

18.17.7

The End Conscription Campaign Nationally

Generally all regions seemed to have been stimulated by the conference and went back inspired to their regions with our glorious message. Work around Ivan has been going well with most regions having had vigils. Repression does not seem to have been a major problem in our work although smears are still appearing and there has been some level of harassment. Here are some brief snippets from some of the regions.

Port Elizabeth

The commic was distributed at UPE and the technician and seemed to go down well. Ivan spoke to about 20 Sash types at a house meeting which was successful, a finger lunch was served afterwards. A vigil was held for Ivan which was attended by 50 people. A problem was that none of the newspapers would accept an advert for the vigil. An anti-ECC pamphlet was issued by the Positive Students Organisation (an NSF affiliate) and was distributed at UPE and Tech

UCT

Orientation week went well with about 130 people being recruited. Ivan spoke, in bad weather, on the plaza to about 400 people and was very well received. A cocktail party was held for new members and was attended by about 100 people. Plans are to introduce ECC to campus constituencies through possibly a survey and follow up work on Ivan's campaign

Pretoria

A vigil was held for Ivan at the Anglican cathedral which was attended by about 50 people. During the service, a brick was thrown through one members window and another had his bedroom wall graffitied

Cape Town

Ivan: A successful service was held for Ivan at Bishop's Court which was attended by about 400 people. It was preceded by picnic.

Smears: A press conference was held to announce that ECC is to apply for a supreme court interdict. It received very good press in Cape Town with a big editorial in the Argus. The interdict will probably take between three to six months.

Debate: A debate between ECC and Cloete Breytenbach (the cross-boarder MNR and UNITA photographer), hosted by the Civil Rights League, was held in Durbanville (a new area for ECC); topic: "Is conscription necessary?"

The debate was attended by 60 people and ECC did very well in it. SADF meeting: The SADF has responded to a request that ECC meet with Cape Town. It should take place soon.

Pietermaritzburg

A meeting held for Ivan on campus was attended by 250 people which was very exciting. Ivan had a lunch with VIPS.

Durban

Durban is needing to consolidate after have lost a number of key activists. It planned a vigil for Ivan and has been involved in discussions with Idasa which is setting up a branch in Durbs.

Johannesburg

Ivan's vigil went well with about 200 people attending. There was a nasty incident at the vigil when two members confronted some suspicious looking individuals prowling around the church. They turned out to be branch, who promptly arrested Andrew Wais and Eckardt Schloßfeld and charged them with illegal possession of a weapon (a mace spray!), assaulting a police officer and obstruction of police. They spent the night at John Vorster and were released after appearing in court. The trial continues

Wits

160 people signed up at orientation week. 200 people attended Ivan's mtg with 250 people coming to a disco. A cocktail party was held for new members and was attended by 65 people. A vigil has been planned for Ivan on the 7th. Other planned activities include Float Building, selling the Rag magazine Wits-Wits and a painting ASP project at the Muldersdrift Clinic.

Durban campus

Recruited 25 new people but all very enthusiastic and have a nice core. Ivan spoke at a late afternoon meeting at which 50 people appeared. Commic went down well

Grahamstown

Organised a meeting for Ivan on campus which was attended by 200 people.

29 February 1988

0819

Draft of format for regional reports to NC.

Aim of the report : it is important to bear in mind when writing up the report what the purpose is of sharing this information about the work and development of your region.

Areas to include in the report :

1. Number of active members

2. Region's activities :

To give an account of the regions activities since the previous NC, ranging from small house meetings to large public events. The activities should also be assessed in terms of their effectiveness in advancing ECC's work in the region, drawing in new people, increasing ECC's public profile, maintaining and building the front, etc. There may be some overlap here when the area of Front is discussed under a separate heading, but it's important to assess the activities into the broad aims of ECC.

Also include activities of the sub-groups.

3. Internal development :

Give an account of the way in which ECC takes on the responsibility of ensuring that our activists not only have a good understanding of ECC but of broader political issues. This can include our own internal education seminars or where we slot in with other organisations' education programmes. Also to include the training and development of activists on the level of personal support, accountability, preparation for detention, etc.

4. Morale :

A general assessment of how the members are feeling about their work in ECC and their contribution to the struggle for justice in SA

5. Security :

The practise of security measures taken by our membership and the development of a security consciousness.

6. Front :

An assessment of how the front is working in your region - what is the representation of the front at various ECC meetings; does any formal structure exist to facilitate communication between ECC and the Front members; assess the strength of the front; etc.

7. National contact :

Assess the extent of your regions' national contact, both with national workers and with other regions. Note those things which enabled the region to have a good sense of national ECC, making recommendations for improvement, etc

8. Repression :

Give a brief overview of the types of repression that the region has experienced both at the level of individual harassment and general smears against the ECC.

ECUMENICAL CENTRE TRUST RESOURCE CENTRE

P.O. BOX 1879
DURBAN 4000
PHONE: 301-8614

ROOM 3
20 ST. ANDREW'S STREET
DURBAN 4001

LIST OF RESOURCES AND SKILLS OF THE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

Dear Tenant,

We wish to compile an updated list of resources and skills available in the Ecumenical Centre. This is in line with one of the main aims of the Centre, namely the sharing of resources and skills. This list is only for the organisations in the Centre and not for wider circulation.

Please would you fill in the attached forms listing:

- * the equipment, and conditions, for use by other tenants
- * the skills and experience of staff members and conditions for these to be available to other tenants.

Please return the completed forms as soon as possible, not later than 29 April 1988, to the Resource Centre (Room 11).

Thanks

Corda and Jenni.

LIST OF RESOURCES AND SKILLS OF THE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

Name of Tenant.....Room No.....

Item	Description	Conditions for use
e.g. Typewriter	golfball	only for staff
e.g. Lighttable	portable, small (A3)	for tenants if staff not using

Skill / Training	Person's Name	Conditions
e.g. Layout	Paul	only after hours
e.g. Translating into Zulu	Phineas	negotiable

08.7

REPORT ON ECC EXEC DISCUSSION ABOUT ITS ROLE

January 1987

General Role

- Continually assessing the functioning of ECC as a whole
- watching for problems and gaps in ECC
- being sensitive to the needs of ECC members and trying to attend to them where necessary
- forum in which sensitive issues can be discussed (rarely used for this)
- important role during crackdowns
- general co-ordinating role
- sometimes a base for visiting national ECC people (esp. if in hiding)

Subcommittee reps

- channel or bridge between exec and the subcomms
- stressed importance of reps relaying facts/figures/feelings of subcomms to the exec, so that the exec can play the watchdog roles set out above
- very important that subcomm reps try to gauge the feelings of their subcomms and represent that in any discussion that exec has. But where there are 'decisions' that need to be made, then it's not enough to rely on the rep gauging feelings, there will have to be proper discussion and mandates etc.
- reps can play a role in integrating their subcommittee into general ECC activity
- particular problems of a subcomm can be discussed by the exec
- some subcomms feel that they can bring to exec and ECC more than just the feelings of the members of the subcomm, but also the feelings of their constituency (especially churches and schools)
- we need to spend more time thinking about how to make reportbacks meaningful and relevant. This relates both to exec reports to subcomms and subcomm reports to GB. It was suggested that if subcomms want something discussed at GB that they should put it on the agenda as a separate issue, rather than just incorporate it into their report.

Portfolio Holders

- Treasurer: Would like to be based in a subcomm
Has to handle responsibility of finances, and try to pass that sense of responsibility on to the rest of ECC
ECC needs to think more re budgeting
Think about how to cope with possible financial crises
- Press: Prefer to be Publicity Officer
lots of potential to expand in this area
must be two way contact between Pub. Off. and others in ECC
if subcomms want press coverage, they should contact the P.O.
Press group would be useful
Only the P.O., the vice-chair and the chair can make statements to the press on behalf of ECC
- Sec Gen: Important to be in touch with all subcomms and rotate subcomms
Responsible for internal ed. and training
Bureaucracy
Promote links between subcomms ? of a group to coordinate
- Vice Chair Liase with front orgs
try to broaden base of ECC in front
felt need to have meeting with reps to discuss their role
- Chair Constantly in touch with all areas of ECC
Be a motivator
Ensure ECC has contact with orgs and indiv's broader than front ECC National
Exec and GB
Prefer to rotate subcomms.

National Organiser's Report to National Conference, January 1986.

1) Introduction.

This report is a description of the different areas of my work in 1985, the problems I experienced in each and some suggestions for improvement this year.

The report is intended to facilitate the process at National Conference of assessing my role and redefining it for 1986. It's also an example of my fetish for writing lengthy reports that no-one ever reads.

2) Building new regions.

Helping to set up new ECC branches - in Pmb., P.E., Grahamstown and on Rhodes and Durban campuses - was a major part of my work and one of the most exciting. It involved motivating the formation of an ECC to various individuals and organizations, familiarising them with the nature and history of ECC and helping them to work out initial activities and structures.

I experienced problems only in Grahamstown where some members felt that I was pushing too hard or too soon for a permanent, as opposed to an interim ECC.

I think that the priorities for new ECC's this year are, in order: East London, Stellenbosch, RAU, Pretoria and then perhaps other Afrikaans communities. We should work out at Conf. the importance of my spending time in new regions relative to working in the established ones, and also the role of established regions in building new ones.

3) Working within the ECC's.

This, the 'meat' of my work, included: attending general body and sub-committee meetings; spending time with ECC activists individually; helping to plan and giving input at directional or educational workshops.

Since I came into a region from a distance and with a fresh perspective, I was always expected to help evaluate the ECC's work and structures, plan future direction, look for new opportunities and areas for expansion, and pass on information and ideas from other regions.

The 'pudding' of my work was at all times remaining jolly and enthusiastic, and trying to inspire and motivate others. Hoo ha.

I generally never experienced difficulty in this work because it was always defined and monitored by the local Exec. or review group. Still, there are some possible problems that need to be watched: some regions might be dependent on me for conceptual discussion; I worry that I sometimes expect too much or push the pace too fast, given that most ECC activists aren't working full time on ECC as I am; I spend too much time with Exec. members and subcomm co-ordinators and not enough with new members; I'm always involved in the ECC's thinking work but uninvolved in the manual work. Goal for 1986: getting my hands dirty.

There were two exceptions to this general lack of difficulty. Firstly, my role in Cape Town was never properly defined. On my visits there I was either doing academic work, over-involved in

the Claremont meeting, preoccupied with the Festival, in hiding, preparing for our overseas trip or recovering from dysentery! The fact that I never managed to get a review group together added to the lack of definition.

Secondly, I made the mistake of working in Grahamstown by darting back and forth from P.E. rather than settling down there for a week or two.

4) Work with affiliates and other sympathetic organizations.

I spent much time with affiliates, potential affiliates and other sympathetic organizations, especially with UDF, SACC, Black Sash, Nusas and the various IYY groups in the early part of the year. This contact was aimed at motivating new or renewed involvement in ECC, informing about ECC's plans and activities, and caucussing ECC decisions.

I felt that the usefulness of contact with these organizations was limited in regions where ECC did not maintain relations in an ongoing way.

I neglected contact with religious denominations other than Christian and neglected to help with the national co-ordination of COSG as had been suggested at the start of the year. I'm not sure what my relation to COSG should be this year.

5) Work with prominent individuals.

In each region there were several prominent supporters of ECC that I would always try to see. This contact was also not maintained on a regular basis by some ECC's.

Neglected in this area of my and ECC's work has been contact with rabbis, members of Parliament and Embassy or Consulate officials.

6) National Co-ordination.

There are two parts to this area of work. At one level national co-ordination was required to keep the ECC's up to date with each other's activities. This was easy and unproblematic. It involved phoning ECC's and sending them letters regularly, giving national report-backs to general body meetings, talking to activists and sub-comms about the work being done in other regions, and circulating useful documents from regional workshops.

At a second level co-ordination was necessary to effect national decision-making around campaigns and issues of policy, and to resolve conflicts between regions which arose in this context. This type of co-ordination was required, for example, for the Festival programme, the TOC, the ASP, the Midweek debate, national secretary, the national conference agenda etc etc.

This was definitely the most difficult and frustrating area of my work and required the most effort for the least tangible results. Trying to secure a national consensus neatly and quickly was frequently a traumatic experience! There were three problems here:

- i) Since regional general meetings only happen every two weeks and since we have no central national decision-making forum between Conferences, it often takes far too long to iron out regional differences and reach a consensus. I'm not sure what can be done about this, other than to suggest that we make better use of

national conferences to agree on all the details of national campaigns.

- ii) ECC was too dependent on me for national co-ordination. While temporarily out of action during the ECC detentions, I tried to decentralize co-ordination and encourage greater inter-regional communication by circulating a list of the names and tel. numbers of sub-comm co-ordinators and Exec. members. Although this was largely unsuccessful, I think it should be tried again this year.
- iii) Tensions developed between regions occasionally and, I think, unnecessarily. Problems experienced by one region with another were too often a breakdown in communication or to a region's insensitivity to the organisational limitations of another. More importantly, the problems were not always dealt with in the most constructive way.

On two occasions I got embroiled in such tensions myself. The one was around the ~~July~~ National Conference when it was correctly argued that there was insufficient regional participation in the Conf. and in drawing up the agenda. Hopefully the process suggested for this Conference will be an improvement.

The second was ^{over} the debate around our possible participation in Midweek, where I was accused of manipulating a national decision. I do ~~not~~ believe I was or have been guilty of this. Nevertheless, my position is a very powerful one in terms of national decision-making, and collectively we have to guard against this power being abused. How it been?

Serious attention needs to be paid at Conference to ironing out the problems we've experienced with national co-ordination. We need to work out the respective responsibility of myself, the national secretary, national committee and the regions for it.

7) Press Liason.

I did a great many interviews with local and foriegn media and wrote a few articles for local and foreign publications. I always tried to do the interviews with a local ECC person. This was very useful in training people but was limited in regions where there was no permanent press officer.

A general weakness of ECC interviews with the media, especially the foreign media, is that they were too hit-and-run — we did the interviews and then forgot about them, without assessing how effective we'd been.

It's difficult to know whether I'm overdoing the press bit. I obviously have the advantage of having a national perspective of ECC, so perhaps it's OK for me to continue doing interviews as long as I'm always accompanied by a local ECC person, and given also that our national secretary will now share this work. A priority for this year is to train regional press officers; this will limit my involvement in this area.

8) Overseas Work.

My overseas work began by sending ECC packs to overseas groups ~~before Festival~~ It middled out by writing articles on the Festival and TOC for overseas publications and by sending regular reports and media to our special friends like CIIR, WRL, WRI, FOR and the Quakers.

And it ended with a bang, with an overseas trip and the follow up work required.

I tried to spread knowledge about our overseas work within ECC by circulating useful articles from overseas publications, describing the work I was doing in my national organiser reports and by writing a fuller report on the work in September. The report that Pete and I wrote on our trip should also help to bring ECC up to date with this area.

The two areas of weakness in ECC's international work have been a lack of contact with third world groups and a failure to raise international issues in ECC publications and forums.

Our international work last year was handled by Richard, Anita, Steve, myself and Vaun who took over much of the workload after the Festival. This year the work will be co-ordinated from the national office.

9) Peace Festival.

My work on the Festival began in March, brainstorming ideas for the Festival programme in all the regions and trying to reach national agreement in consultation with other organizations. Then, for the six weeks prior to the Festival, I devoted almost all my time to it. After the Festival I mopped up, figuratively speaking.

In preparing for a 1986 Festival, if we have one, we should bear in mind three of the major problems experienced: Jhb. ECC left the Festival organisationally weaker than before; we never succeeded in attracting the Joburg general public; and tension developed between Festival Command and Media Comm which felt excluded from the conceptual part of the preparation.

I think that one of the ways of avoiding a recurrence of these problems is to hold the Festival in a region that is organisationally strong enough to handle it.

10) Public Speaking.

I spoke last year at 11 public meetings and in four debates. The problem is obvious. Other than in Cape Town, the ECC's have not developed confident public speakers and are over-dependent on me. In Cape Town I helped organise a public-speaking skills workshop early in the year. It had very positive longterm results and should be a priority for other regions this year.

The criticisms expressed of my public speaking were that I worry too much about speeches and come across as too academic and un-emotional.

11) Research and Resources.

The research I did was really limited: writing articles for various publications, contributing to the book on the Freedom Charter and writing for Objector. I spent time on the planned ECC publication on SADF activities in the Eastern Cape but then passed this onto Willem as I wasn't doing it properly.

I always collected and circulated affidavits from Black Sash on SADF activities but neglected, as ECC generally did, to record properly other information we picked up on the role of the army.

I made a big effort to circulate resources to ECCs, passing on interesting articles, pressclips, ECC material and overseas publications. I'm not convinced though that these were always distributed properly within the ECC's. I also worked on organising the material in the Durban Peace Library and tried to develop the national co-ordination of resources. This remains an area of weak-

ness in ECC.

12) Review Groups and General Welfare.

The importance of my review groups cannot be underestimated. They prevented my wandering around like a free agent and rooted my accountability in the regional ECC. They gave that ECC an opportunity to assess and plan my activities, and provided a forum for me to bounce ideas off and to report back to. The groups were the only means I had to come to grips with the different roles that ECC's expect me to play in their regions.

My review group functioned best in Joburg and Durban and least well in Cape Town. It helps where regions themselves see the group as important, since I find it really difficult to have to ask for time to be devoted to me, as just one person.

I tried to always write a report on my activities and the areas that required follow up after my stay in a region. These reports helped to establish my accountability to ECC and I think were quite useful.

Without exception the ECC's were wonderful in putting me up and putting up with me. I felt at home wherever I was and really value the close friendships that I developed with ECC members in all the regions.

13) Finally.....

Finally, when assessing my work at Conference, people should take into account a problem raised at a Cape Town mid-year assessment of me : that I had too high a profile and was playing the role of a national president rather than a national organiser.

Finally finally, it was a great year.

ECC Regional Round Up

Grahamstown: Combined ECC + Grahamstown Youth Congress action to clean up Joza graveyard (4 August). Action planned to coincide with August call-up. ECC memorial to victims of security force violence built in 1987 + subsequently damaged, was successfully rebuilt + the graves of 11 victims were cleaned up. Action ended with a speech by an ECC member + a short service consecrating the memorial. Good press coverage.

East London: 17-20 July week long focus held entitled "Disarming Society: A focus on conflict + conscription in SA". Programme included a focus on CCB, report back on Idasa conference, focus on CO's + a talk by Laurie on "The politics of peace". On the Tuesday a bomb went off outside the venue for the CCB meeting. Fortunately everyone had moved to a larger venue $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before so no one was injured.

Durban On 29 July ECC members worked with the Amaqoti community on a

clean up project. Amawoli is a shack settlement outside Durban with about 100 000 inhabitants. The group removed refuse + repaired about 3 kms of road.

PMB: Held a CCB focus at which they showed the video "Re Assassins".
In conjunction with the Dramatic Arts Dept. of the university, ECC members are producing a play entitled "Faustus 3". Both Durban + PMB are involved in ongoing monitoring work.

JHB: On 11 August, a joint action was held with ACTSTOP. The action involved cleaning up 6 inner city blocks of flats. The group fixed drains, painted, collected refuse + rubble etc.

WITS: Held a week long focus on conscription which included a conscription graffiti wall, throwing sponges at a general + a meeting of CO's.

PTA: Has been involved in a letter writing campaign re the CCB.

Bloem: Ecc people initiated a CCB march. Permission for the march was refused + so a press conference was held + a delegation then delivered a list of

demands to the SP + MI Headquarters.
The march marked the formal launching
of an ECC committee in Bloemfontein.

Internationally, the Huddleson register now
stands at 198 names. On 30 July, a
group of objectors marched with Trevor
Huddleson to SA embassy. They were prevented
from handing over the list of names on
the register + so instead sent the list
by registered post to the embassy, asking the
embassy to forward the list to FW de K.

Hi William - Hope this helps. Sorry about
the scrawl but we don't have a printer
today so I couldn't type it.
Keep well
Love
Mandy

Mark S.

ECC BRANCH REPORT - END AUGUST 1990

Durban town branch has a strong core group of about 20 people. The general body meets every two weeks and the executive meets inbetween. We don't have many new members and will be looking at co-operating with the campus branch in the future as campus has a huge recruitment potential. A plan of action has been drawn up with sub-groups for each action. Work until the end of the year will definitely be exciting!

Some activities since May 24 1990 (see case study as well):

* Call-Up Action:

A WJP-type operation was held on Sunday 29 July where ECC members and members of the Amawoti Youth and Civic organisations undertook a clean-up of the Amawoti area. Potholes in the roads were filled, litter was collected, etc., and a good time was had by all.

On Sunday 28 July some ECC members attended a rally in memory of an elderly resident of Amawoti who had died. An ECC speaker addressed the rally.

Further activities in Amawoti will take place in September. (see call-up media attached)

* CCB campaign:

Pamphlets (obtained from Cape Town campus branch) were distributed, mainly on Durban campus, and some were given to other organisations.

* End Natal War march:

ECC took part in a march from Curries Fountain to C R Swart Square (local SAP HQ) on July 6. The march formed part of the campaign around ending the Natal war, disbanding of the KwaZulu Police, etc.

* Somewhere on the Border:

Napac offered ECC a preview of the locally-made film, 'Somewhere on the Border' as a fundraising event. It was decided not to accept their offer. Some of the reasons are: no printed political media/literature is permitted to be distributed; no talks or discussions on political issues are allowed; the boycott of para-statal organisations continues (according to the Natal Cultural Congress, with whom we had lengthy discussions). As the subject matter of this film is relevant to our work, Durban ECC shall be distributing some kind of media (especially membership forms) after one of the forthcoming performances.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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