

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AND OTHER PUBLIC WORKPROGRAMME

- aims
- strategy
- tactics
- elections
- campaign
- new forms of work

Decision-making

It is generally recognised in ECC that we need to embark on some form of campaign work. To co-ordinate a decision for a national campaign has been a problematic one and, despite the mandate given by regions, NC is still not in a position to make the final decision. NC therefore proposes a recommendation which regions may either accept or reject: if regions are unhappy with the NC campaign proposal they may reject it and run their own specific campaign. The NC proposal is the only possibility for a national campaign at this stage - co-ordinating a national decision on a different one will be as problematic if conducted under the same conditions.

Setting the tone

Despite the repression, the limitations placed on ECC by the new regulations and by the fear in the white community, ECC's issue is still very much THE issue and as SA drifts closer to a civil war, our support grows. We need a campaign. But we also have a

problem in terms of security and risks under current conditions which limit the possibilities of high-profile action.

We should therefore approach the campaign in terms of a two-pronged attack: we continue mass work in the white constituency and continue "old style" work where we can. However we need to work closely with our most supportive constituency and generate actions around them, for example, house-meetings, et cetera, as well as generate support from affiliates.

ECC's needs: we need to regain our public presence and to redress right-wing attack set-backs (for example, Aida Parker), and to assert ourselves nationally. There are of course internal needs which will be satisfied as well. We thrive on our "work ethic" and campaigns epitomise our work.

We need to take up issues in the white community and to assess where they are at. Because of the election, national issues are high in people's minds and this is one time when people are really hyped around national issues. ECC needs to tap into this. Our public work must legitimize us and woo back the press and support from our constituency.

When planning specific actions around the next few months we need to take into account the SADF's birthday, which is some time in April, CO Donn Edward's trial in Bloemfontein in early May, and International CO Day, which is on May 15th. Philip Wilkenson goes

on trial on March 25 for failing to report. He plans to plead guilty, but in mitigation will call on VIPs like Tutu, Wendy Orr to support him. We need to generate national focus around Philip's action. SACBC are running an alternate service campaign and are looking for about ten conscripts who will join the church alternate service. This in effect means asking them to serve six years because the Board will obviously not accept them as "legitimate" COs.

Co-ordinating national discussion was in fact very easy. We felt that the two campaigns regions had discussed could quite easily fit into the CT proposal which is a focus on ECC choices for peace, specifically the right not to go into the townships and the right not to serve in Namibia.

There were also a few common denominators: a focus on

- non-racialism
- the conscript
- the elections

After some discussion and brainstorming, the following theme was selected:

WAR IS NOT COMPULSORY - LETS CHOOSE PEACE

WAR: looks at the costs of civil to society/townships/conscripts.

PEACE: "lets choose peace" implies that there is not a good enough peace which implies that there are unjust laws.

"Lets" also implies action and we should continuously call

X PEACE

on people to support the campaign actively.

NB: we need to focus specifically on what ECC means so that it is not lost in the election and also what ECC means for a just peace. This lends itself to WJP actions and we should look for a WJP action but with the caution that CT had trouble getting people motivated for their WJP action during WINS because it wasn't the main focus. We also need a strong sub-slogan to give a basis to the theme - regions need to come up with something.

- one slogan that can be used is: THE PROBLEM WITH THIS GENERAL ELECTION IS THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHICH GENERAL WE'RE ELECTING!

FORM

Two-pronged approach - do mass work where we can without taking unnecessary risks.

- low-level solid person-to-person work.
- election: press PFP candidates to discuss/take positions on alternatives/costs.
- media: use images and form of election media.
- petition from veterans demanding the right not to go into the townships.
- WJP action involving VIPs.
- Nat. meetings: hecklers/serious questioners/en masse walk-outs.
- publicly challenge Nat MPs to debates.
- open letter to PW/Jannie.
- SADF's birthday: birthday card in papers.
- ECC easter eggs.
- take into account May Day: how many more troops (costs) to

police May Day.

- house meetings.
- utilise ML/post-box drops.
- survey about our demands.
- telephone canvassing
- "What are you doing for the conscript" stuck on/near election posters.
- debate/panels on costs of the war [juxtaposed with an ECC speaker who puts forward our alternative for peace].
- murals depicting choice.
- releasing doves/balloons with slogans.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

24th April: Day of mourning/reflection for the costs of the war.

TIMING

Regions should commence the campaign ASAP. We should peak nationally towards the end of April and continue as long as we can think necessary.

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