

The Contact Group has been in existence for just a few weeks, so that what follows is more of a report than an assesment.

Aims of the group.

Three major areas of work have been identified. These are:

1) Liason function: -to maintain and develop contacts with affiliates, sympathetic individuals, as well as with other organizations.

2) Maintaining ECC profile: -the primary concern here is that ECCs public presence is not lost in times when our work is less intensive. This would take the form of making increasing use of the press, as well as increased contact with organizations outside of ECC. Another aspect of work in this respect is the production and distribution of a newsletter to members of affiliates as well as interested individuals.

3) Co-ordinate irregular meetings: -these would be in the form of educative inputs to our members and also the broader public.

Plans.

1) Press contact: -we intend to be far more vigilant than in the past with respect to ECC press statements. It is hoped that we might build up our contacts with newspapers, and journalists, so as to facilitate a more sympathetic reception of our press releases. Also, we intend to encourage "experts" to write features for publication in the press. Our conception of the press is a broad one. We will not only be focussing on the daily press, but also on journals and magazines eg., "Frontline", "Die Suid-Afrikaner", "Fair Lady", "South Easter", "Vula", etc. The writing of letters to the press will be co-ordinated as will the possible use of the SABC programme "Nightline".

2) Organizational Contact: -through personal contact we hope to encourage the participation of all our affiliates. Also non-affiliated organizations eg., Koeberg Alert, NAMDA, campus Christian organizations, Lawyers for Human Rights and the SASJ.

3) Newsletter; -the first issue of "ECC Calendar" is at the printers. In it we will be covering ECC activities and conscription-related activities taken up by other organizations. Care will be taken not to infringe on the terrain already covered by "Objector". The "calendar" will come out twice a quarter. For it to succeed it is necessary that all in ECC participate in it. To this end a contact person in each sub-committee is called for.

4) Individual Contact; -to build up the contact we have with individual supporters we will make use of personal visits and the newsletter.

5) Irregular Meetings: -One on CO and alternatives has already been held. Although the attendance was small, discussion was lively. The next meeting will be on Thurs 2 May. Tony Wever will be giving an input on the current situation in Namibia.

Much work lies ahead for the Contact Group. In many respects the co-ordinated approach to this form of work is novel and much creativity is called for. This will best be assessed at a later stage.

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