

It was suggested that inevitably, the cultural events would bring up the SA issues and the question being asked is whether we prioritize a few issues or whether we try and do as much as possible?

* It was felt that we should try and find a balance there between too much and not enough. That we should look at the July festival sessions and evaluate which ones were well attended, which issues were relevant to ECC's direction and functioning, and what the quality of work was.

c. Music :

* It was felt that classical music was not acceptable because for many it was irrelevant but that if the CT S.O. played it would be good to have them as we would be able to draw on another constituency.

* it may be useful to include compositions which would include African instruments.

d. International Speaker :

* Due to the cultural boycott, it may be difficult to get a cultural speaker or performer; it is not our role to break the cultural boycott.

* a philosopher or psychologist?

* a Greens speaker.

* an African political leader.

* a Greenham Commons woman.

It was felt that the person should be connected to a number of issues; should therefore be able to draw in a number of different people; someone from whom we would benefit and who would in turn benefit her/himself; someone who is known to South Africans; someone who would not be breaking any boycotts. There was some discussion as to whether we should develop local people but it was felt that often they are over used.

e. General :

* Street events.

* Mass actions.

* Huge game.

The next general meeting will be held on Thursday, 1st May at 7.30pm. We will do an evaluation of the WJP at that meeting and also decide about the Alex action.

ECC General meeting 24 April 1986

1. BREYTENBACH

Claire reported that at last meeting the process by which the exec. decided on not giving him a platform was explained:

- x had had to decide in a day
- x felt that gen. bodies shld discuss it, + not just indivs within organisations
- x all ECC gen. bodies have bn mandated to discuss it -
this process of discussion hs now bn set in motion again
- x question of consulting with UDF
 - we are not part of UDF, don't take our line from them
 - but we are part of broad anti-apartheid movt + have to bear this relationship in mind + how our actions will affect this
 - recog. that as whites we are

not leaders of struggle + must bear in mind the feeling of community organisations

- must also be accountable to other ECC regions

- other issue: of condemning a person to exclusion for because of past actions (ie BB's offer to spy for SB) - important to remember that people have opportunities to put record straight, + he hasn't used these opportunities

- informers are hated + he has not apologised for this.

- only feed-back from PE, still waiting for other regions

2. AGENDA FOR NAT. COMM MEETING

A. CULTURAL FESTIVAL

at Jan conference, CT mandated to draw up a proposal

- Claire read this out, incl. aims.

Proposed:

- mid-Dec (as holiday atmosphere)

- will activists be available?

- good facilities available in different constituencies

- graded registration

- ECC members to be integrated into participation

- shld be used to build nat. unity

- include a variety of cultural forms

- debate about whether all

- shld be anti-military

- or just surrounded by ECC media?

duration: 10 days

start Fri evening →
next Sunday

- spaced events

more time for relaxing + assimilatn

overseas speaker: relig/pol/cultural?

Africa: Julius Nyerere?

each centre to participate in drawing
up programme

response on duration: 10 days dld
be stretched out too long

x suggested 6 days: 12 - 16 Dec

x shld not be structured around

our convenience - if spread out
wld draw ordinary holidaymakers

x long period - ^{but} intense nat. events dld
be limited into a few events.

x after 16th, because people on hol

x before 16th, otherwise too close
to Xmas

2.

- x if intense in middle, evaluation couldn't be held at end, but assessments wld have to be continuous
- x public wldn't come to intense things but to once-a-day thing
- x CT idea was to repeat some events

⇒ long period with intense period

response to suggested events:

negative to fashion show

LAURIE:

- x how much educative input at festival? only on culture/resistance?
- if loosely structured, i.e. choice, ed input wld be worthwhile for national gathering
- thinking thro' medium of culture or thro' medium of 'direct' education?

- if trying to build non-racialism, wd to look at role of militarism in different scenes, eg. township/factory
- maybe make distinctn bet ECC + gen public
- ~~Ans:~~ \neq culture + ed shouldn't be dis differentiated - shld focus on 'mass' cultural events to draw people
- decide shld try combine ed + cultural input
- but shld have small ed input

which issues shld have ed. input?

- role of mil in SA

- persons facing Jan call-up

Laurie: inevitably cultural events

wld bring up SA issues

do we prioritize few issues or as much as possible?

X two responses

educate as many as possible about much as possible

3.

or bring across certain points?

- shld have a theme?

maybe bringing across militaristic attitudes (esp. relevant to Afrs)

- shld try to find balance bet intense programme / few ?

● evaluate 1985 festival sessions - which one's were well-attended which issues relevant to ECC's direction + functioning + quality of work done.

- if determined by audience → maybe determined by regions (if for public, otherwise)

→ suggestion accepted.

classical music

- x not acceptable because irrelevant
- x if CT S.O. plays, it will be good
- x also reaching another audience
- x white, elitist cultural form

x maybe compositions which include African instruments

Overseas speaker for mass pol. rally?

x cultural, for c. festival
- but cultural boycott

x at Jan conf., it's not our role to break boycott

- maybe ask Springsteen et al to produce a tape

- wld Nyerere get in?

- philosopher / psychologist?

- Solzhenitzin?

- Greens speaker - Petra Kelly

- Mugabe, Caddaffi

↓
connects to a number

of issues - d'd draw in number of people

- she might refuse to come

- maybe shld develop local people (but are often over-used)

- find people to come who we wld

4

benefit from + wld benefit from
the visit

- Greenham Common
- Bruce Kent - doesn't need a visa
- shldn't it be someone ~~to~~ known to S. Africans.
- can't break boycotts

- what about street events?
mass actions?
huge game? (Karen)

3. SURVEY CAMPAIGN - MAY

- stand with last week's decision

4. JULY NAT CONFERENCE

● media gp suggested that
culture wkshop precede the nat.
conference wkshop (I'm not
sure I followed this right?)

- is July conference necessary?
Claire:
 - needed to discuss Geldenhuys Comm
 - to discuss: + Dec festival

- to discuss nat. publications

- sub-gps want to meet nationally

Laurie: helps people to have nat. identity, to be acquainted nationally

- a lot of new branches

- more for planning, assessment than decision-making.

- suggested days: 5/6 July in Grahamstown

- as long as finished with call-up campaign

- check clashes with NUSAS events

5. NAT PUBLICATION

Claire report-back:

nat. conf. debate - trendy focus
or slick, broad

CT proposal: slick, broad appeal
use medium of culture

e.g. review of militarism in
Hollywood films

51

proposal hasn't made pol aims clear

- focus on anti-mil, informative articles wh wld be sold at CNAs
- to broaden support for ECC + for anti-mil. stance

X youth more affected by issues
- but not just an organ of youth culture

X shld have serious Afr input / content

- emphasis on analytic, debate content

- not news content, but incl. news of enduring value relevance.

→ no problem with proposed process
- sub-comms to discuss suggestions for article

6. JULY CALL-UP

- looking for ideas for nat. action
- sub-comms to discuss own campaign
- ~~idea~~ WWP action around that time.

7. Afr group

met last night

decided on concert,

pamphlets to ⁴ Afr schools this morning, angry hoof

- discussion with Tukkies - lots of work to be done
- a good beginning
- many questions

AIDS meeting - Apartheid in Die Son

- working on END posters for Pretoria

Claire: Pretoria strategy needs to be worked out

Laurie: new branch

- don't start with fixed

conditions/agenda

- in Stellenbosch, discussed with a broad grouping
- invited 60 persons by letter for ECC evening
- asked for volunteers for ECC working group
- → CT Afr persons was interim co-ordinator until S. people felt confident

- EL - decided didn't set up branch yet, rather set up small projects

- need to make nat. decision about Afr name which has no negative connotations → then adopt name for all media

Jub + Stellenbosch made contact
→ need to come to consensus about name wh can be adopted nationally.

8. PICNIC\$

- need people to put up posters
- need people: to facilitate groups
to clean-up
(w/ party to organise/
do this)
- affiliates ^{to} bring media TABLES

9. PARK to still be finished
on Saturday.

10. RALLY - struggling with City Council
about venue.
~~pos~~

11. ALEX

MSC keen to take Alex idea
doubts about action in terms of
present.

- will go ahead
- feasible will ^{be} decided by WSP

B12

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

PUBLIC MEETING ORGANISED BY THE COALITION FOR THE RIGHT TO
KNOW - JOHANNESBURG CITY HALL, 5TH AUGUST 1986

The State of Emergency has infringed our fundamental right to know what is happening in our country. Newspapers cannot report freely. Many organisations are prevented from speaking out. Non-residents of townships are prevented from going there to find out for themselves.

WE DEMAND OUR RIGHT TO KNOW. WE DEMAND OUR RIGHT TO SPEAK.

The following organisations and individuals support the call of the Coalition for the Right to Know, and are represented on the platform:

Vice Chancellor, University of the Witwatersrand
Academic Freedom Committee
National Council of Women
Women for Peace
Black Sash
PFP Youth
People's Initiative
Progressive Federal Party
South African Council of Churches
Presbyterian Church
Congregational Church
Church of the Province of Southern Africa
Jews for Social Justice
Reform Rabbi
Lawyers for Human Rights
Detainees Parents Support Committee
Conscious Objectors Support Group
End Conscription Campaign

The following legal organisations would like to be present, but are unable to be with us because their members are under threat. The empty chairs on the platform represent their presence.

JODAC
NATIONAL EDUCATION CRISIS COMMITTEE.

PROGRAMME

Chairman : Mr. Arthur Chaskalson - Legal Resources Centre

Speakers : 1 Mrs Helen Suzman, MP
2 Dr Ntatho Motlana
3 Mr Tony Heard - Editor of the Cape Times.

COALITION FOR THE RIGHT TO KNOW

AN AFFIRMATION

We believe that the denial by the South African Government of our right to know what is happening in our country and our right to control the actions of the servants of the State is the primary cause of the violence, disorder and injustice which exists at the moment.

We affirm our belief in, and our commitment to, the principle of democratic government and a civilized order (in the words of the State President) which does not allow people to be incarcerated in prison cells without access to the Courts and to due process of law.

The regulations and numerous prohibitions promulgated in terms of the uncontrolled powers given to the Security Forces under the State of Emergency deny to South African citizens their rights to absolute protection from arbitrary arrest and detention without trial, their right to freedom of speech, their right to organise opposition to government policy and action.

There can be no peace and there can be no justice while the present denial of civil liberties continues and while the South African Government perseveres in its determination to impose a political order based on racial classification upon the people of this country who have clearly demonstrated their rejection of a system of government founded on race and ethnic separation.

We declare and affirm that we are one undivided South African nation in one undivided and united country and we will continue to work for the ideals of justice, peace and democracy.

AGENDA AND MINUTES 25/11.

1. Dukasie removals.
2. ECC diary.
3. Joburg ECC campaign.
4. Campus campaign suggestion.
5. Approving Natal Command letter.
6. Poem by Chris Mann.
7. Workshop.
8. Next meeting.
9. CIIR book.
10. National day of unity.
11. General.
12. List of personal details.

1. Dukasie removals.

The Black Sash has invited ECC to parttake in the re-building of roads in Dukasie on Thursday. It was also suggested that ECC make the necessary contacts so that we could plan a day of help, involving our mailing list.

2. ECC diary.

Pretoria has requested 50 copies for distribution.

3. Joburg ECC campaign.

Joburg has invited other regions to take up their "Eat a Caspir for Christmas" campaign. Pretoria would not take it up due to lack of distribution problems.

4. Campus campaign suggestion.

The campus group has suggested a mini campaign for Pretoria - "Anti-war toys". The General body decided it would ECC the necessary exposure in Pretoria, and it would be a relevant theme for the churches group to take up. All interested would hold a separate meeting to discuss details and would report back to the General body.

5. Approving of letter to Natal command.

Pretoria felt that some of the suggestions on the agenda were unreasonable (eg. ECC's relationship with the SADF.) Suggestions from Pretoria were to concentrate on points such as:

- the harassment and treatment of ECC members.
- have ECC voice their stand points, and them theirs.
- ECC's legitimacy.
- consciencious objection to military service, for various reasons, not just religious objection.

Durban ECC would be contacted with the suggestions.

6. Poem by Chris Mann.

Thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

7. Workshop.

Postponed to Sunday.

8. Next meeting.

Venue and time decided. Bring along supper afterwards.

9. CIIR book.

Discussion would be held next week.

10. National day of unity.

ECC Pretoria felt that we could not sign the declaration as it was not relevant to ECC as a single issue campaign, but we could still join in the actions on that day. This will be discussed when further details are made available."

11. General.

A request for articles in the file to be made available for photostating etc. Pretoria is invited to attend a cheese and wine in Joburg on Thursday. Copies of the minutes would be made available next week.

12. List of personal details.

General Picture of Organisations' Work in Johannesburg

Most organisations are continuing with their usual work with the added dimension of participation in alliances. Broad anti-apartheid alliances and a focus on the role of whites and the role in change of extra-parliamentary organisations have been chosen as focuses in response to the outcome of the white election.

Many organisations are overstretched because of alliance demands. Some organisations are in "Free the Children", 5 Freedoms and are also part of UDF. They also may be ECC member organisations. Thus it becomes increasingly difficult to cope with all these allinces.

Repression and surveillance of white organisations has been minimal, with only two incidents: the sudden brief detention of the Jhb UDF Area Committee (comprising reps from each of the UDF affiliates); and Security Police visits to two Free the Children members. We have always known that surveillance is continuing (even though we don't observe it) and this seems to be confirmed because the UDF group was endeavouring to operate in a secure way and were unaware there was any problem.

Some of the issues from the Last National Committee Meeting

Diary: A diary was compiled by Joburg last year but was seized by the police whilst being printed. All that needs to be changed is the dates, and take out statements which are now subversive. The problem is with financing. Regions should place an order for the number of diaries they will be wanting and raise the money for a third of that amount. Money could be raised through getting hold of order forms and asking people to order their diary and pay the R5 for it at that stage.

Cape Town Record: Other regions felt concerned that the record proposed by CT was a bit too "Cape Town centric". We should send around a proposal of which bands will be on the record and ask for approval or additions etc. Unless this national consultation is done regions felt it would be inappropriate to call the record Forces Favourites 11.

CT Calendar: Branches placed orders for the number of calendars they would like. (PE wishes to add 20 to their order). Orders have been given to the culture rep.

International Record: Durban will circulate a full proposal so that regions can have a proper discussion.

CIIR Book: ECC National has been asked to work out some way of being consulted about the book. Each branch has been requested to find someone who is keen and interested to scheme about the book and then to forward that persons name to Adele. In Cape Town a reference group has been formed which involves a number of ECC individuals.

Militarisation Survey: Grahamstown proposed that ECC find out whether it is possible for a survey to be conducted on militarisation issues. At NC we had some discussion about the values of such a survey, as well the danger of becoming too dependent on surveys and overestimating their value. It was suggested that CT approach Idasa to find out if they would be interested in financing and hosting the survey. Regions could start to think about the types of questions that could be asked.

Resources: Some branches don't have easy access to resources. Each branch should co-ordinate a list of the resources in their area, audiovisual material, seminars, speakers, names of people who have a lot of knowledge in particular areas etc. Such a list could become part of the SACBC national coordination of resources. Even if other branches are not able to have copies of videos or whatever, it is useful to know where they can be found.

Smears: around the country smear actions include: concerted letters campaign against ECC conducted in the pages of the newspapers; phone calls to new members before they come to their first meeting; campus right wing activity; pornography being sent to members the day before the branch search their house; stickers "I support ECC" stuck onto car windows; pamphlet stuck onto car windows detailing names and criminal record/charges of ECC members; Vets for Victory pamphlets; members parents being phoned by branch; bomb threats in meetings; Women for SA pamphlet sent to all TVL headmistresses/masters - is an 8 page letter about ECC being part of the communist onslaught. In PMB they got the reg. number of a vehicle which was putting up smear stickers. Was a military vehicle. But SADF denies this. NC felt that we don't want to get into always just responding to smears, but we do want to try to get substantive evidence linking the state to smears. So we should try to get evidence that can be used. Also useful to use MP's, lay charges etc ie use legitimate channels.

Mittwoch, 15. Mai 1986, 15:30 Uhr, Johannesstube, 15/30/5/86/86.

Present : Wits ECC; Sash; Jodac; YCS; War and Peace; COSG.

Attendance : 40 people.

1. Announcements.

1.1 ECC Workshop on 17th May at Dawn's house - 8 Tottenham Rd. Melrose.

1.2 Report back from Gavin about his US trip at Roots on Monday, 19th May at 7.30pm.

1.3 Barbara Friedman to co-ordinate with the CIIR on a publication dealing with militarization/ECC. This was agreed upon by the general body.

1.4 Volunteers are needed for the Jodac open day which will be on Saturday, 31st May. 4 members volunteered from ECC.

2. Sub-committee Reports Back.

2.1 Education: A workshop on the conscript and the legal requirements will be held on Thursday, 22 May at Trinity Hall at 7.30pm. This is open to ECC's extended membership.

2.2 Churches : Continues to work well. No other report back.

2.3 Contact : No report back.

2.4 Media :

- Working on a long sleeve jumper for ECC.
- Making an ECC display and need photos.
- Media stock will be brought to GB meetings. It was suggested that more stock is needed in the ECC office.
- Socks will be ready by June.

3. National Committee Report Back. (NC)

* Grahamstown : There has been no official public launch yet but this is planned for late May. The WJP helped build up their profile. They now have 4 sub-comms : media; contact/churches; schools (issues of war and peace); campaign comm. Relations between the 'town' and campus ECC have grown stronger. The campus group is structured as a coalition with 7 affiliates. They recently had a concert where each of the affiliates produced an item reflecting their direction. One of the problems experienced in G'htown is that the grouping is small and overextended.

* P.E. : Janet was one of the speakers at a major funeral in P.E. The situation there is particularly intense and there is lots of fear within the white community. The WJP was very successful - they went into Walmer township and helped repair a creche. They have felt that the projects have made enormous gains for ECC. They have made contact with a group of concerned businessmen. They also have a lot of contact with a group of Jewish women. They have had constant threats against their members - Pete Hathorne was beaten up about two weeks ago and Barbara Orpen was

sjambokked by 3 white thugs in balaclavas recently.

* Cape Town : ECC has made a significant impact on the CT community through the WJP. They started off with a fare which 4000 people attended; photo exhibition; film festival; cultural evening at the Baxter theatre. The Rally at the end of the campaign was attended by 3000 people. Altogether 12 different projects were taken on, mostly within the coloured community. ECC came across as positive, slick and not too radical. A lot of discussion is happening around the issues of democratic processes and women's participation.

Two new sub-comms have developed : Projects ; Parents group.

* Durban : The WJP has been successful and drew in about 100 volunteers. Four different projects were taken on, each with its own co-ordinator and running independently. The campaign ended with a cheese and wine including a comprehensive questionnaire for each volunteer. Other activities included:

- picket of the opening of the State theatre.
- picket of the HQ of Natal Command when the troops moved into Lamontville.
- went up to roadblocks and spoke to some of the soldiers.
- setting up a veterans group.

* Pietermaritzburg : They were involved with 2 projects.

- Compensation Resettlement area - planted sisal and windbreakers. A lot of volunteers from both the white and black community were recruited for this action.
- Children's Home in a white community.

They have had successful involvement of several schoolchildren from about 5 different private schools.

* National Assessment :

WJP has been our first real national campaign and ECC has taken on a new dimension.

The press coverage was not great but we still made a lot of gains and have a greater sense of national cohesion.

There was a big debate on the role of women in ECC and questions were raised as to whether ECC is a feminist organization or adheres to those principles. It was felt that we needed to have a lot of thought and discussion around this issue.

There was also a lot of discussion around the issue of direct action and that ECC should be more involved in this area of work.

4. Newsletter.

The suggested format is tabloid size on newsprint. The content will deal with the following :

- Review of WJP
- Survey
- cultural festival
- ECC in Pretoria
- Phillip
- Geldenhuys Commission
- Peace Ribbon

- attacks on ECC members
- Public Safety Bill

5. National Publication.

CT will produce the first edition. We need to find a name, preferably one which is catchy, bilingual and which pertains to the military issue. People really liked the name of Durban's newsletter 'At Ease' but felt that we needed to approach them on using that name for the national publication as well. Other suggestions : Your Choice; Aandag; Just Action; Objector; About Face; Aware.

6. Survey.

At NC all the regions agreed to do the survey and use it to build their local ECC. The smaller regions felt that they did not have the strength right now and asked that the deadline be extended. At the July National Conference we will decide on the final date. On Saturday, 24th May we will get together for a Survey blitz. To meet at 9.30am at Trinity Hall and to come back together for lunch.

7. July Conference.

This will be held on 19 -20 July in the Eastern Cape. Each region is allowed 20 delegates.

8. Pretoria Launch.

The first meeting of the Pta ECC will be on Friday, 16th May at St. Francis Anglican Church in Waterkloof. Some Jhb. ECC members to attend.

9. Phillip.

Phillip gave some input on how he was arrested and the few days after that. He has been charged with failing to report for camp and he will appear in court on Friday, 23rd May in P.E.

10. Public Safety Bill.

In the light of the powers given to the conscript under this bill it's important that ECC address this issue. The conscript is being empowered to enforce a permanent state of emergency. The Black Sash are having a public meeting on 27th May at the St. Columbus Church in Parkview on this issue. Speakers will include Sheena Duncan, Fink Haysom. The Black Sash are also having a picket on the 30th May. ECC to participate in this.

11. Breyten Breytenbach.

CT have indicated to Jhb. that they felt we made the wrong decision w.r.t. BB and that we need to make a public apology. Some discussion was held on our reponse to CT. It was agreed that we would respond to CT explaining the process through which we had gone in reaching this decision and in the light of that feel that we do not make any public statement.

12. December Festival.

The two dates accepted for this festival are : 12-16 Dec, 16-20 Dec. Cape Town will make the final decision on the grounds of the availability of venues, etc.

Several names were suggested for the international speaker, needing to keep in mind that we cannot encourage any one to break the cultural boycott. It was decided that at the next GB meeting that members could motivate for a speaker and that the general body would then make a decision.

We need to make suggestions for bands, poets, etc from Jhb.

We hope to make this the biggest cultural event in the history of South Africa.

13. Subscriptions.

Member orgs. still need to confirm whether their orgs. accept the principle of paying subscription. Individual members : R20.

Member Orgs. : R40.

This is due for the end of May.

The next general meeting is to be held on Thursday, 29th May at 7.30pm.

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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