

Our copy

A4.7.6

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423
Fax: 834-3189

September 4 1991

Thomas Hackman,
Albertsgatan 21 E 32,
SF-00120 Helsingfors,
FINLAND

Dear Thomas,

This is to inform you that I have today mailed the video on South African CO's to you at the above address.

I think that when the videos are used it should be explained that the first and longer one was made early in 1990, and the second shorter studio interview in July 1991, at the time of the latest half-yearly intake of National servicemen. In between these two there were some notable changes in the way that C.O's are handled by the courts: in the latter part of 1990 two C.O's were sentenced to one years' imprisonment but in both cases the sentence was suspended on condition that a certain number of hours of part-time unpaid community service be rendered instead. And in June this year, the charges against Alan Storey (who appears in the studio interview) were withdrawn when he appeared in court for the second time.

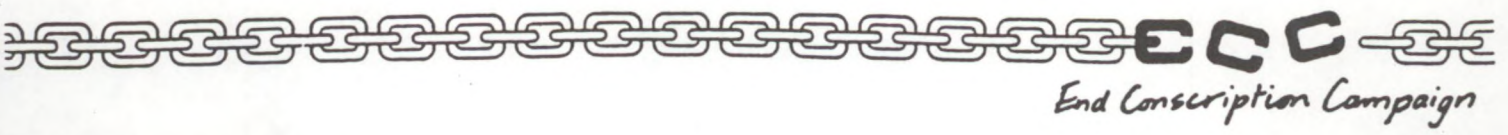
The current situation as regards conscription is that the South African Defence Force continues to call up white males for one year's full-time National military service, followed by call-ups for short time service (usually one or two months) for the next ten or twelve years; it is usually the people who are called up for these short-term "camps" who are becoming totally disillusioned with the whole system. We are receiving masses of telephone calls both at the ECC office and through the Conscription Advice Service from these "campers", most of them not by any means C.O's but just thoroughly fed-up with having their lives disrupted by the Army for no particular purpose.

I am also enclosing a copy of "The Objector"; these are produced quarterly and the next one is due later this month, so I'm afraid this isn't very up to date.

All good wishes, and I hope that the parcel will arrive safely!

Yours sincerely

Nan Cross.



Our copy

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423
Fax: 834-3189

4 September 1991

Dear Thomas,

Here at last is the copy of the two videos which you asked for at the Triennial.

I apologise for not sending this parcel sooner. Quite a lot has been happening since I got back back from Europe, and hence the delay.

With Compliments

I hope that the parcel will reach you safely. Am also sending a



Yours

End Conscription Campaign

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423
Fax: 834-3189

4 September 1991

K.Z.A.
O.Z. Achterburgwal 173
1012 DJ Amsterdam
Holland

Att: Corrie Roeper

Dear Corrie,

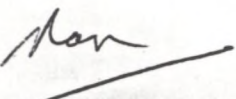
Thanks for your letter of 23 August, and for putting in a good word for us with NOVIB; as you say, we have had contact with them in the past and in fact I also visited their office in July this year, so I will continue to stay in touch with them.

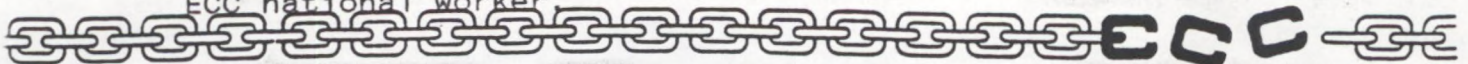
Just to bring you up to date on the conscription issue, I enclose a few press clippings. The latest "triumph" for Conscientious Objectors was the granting of political indemnity to C.O. Michael Graaf who had been sentenced to do 2400 hours of part-time community service in lieu of a one-year prison sentence. Although this decision will not affect many other people (since there was a cut-off date of October 8 1990), nevertheless its an important step forward for the government to acknowledge that C.Os are political offenders and that Conscientious Objection is a political issue. Another spin-off from this is that it keeps the whole issue of conscription and C.O. in the news.

The result of all the uncertainty about the role of the Army and the handling of C.Os is an enormous increase in the numbers of conscripts who are simply not reporting for duty when called up. I am receiving numerous telephone calls every day at the office (and also at home) from men who are totally dissatisfied with the system of "camp" call-ups, which disrupt their private/domestic/business lives for no particular purpose. The Conscription Advice Service and the lawyers and any-one else thought to have any connection with ECC or COSQ are likewise being inundated with requests for advice and counselling. Meanwhile we now have a new Minister of Defence who took office this week and is still an unknown quantity; ECC is trying to make personal contact with him.

I enjoyed my visit to your organisation, and must thank you for listening to me so patiently. It was good to meet you and to know that in Holland the anti-apartheid struggle goes on. Its going to be a long time before this country really emerges into the daylight at the end of the tunnel.

Yours sincerely,


Nan Cross
ECC national worker



End Conscription Campaign

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423
Fax: 834-3189

11 September 1991

CIIR
Fax No 0944 71 359-0017

For attention Maggie Patterson

Dear Maggie,

I hope that you have received my letter of 22 August, with a whole pile of enclosures, including Haydn Osborn's reports. If you haven't received it, please let me know; it will confirm my worst fears about the Post office, and I will have to think of some other way of getting it to you.

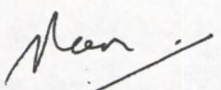
Meanwhile, the sets of funding documents which I addressed to myself here to be mailed from your office have not appeared: hence my gloom about the Post Office. There were at least three of the documents in the set which I have no copy of here, so I wonder if you could fax them to me from your records. The missing pages are of course the ones which were done in London:

- * Covering letter from you
- * Covering letter from me
- * The joint budget.
- * Motivation for ECC budget (?)
- * Motivation for CAS budget (?)

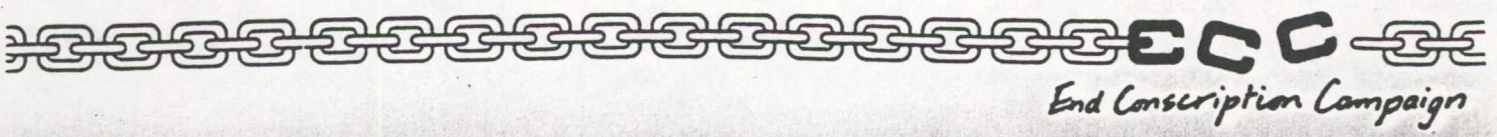
I am not sure whether the last two (the motivations) actually exist, but if they do I'd like them. I do have copies of all the separate budgets, the motivations for the Legal budget and the COSG budget, and the general overview of anti-militarisation work.

Sorry to worry you with this, but I need these things (esp the joint budget and the two letters) both for our records and to be able to report to Sister Margaret in Pretoria.

With love,



Nan.



END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423
Fax: 834-3189

11 September 1991

CIIR
Fax No 0944 71 359-0017

For attention Maggie Patterson

Dear Maggie,

I hope that you have received my letter of 22 August, with a whole pile of enclosures, including Haydn Osborn's reports. If you haven't received it, please let me know; it will confirm my worst fears about the Post office, and I will have to think of some other way of getting it to you.

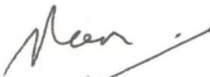
Meanwhile, the sets of funding documents which I addressed to myself here to be mailed from your office have not appeared: hence my gloom about the Post Office. There were at least three of the documents in the set which I have no copy of here, so I wonder if you could fax them to me from your records. The missing pages are of course the ones which were done in London:

- * Covering letter from you
- * Covering letter from me
- * The joint budget.
- * Motivation for ECC budget (?)
- * Motivation for CAS budget (?)

I am not sure whether the last two (the motivations) actually exist, but if they do I'd like them. I do have copies of all the separate budgets, the motivations for the Legal budget and the COSG budget, and the general overview of anti-militarisation work.

Sorry to worry you with this, but I need these things (esp the joint budget and the two letters) both for our records and to be able to report to Sister Margaret in Pretoria.

With love,



Nan.

Box 174
Umtata, Transkei
24th September, 1991

Nan Cross
ECC National Worker
End Conscription Campaign
P.O. Box 537
Kengray 2100

Dear Nan,

On behalf of the Mennonite Central Committee group, who visited Khotso House recently, I want to thank you for your important input into that experience. The history of the ECC was new to many members of the group and they especially appreciated an opportunity to meet and learn from Charles Bester. We all look forward to the time when there will be no conscription at all in South Africa.

Nan, I have personally appreciated the opportunity to learn to know you and to receive your suggestions about other people to contact and books to read. And a very big thank you for organising the juice and the tea breaks. Without those our learning would have diminished considerably.

As I may have mentioned to you, the leading of this MCC Learning Tour was a one-time experience for me. Peter and Leona Penner, who replace Bob and Judy Zimmerman Herr, will be carrying this responsibility and that of Country Representatives from 1st January 1992. Their address is presently Box 33, Gaborone, Botswana.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely

Nelda

Nelda R. Thelin
MCC Representative.

9/10/91. Sent the latest
"Objector" and a note.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423
Fax: 834-3189

UPDATE ON SOUTH AFRICAN WAR RESISTANCE ISSUES, 1991.

June 4 In the Johannesburg Magistrates Court charges for Failure to Change Address are withdrawn against objector Tony Rutherford

June 13 Michael Graaf's Appeal against sentence is heard in the Natal Supreme Court, Pietermaritzburg. The sentence (one year in jail suspended on condition that Graaf renders 2400 hours of unpaid community service) is put aside and the case referred back to the Magistrates Court for re-sentencing. Both the State's lawyers and Graaf's defence team agree that the calculation of time 'owing' to the Defence Force was in any case wrong. With the putting aside of the sentence, Michael has been able to stop his long hours of portering at a Durban hospital.

June 17 In the Johannesburg Magistrates Court charges for Refusal to serve in the SADF are withdrawn for both Revd Alan Storey (22) and Wally Rontsch (40).

June 24 ANC member Telford Vice of East London is informed by his unit, the Kaffrarian Rifles that his call-up instructions for a camp from July 2 to August 1 have been cancelled. This follows a letter he wrote to the unit stating the reasons for his refusal to serve in the SADF

June 24 Charges against two more objectors withdrawn in the Johannesburg Magistrates Court: Clyde Wynter who had been charged with refusing to serve, and Wayne Boshier, charged with failing to report for duty

June 28 Repeal of the Population Registration Act by the three Houses of Parliament (whose racially based structure depends on race classification, as does conscription into the SADF)

July 2 - 6 Historic ANC National Conference in Durban, the first to be held inside South Africa in over thirty years. Nelson Mandela is made the new President and Cyril Ramaphosa takes over the important position of Secretary General. The Conference resolves to remain a Liberation Movement and to retain the strategies of mass action, international support, MK in "combat readiness", and some underground structures

July 2 -10 ECC's End Racist Conscription Campaign gets under way to co-incide with the July National Service intake. Actions include: Press coverage about the repeal of the Population Registration Act and its effect on whites-only conscription; a placard protest and public forum on the future of conscription in Johannesburg; distribution of "Know your rights in the SADF" pamphlets to new conscripts at Wingfield, Cape Town; and a mock funeral procession through the middle of Durban to "bury conscription". Posters and pamphlets were used nationally, and in Grahamstown a wide coverage was ensured by using the pamphlets as an insert to the local newspaper Grocotts' Mail

July 10 Nico Basson, ex Military Intelligence Major, reveals more about the hit squads and destabilisation actions of the

SADF, and appeals to others to come forward with evidence of covert operations. He launches an organisation called Soldiers of Peace

July 18 At least eight people, doing alternative "community service" as Religious Objectors, are told that they are being released from their community service jobs immediately. No explanation given, but this might be an attempt to bring all the religious objectors into line with the Jehovah's Witnesses, who had already negotiated a shorter period of community service. Later in the month, two more Religious Objectors downed tools and left their work, informing the Board for Religious Objection of their reasons.

July 19 The weekly "New Nation" reveals that much of the violence of the last two years, including the Reef train massacres, has been planned and carried out by the Special Forces of the SADF, some of whose members such as former Sergeant Felix Ndimene were captured in neighbouring territories and forced to join the Special Forces where they were trained as killers and sent on "missions" as members of 5.1 or 5.3 Recce Commands.

July 20. The Weekly Mail in Johannesburg and the Guardian in London publish reports of government funding for Inkatha rallies as well as the Inkatha-affiliated trade union group, UWUSA. The State President's response to the "Inkathagate" revelations is to move two cabinet ministers to other posts: Magnus Malan to Water Affairs and Adriaan Vlok to Correctional Services. The new Minister of Defence will be Roelf Meyer.

August 9. The New Nation exposes documents dealing with a secret government plan to destabilise the Transkei and unseat Major-General Bantu Holomisa, using the SADF to blockade Transkei military bases. Meanwhile, in Lusaka, Martin Dolinchek gives details of the widespread operations of the National Intelligence Service (of which he was a member - remember the Seychelles coup attempt?), which is the successor to the notorious BOSS.

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.