

A22.9.14

I would like you to note some broad trends.

There has been ongoing personal harassment of E.C.C. members, mostly through telephone calls, but including damage to motor vehicles, placing adverts in newspapers advertizing various items of our property, and spray-painting of houses. the regular nature of this harassment and the necessary access to large amounts of personal information, indicate a certain level of organisation behind it.

Graffiti has been a regular feature of the anti-E.C.C. campaign, particularly since early 1987. We have photographs of some of the slogans many of which are too disgusting to mention.

Posters, stickers and pamphlets have formed the most consistent and widespread aspect of the smear campaign. These include the series of posters printed on the E.C.C.'s "Out of Step" logo, stickers stating "E.C.C. peace off", "Every Cowards Choice" and "K.G.B. approved" (stuck over E.C.C. media), and anonymous pamphlets coinciding with E.C.C. events. At the E.C.C. fair last year pamphlets were dropped from a helicopter.

In addition E.C.C. pole posters advertising public meetings have been pulled down. This occurs within a few hours of the posters going up, and is done in such a systematic manner that we assume this to be an organised response.

A few general points need to be made about these activities. while many of them may reflect sporadic instances of right-wing activity, there is a common logic behind much of the slander. Attempts are made to discredit the E.C.C. as a bunch of cowards and homosexuals, or else to link them to banned organisations. None of the smears address the issue of conscription itself. A particular level of intelligence work with respect to the E.C.C. is also evident. There is often prior knowledge of organisational activities, and knowledge of E.C.C. member's

particulars.

Many of the smears, and the posters in particular, demonstrate access to a certain level of media skills and resources, capable of producing on a large scale a consistent series of media items. There is also obvious access to large manpower resources, the smears having appeared simultaneously all over the greater Cape Town area.

These factors have led members of the E.C.C. to suspect the involvement of one or more official bodies in this activity.

It has been widely rumored amongst national servicemen in the Cape Town area, as well as amongst the broader public, that some of these smears originate from the S.A.D.F.. It is certainly no secret that the S.A.D.F. view E.C.C. as an "enemy" force, and they have on many occasions slated the E.C.C. for its activities.

It is against this background that we have heard of the judgement in the case of the three national servicemen tried for breach of the Official Secrets Act. This judgement, in ^{reviewing} ~~receiving~~ the evidence of a certain Colonel J.J. Claasen, suggests the active involvement of S.A.D.F. in some of the smear campaigns against the E.C.C..

Colonel M. Dempers said that during cross-examination, the commanding officer of Communication Operations at Western Province Command Headquarters in Cape Town's Castle, the previously mentioned Colonel, had conceded that there was an S.A.D.F. campaign to discredit the E.C.C. in order to undermine its goodwill - in the sense of its ability to attract members and funds (Weekly Mail, Vol 4, No 4).

In consequence our suspicions about the role the S.A.D.F. has played in coordinating smear activity against the E.C.C. have been heightened. On the basis of this evidence we have

instructed our attorneys to investigate the involvement of the S.A.D.F. in unlawful activity aimed at discrediting the E.C.C., with a view to launching an interdict restraining the S.A.D.F. from involvement in such activity.

We view this matter extremely seriously. Apart from the damage done to the cause of the End Conscription Campaign, the involvement of government departments in subterfuge "dirty tricks" campaigns against legitimate, albeit opposition organisations is unacceptable. What is particularly reprehensible about these smears is their anonymity, their personally slanderous nature, and their avoidance of the real issues around conscription. While they wilfully accuse the E.C.C. of cowardice, the architects of this campaign hide behind faceless slander.

The E.C.C. has always taken forward its work in a strictly legal and above-board manner. We are open to public discussion, and have repeatedly challenged those who oppose us to come forward and debate with us. We have previously submitted evidence to the S.A.D.F.'s Geldenhuys Commission, and are preparing to meet with some senior members of the department. Next Wednesday (24.2.88) we will be participating in a public debate about conscription in the Durbanville town hall. Colonel Claasen, whom I mentioned earlier, was also invited to attend this press conference to put across his views.

Despite what government officials and the smear campaigns have to say against the E.C.C., we are interested in constructive solutions to the problems facing our country. We see our work around conscription as contributing to an eventual peaceful solution in South Africa. Secret and subversive smear campaigns should have no part to play in this, and we challenge the S.A.D.F. to publicly dissociate themselves from this activity.

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