

End Conscription Campaign

*Jhb. Kaizer**Rhodes Hse
42 de Ollers
St.*

AFFILIATE NEWSLETTER, NO 1, JANUARY 1986.

In our assessments of 1985, the End Conscription Campaign identified on numerous occasions the need to develop more enthusiastic and clearly-defined relationships with our affiliate organisations. As a first step towards this, we have decided to keep you informed of our activities and plans through a monthly newsletter for affiliates. We hope that we will be able to report on activities which you, as affiliates, are embarking on in relation to the call to end conscription. And we hope that together we will be able to strengthen and build ECC as a front of organisations and individuals.

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We wrote you last year in connection with the election of a new executive for ECC. The results of the election were as follows:

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Secretary : Adele Kirsten
Treasurer : Stephen Lowry
Publicity Officer: Anne-Marie Rademeyer
Internal Liaison : Gavin Evans

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MEETINGS BETWEEN AFFILIATES AND ECC

ECC would like to arrange meetings with the executives and ECC representatives of all our affiliates. We would like to discuss each of our organisational priorities, the role of organisational representatives to ECC and ways of developing strong links between affiliates and ECC. This would start to build the dynamic kind of relationship we would like to see developing between affiliates and ECC, and would help us to strengthen ECC as a front.

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We in ECC feel that the Working for Just Peace Campaign (WJP) has tremendous potential to draw people from the white constituency into active support for the campaign to end conscription. Our challenge can only be strengthened through the involvement and support of conscripts and their families in both the English and Afrikaans communities, school students, professionals etc.

The success and impact of our campaign, however, will depend on the involvement and commitment of our member organisations and affiliates. We would like you to advertise WJP amongst all your members, and to stimulate discussion about the campaign.

But most importantly, we would like you to use all the channels available to you to obtain firm commitments for work in the WJP campaign. We need volunteers for:

- * Conducting a survey on militarisation and conscription
 - * Painting ECC's contribution to the Peace ribbon
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- Through this programme we will make clear our opposition to conscription and at the same time our preparedness to work for peace for all in South Africa.

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Other plans for the campaign include a non-racial picnic and a public meeting. The meeting will be held on 30 April in the Johannesburg City Hall. Speakers will include Dr Alex Borainne and Laurie Nathan.

If members of your organisation would like to participate in the WJP, please telephone Clare (6489282) or Gavin (6484266).

OPEN FORUM ON THE SADF AND HEALTH SERVICES.

The past few months have seen the controversial involvement of the SADF in the Baragwanath strike and in the removal of records from the Alexandra Clinic. What is the effect of such actions on the well-being of the community? Come and hear Dr Tim Wilson from the Alex Clinic and a Bara doctor explain. Thursday 13 March, 8pm. Trinity Hall, Braamfontein Catholic Church (just below Dental School).

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Our National Office has been established in room 227/229, Khotso House, 42 De villiers Street, Johannesburg. Our National Secretary, David Shandler, is in attendance. Phone him at 3376796.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

If you wish to make use of any of ECC's resources, please contact Clare (6489282). We have available

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- * A video of the 1985 Peace Festival (45 Minutes)
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B1.5

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Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

JOHANNESBURG ECC: AFFILIATE NEWSLETTER NO 3, MARCH/APRIL 1986

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We are now 2 weeks into our W.J.P. campaign, and things are going well. We are inundated with volunteers for our various projects and are really encouraged by the public response to the campaign.

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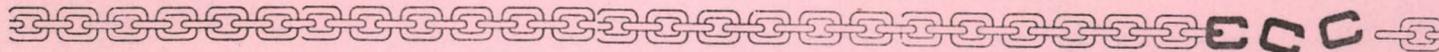
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& SUN 20th handicapped, corner Jan Beam and Cavendish Streets, Eldorado Park. Bring along something to eat and drink as well as your gardening tools. Vegetable seedlings and hardy shrubs would also be appreciated.
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- * SUN 27th : Come to the ECC picnic at Zoo Lake. Bring lots of family and friends and your eats and drinks. If you are a keen kite flyer, why not make one with an ECC slogan, and bring it along too.
- * TUES 29th: MASS PEACE RALLY IN JOHANNESBURG CITY HALL, 8 pm.
Speakers include Rev Tsele (SPCC), Dr Alex Boraine, Mrs Albertina Sisulu, Philip Wilkenson (Conscientious Objector), Dawn Ingle (Black Sash) and Laurie Nathan (ECC National Organiser).

We are expecting a few thousand people at the Peace Rally, and would like to affiliates to put forward the names of volunteers to help with marshalling. Please try to get names to Marlene (phone 614-4291) by Wednesday 23rd. This is really important.

2. ECC PRESENTS EVIDENCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Johannesburg ECC executive member is at present representing ECC in the United States. On the anniversary of the Sharpsville and Langa massacres, he addressed a special sitting of the United Nations, and presented a 200 page document which details reasons for ending conscription in South Africa.



ECC
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Gavin put forward five requests to the UN on behalf of ECC:

- * All member countries were called upon to do everything in their power to end apartheid and to see to the speedy implementation of a non-racial and democratic society.
- * ECC called on all UN member countries to provide support for those who in conscience refuse to serve in the SADF.
- * UN member nations were asked to seriously consider the implications of deals with the SADF.
- * ECC called on all member nations to do everything in their power to ensure that UNITA, the MNR and other Southern African dissident groups are isolated from support.
- * ECC called for action to see to the speedy and unconditional implementation of independence for Namibia through the implementation of UN Resolution 435.

3. PHILIP WILKENSON

You will remember that Philip Wilkenson, an ECC member in Port Elizabeth was recently refused recognition as a Conscientious Objector. Philip has now received a call-up for a camp in the townships, and is prepared to go to jail rather than obey this order. In his statement to the Board for Religious Objectors, Philip wrote

" I decided to object...for I knew exactly what these camps mean. They meant I was being called upon by the SADF to fight in the townships against people I had grown to know and trust. I saw the use of the army in the townships as fundamentally in opposition to my Christian beliefs. Moreover, I was now being asked to defend apartheid, which I understood to be a heresy. A system which by virtue of its existence had by that time first denied citizenship to, and then arrested, seventeen million people under the pass laws. Three million citizens had been removed from one area to another to suit apartheid greed, splitting up many productive and integrated communities ...That these and many other unChristian acts have been carried out systematically and in such a large and wealthy land as ours, I believe to be a crime against humanity. "

Philip faces 2 years and 9 months in jail. He will be the first person for a number of years to serve a jail sentence for Conscientious Objection. But he is not the only person whose moral, religious or political beliefs make it difficult or impossible to serve in an SADF which invades townships and foreign countries. The greatest support we can show for him is to renew our work against the system of conscription.

But we know that it might take a long time for Conscription to be ended. In the meantime ECC calls for:

- * The rights to conscientious objection to be granted on ethical, moral, political as well as religious grounds.
- * The length of alternative service to be the same as that for military service, not a punitive one-and-a-half times the length.
- * Alternative Service to be available in non-governmental organisations.

Philip will be in Johannesburg towards the end of the month and will address the Mass Rally on the 29th. He would also like to meet with members of ECC's affiliates to explain his position. We will be contacting you about this later, but at this stage, could all member organisations consider how best to publicise Philip's courageous stand amongst their members.

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AFFILIATE NEWSLETTER , JOHANNESBURG , 9 SEPTEMBER 1986

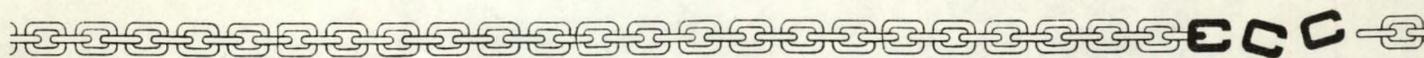
Like many other organisations, ECC has been badly affected by the State of Emergency. We have been restricted by Proclamation R 109, 1986 which makes it an offence to "incite... to discredit or undermine the system of compulsory military service." In addition, 49 ECC members have been detained, ten of whom are still being held. Many members have had their homes or offices raided. One has been issued with deportation orders and two have been forced to leave the country.

Yet, ECC's activities continue. We have instructed lawyers to challenge in court the clause restricting ECC. ECC has helped to organise and provide speakers for the 'Right to Know' public meetings held in Johannesburg, Durban and Pietermaritzburg, and organised a successful public meeting entitled "ECC Speaks" in Cape Town. ECC also recently gave evidence on human rights violations pertaining to ECC to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Programmes of education to develop our understanding of the conflict in South Africa and its solution are being very successfully run in some centres and media continues to be distributed throughout South Africa.

At this time of escalating violence, more and more people are longing for peace and looking for alternatives. Surely one of the ways to stop this war is to stop people being forced to participate in it? So ECC has a role of tremendous importance to play and it is essential that our voice be heard. It is not only our right to speak, but our duty to speak out loudly and clearly. To this end, we are campaigning for our right to speak and we hope that your organisation will support us in this. As part of this campaign we have had postcards printed, addressed to President Botha and Colin Eglin, calling on them to lift the restrictions on ECC. We would like as many people as possible to sign a postcard, stamp it and post it.

We would appreciate it if you could advertise our campaign among your members and consider ways in which your organisation could contribute to it. Now, more than ever, ECC needs the active support of our affiliates.

Yours for a Just Peace, Johannesburg End Conscription Campaign.



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* Bl. Sash. Good mtg.

V.I.P. march.
Dawn help org.
Peace Ribbon wrap.

* C's memorandum
edited version.
Rally.

① Street:
large meeting.
Move into workgrps → elect rep
to st. comm. - imp. to have ppl/rep.
Steering Comm. to facilitate → gen
body.

② Draw inds. into orgs already
existing. →
brief. demand census for setting
in new grps - that OK. but
Q?
PPP W/force.

1. WHAT WE WANT TO DO WITH NEWSLETTER,
WHO IT'S AIMED AT

- raise ECC profile
- raise our point of view on mil issue - keep informed; give method
- Aim at affiliates.
- create alternative political centre in white community
 - information is not neutral → analysis from our pol. point of view
- aimed at adult audience.

Aimed at - affiliates

- churches - SACC
- youth groups
- Habonim
- PFP
- Race Relations
- Key Press People
- Women for Peace
- UDF X
- FONS
- Campus X
- National Distribution

general: 1. Aim at liberal white constituency

2. Not aimed at drawing people into ECC; more general profile raising of issue.

3. Could aim at youth/conscriptees as well as adult audience

2. IMPLICATIONS FOR CONTENT

- creating climate of debate;
- must raise questions about Role of SADF
- needs analysis
- make people think.
- continually refer to what content means for an ECC campaign and conscriptees.
- international focus may be appropriate at times (eg CND + Mrs. Kent)



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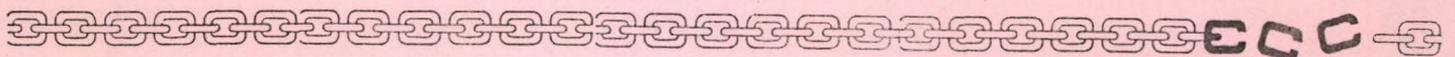
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You will remember that Philip Wilkenson, an ECC member in Port Elizabeth was recently refused recognition as a Conscientious Objector. Philip has now received a call-up for a camp in the townships, and is prepared to go to jail rather than obey this order. In his statement to the Board for Religious Objectors, Philip wrote

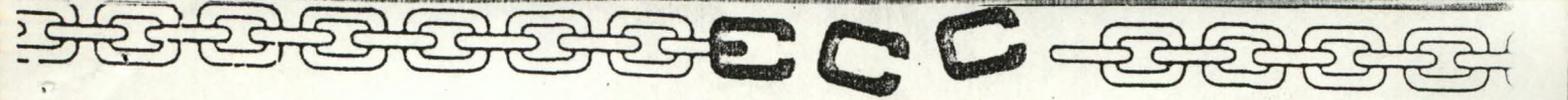
" I decided to object...for I knew exactly what these camps mean. They meant I was being called upon by the SADF to fight in the townships against people I had grown to know and trust. I saw the use of the army in the townships as fundamentally in opposition to my Christian beliefs. Moreover, I was now being asked to defend apartheid, which I understood to be a heresy. A system which by virtue of its existence had by that time first denied citizenship to, and then arrested, seventeen million people under the pass laws. Three million citizens had been removed from one area to another to suit apartheid greed, splitting up many productive and integrated communities ...That these and many other unChristian acts have been carried out systematically and in such a large and wealthy land as ours, I believe to be a crime against humanity. "

Philip faces 2 years and 9 months in jail. He will be the first person for a number of years to serve a jail sentence for Conscientious Objection. But he is not the only person whose moral, religious or political beliefs make it difficult or impossible to serve in an SADF which invades townships and foreign countries. The greatest support we can show for him is to renew our work against the system of conscription.

But we know that it might take a long time for Conscription to be ended. In the meantime ECC calls for:

- * The rights to conscientious objection to be granted on ethical, moral, political as well as religious grounds.
- * The length of alternative service to be the same as that for military service, not a punitive one-and-a-half times the length.
- * Alternative Service to be available in non-governmental organisations.

Philip will be in Johannesburg towards the end of the month and will address the Mass Rally on the 29th. He would also like to meet with members of ECC's affiliates to explain his position. We will be contacting you about this later, but at this stage, could all member organisations consider how best to publicise Philip's courageous stand amongst their members.



End Conscription Campaign

227 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
JOHANNESBURG 2001
20 March 1986

TEL: 3376796

The ECC would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in our house meeting programme.

The End Conscription Campaign is an umbrella body of organisations and individuals who believe that it is the moral right of individuals to choose whether or not to serve in the SADF. We are concerned about the conflict which is dividing our country. We are concerned about the role which the SADF plays inside the country and beyond our borders. We are concerned about the effects of conscription and increasing militarisation in our society. We are committed to working towards a just and peaceful South Africa.

We believe there are many people who would be interested in discussing the question of conscription and to hear more about the ECC. We would like to organise a series of house meetings where such discussions could be generated.

Would you be prepared to host such a meeting in your home ?

We would like to suggest that those who participate in the house meeting programme invite, say, 10 of their friends to the meeting, asking each to bring along one other person. The ECC would be prepared to provide input to the meeting in the form of video or slide material about the ECC and the role of the SADF, and by providing further information about the ECC. Discussion could either be very general or focus on issues which are particularly close to the hearts of those who attend the meetings (for example, mothers may wish to discuss with black mothers about the effect of the SADF presence in the townships).

Please contact me at the above number (preferably on Tuesdays or Thursdays) if you would like to participate in the house meeting programme, or for further information. We believe that our contribution to a Just Peace in South Africa can only be strengthened by the involvement and interest of as many people as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Verbeek



End Conscription Campaign

AFFILIATE NEWSLETTER, NO 1, JANUARY 1986.

In our assessments of 1985, the End Conscription Campaign identified on numerous occasions the need to develop more enthusiastic and clearly-defined relationships with our affiliate organisations. As a first step towards this, we have decided to keep you informed of our activities and plans through a monthly newsletter for affiliates. We hope that we will be able to report on activities which you, as affiliates, are embarking on in relation to the call to end conscription. And we hope that together we will be able to strengthen and build ECC as a front of organisations and individuals.

ELECTION OF 1986 EXECUTIVE

We wrote you last year in connection with the election of a new executive for ECC. The results of the election were as follows:

Chairperson: Clare Verbeek (Phone 6489282)
Secretary : Adele Kirsten
Treasurer : Stephen Lowry
Publicity Officer: Anne-Marie Rademeyer
Internal Liaison : Gavin Evans

NATIONAL CONFERENCE, 1986

ECC will be holding its second National Conference in Durban from 31st January to 2nd February this year. This annual gathering is our National policy-making forum, and provides one of the few opportunities for cross-regional discussion and planning. As we may only send a delegation of 20 people, we will be having a full report-back session on Thursday 6th February at 8pm at
Any one from the affiliates who is interested is welcome to attend this meeting.

VIDEO EVENING

Those of you who attended ECC'S "Stop the Call-up Peace Festival" last June will remember what an exciting, inspiring weekend it was. We now have a video of the festival highlights which we will be showing, together with a more entertaining film, on Friday 7th February at 8pm at 37 Olivea Road, Berea. It would be ideal to encourage all members of your organisation, and especially those who know little about ECC, to come along to this evening. Please bring a cushion.

MEETINGS BETWEEN AFFILIATES AND ECC

ECC would like to arrange meetings with the executives and ECC representatives of all our affiliates. We would like to discuss each of our organisational priorities, the role of organisational representatives to ECC and ways of developing strong links between affiliates and ECC. This would start to build the dynamic kind of relationship we would like to see developing between affiliates and ECC, and would help us to strengthen ECC as a front.

We will be contacting you telephonically to arrange these meetings, but would appreciate it if you could begin to give thought to the nature of your organisation's participation in ECC and how it could be improved.

ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE CAMPAIGN

ECC will be embarking on a national campaign presenting a positive alternative to military national service. This will take place somewhere in late March. We would be presenting a critique of national service as presently defined, by raising our objections to conscription on the basis of the role of the SADF in our society. However, we would also be presenting a positive alternative to military service by actively involving ourselves in projects which are serving the interests of the majority of South African citizens. In this way we would be demanding national service that would be based on the real material needs of the people, in consultation with organisations truly representative of the people. Within this presentation of real alternatives we would be able to present a critique of religious alternative service, which at the moment is only available to a small group of individuals, and is in the service of an unrepresentative government.

Such a campaign holds the potential to involve and excite the public in a similar way to the fast. We would hope to involve a large number of sympathetic people in the actions which we choose to carry out. In this way we could use the campaign for actively expanding ECC and consolidating our committee.

We are still in the process of deciding on actions suitable for this campaign, and would really value ideas from discussion you might have in your organisation about it.

We would also welcome ideas in formulating our understanding of what we would regard as true national service.

ECC STALL

Please advertise the fact that ECC will run a stall at one of Johannesburg's open air markets on the last Saturday of each month. The next one will be at the Yeoville Market on 25th January. Our record, Forces Favourites, and a selection of new t-shirts and buttons will be on sale.



End Conscription Campaign

JOHANNESBURG AFFILIATE NEWSLETTER NO. 2, FEBRUARY 1986.

WORKING FOR A JUST PEACE CAMPAIGN.

In August last year, ECC representatives gave evidence before the Geldenhuys Committee which is examining, amongst other things, the question of conscription. We told General Geldenhuys that until conscription is ended, we believe that anyone who finds himself unable to serve in the SADF should be allowed to do a realistic and non-punative period of useful alternative non-military service.

In March and April this year, we will be taking this demand further. Our WORKING FOR A JUST PEACE CAMPAIGN will be making a POSITIVE and SYMBOLIC PROTEST AGAINST CONSCRIPTION into the SADF. Throughout the country, thousands of volunteers will be working on projects of the type which could be of benefit to all South Africans. By doing this, we will challenge Apartheid's definition of National Service. We will involve our supporters in an active demonstration of their commitment to working towards a peaceful future for all in South Africa. And we will strengthen through action our demand that all people should have the right to choose whether or not to serve their country by defending apartheid in the SADF.

We in ECC feel that the Working for Just Peace Campaign (WJP) has tremendous potential to draw people from the white constituency into active support for the campaign to end conscription. Our challenge can only be strengthened through the involvement and support of conscripts and their families in both the English and Afrikaans communities, school students, professionals etc.

The success and impact of our campaign, however, will depend on the involvement and commitment of our member organisations and affiliates. We would like you to advertise WJP amongst all your members, and to stimulate discussion about the campaign.

But most importantly, we would like you to use all the channels available to you to obtain firm commitments for work in the WJP campaign. We need volunteers for:

- * Conducting a survey on militarisation and conscription
- * Painting ECC's contribution to the Peace ribbon
- * Running a Children's Holiday Programme in Coronationville from 1st to 6th April. The Concerned Social Workers are working jointly with us in planning and running this programme. It will involve training 30 volunteers in non-violent and co-operative methods to run the activities of the programme from 9.00-1.30 from Tuesday to Friday that week. There are plans for a festival or parade on the Saturday morning.

Through this programme we will make clear our opposition to conscription and at the same time our preparedness to work for peace for all in South Africa.

- * Planting a park for Mentally Handicapped Children in Eldorado park (19/20 April). We need people to plan, to collect plants and to plant them out.
- * Host house-meetings around the themes of militarisation and conscription in South Africa. In particular, we would like to get a series of mothers' meetings going, at which the choices facing young men in terms of the army and school cadets could be discussed, and which could provide some support for the mothers of conscripts.

Other plans for the campaign include a non-racial picnic and a public meeting. The meeting will be held on 30 April in the Johannesburg City Hall. Speakers will include Dr Alex Borainne and Laurie Nathan.

If members of your organisation would like to participate in the WJP, please telephone Clare (6489282) or Gavin (6484266).

OPEN FORUM ON THE SADF AND HEALTH SERVICES.

The past few months have seen the controversial involvement of the SADF in the Baragwanath strike and in the removal of records from the Alexandra Clinic. What is the effect of such actions on the well-being of the community? Come and hear Dr Tim Wilson from the Alex Clinic and a Bara doctor explain. Thursday 13 March, 8pm. Trinity Hall, Braamfontein Catholic Church (just below Dental School).

ECC OFFICE.

Our National Office has been established in room 227/229, Khotso House, 42 De Villiers Street, Johannesburg. Our National Secretary, David Shandler, is in attendance. Phone him at 3376796.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

If you wish to make use of any of ECC's resources, please contact Clare (6489282). We have available

- * A slide and tape show on militarisation and the role of the SADF. (20 minutes)
- * A video of the 1985 Peace Festival (45 Minutes)
- * An information package on ECC and opposition to conscription
- * A selection of t-shirts, buttons and a new (and stunning) Declaration Poster. Please let us know if you are having a meeting at which these can be sold.

NON VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION WORKSHOP.

This will be on 23 March from 9 to 5 at Trinity House, Braamfontein Catholic Church. Richard Steele and Anita Kromberg of Durban ECC will run the workshop. All are welcome.

ECC INFORMATION MEETINGS.

These are important for all new members of your organisation. One will be held on 11 March at 205 Highlands Road, Kensington. The next will be on 15 April. Please encourage people to attend.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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