

Conference

AGENDA:

1. INTRODUCTION
 2. REGIONAL REPORTS
 3. STRUCTURE, BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION SUB-COMMITTEE
FIELDWORKER SUB-COMMITTEE
REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS OF CAMPAIGN THEMES
 4. CROSS-REGIONAL DISCUSSION OF NATIONAL ISSUES AND CAMPAIGNS
 5. PLANS FOR NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS: YOUTH AND CALL UP
NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST
NAMIBIA
 6. MEDIA COMMITTEE
THEME COMMITTEE
JULY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
 7. ELECTIONS
 8. PFP DEBATE
 9. GENERAL: CHRISTIANS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE
UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
MESSAGES OF SUPPORT
 10. EVALUATION
-

1. INTRODUCTION:

Everyone introduced themselves to the groups, then the plan for the weekend was outlined. There would be regional groups, and each would elect 2 reps to the process group. The process group would work out the agenda and facilitators for each item. It would also act as a general reference group. A time-keeper was elected, too.

The process group met to work out the agenda for Saturday while the rest of the conference read over the regional reports.

2. REGIONAL REPORTS:

(i) Durban

Questions arising out of the report:

- * What are the committee's structures?

There are both individuals and representatives on the committee, but it is hoping to have a co-ordination group within it soon.

- * How did such organisations as the Klaarwater Residents' Association come to be involved?

A lot of work went into getting these groups involved. They came to the workshop in October and have been involved since. There was a vacuum due to there being no UDF ACC operating in Natal, and therefore ECC felt it important to involve as many organisations as possible.

- * Has work been done by organisations?

ECC has been an almost entirely different group since the workshop and there has been the vacation in between, thus this hasn't really been tested yet.

- * Is it a front of organisations or a task group?
It should be both or individuals' participation is limited, and the committee is less efficient in responding to issues. Durban hasn't yet had the experience to see the implications of this question, but has worked both ways.
- * Are the 23 support organisations listed at the workshop represented on the committee?
It will be difficult to keep them all, but there are 7 regular organisations represented. It is difficult to satisfy the needs of all the groups.
- * What was the call-up action?
This didn't happen .

(ii) Cape Town

Discussion arising out of the report:

- * Why is minute-taking not rotated?
It is easier being one person's task.
- * Cape Town ECC was congratulated on its success.
- * Right-wing problems at public meetings caught ECC off-guard.
- * Is ECC planning to continue working totally in the white constituency?

This was to be put as a general agenda item.

Cape Town ECC saw itself as contributing to the building of a broad-based peace movement. The UDF ACC operated amongst non-conscriptees and the ECC amongst conscriptees. The ECC had representatives on the ACC and the Church anti-conscription bodies. Its role was back-up to these other organisations.

- * What are the organisational subs?
Each organisation is asked to donate as much as can (minimum of R5). They mostly haven't paid.

- * There was a potential for an anti-war movement to develop as people were keen to join ECC as individuals, but operating as a front meant limitations. Sub-committees were thus set up to accommodate these individuals, and they were also used for ad hoc work, for example distribution of pamphlets. There is also a monthly meeting for these individuals, and irregular discussions on political or theoretical questions for those active in ECC.
- * There was right-wing obstruction at the public meetings and the marshalls couldn't work out a strategy for dealing with it. More can be expected in future and a strategy must be worked out.

(iii) Johannesburg

Discussion arising out of the report:

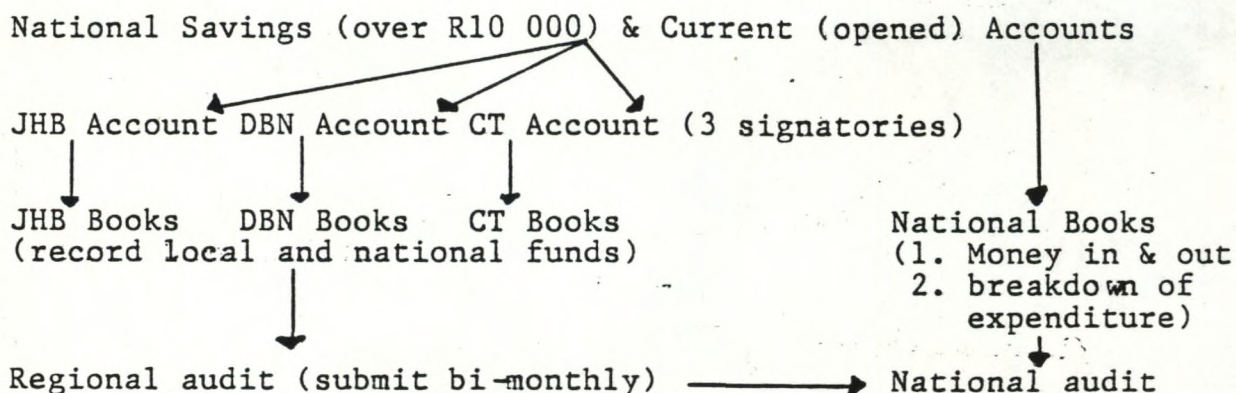
- * Why is there a chairperson?
A need was felt for an up-front person who could sign on behalf of ECC, be a contact person and so on as ECC went more public.
- * The ECC has challenged the PFP's position on conscription and called for a public debate.
- * ECC did not respond that quickly to the Vaal events, has it been collecting resource material and statements etc. from those involved?
It is a very important issue to raise and to use to win support. Johannesburg has been collecting stuff and will share it with the other centres. The Church group has affidavits.
- * Anne is the Church IYY representative.

After the reports were discussed, regional groups met to elect two reps to the structure, budget and administration sub-committee; two reps to the fieldworker sub-committee; and the rest would have an initial brainstorming about campaign themes.

3. PLENARY: REPORT BACK FROM SUB-COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS OF CAMPAIGN THEMES

(i) Structure, budget and administration

- * As regards the name it was felt that ECC has already gone public and the Education Charter Campaign would be using its full name publically, therefore the latter should be asked to call itself EdCC internally so as to avoid confusion. It was felt that ECC was a statement as well as a title.
- * The constitution would provide the national framework for ECC work and fundraising and must therefore be as broad as possible. Some amendments were suggested and are included in the attached constitution.
- * The financial plan is a decentralised one:



Jean and Benita are to draw up a model of how to keep books.

A number of points were raised in discussion of this report. These related to the number of signatories; National Council allocation of funds; and the Fundraising Act. It was resolved that there be 5 signatories - 2 of which are not directly associated with ECC; National Council will only allocate funds under instruction from regions; and that the abovementioned Act does not apply as long as we receive money in exchange for something or as a donation.

(ii) Fieldworker

- * National co-ordination: This person would take media and ideas to the various ECCs; regularly update a newsletter; and collect pressclips. He/she would be a co-ordination and resource person in the regions, and the national ECC person publically.
- * Regional work: He/she would provide analytical and additional input to ECC and its affiliates. This person would also help out generally only if necessary.
- * New regions: Closer links, although not affiliation, are to be forged in Namibia, and the fieldworker would give and receive input on the respective campaigns against conscription. There is potential for ECCs to develop in Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown, and the fieldworker is to work with the contacts in these areas to this end. The Orange Free State was not discussed as it was felt that there was little potential there at the moment.
- * Resources: The fieldworker is to monitor SADF activity and the state's IYY activity in the different regions. He/she is to collect and summarise the academic work being done with regard to militarisation, and to initiate research,

for example into white papers. Resources are to be kept in a central place so that they are readily available and known about.

- * Co-ordination with other national organisations: (for example, UDF, NUSAS, NCFS) This should go as broad as possible.
- * July Conference: The regions should take on the bulk of the work, although the fieldworker can help with this.
- * Work amongst the non-conscripted community: The fieldworker should be sensitive to or competent in working in this area.
- * Accountability: He/she would be accountable to the National Council and to each ECC when in a particular region. The National Council should work out a programme for the fieldworker. With regard to new regions - this will largely depend on the discretion and initiative of the fieldworker.
- * South Africa generally: The fieldworker should offer assistance to anyone who may request it throughout the year.

In the course of the ensuing discussion a number of questions were raised regarding: salaries, PAYE, UIF, bail etc; dismissal; and support structures for the fieldworker. There was a general feeling that the spirit of the report be accepted, and that the above definition of the fieldworker's role be reassessed once it has taken its course.

It was subsequently resolved that ECC is the de jure employer, but that de facto it is the National Council. The national account would be based in Johannesburg, and this region would take responsibility for paying the salary and seeing to UIF etc. The regional ECCs would be responsible for assessing and monitoring the fieldworker's role while he/she was in a particular region,

and the fieldworker is to report back to the regional ECC or the National Council contact. In areas where there is no ECC, the fieldworker is to use his/her own discretion and report to the regional ECCs. National Conference would assess the role of the fieldworker and he/she would be required to write a report for Conference. With regards to fund raising, the fieldworker would have no specific responsibility although may be involved in fund raising activities when they occur. It was felt that support groups needed to be set up in each region, although these need not be formalised. One or more people in each region would take responsibility for transporting, accomodating and providing legal and personal support to the fieldworker. (It was also felt that 'fieldworker' did not adequately describe the job, and that the person should rather be referred to as a 'national organiser': NOTE.)

(iii) National Campaigns

Regional groups met and were asked to answer 3 questions:

- a) What do you intend to achieve (goals, programmes) this year?
- b) What are your reasons for choosing these?
- c) What do you feel needs to be achieved nationally in 1985?

The following is what the various regions reported:

Durban:

It was felt that it was difficult to set goals until the group knew where it was at organisationally.

- a) COSG is working on a youth campaign and ECC needs to avoid duplication. ECC could plug into IYY and youth organisation generally, as a resource and co-ordinating group on the issue of militarisation. ECC could also do something as a task group.

Media was isolated as another crucial area for ECC work. More people with media skills needed to be drawn in, and more people reached out to. It was felt that there was a need for more additional material in Objector so that there could be increased distribution in townships (There has been a positive response to Objector in these areas), and perhaps a news group could be established for this purpose. There is also the possibility of a photocomic being produced - this needs funds and quick distribution. It is difficult for Durban to rely on the media of other centres, given its different make-up, and more media geared at specific targets in the townships needs to be developed. A publication for activists was also discussed.

- b) The reasons for choosing these were that there is a need to gear media towards specific target groups, and thereby reach out to more people; and that ECC needs to pull in more people to work on ECC and a media sub-committee would go some way towards meeting this need. There is also a need to counter state propaganda aimed at the youth.
- c) It was felt that there needs to be a sense of a national movement with a clear identity and profile.

Cape Town:

- a) This group saw itself as needing to consolidate its base in the white constituency, and broaden its base by feeding into other constituencies in 1985.
- b) In terms of campaigns, there would be ongoing work that would need to be consolidated and the call up issue would be key here. Namibia was thought to be an important campaign theme, although how this would be conducted is not yet clear. Youth was the main campaign focus of the year and details of this

are in the addendum to the Cape Town report.

- c) Nationally, it was felt that Namibia, International Youth Year and issues such as township invasions (eg. Sebokeng) were of prime importance. Media was particularly important for such national campaigns.

Johannesburg:

- a) Jo'burg's theme for the year is Just Peace and this group outlined a programme for the year:

February: PFP Debate - this is aimed at white liberals and is intended to counter the PFP position on conscription, and to give a higher profile to ECC.

March: Hurley will be on trial over his evidence regarding Namibia. It was felt that this would be important to take up regionally and nationally - it offers further openings to the Church constituency and will highlight the situation in Namibia.

April: Put together an IYY Resource Package.

May: Build up to the Just Peace Campaign.

June: Education and Freedom Charters campaign.

July: Call-up

September: Sebokeng anniversary - raise the notion of civil war in South Africa.

December: Christmas campaign.

- b) This would broaden the involvement of other groups, eg. youth and the Churches, and would consolidate ECC progress up to now. It would put conscription firmly on the agenda of other organisations, and provide a forum for research. It would increase affiliates' understanding of the role of ECC. The group planned to mail a newsletter to interested individuals and organisations; to hold workshops; and to produce media.

- c) Nationally, ECC needs to consolidate, increase its profile using already formulated national groups. This would entail joint themes and foci, eg. National Day of Protest commemorating Sebokeng, and slotting into other campaigns such as Education Charter and IYY.

National Issues:

The issues that could be taken up nationally which came out of the regional reports and subsequent discussion in the plenary session were:

- * Destabilisation (Nkomati, MNR, LLA etc)
- * Namibia
- * IYY (Church, UDF, international committees)
- * SADF camps (schools)
- * War tax
- * Just Peace
- * Peace march
- * Extension of conscription
- * Call-ups
- * National Day of Protest - Sebokeng (September 3)
- * Education Charter campaign and Freedom Charter popularisation (as a means of slotting into other campaigns)
- * Supporting objectors

These were then to be discussed in cross-regional groups. The guiding questions were:

- a) What issues need to be taken up nationally? Which need to be national campaigns?
- b) Which of these campaigns is most important? (Rank them roughly)

4. PLENARY: NATIONAL ISSUES AND CAMPAIGNS:

The cross-regional groups reported to the plenary group on their discussions. There were 6 groups and all came out with similar results. After plenary discussion of these, unanimity was reached on the following as national campaigns:

- * Call up - this would be under the banner of Peace and Friendship but would not overtly focus on the Freedom Charter.
- * Namibia - This would be in the context of destabilisation.
- * Civil War/Sebokeng
- * Youth - this was the area of least clarity. It was felt that the campaign should happen for about 2 weeks in June.

There was extensive discussion on youth ensuing. It was explained that the United Nations had declared 1985 International Year of Youth under the theme: Peace, participation and development. The focus would be on 'Third World' countries. UDF and the Church has an IYY Committee, also the State. Thus, there are both progressive and reactionary forces working on IYY. It was stressed that there are a number of youth groups that are not being reached at all. Cape Town said that youth is becoming an increasingly important constituency for its ECC, this having arisen organically. It was felt that the IYY and ECC theme or focus were compatible, for example there was a youth anti-war rally in Cape Town in September. ECC brings very specific skills and understanding to other organisations, and it was felt to be important, particularly for ECC profile, to link the youth theme to other campaigns. Other centres agreed that youth is important, but said that this was taken up differently in different regions. It was suggested that ECCs slot this into a number of other foci happening through the year.

It was resolved that ECC take youth up nationally around the middle of June, given that the UDF National Youth Week and the Church IYY National Day of Action is happening around this time, to get the most out of it. It would also serve as a prelude to action around the call-up. Otherwise, regions should focus on youth whenever appropriate.

After this session, previous groups were welded together in twos to discuss plans for the 3 main campaigns:

- * Youth and Call-up
- * National Day of Protest
- * Namibia

5. PLENARY: REPORT BACK ON PLANS FOR NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS:

.(i) Youth and Call-up

Republic Day looks like it will be 'celebrated' again and there is a need to counter this.

- * May 29 - blitz schools with a national pamphlet
- * May 30 - poster stand in town
- * June 1 - public event to be regionally defined, eg. Rock the Republic concert.
- * June 16 - 26 - National Council is to discuss plans for this week. Plans need to be made well in advance as this will be a very busy period.
- * July - call up - a national pamphlet will be needed, as well as national slogans for a picket. Letters

to the authorities and the press should be written. The National Council should also discuss the question of the possibility of a peace march by C.O.s around this time.

The media people in each region should note the media needed.

(ii) National Day of Protest (September 3)

* Objectives: to focus on civil war.

to build popular feeling for the demand: 'Keep Troops out of the Townships'.

to challenge people facing call-ups.

as an expression of solidarity with those faced by the military in the townships.

* Timing: a) Reactive (i.e. response to an invasion) - particular regions can initiate this.

b) Commemorative - Parliamentary Defence Debate
Sharpeville
Sebokeng

* Preparation: There needs to be close contact with what is happening in the townships, and there needs to be media packages.

* National Campaign: a) reactive - creative protest action

* national picket

* street theatre

* vigils

b) commemorative - public meetings, close press liaison, letters & opinions in the press.

- * National media campaign: (it is important that this be targetted)
- exciting posters
- pamphlets for schools and parents
- graffiti
- national slogan (to the effect 'Keep Troops out of the Townships')
- stickers

There needs to be close co-ordination with the national organiser and the National Council.

(iii) Namibia (reactive)

The national organiser will be in contact with people in Namibia, and will get the input back to ECC. This will help with the Namibia campaign. In the event of something flaring up there, the national organiser and the National Council need to work out:

- * the feasibility of launching the campaign
- * the slant of the campaign and slogans
- * allocate regional work
- * regulate press releases.

Resource material is needed NOW. The issue needs to be hooked into other campaigns, the costs of war, civil war, destabilisation, 'call-up for what' and so on.

Other times at which a campaign could be launched are around Hurley's trial in February, and on Namibia Day August 26. The latter could be planned at the conference in July. The former should be the particular responsibility of Johannesburg as that centre has access to the affidavits, international press agencies, and the trial is in Pretoria.

The programme for the year thus stands at:

February (18)	Hurley and Namibia
May (29 & 30)	Republic Day
June (16 - 26)	Youth Focus (tie in with UDF and call up)
July (1st week)	Church IYY focus
August (26)	Namibia Day
September (3)	National Day of Protest (Sebokeng)

After this session, regional groups met to elect a national organiser; reps. to the committees on media, theme and July Conference; and two National Council reps.

6. PLENARY: REPORT BACK FROM THE MEDIA, THEME AND JULY CONFERENCE COMMITTEES:

(i) Media

This committee did not report back to the plenary session, but the following is a summary of its discussions.

* Two media contacts in each region were appointed:

Cape Town - Margo and Basil

Jo'burg - Jon and Anne

Durban - Fiona, Gary and Vernon

* The possibility of a national media meeting at the end of April was discussed.

* Distribution was discussed as a priority area - finances would be dealt with through the national account.

* Centres are to inform each other immediately of any bannings.

* Cape Town is to send the other centres all the media they have

produced thus far (i.e. examples thereof), so that orders can be placed.

- * Projects: *letterhead - CT is to send a draft around
- * logo - CT is to send a bromide to the other centres
- * badges - JHB is to send around the designs by the end of February
- * national pamphlet for schools is to be ready by the end of April. Everyone is to do drafts and think up slogans by then, these will be priority mailed around the country and a decision made.
- * national pamphlet for the call up is to be ready by the end of May, and the same as above applies.

(ii) Theme

'Peace' is the linking word in IYY, NUSAS, and the UN's themes. A flexible slogan is necessary to draw people broadly into ECC: We call for an end to conscription, We call for a just peace in our land. Any bit of this can be used. Other slogans may be appropriate in particular campaigns, eg. Sebokeng: civil war.

(iii) Conference

It was felt that this should be more along the lines of a festival. It would be held for a night and a day. There would be a big open day with a high profile speaker giving the opening address, and small interest groups looking at specific aspects of militarisation and conscription. A high profile speaker would also end the conference. A broad range of people and anti-militarisation groupings should be encouraged to attend. Motions tabled at the conference should be released to the press. These would be motions of the conference and not ECC. The aim should be to get people from the affiliate organisations, signatories

and from the public to hear the major speaker. He/she would be a drawcard and an important contributor. Academics would be important to target, and reasonable academic input would be useful. A small, closed gathering of ECC activists could meet either directly before, or after the conference. It was felt that July would be a good time because it was vac time, and any later would mean towards the end of the year.

The problems raised with this was that COSG's conference was also in July in Cape Town, and NUSAS July Festival was in Jo'burg. It would be easier to organise in Cape Town as there would be good press coverage and enough workers. However, there were possibly more gains to be made in Johannesburg in terms of drawing more members of the public. This is to be discussed in the regions and reported to the National Council. Gains and resources should be looked at particularly in making this decision. National Council needs to have an answer by the end of February.

During the course of discussion, it was felt that a night and a day was too short if so many people were to be transported from one end of the country to the other. The argument countering this was that the idea was more to attract people in the particular region it is held in. Moreover, neither Cape Town nor Johannesburg felt they could undertake a bigger conference. A question was raised as to how the ECC conference would relate to the COSG conference. It was felt that there need not be a clash or overlap as a broad range of people would be expected to attend, and it was mainly a show of strength.

It was recommended that towards the end of the year, National Council plan for next year and take decisions about Conference. Reservations were expressed about July as many activists would be rushing from one conference to the next, having just had a very busy time as regards the youth focus, and the call up action. (There is the SACC, NUSAS, COSG, ECC conferences as well as the possibility of another Botswana Arts Festival) The regions must assess this, report to National Council and a decision would be taken by the end of February. Cape Town is to inform the other ECCs of the dates for the COSG and NUSAS conferences by the middle of February.

7. ELECTIONS:

Motivations for the nomination of Laurie Nathan were put to Conference. Laurie Nathan was unanimously elected national organiser. Some reservations had been expressed regarding Laurie's lack of experience with the Churches. Steve Lourie is the Catholic War and Peace National Worker, and he is to liaise with Laurie.

The National Council reps are:

* Cape Town: Benita (main rep)

Peter/Jon

* Jo'burg : Mike (main rep)

Paula/Beaver

* Durban : Sue

unsure of back up person, but this would be a rotating position to be changed every 6 to 12 months.

8. PFP DEBATE:

Johannesburg outlined its reasons for challenging the PFP to a debate on conscription, and Cape Town outlined the difficulties it had with contact with the PFP. There was discussion on the possible implications of Johannesburg going ahead with its debate. The resolution was that debate is a confrontation, not co-operation and has as its intention a 'view to conversion'. Therefore debating with the PFP is not the same as giving the PFP credence or legitimacy. It was decided that ECC nationally would not take a policy decision in this regard, although Cape Town ECC has already decided not to have contact - formal or informal - with the PFP. Each region must assess the position in this regard as it is faced with the problem. A lesson learnt was that any decision taken must be thought through in all its implications.

9. GENERAL:

Christians for Justice and Peace: This is a regionally-based programme and therefore regional ECCs may be touched by it. It was an initiative of Church people who have picked up on an appeal by Archbishop Hurley at the 1983 SACC Conference. He called for Christians to come together in small groups, and to network these groups towards the end of transforming South Africa into a more just society. A small group has started to translate this call to Church action in the last 18 months. The National Commission of Church Leaders has looked at this, and subsequently set up a National Research Committee with a part-time fieldworker.

The programme envisages Christians throughout South Africa trying to encourage small groups to form networks, and sometime during 1987 to have a big Christian Conference, which will bring together these groups, sharing experiences and ideas, and going out to mobilise more Christians. Groups are being set up in Johannesburg and Cape Town and possibly other centres as things develop. A group has already been set up in Durban. The focus is on Christians, but not necessarily those within the Church. ECC might find it useful to link in with these groups, and the contact will keep ECC informed on the different positions of the Churches and enable it to choose who it wants to work with.

United Nations Commission on Human Rights: This is to be held in Geneva in March and will be discussing the adoption of conscientious objection as a fundamental human right. People will be coming from all over the world to give evidence. Richard will be attending the hearing, and speaking about the state of conscientious objection and opposition to militarisation in South Africa.

Messages of support: Archbishop Hurley passes on his regards, prayers and support. Mike Van Graan sends his greetings of solidarity and support.

10. EVALUATION:

Some useful points to come up in the evaluation were:

- * to exchange regional reports before the conference so as not to waste time reading them there, and to give people time to

think of questions and comments.

- * regions need to have ongoing assessments
- * reports need to be more indepth and analytical as opposed to descriptive.
- * more time for outdoor activities
- * some social event
- * to look at this evaluation in planning next year's conference.
- * to get press coverage of the conference

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE: PROPOSED AGENDA

A FESTIVAL

1. Assessment in terms of objectives
 - * impact on broader public
 - * deepen understanding of delegates
 - * strengthen ECC organisationally
 - * strengthen relations between ECC and member organisations/other groups
 - * develop international perspective
 - * advance movement for peace in SA (?)
 - * other positive/negative effect

2. Consolidation
 - * publicity
 - * international links
 - * content
 - * affiliates
 - * other

B NATIONAL ASSESSMENT

1. National Organisation report + discussion

~~2. Regional reports~~

3. Small group discussion 45 min

- * media
- * culture
- * internal education

~~4. press + public relations~~

- * schools

~~5. relations with affiliates + other groups~~

[National Committee: finances;
Nat. Org assessment +
plans]

C NATIONAL PLANNING + ISSUES

1. Namibia
2. Call-up (?)
3. Film Festival
4. Poster + art display
5. Shifty records
6. SATV / midweek
7. Byeldenhuis
8. September 3

Surz	10 min 10 min
Report	1
Assessment	2
Small group	3
Planning	4

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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