

Service Civil International

Deutscher Zweig e.V. / früher: Internationaler Zivildienst e.V. / gemeinnütziger Verein



SCI, Blücherstraße 14, D-5300 Bonn 1

Laurie Nathan
END conscription campaign
37 Polo Road
Observatory, Capetown 7925
South Africa

Mitglied im

- Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) bei der UNESCO
- Deutschen Paritätischen Wohlfahrtsverband (DPWV), Landesverband NRW
- Arbeitskreis Lernen und Helfen in Übersee (AKLHÜ)
- Konsultativer Status beim Europarat

09.01.1986

Dear Laurie,

from our European Secretariat I received information about the END conscription campaign and your plans for a study-tour in spring. We'll discuss possibilities of cooperation during the next European Committee meeting and a special conference on international projects in London, 25.-25. February 1986. With our International president, Nigel Watt, I'll discuss also ways of practical support. You may have heard from Klaus Fichter in Antwerpen that the German SCI Branch is preparing a new medical solidarity project for the SWAPO in a joint Antipartheid Campaign with other christian action groups.

We are very much interested in your plans to renovate Ghandi house near Durban and the construction of the hospital in Cross roads. Please send us more detailed information about your activities and these two projects.

With best wishes for your work,
amitiés

Christoph Müller
National Chairman



Rainbowgroup/GRAEL - peace and disarmament affairs
Christine Merkel
Rue Belliard 79 - 81
B-1040 Brussels

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Europese Gemeenschappen
EUROPEES PARLEMENT

Laurie Nathan
ECC
Khotso House
42, De Villiers Street
Johannesburg 2000
South Africa

Brussels, 30.1.1986

Dear Laurie,

thank you very much for your kind letter and the excellent material I received both from David Shandler and you. Good to hear ^{that} you are safe and sound back to South Africa - I'm sure you returned with a huge amount of impressions, ideas and tasks and Peter and you did a lot to spread the knowledge about your work.

David Shandler's letter arrived Friday, 10.1. and yours 20.1, including the draft you had worked out. Unfortunately I had to prepare the resolution already Saturday/Sunday 11./12.1., because it had to be ready for the 13.1. (meeting of the development commission the day after). Because of this pressure of time I couldn't even contact David Blackman for advice.

But as I compared my draft with yours (I enclose the original and a unofficial translation of content), I discovered that I had taken up all the issues you mentioned, with slight differences in style and details. I stuck quite a lot to the UN resolutions and the excellent documentation of ECC (Geldenhuis Comm). The only difference I see in number 7, where I chose a general formula including all persons, groups and organisations working on CO (7 iv) - I would have liked to mention ECC explicitly, but it was too late to change the text and Brigitte Heinrich had left already for Swaziland, when I got your letter. Nevertheless, I hope very much that the text meets your expectations, and, I also hope that it will be voted by a majority. The assembly is still ongoing and I didn't have the result yet.

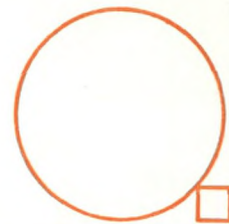
I'll keep you informed on anything happening. I enclose the text voted by ACP-EEC assembly in September 1985, it's interesting, I think.

I also prepared a sort of documentation, including the information you sent me on ECC, which I'll spread to CO/peace and anti-apartheid groups in all EEC member countries (and also outside, Suisse, Austria etc.) as soon as the vote of the assembly will be known.

I hope it will be a modest contribution to back your work and make oppression more difficult -

all the best to Peter and you and thanks for the possibility to have you met

love and peace,
Christie



frères des hommes

MOUVEMENT DE SOLIDARITE
ENTRE LES PEUPLES D'EUROPE
ET DU TIERS-MONDE

February 4th, 1986

Laurie Nathan

We met two months ago in Brussels at a meeting organised by Entraide et Fraternité; I contacted the african sector of Frères des Hommes -BAM INTERNATIONAL - who is highly interested in collaborating with your organisation. We would like to know how we can support and collaborate with you.

I hope that your european tour was sucessful and that your return to South Africa was void of problems.

While awaiting your proposals,

I remain;

Sincerely yours,

Gerard KARLSHAUSEN

Secretary General

Basisgemeinde Frankfurt
Berger Str. 275
6000 Frankfurt 60
AK Afridor

Frankfurt, 9th of February 1986

Dear Laurie,

when you were in Frankfurt last year, you spoke about the ECC-activities which are planned for the 86 campaign. Our group Afridor of the basic community in Frankfurt would like to know more about your projects for this year. We would like to inform others - especially conscientious objectors and the public - about the work of the ECC which from our point of view is very important for the future of South Africa. And we would like to support your campaign as far as we can do so. Therefore, we need more informations in order to be able to prepare activities here in Frankfurt and elsewhere which can take place before and during your campaign. When will the campaign take place? What are your main interests? Whom do you address? What kind of concrete projects are you working at? How do you think can we support you?

Thank you once more for your visit, which was indeed very informative and stimulative. We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



(Edmund Arens)

**SCI SERVICE
CIVIL
INTERNATIONAL**

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13 Wincheap
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Tel 94.1.82768

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Branches/groups: Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Spain (Catalonia), Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA.

Laurie Nathan and Paula Hathorn
37 Polo Road
Observatory 7925
Cape Town
South Africa.

Please reply to/RSVP à:

16 OVERHILL ROAD
EAST DULWICH
LONDON SE22 0PH
Telephone: 01-693-6426

9th February 1986

Dear Laurie and Paula,

It was good to meet you, Laurie, when you were in London and I hope that your meeting in India was good.

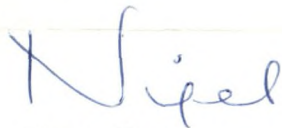
I am writing this just after a meeting of SCI's International Executive Committee and they were very pleased to hear of the contacts that you had made with SCI. We would like to maintain a relationship with the End Conscription Campaign and hope to find methods of practical cooperation.

Unfortunately it does not seem possible for anyone to visit South Africa in March. We will, however, let you know if anyone can after all visit you then. Otherwise we shall try to encourage a visit by someone with some SCI background later.

A letter has been sent to President Botha and signed by all those present at the weekend of SCI meetings in Belgium.

Wishing you every success in your campaign.

Yours sincerely,



Nigel Watt

International President

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES



HAUT COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS

BRANCH OFFICE FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BUREAU POUR LES ETATS UNIS D'AMERIQUE

1718 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON D.C. 20009

CABLE: HICOMREF WASHINGTON D.C.
TELEX: 64406 HICOMREF
TELEPHONE: (202) 387-8546

13 February 1986

Mr. Richard Dunne
3426 Sunset Drive
Athens, GA 30606

Dear Mr. Dunne:

Thank you for your letter of October 19, 1985 requesting a review of your request for asylum in the United States..

On the basis of the statements made available to us to date, it would appear that you have a prima facie claim to refugee status because of your objection and refusal to report for military service in South Africa.

Your case essentially hinges on the issue whether punishment for refusal to serve in the South African Defence Force (SADF) for reasons of conscience or religion could be considered by itself as a justifiable ground for a claim to refugee status.

We believe that the guidelines contained in the UNHCR Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status (paragraphs 167 to 174) provide a sound basis for evaluating your claim. The Handbook states that refusal to perform military service may by itself be a valid ground for a claim to refugee status when a person can show that the performance of military service would have required his participation in military action contrary to his genuine political, religious or moral convictions or to reasons of conscience (para. 170). The Handbook further specifies that where "the type of military action with which an individual does not wish to be associated is condemned by the international community as contrary to basic rules of human conduct, punishment for desertion or draft-evasion could, in the light of all other requirements of the definition, in itself be regarded as persecution" (para. 171).

It would appear from the statements that you have provided us that your main reasons for refusal to serve in the SADF are due to your opposition to the apartheid system in South Africa and the role of the SADF in maintaining this system.

The system of apartheid in South Africa has been condemned by numerous UN General Assembly resolutions. GA Resolution 33/165 is especially pertinent in this context. It recognizes "the right of all persons to refuse service in military or police forces which are used to enforce apartheid", thus also recognizing implicitly the illegal nature of all military action used to

Page 2
Mr. R. Dunn
13 February 1986

enforce the apartheid system. It also calls upon all Member States "to grant asylum or safe transit to another State"... to persons compelled to leave their country of nationality as a result of exercising this right.

Thus, if the genuineness of your reasons for objection to perform military service in the SADF is established, the punishment you would have to face for such refusal would in itself be sufficient grounds to consider you a refugee.

We trust this is responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

Joachim Henkel

Joachim Henkel
Deputy Representative

REVIN.
NO. 2. BRECFEN
0182 F031

KEVIN.

40J. BLECKEN

01845 7031.

UNEF-ID

UNION NATIONALE DES ÉTUDIANTS DE FRANCE
INDEPENDANTE ET DEMOCRATIQUE

RECONNUE D'UTILITE PUBLIQUE (Décret du 16 Mai 1929)

ONT ÉTÉ CRÉÉS PAR L'U.N.E.F.
OU RÉALISÉS
SUR SON INITIATIVE :

LES OFFICES CENTRAUX
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L'OFFICE DU SPORT SCOLAIRE
ET UNIVERSITAIRE
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UNIVERSITÉ CLUB

EEC FESTIVAL COMMITTEE
KHOSTO HOUSE
42 de VILLIERS STREET
JOHANNESBURG 2001

SOUTH AFRICA REPUBLIC

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ET DE PRÉVISION
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DE PARIS
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE
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ET DE SERVICES
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LE GUIDE DU BACHELIER
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SERVICE TELETEL • UNEF ID •

Paris, Feb. 17, 1986

Dear Friends,

The students of France have, during the past year, engaged their forces in solidarity with the people and youth of South Africa. We did so because we have the clear consciousness that the South African people and youth are fighting for the cause of non-violence and mutual understanding between men and peoples of the world. As we see that the international situation is sliding towards repression and racism, we consider your fight as one of the highest examples for the young generation worldwide.

In France, 20 000 students and school students demonstrated in September against the banning of COSAS, and again in October at the announcement of the hanging of Benjamin Moloïse. Furthermore, about 200 000 young people signed a "Manifesto" against apartheid. In Stockholm, London, and numerous other European capitals, the youth mobilized with the same enthusiasm.

Our student Union, as well as other student Unions and school student organizations in western Europe, are willing, as a delegation of the young people from Europe, to come to South Africa with the purpose of meeting personalities and organizations fighting against Apartheid, for human rights and the rights of the black people.

I therefore have the honor to request for us the possibility of meeting and to bring you the lively expression of our solidarity and admiration for your fight and ideas.

Thank you in advance. Yours sincerely,
The President of UNEF I.D. , Marc Rozenblat

BUREAU NATIONAL : 55, boulevard de Strasbourg - 75010 PARIS

TELEPHONE : 16 (1) 45.23.45.50 - SERVICE TELETEL : 36.15.91.77 - Code : UNEFID

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Branches/groups: Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Spain (Catalonia), Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA.

The Minister of Justice
Union Buildings
Pretoria
South Africa

Please reply to/RSVP à:

(copies to Prime Minister, P. Botha, and The Minister of Law and Order)

19th February 1986

Dear Minister,

SCI (Service Civil International) studied the current situation in South Africa very carefully at its 68th International Executive Committee Meeting in Lokeren, Belgium on 2nd and 3rd February 1986.

SCI is an international peace and voluntary organisation with branches in many countries, and projects all over the world. Founded shortly after the Great War, SCI has tried ever since to contribute through voluntary work and non-violent action to a world of peace and justice. We believe that it is possible for people of different sexes, religions, races and nations to work and live together as equals, and our experience throughout the years has only convinced us the more of the fundamental truth of this philosophy.

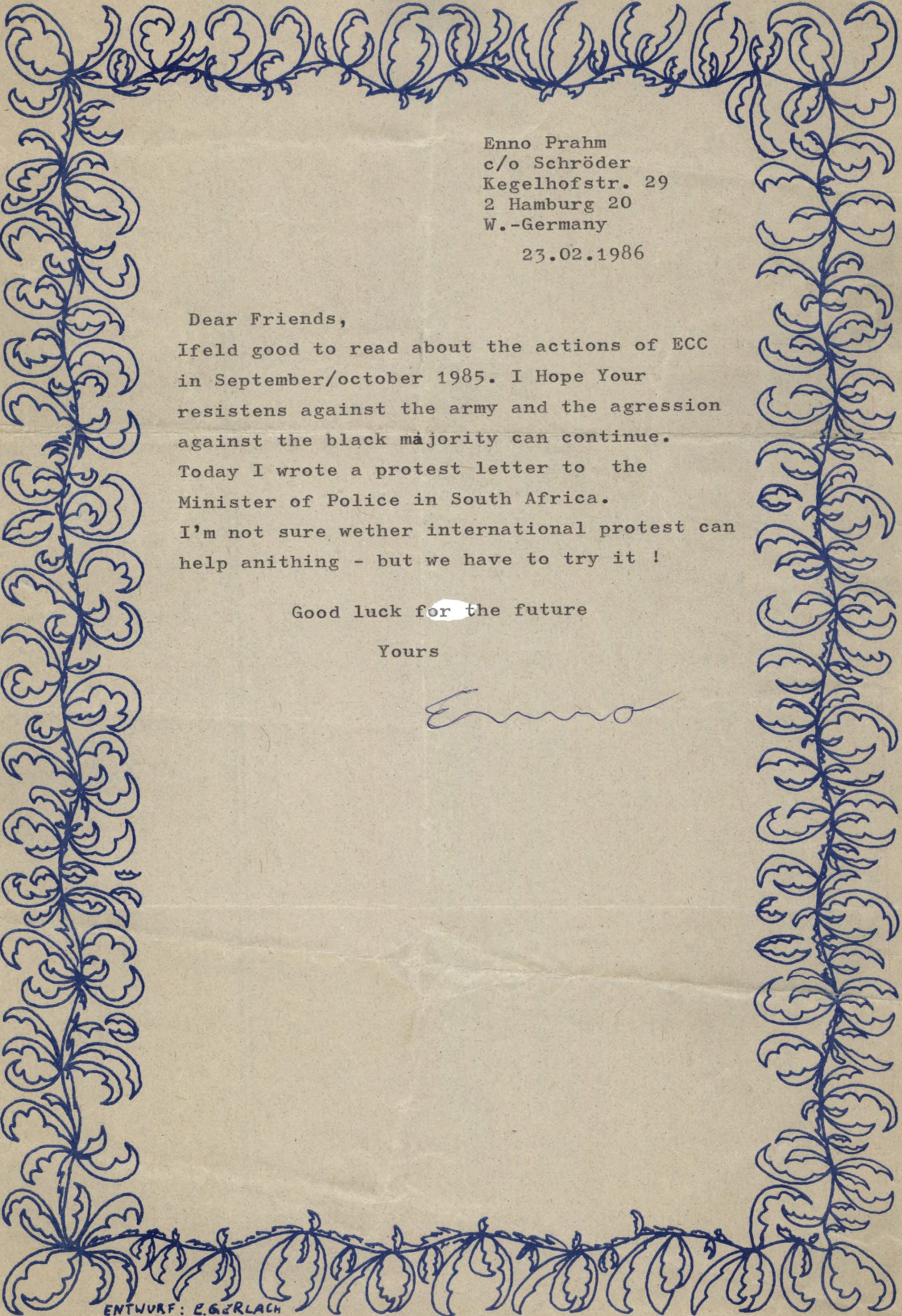
As people who are very much concerned about the inhuman nature of the apartheid system, we have followed with great interest the foundation and development of an organisation committed to peace, freedom and democracy; the End Conscription Campaign. The many activities undertaken by this organisation since 1983, such as the three-week national fast in September and October of last year, and the growing number of white South Africans who refuse to support apartheid through military service, in addition to the growing resistance of the black majority in South Africa, give us reason to believe that there may still be some chance for a non-violent solution to South Africa's problems, which will be based on non-racism, equality, justice, freedom and democracy.

We are extremely shocked by the growing violence of the apartheid regime. People get arrested, and are killed simply because they are black. In the same way in which we support the just struggle of the black majority in South Africa, we also support the growing resistance to all aspects of apartheid amongst the white population. To pave the way for a non-violent solution for South Africa is, however, first and foremost the responsibility of the present government and those who have imposed and support apartheid. For this reason, as a first step, we call for the unconditional release of all political prisoners and a guarantee for the freedom of conscience of those who refuse to support apartheid, be it through serving in the army, the police, or in any other way.

As you may know, the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has, at its last session in 1985, endorsed a set of resolutions in favour of the right to conscientious objection. This has subsequently been passed on to the UN Commission on Human Rights for adoption. One of the paragraph reads as follows:

"States should recognise by law the right to be released from service in armed forces which the objector considers to be likely to be used to enforce apartheid".

Whereas the right to refuse to kill is being increasingly recognised as a human right by the international community, your government does not even guarantee the minimal standards of human rights to the majority of the South African people. The same applies to the existing legal provisions for the right to conscientious objection. Will there ever be a chance for peace and justice in your country? We strongly urge you to implement those standards as laid down in the above-mentioned document.



Enno Prahm
c/o Schröder
Kegelhofstr. 29
2 Hamburg 20
W.-Germany

23.02.1986

Dear Friends,

It is good to read about the actions of ECC
in September/October 1985. I hope your
resistance against the army and the aggression
against the black majority can continue.

Today I wrote a protest letter to the
Minister of Police in South Africa.

I'm not sure whether international protest can
help anything - but we have to try it!

Good luck for the future

Yours



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339 LAFAYETTE STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10012 • (212) 673-8890

End Conscription Campaign
Johannesburg, South Africa

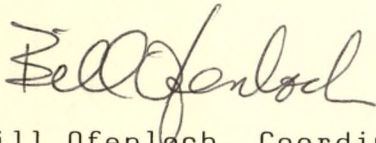
March 31, 1986

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our membership of 6,000 Catholic pacifists here in the United States, we would like to extend our support for the nonviolent campaign you have developed to end apartheid and the system of compulsory military conscription in your country. We have heard about your activities in the face of strong government repression. We appreciate your devotion to the cause of justice through nonviolent means in a very violent situation and pray that you have the strength to persevere. In the United States we have been fortunate that the Catholic bishops in their 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace have urged that nonviolent methods of resolving conflicts be given greater study and support. Nevertheless, there is still a very long way to go here even in regards to the possibility of military conscription. Yet it is helpful to have some support from the Church.

We also wish you success with the current Just Peace Campaign and look forward to hearing more about it in the months ahead. To paraphrase Pope Paul VI, if we want peace we must work for justice.

In Peace,



Bill Ofenloch, Coordinator

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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