a

decision on whether we would have another conference this July. I would motivate that we do: ECC will have had two national campaigns that need to be assessed nationally; the Conference will be the only opportunity to discuss in a national forum the Geldenhuys Committee's report, the December Cultural Festival and the National Publication; the Conference will provide an opportunity for sub-comms to meet on an interregional basis, and for new ECC members and branches to get a national feel for ECC.

I propose: (a) that the Conference concentrate on practical planning and assessment, and on interregional sub-comm discussions; (b) that we have it in Grahamstown on the 5th and 6th of July. The motivation for this is that: the Grahamstown Festival, which many ECC culture comm. members will be attending and participating in, ends on the 4th; Grahamstown is geographically central; it is also in a region with two, possibly three branches. The Grahamstown ECC Exec has endorsed this proposal.

- 10) National co-ordination and structures
 - the national office and national organiser
 - regional workers
 - campus ECC co-ordination
- 11) Regional reports - books
- 12) Assessment of WTP
- 13) National publication
- 14) "I would have made a good Pope" (Richard Nixon)
 - Steve to lead discussion
- 15) Other ideas

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It obviously may not be possible to have full ^{regional} assessments of the WSP before national committee meets. If it is possible, the following framework for assessment might be useful, and would provide us with a common basis for assessment:

- i) Discuss the most important strengths and weaknesses of the WSP
- ii) Assess ECC's public gains in terms of:
 - getting the themes of the WSP across to the public, and winning support for our interim demands
 - public meetings, symbolic actions and other public activities
 - the VIP demands
 - press
 - the public impact of the projects
 - different target groups (students, pupils, churches etc)
 - building links with the black community
 - local media
- iii) Assess ECC's internal development around the campaign in terms of:
 - national co-ordination (media, logo, brochure, national office)
 - recruitment and training of volunteers, and maintaining their involvement
 - affiliate's participation
 - sub-comm participation
 - internal planning and co-ordination

Proposal to stay with the projects!

Had an idea: that ECC continues working on WSP-type projects after the campaign is over. I thought that I should write to you motivating the idea now, rather than waiting to raise it at National Committee, so that it can be discussed with the project volunteers at the end of April.

In the course of conceptualising the WSP, we were clear that while the projects would provide some service to black (and white) communities, they were essentially protest and symbolic in nature. We were clear that ECC was not about to become a peace corps or a service organisation like Shauco, and that the projects were of a limited time duration.

I think that we conceptualised the projects correctly, but need now, in the light of the WSP so far, to reconsider our position that the projects end with the campaign.

The projects are attracting a large number of volunteers, and generating much excitement amongst our affiliates and within the white community. Through the projects we are making powerful statements about the nature of constructive alternative service while conscription exists, and about the circumstances under which white youth ought to go into black townships. Above all, for the white community, we are seen to be doing and not just talking and protesting.

The black community, through the organisations we consulted,

6
has been overwhelmingly positive. In addition to the political statements behind the projects, our presence is an important means of countering the anti-white feelings caused by the actions of the security forces.

I can't see any conceptual problems with ECC continuing to make these statements by undertaking similar projects for the WSP. The aim of the projects would still be primarily educative and protest-oriented rather than primarily service-oriented. They would give ECC's national character a fantastic new dimension; and as long as we act only after full consultation with community leaders we can avoid the dangers of dependency and paternalism.

The practical considerations are obviously also important to work through. They need to be assessed by each region in terms of both its organisational strength and the nature and logistics of future project work.


In organisational terms: some regions may not have the capacity to undertake such projects in the long term; others may want to take up the occasional project periodically; and the larger regions could consider forming new projects sub-committees - this would obviously be an ideal way of maintaining the involvement of the current volunteers.

Regions would also need to work out the practical dimensions of the projects: long or short term projects? regular or monthly weekend work? including projects under the auspices of welfare organisations? joint projects with black organisations? etc.

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My feeling about the process of discussing this idea further is that regions should discuss it if they want to and should then have autonomy to decide on whether to go for it or not. Please let me know if you feel that an idea of this kind requires national discussion before regions make their decisions.

Let's get our hands dirty!
The Bricklayer.





End Conscription Campaign

TEL: 3376796 / 234420
TELEX: 486519 SA

Room 227 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
JOHANNESBURG
2000
26 April 1986

BY HAND

The Management Committee
City of Johannesburg

Dear Sirs,

APPLICATION BY END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN FOR HIRE OF THE
JOHANNESBURG CITY HALL ON 29 APRIL 1986.

1. We wish to record that we have been refused permission by you to use the Johannesburg City Hall on the evening of Tuesday 29 April 1986. We were informed yesterday at 4 p.m. by Mr Potgieter (City Hall Bookings) that this was a decision of the Management Committee. He said that he was not aware of the reasons for this decision. We have been taken aback by this notification because it has come at such a late stage and because all previous indications were that permission would be granted.

We must advise you that the ECC has gone to considerable time and expense in preparing for this meeting. Posters have been printed and pasted up, travel and accommodation arranged for the speakers and circulars have been printed. We expect many hundreds of people to attend this meeting and it would be highly prejudicial to ourselves, our constituency and our speakers if the meeting were not to take place as advertised.

We had no inkling that final permission to hold this meeting would be refused and we submit that we were fully justified in making these arrangements when one takes into account the following :

- a) Application to book the hall was made on our behalf by Mr S. Kopel at the end of March, more than three weeks ago. Mr Kopel signed indemnity forms on behalf of ECC against damages incurred to the hall in the course of the meeting.
- b) A provisional booking was granted for the 29 April. No other applications had been made for the use of the hall on that date.
- c) We were advised on application that one condition of the use of the hall would be that insurance to the value of R20 000 should be obtained. This was done, and Mrs van Niekerk of City Hall Bookings was notified of this telephonically.
- d) We held back on publicity for the meeting until Thursday 23 April, some three weeks after the date of application. By this date there were only 5 days to go before the

meeting was to be held and it was imperative that publicity commence.

- e) Right up until that point in time we were in communication with your bookers people on a weekly basis, and in the last week almost on a daily basis. Throughout these discussions no indication was given that the application would be refused and indeed we were told by Mr Pretorius, the City Council Public Relations officer, Mr Potgieter and Mr Munitich of the City Hall Bookings Office that there was no precedent for this.
2. We had every reason to believe that permission would be granted in the light of the following:
- i) There is no history of violence or damage to property at any previous public meeting of the End Conscription Campaign (ECC). This includes a meeting held last year in the Selbourne Hall.
 - ii) The ECC is a legal organisation calling for the end to military conscription.
 - iii) There are no other City Hall bookings for Tuesday night 29 April.
 - iv) Eminent speakers scheduled to speak at the meeting are Dr Alex Borain, Rev Tsele, Dr Beyers Naudé, Mr Laurie Nathan (ECC National Organiser), Mrs Albertina Sisulu and Mrs Dawn Ingle (Black Sash). These speakers are respected members of the community.
 - v) Permission had been granted for a meeting (which was incident-free) on the 9th April. This meeting involved some of the same and similar speakers and focused on similar themes as the ECC 's planned meeting.

In the light of the above we ask you to reconsider your decision. We know of no good grounds for refusing this application. These representations have been drafted in a great hurry because of the urgency of the situation. We are available to come and talk with you at any time within the next 36 hours should you require further explanation or clarification. In this regard we must point out to you that the meeting is being held as part of our peaceful programme which calls for an end to military conscription. It is billed as a Peace Rally and although it will clearly be critical of government policy, it will be conducted in an orderly and responsible manner, as have all our public meetings throughout the country to date. One of these meetings took place in October last year in the City Hall in Cape Town, with four thousand attenders, and was peaceful and incident-free.

3. Since the matter is extremely urgent we will need to know the final position of your committee before 12 noon on Monday 28th April 1986 so that we will have sufficient time to pursue other remedies. What we will require is the following:
- a) The Management Committee should reverse its decision and allow ECC to hire the City Hall for the evening of Tuesday 29 April.
 - b) Alternatively, the management Committee should provide a written letter showing why the decision to refuse us the use of the hall was justified, what the reasons were for the refusal and what factors/representations were taken into account in making the decision.

Such response should be communicated to us in writing at the above address or via the Telex number stated or telephonically at the above number.

4. In the event of the Management Committee (or its authorised representatives) not responding to the above requests in a satisfactory manner, or not providing sufficient cause for refusing the hire of the hall, before 12 noon on Monday 28th April 1986, we reserve our rights to take this matter further, both in the courts and at other levels.
5. We hope that the refusal of this application is based on a misunderstanding rather than on a conscious desire on your part to stop this meeting from being held. We would not like this matter to have to be taken further, but will feel an obligation to do so if reasonable and bona fide grounds are not provided for this refusal. The City Hall is a public facility and we feel that the citizens of Johannesburg who wish to hear the sincerely held views of the speakers at our Peace Rally must certainly have a right to do so.

Yours faithfully,

D. Verbeek

C Verbeek
Chairperson (Johannesburg ECC)

Received by: D. J. van der Zanck
(on behalf of the City Council)
Position: Security.
Date: 26.4.86.
Time: 6.52.
Signature: *[Signature]*

End Conscription Campaign

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

30 April 1986

Dear Basil

Thank you for your letter. We are unfortunately unable to provide you with the address you required. We do not have any contact whatever with the Committee on South African War Resisters.

It would be of assistance to you to either write to the Advice Bureau on Military Conscription. They would be able to help. Their address is:

PO Box 7205
Johannesburg
2000

In London you could contact the Catholic Institute for International Relations for advice. Their address is:

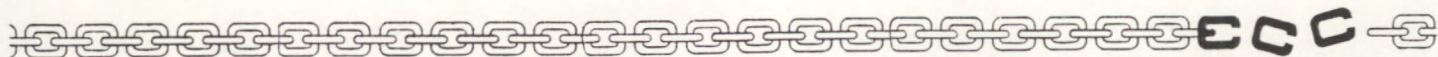
22 Coleman Fields
London N1 7AF

Unfortunately we have run out of T-shirts, but I have included some of our media.

Good Luck!

Yours Sincerely

David Shandler
ECC National Secretary



End Conscription Campaign

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

30 April 1986

Dear Barry

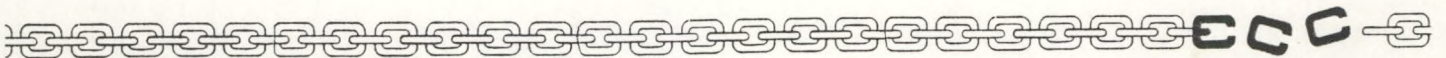
I want to thank you and Manu once again for having us on your programme. It is through situations like this that we truly reach out and are able to hear what people are saying about key issues. We know that there are many people, young and old, and from many walks of life who support us. To hear them directly was thrilling.

We would be very happy to take up your offer of another show.

Thanks for a great show.

Yours in Peace

David Shandler



End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
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30 April 1986

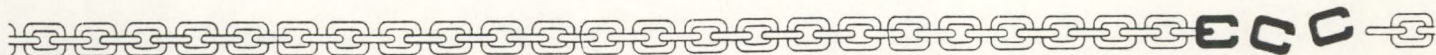
Dear Sister Margaret

It was a joy to receive your kind words and contribution to our campaign. An input such as yours gives us much needed moral support, especially at a time when we are under attack from many powerful sources. These are not easy times for those who oppose conscription. Philip Wilkinson, one of our members and a conscientious objector was just last night aggressively arrested at our public rally in Johannesburg. Our hope is that he is now safe and strong.

In this context your message becomes all the more valuable.

Yours in peace

David Shandler



THE BLACK SASH

PRETORIA BRANCH



DIE SWART SERP

c/o St Andrews
294 Schoeman Street
Pretoria 0002
Tel: 323-4488
18 April 1986

MS DAWN INGLE
ECC
42 DE VILLIERS STREET
JOHANNESBURG
2001

Dear Dawn

Pretoria Sash members send our warmest congratulations to ECC on the magnificent campaign you are fighting. Not only has a great deal of hard work been accomplished, but we think you have shown great initiative and imagination and we are proud of the success you have achieved. Our very best wishes go to all your members. We support you.

With love,

Marian Spiess

MRS.M.SPIES (SECRETARY)
11 Queen Wilhelmina Ave.
Muckleneuk
Pretoria 0002

Box 380

Walfish Bay

Namibia.

21/4/86

Anti Apartheid Campaign,

Dear Sir.

Please could you help!? I am in Walfish Bay, in transit to the UK in July 86 as I have to enter the SADF in the same month later this year. Problem is that I would like to contact the Council for war resisters in either London or Amsterdam on arrival.

I therefore need some sort of contact address, preferably in London. This is a matter of some urgency. I would greatly appreciate it if you would send the information to me, if available as time is getting short.

Keep up the good work. Perhaps you have some sort of material in the line of T-shirts available. If possible could you forward me one large T-shirt, con.

Requies

Basil Graybid. (DR)

End Conscription Campaign

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

21/4/1986

Dear Maggie

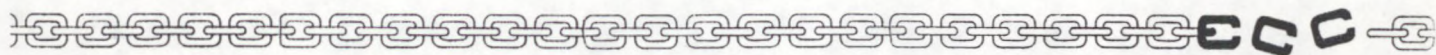
Hi and warm ECC greetings. We are doing well with the WJP - we've recruited about 500 volunteers for the different projects nationally, and while the coverage we have received in the press might have been better, we are still happy with the results so far. Many people have become directly involved in the campaign, ECC is being consolidated at an organizational level, and we are developing our contacts with the black community. This last point is particularly exciting at the moment with a lot of ideas doing the rounds on ways in which to embark on joint actions between black and white democrats.

I have written this letter specifically to send you the details on our work around the cadets issue and in the Afrikaans community. To this end I have enclosed copies of various ECC documents. These are: an assesment of the "Cadets Out" campaign in Cape Town a report on our activities in Stellenbosch, as well as a brief statement put together by the "Afrikaans group" in Johannesburg. This group has been in existence for about a month now and is thriving. Its activities have included the production and distribution of two posters in Afrikaans, the writing of a pamphlet for school students as well as a general brochure on ECC. They have also been busy establishing contacts in Pretoria and Bloemfontein which are both promising, especially the ones in Pretoria.

We are having a National Committee meeting during the first weekend in May where we will be assesing the WJP and doing further planning. I will write to you again after that to bring you up to date on things. I will also be sending out a mailing to all organizations at that time.

Love and solidarity

David Shandler



End Conscription Campaign

End Conscription Campaign

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

18/4/1986

Hi Gavin

Howzeet exe! This letter has fortunately reached you through the good services of Chris Merkeling, an American lawyer at present working at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits. I have included a copy of an earlier letter I sent to you just in case you missed it.

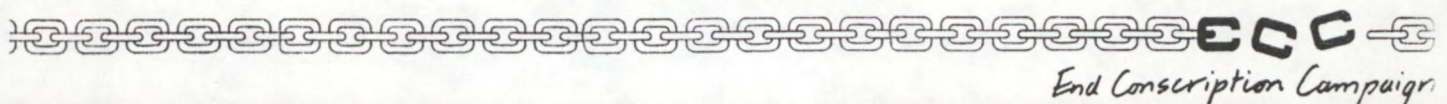
We are still waiting for the bulk of international messages of support to arrive. They could be very useful to us at a press level. Is there anything you could do to have them reach us within a week i.e. before the end of the WJP.

The campaign is going well. We have had something like 500 people nationally getting involved in it. The actual work projects have proved to be important in most cases in developing a spirit of commitment to the ECC. Apparantly in Cape Town where there are something like 300 volunteers they all now consider themselves to be members of ECC. This presents quite a headache for the people down there in terms of defining ongoing areas of involvement. But ECC is creative as ever and solutions are being found. There are a few problems in generating the kind of press publicity we would like for the campaign. The press do not appear to be too stimulated by it. We have however had colour pics on the front pages of the Natal Witness and the Cape Times. The Sunday Star carried a pic of Ian Jeffery last weekend, and of course the Weekly Mail continues to smile on us.

An idea is doing the rounds at the moment that the work projects should be ongoing. This would allow ongoing involvement for people etc. The principle and logistics of the suggestion are still to be discussed.

ECC continues to grow. Laurie, Stevie and Pete Hathorn went to East London, spoke to a few people and feel that there is a certain potential. Middelburg is being followed up next week and the Natal Midlands and Bloemfontein are on the cards for the future. Pretoria continues to look good, so much so that the two groups we have spoken to so far have had to be told to take it easy they are so enthusiastic. Not bad, nê.

Philip has started his national speaking tour and there is no problem at this time.



Yesterday, however, we had our first little bit of sophisticated action from the system in quite a while. A pamphlet appeared in Port Elizabeth purportedly put out by the Philip Wilkinson support group. Its style and layout was identical to a pamphlet published earlier this week by the authentic PWSG. It contained a statement allegedly made by Philip. In it he claimed to no longer be opposed to conscription and that he would do his camp at the end of the month. We released a statement in response.

Another little bit of dirty work. On last Saturday we had the painting of the Peace Ribbon at the Market. It was a very successful event. We spoke to a lot of people, got rid of quite a bit of media and generally raised a lot of interest. Anyway, it was all going well when the joint forces decided to make an appearance at about 1.00pm. They came with one Mello Yellow and another vehicle fitted out with the latest from the line of water cannons. Their TV crew was also very much in attendance recording a very successful ECC event for posterity as well as everybody who was there. After names were taken we were informed that "the matter" would be handed over to the state prosecutor for consideration. A frightfully exiting event all round.

The survey has been finalised and there is a strong feeling that it should not be concluded at the end of May, but that we should carry on with it into June. Other ideas at this stage would be to have a conference at mid-year in Grahamstown, to release a book of the photos from the Cape Town exhibition (Could you possibly see what funds are available for something like this - we would be thinking of a widespread international distribution.)

Another area that it would be worthwhile telling people about is the establishment of a parents group as an ECC sub-committee in Cape Town.

A final request. What are the possibilities on an international and "objective" expert on CO coming to SA to observe Philip's trial if and when it happens. Perhaps there is a UN type who could do this kind of thing.

In struggle

With love

Russid

St Dominic's Neitiate
P.O. Box 18
Wittebome
Cape 7840
18-04-1986

Dear David

We were doing part of the Peace Ribbon for the Cape Town E.C.C. group but we did not have it finished when Paula was sending her collection on. She suggested that I send it directly to you so that you could pass it on to the person responsible for the project.

I pray that your efforts towards construction have been supported as were those of the E.C.C. here in Cape Town and that the

message will be heard by
those who close their eyes to
an alternative way of serving
your country.

May you go from strength to
strength and may God bless you
and all the young people who
work for a better future for
all in this land.

Yours sincerely
Sister Margaret Wall O.P.

78611589

REN. D. THOMPSON

VALK 1

BRAVO COY

1 PARACHUTE BATTALION

PVT. BAG 40008

TEMPE

9318

13 APRIL 1986

Dear Sirs

I am very intrested in becoming involved in the End Conscription Campaign and would greatly appreciate any information on the subject such as if their is membership etc.

Enclosed is R4.50 for the workers dairy and R16.00 for the ^(B5) ECC COMPILATION - Forces Favorites. Please note that the record must be sent c/o Miss F. VAN RENSBURG

18 ELPHIN ST.

KENMARE

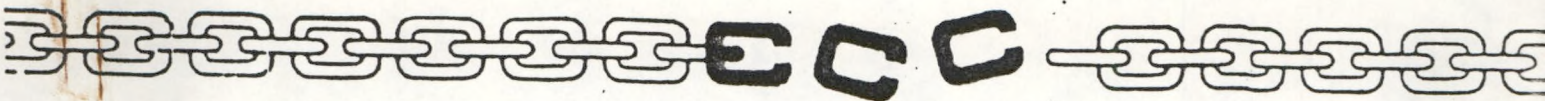
TRUGERSDORP

1740

15/5/86

The other information and workers dairy to myself at address on top of page.

Thanks
Dave



End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Str
Johannesburg
2001
1/4/86

Dear Alida

This is a very belated response to you concerning your request for a submission from ECC for inclusion in the special South African edition of the journal you work on. I sincerely hope it is not too late for inclusion. We believe that ECC is assuming a prominent place in the public life of our country and consequently this should be reflected in a review of contemporary South Africa. Even more significantly the very issue of the military is of the utmost importance and cannot be ignored.

I hope that what I have enclosed is satisfactory. Vaun Cornell who informed of your request also said that our submission did not have to be of an academic nature or that it had to be a newly written piece. Well, what is enclosed certainly falls into that category on both counts. It is an updated version of an article first published in May last year in an edition of South African Outlook, a radical christian publication. The article is a review of resistance to conscription in South Africa since its inception in the 1960s. It also concentrates on the role and growth of the ECC. As the original article is nearly a year old and much has happened in the intervening period I have included numbered amendments to the text. There are corresponding numbers in the original. I do apologise for sending you the article in this form but real limitations on time and a campaign which starts today prevented a neatly typed manuscript from getting off to you at this time.

I have also enclosed a few items of ECC media concerning the current campaign.

I hope all goes well.

Yours in the struggle for peace and justice

David Shandler (National Secretary)

AMENDMENTS

INTRODUCTION

From small meetings of just a few hundred people to mass rallies of thousands- this is the progress of the End Conscription Campaign. Over the past two years there has been an ever greater mobilization of white South Africans in opposition to the system of conscription into the SADF. It is whites in South Africa who are conscripted into the SADF.

(1)

Between July 1984 and November 1985 758 applied to the board. Of these 12 were refused alternative service.

(2)

Of significance is the fact that ECC has reached to sympathetic constituencies in the Afrikaans-speaking community. It is in this group that there has traditionally been the most support for government policies. Prospects of establishing campaign structures in at least three predominantly Afrikaans-speaking towns are good.

(3)

During 1985 ECC held a national Peace Festival in Johannesburg which was attended by approximately three thousand people. It marked the point at which a well-coordinated and truly national campaign against the militarization of South African society came into existence. It also saw ECC establish a broad network of international contacts. These contacts were expanded on during the "Troops Out of the Townships" campaign held in October 1985. This campaign was used to put forward the popular demand for a troop withdrawal from the townships. The specific demand calling for troops to be given the right to choose whether to serve in the townships was also made. An aspect of the campaign was a national

three week fast by ECC members. It served to mobilize much public support for the fasters as well as their demands for a just peace, a troop withdrawal from the townships, and an end to conscription. Public meetings and church services were held to conclude the fast. 4000 people attended the meeting in Cape Town, a clear indication of growing support. It should be noted that public meetings of this size in the white community are most unusual, especially where it has been called by an extra-parliamentary grouping.

In the first half of 1986 the ECC is concentrating on a campaign of symbolic work projects. These will serve both as a protest against the system of conscription, as well as present examples of realistic alternatives to compulsory military service. In projects such as working at township creches or assisting with the projects run by the residents of a resettlement camp the ECC intends to expose the states definition of service in the SADF as being patriotic is misfounded. Furthermore the way in which projects have been determined has been important. These have been decided on only once there had been full consultation with the community concerned. Through highlighting this process the ECC is showing the way to a democratic process of deciding on what is an appropriate way of serving the nation. This serves to further expose the stat's notion of patriotism. Through the campaign a concerted secondary demand would be one calling for a broadening of the current definition of what constitutes a conscientious objector by law.

1986 has seen the growth of ECC's international contacts. As well as speaking at a number of conferences in Europe and India, it has also presented evidence to the United Nations on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

(4)


State attacks on ECC have been wide ranging. Various forms of repression form part of an attempt to undermine, discredit, and intimidate the campaign. These include the detention of members, security police raids on ECC meetings and on ECC members homes, restrictions on member organizations, banning of ECC meetings, visa restrictions, verbal attacks by senior cabinet members and SADF officers, and the banning of ECC publications. The right wing press has also launched smear attacks on the campaign, and physical attacks have been made on individual members.

(5)

The increasing use over the past year and a half of SADF troops to contain township resistance has sharpened the crisis of conscience for white conscripts.

(6)

It is particularly significant that this growth has occurred in the white community. Through expressing support for the ECC large numbers of whites are showing their disaffection for the apartheid government and the role played by its defence force. They are at the same time encouraging the growth of a non-racial consciousness by being an example to whites and blacks alike that not all members of the white community form part of the pro-apartheid camp.



End Coiscription Campaign

227 Khotso House.
42 De Villiers St
Johannesburg.
14th February 1986.

Dear Howard,

Greetings From ECC! You must be back in London from India by now. I hope that the rest of your stay there was as exciting as Pete and myself found it. You really deserved a good rest after such a successful and superbly organized Triennial.

I've discussed the WRI trip to SA with the ECC National Committee which is very enthusiastic about it. We are a little concerned about the proposed dates though. Dr. Kistner, head of the SACC Justice and Reconciliation Commission, feels that WRI is too specialist an organisation for the SACC to host on its own. He feels that ECC should take primary responsibility for hosting you, with SACC playing a back-up role. If this is the case, we would prefer the trip to be after our April alternative service campaign. Before then we would not have the organizational capacity to organise things properly.

So how would mid-May suit you? You can liase with David Shandler, our National Secretary who is staffing our new national office in Johannesburg. David will be responsible for co-ordinating the tour nationally.

We've just completed our January National Conference where we assessed our work over the past year and started planning for 1986. A copy of the Conference minutes is enclosed.

Howard, have the books finally balanced for our tour? If so, is it possible for us to have the amount spent from our own money, of which I spoke to you about claiming back.

We're looking forward to seeing you later in the year.

All strength.

Love
Laurie.

Goatonsorum
11/4/86

Dearest
Hey there! How's it going? The WSP
really seems to be budding, nationally.
All our branches are reporting great
successes. This letter deals firstly with
a proposed national committee agenda,
and secondly with a motivation to continue
the WSP projects after April.
Why am I writing at such a stupid
angle? Well may you ask.

National Committee Agenda

Last year we decided to draw up national committee agendas early and send them to all the regions. This would allow us to discuss national issues on the basis of the feelings of our respective general bodies. It will obviously be difficult to discuss fully all the agenda items, what with WSP on the go, so I've indicated with a star those areas that would be particularly useful to have been discussed in regions before national committee meets.

In no particular order:

- 1) Finances
- 2) ECC expansion
 - developments within Afrikaner communities (Stellenbosch, Pretoria, Jhb Afrikaner sub-committee)
 - East London, Middleburg, Knysna, Bloemfontein
- * 3) December Cultural Festival
 - discussion of ideas from regions so far, and process from now
- 4) International work
 - report backs of Gavin and Janet's tours
 - international correspondence
 - * - process of national decision-making around ECC reps on overseas tours
- 5) Harassment of ECC and security issues
- 6) Jyeldenhuis Committee
- 7) Philip Wilkinson
- * 8) May Survey Campaign
- * 9) July National Conference
 - at the ECC Conference in January we did not make a

decision on whether we would have another conference this July. I would motivate that we do: ECC will have had two national campaigns that need to be assessed nationally; the Conference will be the only opportunity to discuss in a national forum the Giddings Committee's report, the December Cultural Festival and the National Publication; the Conference will provide an opportunity for sub-comm to meet on an interregional basis, and for new ECC members and branches to get a national feel for ECC.

I propose: (a) that the Conference concentrate on practical planning and assessment, and on interregional sub-comm discussions; (b) that we have it in Lybhamtown on the 5th and 6th of July. The motivation for this is that: the Lybhamtown Festival, which many ECC culture comm. members will be attending and participating in, ends on the 4th; Lybhamtown is geographically central; it is also in a region with two, possibly three branches. The Lybhamtown ECC Exec has endorsed this proposal.

10) National co-ordination and structures

- the national office and national organiser
- regional workers
- campus ECC co-ordination

11) Regional report - books

* 12) Assessment of WTP

* 13) National publication

14) "I would have made a good Pope" (Richard Nixon)

- Steve to lead discussion

15) Other ideas

It obviously may not be possible to have full ^{regional} assessments of the WSP before national committee meets. If it is possible, the following framework for assessment might be useful, and would provide us with a common basis for assessment:

- i) Discuss the most important strengths and weaknesses of the WSP
- ii) Assess ECC's public gains in terms of:
 - getting the themes of the WSP across to the public, and winning support for our interim demands
 - public meetings, symbolic actions and other public activities
 - the VIP demands
 - press
 - the public impact of the projects
 - different target groups (students, pupils, churches etc)
 - building links with the black community
 - local media
- iii) Assess ECC's internal development around the campaign in terms of:
 - national co-ordination (media, logo, brochure, national office)
 - recruitment and training of volunteers, and maintaining their involvement
 - affiliate's participation
 - sub-comm participation
 - internal planning and co-ordination

Proposal 'to stay with the projects'!

Had an idea: that ECC continues working on WSP-type projects after the campaign is over. I thought that I should write to you motivating the idea now, rather than waiting to raise it at National Committee, so that it can be discussed with the project volunteers at the end of April.

In the course of conceptualising the WSP, we were clear that while the projects would provide some service to black (and white) communities, they were essentially protest and symbolic in nature. We were clear that ECC was not about to become a peace corps or a service organisation like Shauco, and that the projects were of a limited time duration.

I think that we conceptualised the projects correctly, but need now, in the light of the WSP so far, to reconsider our position that the projects end with the campaign.

The projects are attracting a large number of volunteers, and generating much excitement amongst our affiliates and within the white community. Through the projects we are making powerful statements about the nature of constructive alternative service while conscription exists, and about the circumstances under which white youth ought to go into black townships. Above all, for the white community, we are seen to be doing and not 'just talking and protesting'.

The black community, through the organisations we consulted,

has been overwhelmingly positive. In addition to the political statements behind the projects, our presence is an important means of countering the anti-white feelings caused by the actions of the security forces.

I can't see any conceptual problems with ECC continuing to make these statements by undertaking similar projects after the WSP. The aim of the projects would still be primarily educative and protest-orientated rather than primarily service-orientated. They would give ECC's national character a fantastic new dimension; and as long as we act only after full consultation with community leaders we can avoid the dangers of dependency and paternalism.

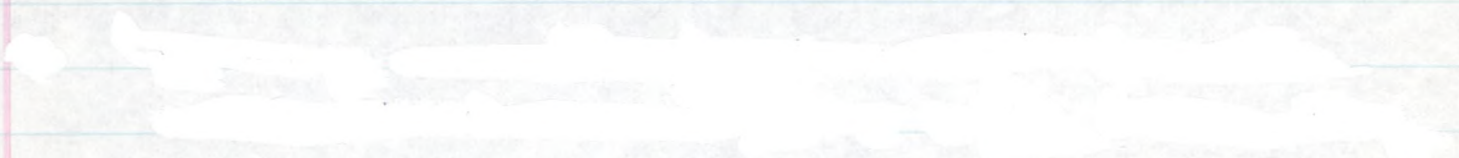
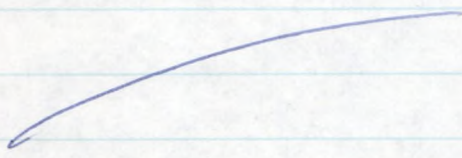
The practical considerations are obviously also important to work through. They need to be assessed by each region in terms of both its organisational strength and the nature and logistics of future project work.

In organisational terms: some regions may not have the capacity to undertake such projects in the long term; others may want to take up the occasional project periodically; and the larger regions could consider forming new projects sub-committees - this would obviously be an ideal way of maintaining the involvement of the current volunteers.

Regions would also need to work out the practical dimensions of the projects: long or short term projects? regular or monthly weekend work? including projects under the auspices of welfare organisations? joint projects with black organisations? etc.

My feeling about the process of discussing this idea further is that regions should discuss it if they want to and should then have autonomy to decide on whether to go for it or not. Please let me know if you feel that an idea of this kind requires national discussion before regions make their decisions.

Lets get our hands dirty!
The Bricklayer.





End Conscription Campaign

Room 227
Khotso House
42 De Villiers Str.
Johannesburg.
25 April 1986.

Dear Brother Neil,

On behalf of the ECC Executive and those who participated in the Children's Peace Holiday Programme, I would like to thank you for the use of one of the school's combis.

It certainly eased the burden of transporting 30 volunteers each day to Westbury township, as well as providing the opportunity for the volunteers to get to know each other. A fair amount of singing and planning happened on each days trip out to the centre.

I have enclosed a cheque in lieu of payment for the petrol. We travelled approximately 30kms a day. The amount is worked out at 28 cents a km, giving an amount of R33.60.

Once again many thanks for the generous offer of the kombi.

In Peace,

A Kirsten

Adèle Kirsten. (ECC Exec. Secretary.)

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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