

A4.1.1.9

# War Resisters League/West



942 Market Street, Room 705 • San Francisco, CA 94102 • (415) 433-6676

27/3/87

Dearest ECC

Hey gang, how y'all doin'? I've just been for a lovely walk through the redwood forests outside San Francisco - "the tallest trees in the world", yay America! - and feel inspired to write to you.

I spent my first w/s days in New York, preparing for the tour with War Resisters League (WRL) and the American Committee on Africa (ACOA). New York is the most exciting place! It's real fast, high energy, funk vibey. Everyone's got style and so much confidence. Definitely a good place for a job. All the New Yorkers I've met just LOVE living there.

In discussions with War Resisters League and ACOA the objectives of the tour were worked out. From ECC's perspective, the objectives are to get across the extent of white resistance to apartheid and the repression of ECC under the Emergency, and to situate these in the broader context of intensifying resistance and repression. I want to talk about the importance of continued international pressure, and suggest things for people to do. The tour will also provide an opportunity to learn about the activities and strategies of progressive movements in the US.

The ACOA hopes to use the tour to inject life into anti-apartheid campaigns, in which the American public, with their limited attention span, are losing interest. ACOA is also keen for me to use



the situation in SA to address issues of racism and non-racialism in the US. You probably never believed that North America was the land of the free and the equal, but if you did, you were dead wrong. 'People of colour' - blacks, asians, hispanics, chicanos, latinos - are harassed by police, economically disadvantaged and victimised by discriminatory legislation. More on this once I've done some reading. Even the progressive movements focussing on different issues are racially divided; I haven't yet spoken to a completely mixed audience.

WAL's objectives for the tour are to use ECC's experience to explore the power of creative non-violent action, and to focus on militarisation and anti-draft registration work here. WAL also hopes to make organisational gains by forming national and regional coalitions to take responsibility for the tour. Already the tour has provided an opportunity for anti-military and anti-apartheid groups to work together.

I've been 'on the road' for four days now. In New York I spoke at the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid's annual commemoration of the Sharpsville massacre (yes yes, I wore a tie). The event is very prestigious, and this year was addressed by the UN Secretary General. Muriel wanted me to go and rap to him afterwards, but I felt this was overreaching, even for ECC. Also did an interview with UN radio.

Then off to San Diego for two days, Los Angeles for one and in at the end of my second day in San Francisco. Leblanc place, California. I've spoken to groups of 50-70 university and high school students - these have gone very well - and had many useful less formal discussions with activist groups. I've also done



several press and radio interviews, but these generally haven't gone well at all. The journalists / interviewers are not interested in SA at the moment, and don't prepare properly. One radio interviewer even read his newspaper during the interview! Press conferences have been very badly attended. As one reporter explained to us, when he was asked why he hadn't come to a press conference: "Well he (i.e. me) is not on fire is he?"

It's too soon to make a proper assessment of how the tour is going, but I'm feeling very positive about it. Tonight I speak at the local WRN branch's annual dinner, the Pacifeast, and tomorrow morning (Sunday) at a black church. I'm coming back to San Francisco in a few days to talk at Berkeley and Stanford Universities.

My first impressions of the progressive movement in the US are of great diversity, but fragmentation. The larger movements focus on nuclear disarmament, US involvement in Central America, apartheid and draft resistance, with other smaller groups concentrating on a multitude of domestic and community issues. While the movements all have progressive analyses of their immediate issues, there seems to be no structural analysis that links these issues to a broader critique of US society. As with the Vietnam resistance and the civil rights movement, important struggles can be won without US domestic or foreign relations being fundamentally altered. A number of factors contribute to this problem: the sheer size of the country and size of the population, the splits within the left on ideological grounds, the affluence of the vast majority of citizens, corporate control of the mass media, and a rabid anti-communism that marginalises radical positions. Every activist I've spoken to is pessimistic about the possibility of



real change occurring here.

The anti-apartheid movement is currently in a hiatus, for a number of reasons. There is little national or even regional strategizing and co-ordination. Instead, a whole number of groups do their own thing, without co-operating, and sometimes even fighting amongst themselves. The divisions reflect debates within the US rather than the SA progressive movements. A further problem is that the movement has tended to focus exclusively on divestment and sanctions. Many anti-apartheid sympathisers (as opposed to activists) believe these issues have been won, and this has demobilised the movement. The news blackout has obviously also taken its toll. The national anti-apartheid organisations feel that they made mistakes in not focussing on solidarity action, and in focussing on only South and not Southern Africa. Yet, typically it seems, some anti-apartheid activists are preoccupied with their work in the US, and are both ignorant of the situation in SA and unwilling to learn more about it.

I'm now in the plane to Oregon - in true form, have already missed two planes (not my fault!). The tour has been great fun up till now, not too hectic. I only wish I had more time to find out about the struggles that people are involved in here. I'm 'real keen' to speak more to Vietnam Vets groups doing Central American solidarity work.

What's going on in Natal at the moment? And with the white elections?

And ECC? Please send media etc. All strength, ECC. Wish you were here.

Your man in Oregon

Laurie



AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.

Upper New York State Area Office



821 Euclid Avenue  
Syracuse, New York 13210  
Phone: (315) 475-4822

11/4/87

Hi Yang

The ECC popo-stick marches on: Washington State, St Louis (pronounced St Lewis around here), Iowa State and now in the State of New York. It's Tuesday, it must be ....

The tour continues to go smoothly and sweetly. The groups I speak to remain fairly small - 10 to 60 people - and range from college students and high school students to peace activists and anti-apartheid activists. The inputs and discussions are very worthwhile in providing information and an understanding of what is happening in SA, and in encouraging the anti-apartheid coalitions in each centre to keep at it. Press coverage is improving and includes interviews with some of the liberal, radical national publications, but there have now been three press conferences to which no-one came. There have been countless radio interviews and a few TV interviews. In all the talks and interviews, I make a point of explaining the importance of non-racialism in our struggle, and of making the connections between racism and militarism in SA and the US.

Amongst my most interesting discussions have been those with Vietnam Veteran counsellors and activists. There is extensive research into the post-Vietnam experience of the Vets. Consider: more Vets have died through 'self-destructive' behaviour since the war than died in combat (57,000); over 500,000 Vets have



4  
attempted to kill themselves; roughly the same number are in need of 'direct psychiatric aid'; and 40-60% of Vets experience 'post traumatic stress'. ECC can learn much from this research, from the counselling work being done, and from the involvement of Vets in protest action against US intervention in Central America.

The anti-apartheid movement is about to take off again. After its success in raising awareness of conditions in SA and building pressure for sanctions in 1986, the movement has gone through a relatively quiet period. Reasons for this include the news blackout, the incredibly short attention span of the mass media, the passing of the Anti-Apartheid Act last year, and the fact that the broad progressive movement is centered more around Central America than Southern Africa.

The various major anti-apartheid organisations are now preparing to launch new initiatives. TransAfrica and the Washington Office on Africa, both Washington-based lobby groups, are concentrating on winning support in Congress for Bills that will extend economic assistance to SADC and end aid to Unisa. In October this year, a more comprehensive sanctions Bill will be considered by Congress in the light of SA's adherence to making changes towards abolishing apartheid, as prescribed by the current sanctions legislation.

TransAfrica is also preparing to put the issue of apartheid on the Presidential election agenda for 1987, and force Presidential candidates to commit themselves on sanctions and divestment. The candidates that have opposed sanctions are being focussed on in a 'Faces Behind Apartheid' campaign.



The New York-based American Committee on Africa, the closest there is to a national anti-apartheid organisation, is preparing to campaign around the release of children from detention. The campaign will involve prominent people engaging in symbolic acts of protest to capture the attention of the media and public.

A most exciting forthcoming event is the Spring Mobilisation in Washington on April 25th. The mobilisation will include up to 100 000 people 'marching on Washington', and several hundred engaging in civil disobedience outside the headquarters of the CIA (- in this country, civil disobedience is advertised publicly months in advance!). The mobilisation is regarded as highly significant: it is the first time that church and labour have backed such an action, and the first time that the different strands of the progressive movement have come together in a way that makes clear the relationship between their respective focuses. The mobilisation will cover Central America, Southern Africa and issues of peace and justice in the US. There is a remote chance that I might get to speak at the mass rally (shwer).

In addition to these major activities, there are many regional and local actions around SA. College students continue to campaign for full university divestment from companies operating in SA, protests are planned nationwide for June 16, and boycott campaigns against Coke and Shell are going ahead.

I'm about half way through the tour, with energy levels still high. Unfortunately there has been little time to go jolting. Well... I've thrown a frisbee, drunk a beer, had

some music (on the radio) and ... Sounds pathetic? Don't worry.  
Come New York City, in about three weeks time, and I'll more  
than make up for it. Also plan to go to Mexico to lie on the  
beach when everything is finally over!?!

Take care ELL, and all strength.

Have a good campaign

Romy

---



# End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House  
42 De Villiers Street  
Johannesburg  
2000  
Tel: 337-6796  
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

3/5/87

Has gaan die, ECC!

I was very excited to hear about recent ECC activities and plans. The launch of ECC at UCT (- what a time for a launch!); the service in support of Philip, the Day of Reflection and the plans to build 'an edifice' all sound superb. I've been showing the Durban 'peace call-up' to folks here - everyone thinks it's great. Was the building of the 'peace park' our first action to involve the white working class?!? Golly.

I've been part of several excellent events over the past three weeks. One evening in Durham, North Carolina, I spoke with Father Alas, a Catholic priest who worked with 'basic Christian communities' in El Salvador, was imprisoned and tortured by the army there, and now lives in exile in the US. The combined focus on Central America and Southern Africa underlined the aggressive nature of US foreign policy. The following day I spoke at a campus anti-apartheid action to rename the library after Nelson Mandela - good action with lots of press coverage.

I was lucky to be in North Carolina for a successful march in Robeson County. The county is in the rural south of the country. Just think of Cothefotroom: the 'mixed Marriages Act' was only taken off the statute books 10 years ago; the Ku Klux Klan operates openly, does para-military training and is allegedly responsible for several unsolved murders of black people; the local District Attorney is in the Guinness Book of Records for a record number of death penalty convictions (- no prizes for guessing the colour of his victims); and white police have killed Lumbee Indian people with impunity.



In protest against the racist administration of justice, about 1500 blacks, whites and Native American people marched several miles to the local court in Humberton where an open air rally took place. The march was important in involving a multi-racial group of ordinary people (as opposed to demonstrations in the major centres which comprise mostly activists), and in being the first anti-racist demonstration in the history of the country. I spoke at the rally and at a memorial service in a black church the previous evening. It felt really good for a change to be speaking in solidarity with other people's struggle.

On April 25th, 150,000 people marched from the White House in Washington DC to the Capitol, for peace and justice in Central America and Southern Africa. The rally at the Capitol included Jesse Jackson, Paulo Jordan from the ANC, Dean Simon Farrow, representatives of major trade unions and church groups, and speakers from Central America. The day was great fun - balloons, street theatre, millions of t-shirts, buttons and publications etc. It was a bit odd though to be at such a massive outdoor political event without having to fear police violence.

The event, followed the next day by the arrest of 500 people for civil disobedience at the CIA, was significant for its size, its linking of issues, and the unprecedented involvement of labour and church. It drew considerable flak from 'the establishment' - the AFL-CIO (the national trade union federation) and newspapers like the New York Times and the Washington Post. The Post, for example, described the protest as a '60's hippy hangover', focussed on the presence of communist groups, and slanted the criticism of US support for "imperfect but nevertheless democratic governments" in Guatemala (where 38,000 people have been 'disappeared' and 100,000 murdered by government security forces since the mid-60's) and El Salvador (where 60,000 people have been killed in the struggle for liberation). Sound familiar? I gave a 5 minute rave at a benefit concert with



Bill Scott Heron the night before the rally. Grace concert.

Last night I spoke at a meeting organised by the War Resisters League in New York City. The other speakers included high-powered poets, lawyers, Vietnam veterans, journalists and civil rights activists. A highlight of the meeting was the reading of a special proclamation passed by the New York City Council in praise of 'old' old ECC! I've enclosed a copy of the proclamation.

So, 6 weeks down now. About one to go. Have been to 30 cities, and spoken in 64 forums and to 23 newspapers, 23 radio stations and 12 TV stations. The work has been both exhausting and exhilarating. Being 'on stage' 3-6 times a day and having to put as much energy and emotion into each rap takes its toll after a while, but the positive feedback has been overwhelming. The groups I've spoken to have been inspired by the extent of white resistance to apartheid, and of course by the work of ECC. There has also been a very good response to my stressing the importance of anti-apartheid groups focussing on domestic racism as well as on SA. I'll send a full assessment of the tour as soon as it's complete.

The job in New York City is about to begin! I've already been to a New York Mets baseball game and to the matinee featuring PAUL SIMON GRACE LANDS CONCERT - on us own work coming over for.

Take care Ecc keeps your head down / high.  
Lots of love and solidarity  
Laurie



P. O. Box 54,  
Oshakati, Oshanao,  
Namibia / S.W.A.  
28<sup>th</sup> July 1987.

Dear Peter,

First, kindly forgive me for my failure to drop you a line and thank you for your letter, pamphlets and Dacca materials. I am naturally a person fond of writing, especially letters, but I can't tell you what kind of bug has bitten me this year that I find it impossible at times to write. Well Peter, thank you very much for your kindness.

Well you hear quite a lot of our country, yes we are still dancing with death, no peace in sight, it seems the war is now over who shall rule rather than freedom, but innocent people die and suffer. Our mission Seminary was destroyed in a mysterious Namib style by the forces of anti-Christ. Please brother join us in our prayers to God to save us and send us his shalom. It is dry, we had actually no rain. Both wild and domestic animals even people may or will starve. The will of the people is to get guns and alcohol but not food. I am happy to be invited again to Thokoza God's will we shall meet.

Shalom

Shimony



Mr. Edward Dunne,  
26 Taunton Rd.,  
Pietermaritzburg,  
S. Africa.

Dear Mr. Dunne,

Rev. Beyers Naudé has shared with me your letter of I May in which you describe the predicament of your son, Richard Dunne. As I cannot write to Richard directly (not having his address), I have enclosed a copy of a letter to Nicholas Wellington in the hope that the contents might be of some use to Richard. If you judge this to be the case, please forward a copy of that letter to your son.

With every best wish,

Dear Nicholas,

Rev. Beyers Naudé has drawn my attention to your presence in the United States and to the difficulties you are facing with the immigration authorities. Indeed, he shared with me a letter that he received from your parents which outlined your predicament.

From the contents of your parents' letter, and from a report in The Natal Witness, it appears that you have taken sound legal advice and that you have been preparing your dossier with some care. My suggestion is that you may be able to strengthen your case a little by some further research, in particular working your way through back issues of South African Outlook. A quick check made with any university library in California would help you to locate copies of Outlook in California. The purpose would be to amass a series of statements from church sources supporting the moral stance of conscientious objectors in S. Africa. Both the Roman Catholic bishops and the South African Council of Churches have made clear statements. In each case they dealt with the particular issues of C.O. in the context of military forces that are being used to defend the unjust structures of apartheid. (For example, see: 'Christians and War', S.A.O., Oct., 1979; 'Conscience, Conscription and Violence', S.A.O., Dec. 1983; 'Just War', S.A.O., Sept. 1984.) You might also look at John DeGruchy's The Church Struggle in S. Africa, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1979, p. 138 ff, 'The Conscientious Debate'. Peter Walshe, Church Versus State in S. Africa, Orbis, New York, 1983, p. 118 ff. might also help. In addition you might look at Ireland's leading moral theologian, Enda McDonagh: his book The Demands of Simple Justice, Gill and Macmillan, Dublin, 1980, Ch. 3, 'Politics and Violence in Christian Perspective'. (This was published simultaneously by Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 1980.) Lastly, I assume you have been in contact with SAMRAF - S. African Military Refugee Aid Fund. If not, their U.S. phone numbers are: N. York 212 638 0417; San Francisco 415 641 9055; Chicago 312 376 3392.

My hope is that some of this will be helpful.

With every best wish,

Yours sincerely,

*Peter Walshe*



*By contact Mark - see  
to be so interested  
with about you*



# End Conscription Campaign

NATAL REGION  
PO Box 1879  
Durban 4000

tel: 312609/317719

Dear friend,

A resolute campaign to inform people of the rising militarisation of our society and to obtain the human right not to have to fight in an armed force has been taking place in South Africa for many years.

This campaign began by fighting for a fair deal for conscientious objectors, publicising their reasons for refusing service in the SADF, and supporting them in their imprisonment. This led to a reappraisal of the role of the SADF in maintaining an unjust system in Namibia and South Africa, its participation in foreign and internal affairs and the cost of maintaining an unstable and conflict sub continent. Trying to win the hearts and minds of all South Africans, and planning to extend conscription the SADF has now become officially involved in security operations within the townships.

We began to accept that support for individual Conscientious Objectors did not go far enough. The right of all South Africans to choose not to participate in the military could only be safeguarded by an end to conscription.

We invite you to join us in this campaign to resist increasing military involvement in Southern Africa, to work for peace and friendship, and to end conscription and stop the extension of conscription to Indians and 'Coloured'.

The campaign depends on your organisational commitment and a network of action and communication.

So we are inviting you particularly to a  
Mini-Conference on Conscription  
Saturday 27 October at 20 St. Andrews Street,  
Durban. 10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. - A workshop  
to introduce organisational representations  
and other interested persons to the issues  
of conscription and militarisation in  
Southern Africa.


1.00 p.m. Lunch

2.00 p.m. Organisational consolidation for your  
delegated representation.

3.00 p.m. Closure.

There will be a R1.00 charge for the Mini-Conference. Please ensure that at least one official representative from your organisation, with a mandate to participate in a campaign, is present, as well as any others who wish to attend.

Yours faithfully,

  
The Organisers  
End Conscription Committee

# For a Just Peace in Our Land



A public meeting to focus on conscription will be held on Sunday 28 October at 20 St. Andrews Street, at 2.30 p.m. Speakers will include Zac Yacoob (N.I.C.) and Richard Steel (previously imprisoned conscientious objector).

Further information on this event will be distributed soon.

P.S. Hear Sheena Duncan of the Black Sash address the question of Violence and Our Response on Wednesday 24 October at 7.30 p.m. at 20 St. Andrews Street.



# PACSA

PIETERMARITZBURG AGENCY FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL AWARENESS

P.O. Box 2338  
Pietermaritzburg  
3200

Phone: 20052

Ubunye House  
165 Pietermaritz Street  
Pietermaritzburg  
3201

## PACSA - Co Support Group

NAME                      ADDRESS.

NAME                      ADDRESS

M.A. MONTEITH              Box 109 PMB  
J. MCKENZIE                15 French Rd.  
J. ROSE                        402 Beacon Hill  
C. Chapman                 4 Rowen, College Rd.  
F. Matheson                 4 Hodson Rd.  
M Matheson                 " " "  
M. Jack                        61 Villiers Dr.  
A.  
Pat Dunne                    26 Youton Rd.  
Joan Hepburn               117 Chapel St  
M. English                    Glenview  
H. Zayler                     405 Loop st.  
K. Clarke                     Po Box 2035  
W. Martin                    14 Umdoni Place.

P. MAXWELL                PO BOX 10478,  
SCOTTSVILLE, 3209.  
A. GAMLEY                 12 WINDSOR AVE,  
SCOTTSVILLE, 3201.  
S. Spiller                    16 Spilsby Ave. 3201  
Mark London               Natal Mweery.  
J. Clarence                 12 Bampton Heights  
C. Gads                        24 Yalta Rd PMB.  
N.P. FOX                     159 BURGER ST., PMB.  
T. Edmann                    25 Rutland Rd. PMB  
S. Howes                    18 Milner Rd. PMB.  
M. Shaw                     73 Hosking Rd. PMB  
J. Howell Greene           12 Athlone Road PMB.  
Vern & Kerry Harris      Flat 1,  
273 Alexandra Rd.  
P. Stanford                 273 Sweetwaters Rd, Blackbridge

W. Hayes                    Rhodes Univ  
M. Muller                    Lincoln Road  
G. Spiller                    Ubunye House  
G. LINDEGGER               UNIVERSITY.  
J. van Meersbergen       16 Spilsby Ave.  
S.V. Niven                    University  
N. Richardson               University

59 FITZROY ST GRAHAMSTOWN

MIKE SKEVINGTON P.O. BOX 1639 PMB.

J. L. Wood  
F. Hoopes



**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.