

A3.13,6

PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

Dear Friends

After many days of avoiding the beach we managed to come up with a proposal for the national conference agenda. Most of the content of the agenda was informed by the discussion at National Committee and even though that in itself was not comprehensive, it has provided quite a full programme. We are also aware that there may be many issues that regions still want to put on the agenda. This agenda is a proposal - both in terms of content as well as the request for regions to take responsibility for sections - and so is completely open to being re-worked and overhauled. In the planning of this agenda we felt that we needed to get as specific as we have in order to provide some framework and impetus for regional discussion and feedback. Please get any feedback to me as soon as possible.

The process agreed upon at NC was that the three national workers plus a working group in the region where the conference is to be held will be responsible for the planning and logistics of this conference. In addition to this a process group will be set up at the beginning of the conference - to see things through from start to finish. All regions decided that the conference should be an open one but with slightly improved security precautions than was originally suggested at NC. An open conference would mean that the date, agenda, and numbers of delegates would be common knowledge. However the venue and region where the conference is to be held should be worked out by a small working group, which will also most likely work through the national phone around vrt giving final destinations and security measures to be taken by the national contact person. More details on this later as all the plans have not been finalised.

Well, here's the mammoth task! Despite the many weary hours of rehashing this agenda, we got quite excited at the possibility of a huge gathering with lots of creative, stimulating and directive discussion for ECC : real big ECC style!

Enclosed in this letter is a copy of the Pmb. campus branch report to NC, as well as an addition to the Resource Organisational File - Meetings Meetings Meetings!

Stay strong.

In peace and solidarity

Atle

28.05.87.

AGENDA.

THURSDAY

Arrive at the venue by 6.00pm.

7.00pm : Supper

7.30pm : WELCOME - This section will be handled by the planning group. Are considering getting one of our VIP's to do the welcome, etc.

AGENDA REVIEW - We hope that the bulk of the changes will have been completed prior to the conference and would see this slot as a final check of the agenda. Each delegate will also have a copy of the agenda in the information package.

CREDENTIALS - This will involve the conference accepting the representation from each branch and establishing the procedures for voting, if that becomes necessary at any point in the conference. This means that regions have to discuss whether they want separate representation from the campus branch, or whether they will form one delegation. This is more pertinent in regions where there is close co-operation and joint work between the town and campus branch.

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURE

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

PROCESS GROUP - to be nominated by the conference.

INPUT ON THE STATE OF ECC - the 3 national workers will do a joint input.

CULTURAL ITEM

* Request * Durban to do a small cultural input which can capture the history of ECC over the last 18 months.

TIME : 2 1/2 hours.

FRIDAY

8.00am : Breakfast

9.00am : PLENARY SESSION - INPUT : State of the Nation/ State of Struggle.

* Request * JHB to do this input and take responsibility for the session.

TIME : 1 1/2 hours.

10.30am : TEA

11.00am : CONCEPTUAL DISCUSSION

To include the following areas :

- input from the various branches on the state of their conceptual discussion and what direction they see for ECC.
- what form this discussion took (similar process for discussion as happened at National Committee).
- drawing together of the discussion : need to be able to conclude the session with some consensus on ECC's direction. It would mean a consolidation of the regional based positions and the collective influence that has on ECC's national direction.

* Request * Cape Town to do this session.

TIME : 3 Hours - for the entire discussion. This does not include the lunch break (1 1/2 hrs) - so organise this section as you want.

3.30pm : INTER-REGIONAL SUB-COMM. MEETINGS.

This will include meetings of the various sub-groups/committees of the different branches; the front reps; and campus branches.

A. Sub-comms.

The following groups were identified as common to most branches :

1. Culture - Durban
2. Media - PMB
3. Contact/Outreach - JHB
4. Churches - Durban
5. Schools - Cape Town

* Process * We envisaged these meetings as being fairly loose with regard to facilitation and preparation, and that each branch

taking responsibility for these sessions could structure the discussion as they wanted.

Some suggestions for issues to be covered in these meetings :

- give information on ways in which each sub-comm has worked in its region
- practical information on how embarked on their work
- share useful hints

Each person/branch taking responsibility for each of the above meetings needs to have prepared the outline of the session prior to conference so that it can be included in the delegates' information package. As there are 2 slots for regional sub-comm meetings, it would be useful to have planned the proposed agenda for both these times, so that people will know what to expect to be covered in both sessions.

* Request *

The name of the ECC branch after each sub-comm indicates a request for that branch to take responsibility for that meeting slot.

B. Front.

This would be a slot when all the representatives from all the member organisations of ECC from different regions can meet together and discuss their role within ECC, etc.

* Request * Cape Town to take this task.

It's important to bear in mind when sending delegates to this conference that there should be good representation from the member organisations.

C. Campus.

The branch organising this section need to work out how best campus can discuss issues directly related to their work on campus. It would be for campus to decide whether or not they want to break up into sub-comms and/or discuss broader issues such as how they relate to the town branch, etc.

* Request * GHT to take this task.

TIME : 1 1/2 hours. All 3 sections will run concurrently.

5.00pm : TEA

5.30pm : POLICY SECTION

This section has been divided into 4 parts :

A. Legal.

Suggested areas to be covered :

- Up to date information on our legal position wrt Emergency Regulations.
- How far can we push the limits of the law; perhaps with some concrete examples of how this has happened in regions.
- Discussion on our position with regard to the issue of deliberately breaking the law, municipal by-laws, etc. Does this need to change under the present situation, etc? Do we have a principled stand on the issue of legality? What implication does our position with regard to the law have on our use/or not of the ECC Declaration?
- This all needs to be considered in the context of the state of the nation and the state of struggle. (Input given in the morning session)

* Request * Durban to take responsibility for this section.

B. International Relations.

This section to include 3 sub - sections :

i. International Tours :

- what criteria we need to establish to determine whether or not we accept invitations for international tours
- the value or otherwise of international tours, etc

ii. International Public Relations :

- rationale for maintaining good relations with international support organisations
- aims of networking, etc

iii. COSAWR :

- how to deal with this issue

* Request * Adele to facilitate this section.

C. Fronts/Alliances.

Suggested areas to cover :

- Input on what each regions current position is with regard to alliances and front structure.
- Do the changing political conditions force us to amend in any way our understanding of this form of work?
- How has our understanding of and our relationship to alliances and the front developed over the past 18 months?
- What is the value of such a form of working? ETC.

* Request * Eastern Cape region to handle this section.

D. Strategy with regard to Repression.

Suggested areas to be covered :

- Input on the types of repression being experienced by various branches with an analysis of the shifts in State Strategy wrt repression. Evaluate the effectivity of ECC's response nationally to the smears and repression eg :
 - detentions
 - smears
 - vigilante actions
 - intimidation
 - organisational security

TIME : 1 1/2 hours

* Request * JHB to take this on.

7.00pm : Supper

8.00pm : SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

Finance groups to meet - to include reps from all the branches who take responsibility for the regional finances.

This section will cover updates on the financial situation nationally and regionally; bookkeeping procedures; funding, etc.

* Request * National Treasurer to take on this task.

This space will be left open for any other groups to take the opportunity to have small group meetings or schedule in extra issues.

SATURDAY

8.00am : Breakfast

9.00am : PLENARY SESSION - INPUT : ORGANIZATIONAL.

The purpose of this section would be to look at our organisation, evaluate how we organise, develop an understanding of why we organise, with particular focus on how our understanding has developed since our inception and in the present repressive environment.

Suggested areas for evaluation and discussion :

- our understanding of campaign work
- new forms of work due to changing political conditions and increased repression.
- recruitment - how that has developed, etc.
- a more rigorous definition of our constituency
- developing a more programmatic approach to our work

* Request * Cape Town to take responsibility for this section.

10.30am : TEA

11.00am : PLENARY : REPORT BACK SESSION

This session would include reports back from the following sessions :

- Policy section (Friday 5.30pm slot)
- Recommendations and report back from the finance meeting. (Friday, 8.00pm slot)

* Process * The process group to request facilitation of this session at the conference.

TIME : 2 hours.

1.00pm : LUNCH

2.30pm : ACTION WORKSHOPS

We planned for 2 x 1 1/2 hour slots for action oriented workshops. This is the first slot and will include the following issues :

A. Schools - GHT

Suggested areas to be covered in discussion:

- how have branches worked where an independent schools group

- has existed alongside an ECC's schools sub-committee?
- assess the priority of identifying schools as an area of important work.
- assess the question of security around working in the schools area, in the light of increased Security Branch attention paid to this area of our work.

B. Research and Information - Cape Town

Suggested areas for discussion :

- motivations for why it's important for ECC to concentrate on this area of work
- update on the progress and development of ROM
- stimulate areas of potential and actual research happening in the area of militarisation

C. Recruitment - JHB

- the why, how, etc of developing a mass membership base
- approaches and programmes on how to incorporate new members into our organisation under the changing security conditions and increased repression
- how to adapt to the changing conditions and political climate

D. Afrikaner Community - Stellenbosch

- To assess the potential of working in this constituency
- does our message differ and if so how?
- need to look at where the shifts are occurring within the traditional support base of the present government and to identify more clearly where the dissent is emerging

E. Education and Training - Port Elizabeth

Suggested areas for discussion :

- Why have we prioritised internal education and training for our activists in this way?
- What do we hope to achieve with this more systematic approach to training?
- What forms does it take in the various regions?
- What kind of training are we wanting to provide for activists
- purely military related issues or broader understanding of the national democratic struggle, etc?

TIME : 1 1/2 hours

* Request * The name of the branch denoted immediately after the issue indicates a request for that branch to organise and facilitate that particular workshop option.

* Process * The 5 above-mentioned workshops will run concurrently and so delegates will have to choose which they wish to attend. Obviously none of this process precludes regions from having discussed all of these issues in the regions prior to the conference. In fact, that would be most desirable. There will also be a report back session in plenary.

Again the form and style that these workshops take is entirely dependent on the branch facilitating each session.

4.00pm : TEA

4.30pm : INTER-REGIONAL SUB-COMM MEETING

* Process * Refer to the process described for this slot in the previous session, held on Friday at 3.30pm. The same branches are also requested to take responsibility for this section.

TIME : 1 hour

5.30pm : PLENARY : REPORT BACK SESSION

- a. Report back from the action workshops held this afternoon.

* Process * The process group to determine who will facilitate this section once at the conference.

7.30pm : SUPPER

9.00pm : CULTURAL JORL

Each branch to prepare some form of cultural input - as many and as wonderful as possible!
Please come prepared so that we can avoid any bizarre improvisation such as the notion of edible ECC panties!

TIME : WHO KNOWS?

* Process * Just to let it happen, with one exception - a request from JHB to provide a dynamic compere.

SUNDAY.

8.00am : Breakfast

8.30am : PLENARY SESSION : NATIONAL ACTION

This will cover analysis, brainstorming and suggested actions around the clearly identified new area of work for ECC : the conscript - at all stages in his relation

to the military :

- a. as a potential conscript
- b. as a soldier
- c. as a veteran

* Request *

Cape Town in conjunction with Nic to take this task.

TIME : 1 1/2 hours

10.30am : TEA

11.00am : ACTION WORKSHOPS

A. SACBC Proposal - JHB

Suggested areas to cover in the discussion :

- report back from the meeting held in Pretoria on 31 August 1987
- state of discussion in all the branches on the issue of how the churches can get involved in this programme
- what is ECC's relationship to this proposal and how we do we take it up as a national organisation, etc.

B. VVAW Tour - Port Elizabeth

Suggested areas for discussion :

- the rationale and gains for ECC for such a venture
- proposals on how to lay the ground work for such a tour with regard to our organisational structures.
- the logistics and itinerary for the proposed tour, etc

C. International Record - Durban

- Clarity on the state of the discussion internationally on this proposal
- how do we move forward with this proposal?

D. Southern Africa WJP - Cape Town

- input from other branches on how they feel about the proposal
- amendments, additions, etc to the current proposal

E. Memorial - Cape Town

A similar process as the above workshop option to be worked out.

F. ECC's Alternative to the Presidents' Council Youth Report-JHB

This may be omitted from the programme depending on the development of research and discussion around the feasibility of this issue.

TIME : 1 1/2 hours

* Request *

Branches designated immediately after the workshop option are being requested to take responsibility for that workshop.

* Process * The same process with regard to form, etc of the workshops would apply here as in the former Action Workshop slot.

12.30 : LUNCH

2.00pm : PLENARY SESSION

This will include the following sections :

- a. Report back from the action workshops
- b. Finance report
- c. Ratification of the proposals concerning the structures of ECC . (This will have been circulated prior to Conference and must have had thorough discussion in the regions)
- d. Evaluation of Conference

TIME : 4 1/2 hours

* Process *

This section will be facilitated by the process group and timing worked out more specifically once at the conference.

GENERAL PROCESS POINTS.

1. When a region is requested to take responsibility for a section it means structuring that entire session into the given time frame ; the form that session will take; questions, etc that need to be answered and establishing what needs to come out of the session.

2. Each delegate will be provided with a conference folder which will include the following :

- the final agenda
- regional reports
- any media ,etc from the various regions
- a paper on the update of the Southern Africa region.
- a paper on military facts and figures
- any other papers, etc that regions would like to include.

3. Regions are requested to do a brief overview of their ECC branch - it's growth, development and shifts since the last National Conference (Jan 1986) until the present period.

4. The time slots allocated for TEA and MEALS are not at all fixed - rather we worked on the basis of what time span would be needed for each session. So, any suggested changes are welcome.

5. The process group to be decided at the Conference - bearing in mind that it would be good to have some regional representation at least.

6. In drawing up this proposed agenda we identified the basic areas of work that needed to be covered :

- Inputs on the State of the Nation/State of Struggle
- Input on the State of ECC
- Action planning
- Discussing already proposed actions
- Policy section
- Organizational section
- Structures
- Cultural events

7. We felt that it would be extremely helpful for the whole conference if concrete proposals emerged from each of the sessions, which could be typed up at the conference and be presented to the conference during the report back sessions. Hope this does not sound like too much work on the spot, but it certainly would facilitate easier discussion and decision making. This would be particularly important in the policy related issues.

8. In order to cope with the above suggestion, we hope to be able to provide several typewriters, writing material, and a photocopier. (If not too expensive to hire!)

9. We recognise that our physical environment does affect our mode of working and we hope to be able to arrange a comfortable venue, with healthy food and recreational time.

10. Here is a list of the broad aims for a National Conference as outlined at the August NC:

- To meet new people and to build a sense of ECC as a national organisation
- The focus should be on decision making

- To reaffirm our common strategy and both our short and long term direction . .
- To build activists
- Clarity on present policy, revision of existing policy and adoption of any new policy guidelines
- To draw together the conceptual discussion and plan around future campaigns
- An assessment of the role of ECC and what our new areas of work entail.
- To cohere a national response to the shifts in State Strategy against us and other democratic organisations.
- To be a source of energy and motivation for ECC activists

A 3 1 1

AGENDA: WORKSHOP FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE; 18 JANUARY 1986.

1. National Assessment: Clare to give a summary of our regional evaluation. In the light of this and the areas covered in Section I of the National conference agenda, do we need to add anything to our evaluation. Identify the areas, break into groups and report-back.
2. State of the Struggle: Break into groups and discuss the following questions;
 - What initiatives has the state taken in the past year? What has been the response of the people, the white community, the Churches, other groups, to these initiatives?
 - What initiatives has the people taken in the past year? (Civics, trade unions, service groups, etc) What has been the response of the state the white community, the Churches, other groups, to these?
3. Direction and planning: We will only discuss points 1 and 4 of the NC agenda. For point 1 we break into 5 groups, each group taking one of the questions given on pg 4 under section E of the NC agenda. Point 4, the 1986 Festival will be discussed briefly in plenary.
4. National Policy and conceptual issues: As we have dealt with all of the other issues, we will only focus on point 1.
 - Somebody to give a brief summary of state harrasement of ECC in 1985.
 - What possible action do we face in 1986?
 - How would we be able to respond? on an organisational, legal, other levels.
 - What does this imply for our security?

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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