

CAPE TOWN END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE (ECC)

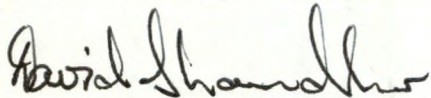
In response to the shootings at Uitenhage and the growing condition of crisis in South Africa at this time, the Cape Town E.C.C. is to hold a public meeting in the Claremont Civic Centre on Tuesday, 2nd March at 8,00pm. At the meeting the E.C.C. will present its perspective on the current situation and offer suggestions as to how the conflict in South Africa might be resolved.

Speakers will include Trevor Manuel, Secretary of the United Democratic Front (Western Cape) and Laurie Nathan, the National Organiser of the End Conscription Campaign. Trevor Manuel is a leading member of the United Democratic Front with a firm grasp of national issues. Laurie Nathan has just completed a six week national tour, which has enabled him to obtain a grasp of conditions in all the major centres of South Africa.

Also on the platform will be leading members of the community who will speak to the list of demands. (attached) This list is embargoed until after the meeting.

You are urged to attend the meeting in your capacity as a member of the press.

Yours sincerely



David Shandler

(phone 470519)

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

PRESS RELEASE

E.C.C. gains support

The month of April brings increased support and activities for the End Conscription Campaign.

"E.C.C. cannot be ignored as a significant public voice after the Peace Rally held in October last year. Over 4000 Capetonians showed their support for E.C.C. and their call for a just peace in South Africa" says E.C.C. press officer Paula Hathorn.

"Many of these same people have shown that they are prepared to take their commitment to peace even further by doing work in the national E.C.C. Working for a Just Peace campaign." says Hathorn.

With already over 300 volunteers E.C.C. will demonstrate that National Service can be used in the interests of peace. Volunteers will take part in a range of peace projects - clearing the grounds of a childrens home, teaching township residents to drive, painting a peace mural, laying a cycle track and painting a pre-school are some of these projects.

The Working for a Just Peace campaign was launched at the E.C.C. fair in Rondebosch this weekend. The fair was given overwhelming public support with over 5000 people attending.

"The fair is an indication of how widely E.C.C. is supported. We were given constant encouragement and feedback by the public. People couldn't stop telling us how important the issues are that we take up and what tremendous work they believe we are doing." said an E.C.C. spokesperson.

E.C.C. is also making significant inroads into Cape Town's cultural life. Yesterday saw the launch of their photographic exhibition at the Baxter Theatre foyer. Images of violence and conflict are harsh and explicit. Those of us who lead protected lives get a glimpse of the reality of the conflict in our society.

Also this last weekend the Cape Town annual film festival was launched. The E.C.C. is hosting this festival in conjunction with the U.C.T. Film Education Unit and there are a number of anti-war films showing that have not previously been available in South Africa.

"We are making our demands known in a range of different areas and in all those areas our support is growing rapidly. We hope - and believe - that it will continue to grow. Many people are unhappy with the types of things that the S.A.D.F. is doing and that makes them take us very seriously" says an E.C.C. spokesperson.

END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE PRESS RELEASE - 29/5/85

The End Conscription Campaign was launched at the end of 1983. It was seen as an appropriate response to the growing militarisation of our society, the role of the SADF inside and outside South Africa, and the compulsory conscription of young white men into this army.

A strong focus of ECC activity over the past year has centred around the demand that South African troops be withdrawn from Namibia. In terms of international law, South Africa's continued occupation of Namibia is illegal. The call for South African withdrawal and the immediate holding of United Nations supervised elections has been made by the Catholic and Anglican Bishops, the Council of Churches of Namibia, the South African Council of Churches and many other Church and human rights groups. ECC believes that South Africa's presence in Namibia can only lead to the continued suffering of the majority of Namibians, who have been caught up in a war which was not of their own making.

Equally importantly, the ECC demands that South African troops be withdrawn from our own townships. Since October last year troops have been deployed in over twenty townships throughout the country.

In these townships the army has conducted house to house searches, arrested people on pass law and influx control offences, fired teargas at mourners at a funeral and assaulted township residents. In Uitenhage the SADF shot and killed a 22 year old man. In the Eastern Cape the army has set up bases inside several townships; some of the townships are to all intents and purposes under military occupation.

As a result of these activities, opposition to the internal role of the SADF and support for the End Conscription Campaign have grown dramatically. The over 50 organisations affiliated to ECC have strongly and repeatedly condemned the fact that young white men are compelled to take up arms against their fellow citizens. All of these groups believe that the use of force to 'maintain law and order' intensifies rather than resolves the conflict and that the solution to ending the escalating cycle of violence lies in the removal of its root cause - the system of apartheid.

They are united behind the demands:

- * that SADF troops be withdrawn from the townships
- * that SADF troops be withdrawn from Namibia
- * that young men be given the freedom to choose not to be part of this army
- * that there be a just peace in our land

These demands will form the focal point of the ECC Peace Festival, which is to be held in Johannesburg from 28 - 30 June. The festival will aim to expose and to educate. The Archbishop of Sao Paula, Cardinal Arns, and the former head of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Monsignor Bruce Kent, will provide a perspective of the international peace movement.

But more importantly, the festival will serve as a statement of protest against compulsory conscription, and the continued presence of South African troops in Namibia and in our own townships. For the 1000 people who are expected to participate the festival will provide a vision of hope - that with commitment and sacrifice, peace in South Africa and in Namibia is achievable. Hopefully, too, the wider public will develop a sense of this vision and be inspired to make a more active commitment to working towards a just peace in our land.



End Conscription Campaign

End Conscription Campaign

B87

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

Box 537
Kengray
2100

P R E S S R E L E A S E

On Monday, Conscientious Objector Dr Ivan Toms goes on trial in Cape Town and faces a probable jail sentence of between two to three years for refusing to serve in the SADF.

Dr Toms, who has completed his two years national service, refused to do a 31 day camp in November last year. He is also part of the group of 23 who publically refused to serve in the SADF in August last year.

Ivan, the son of a water meter reader in Durban, completed his medical degree at UCT in 1978. He unwillingly did his two years national service in the SADF as a doctor where he worked in the Ciskei and Namibia.

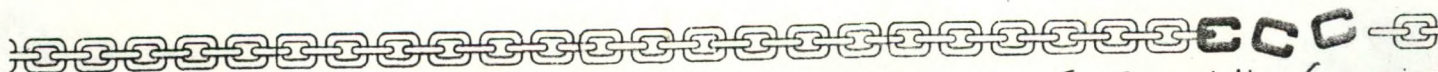
He was one of the founders of the SACLA clinic in Crossroads where he worked for six years. Ivan is at present involved in the SACLA health project, a primary health care project which serves Western Cape townships.

His experiences in the SADF and in Crossroads have led him to his conviction that he cannot, in good conscience, serve in the SADF. He therefor decided to refuse to do his camp in November last year.

His trial, in a Cape Town magistrates court, is expected to last until Friday. His probable sentence, calculated at one-and-a-half times to amount of time 'owed' to the SADF is expected to be between two and three years.

The End Conscription Campaign supports Ivan's courageous stand. We believe that Ivan's commitment to a beter South Africa has been demonstrated by his work amongst impoverished communities in Cape Town.

We find it ironic that Ivan faces a probable jail sentence for refusing to render military service, while he has in fact been engaged in true national service.



End Conscription Campaign

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

New Teachers Body Joins Fast For Just Peace

Members of the steering committee of the newly formed organisation, Education for an Aware South Africa (EDASA), have been fasting on a roster basis since Monday 30 September. They will fast until Monday 7 October in solidarity with Dr Ivan Toms, and the ECC's call for peace in our country.

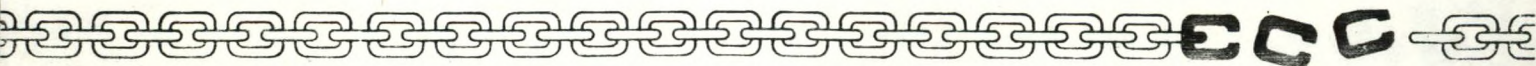
In a statement a spokesperson for the organization said, "We do so in line with one of EDASA'S specific aims which is to promote a peaceful and just society by discouraging militarisation in our schools and actively supporting the peaceful resolution of conflict."

A spokesperson for the ECC welcomed the development. Said ECC Press Officer Mr David Shandler, "We are heartened by the concerned response we have received so far. We feel that our campaign is striking a sympathetic note amongst South Africans. More than a thousand people from all walks of life have come to spend time with Dr Toms. Well over 200 people have joined in the fasting around the country. And this before the formal day of public fasting on October 7. We feel that we can speak confidently on behalf of many thousands of South Africans in making our calls for an end to conscription, for troops to be withdrawn, and for a just peace."

Please Note: 1) On Thursday 3 October Bishop Charles Albertyn will be joining Dr Toms in fast. Bishop Albertyn is the Bishop of the Eastern Region of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Town.

2) Also on Thursday there will be a Photo call at 4.30pm on the steps of St George's Cathedral. Dr Toms will be sitting on the steps in front of a banner, and next to a sign indicating the number of days he has fasted.

For further information contact David Shandler at 470519



To : DAVID WALKER
THE STAR

FAX NO. 836 839 8
5 PAGES INCL THIS PAGE

With the
Compliments of

Chris de Villiers



SPOOR AND FISHER

P.O. Box 41312, Craighall 2024, South Africa

Telephone (011) 880-1705

13.1. 'perform an act or activity of a restricted organisation on its behalf, in its name, in the capacity of an office-bearer or to participate in a prohibited act or activity' (Regulation 7(3)) ;

13.2. 'to contravene the terms of a consent given by the Minister to the restricted organisation to carry on or perform a specified activity or act'. (Regulation 7(4)(e)).

14. The Media Emergency Regulations are designed to prevent the airing of views of restricted organisation through the media and are aimed more at the media than at the restricted organisation itself.

15. Regulation 3(1)(f) prohibits the publication of 'any news, comment or advertisement on or in connection with ...any speech, statement or remark... of a person intimating or of whom it is commonly known that he is an office-bearer or spokesman of a restricted organisation' in so far as 'any such speech, statement or remark has the effect or is calculated to have the effect of threatening the safety of the public or the maintenance of public order or of delaying the termination of the state of emergency'.

16. In addition regulation 3(2) prohibits the publication of

* I have highlighted the relevant limitation in Media Regulation 3(1)(f). I think that, following a common-sense approach, the Star is quite safe in publishing the attached letter, edited if necessary.
Chris de Villier

P.O. Box 41312
CRAIGHALL
2024

15 September 1988

The Editor
The Star

Dear Sir

Please allow me to respond to the letter of Angus Rhodes "Does the ECC have a hidden agenda?" in your 7 September edition.

The allegations made in Mr Rhodes' letter are tediously familiar, having appeared in sundry extreme right-wing publications, or having been made by government spokesmen operating in propaganda mode. It is worth noting that the Aida Parker Newsletter, which once devoted an entire issue to these and other allegations, was found by the Media Council to have published untrue and false accusations about the ECC. Nevertheless, for those readers who are not aware of the historical development of the anti-ECC smear campaign (conducted by many other groups, apart from the SADF) I will answer Mr Rhodes' allegations point by point.

Mr Rhodes asserts that the ECC claims to be a one issue campaign, but "has actively involved itself in a wide range of controversial activities." How naughty! Presumably, what relates to the issue of opposition to conscription and militarism must be defined only by Mr Rhodes and his ilk. The fact is, all of the ECC's activities have been open and directed towards the public debate around the issue. Those who have participated in the public activities of the ECC (in large numbers) are the best answer to this non-accusation.

The ECC is accused of co operating with the so-called Charterist movement. Presumably, Mr Rhodes refers to the fact that at least one of our numerous affiliate organisations is also affiliated to the UDF. In fact, the ECC's involvement with other organisations has always been limited to the issue of conscription, not because

there would have been anything immoral about doing otherwise, but for practical reasons.

Mr Rhodes asserts that the ECC has "a wide range of links with international organisations" whose credentials are questionable. We have contact with anti-war bodies in Europe and the USA. The only people who "question their credentials" are far-right extremists, such as the contributors to the Aida Partner Newsletter.

The ECC is accused of frequently attacking the SAP. I dispute this, and challenge Mr Rhodes to prove his point. Either he is misinformed, or is deliberately propagating falsehoods.

Mr Rhodes suggests that the ANC is using the ECC to "splinter the security forces to facilitate an insurrection." Since the ECC concerns itself with conscription into the SADF, one can deduce from Mr Rhodes' accusation that he believes that the SADF will use conscripts to suppress a popular insurrection. This is just another description of a civil war situation. The ECC makes no bones about being opposed to conscription in a civil war situation. As far as the ANC is concerned, we have no ties to this body and are certainly not dictated to by them or anyone else. It will take more than smears to prove otherwise.

Mr Rhodes says the ECC "has been kept at arm's length by the PFP". In fact, the Young Progressives are affiliated to the ECC, and the PFP condemned the recent restriction of the ECC. Enough said? In the past, the PFP as a whole appears to have been split on the issue of conscription. However, recently the PFP adopted a policy favouring the phasing out of conscription.

Mr Rhodes accuses the ECC of claiming to "represent" a large body of objectors, and suggests that there are only a few objectors. The question is, of course, what is an objector? Is an objector only someone who refuses to serve, or also someone who serves

unwillingly? What about those who dodge military service, emigrate, or obtain deferments for no other reason than to delay military service? And if the numbers are so small, why does General Magnus Malan refuse to release them?

According to Mr Rhodes, the ECC has stated that it would support conscription into a post apartheid people's militia. This is simply false.

Finally, the ECC is accused of failing to object to conscription in Mozambique and Angola. For the record, we confess that we have also failed to object to conscription in West Germany and Outer Mongolia. The ECC has always concerned itself with conscription into the SADF in the context of apartheid. To imply that this is inherently sinister is ridiculous.

On the basis of the unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations dealt with above, Mr Rhodes states that the ECC "has not been totally honest about its true agenda". If Mr Rhodes is still confused, let me re-state what is well known: The ECC opposes conscription into the SADF while the SADF is used to maintain the system of apartheid, to carry out acts of aggression against neighbouring states, and to occupy Namibia. That is quite a straightforward and legitimate viewpoint, shared by many South Africans, and is only seen as "subversive" by those who have forgotten what democracy and freedom are about.

Yours faithfully

Chris de Villiers

Chris de Villiers
Chairman
ECC, Johannesburg branch.

PRESS STATEMENT CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL OF A VISA TO CARDINAL ARNS

The withdrawal of Cardinal Arns' visa by the South African government is another extraordinary demonstration of the way in which South Africa does not even want other people to talk about peace.

The Black Sash wishes the End Conscription Campaign committee a most successful peace festival this weekend.

The only hope for this country is that more and more people should become prepared to talk about justice and work for peace.

SHEENA DUNCAN

National President of the Black Sash.

PRESS STATEMENT CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL OF A VISA TO CARDINAL ARNS

The South African government has become notorious for its refusing visas to respected church leaders of the world who wished to visit our country. To this list has now been added the name of Cardinal Arns of Brazil. The withdrawal of his visa can only be interpreted as a sign that the government fears his message of peace and opposition to violence and as an implicit confirmation of the justified opposition of thousands of young South Africans to the system of conscription.

If the voices of concerned christian leaders like those of Cardinal Arns are stifled the crisis of conscience which is waging in the hearts of these young South Africans will continue and increase.

Beyers Naude

Beyers Naude
General Secretary:SACC

To be telexed to Sapa & Reuters.

/gtl

End Conscription Campaign

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

PRESS RELEASE

ECC COMMENT ON NEW AMMENDMENT TO DEFENCE ACT

The proposed ammendment to the Defence Act tightening up the definition of religious objection is a further erosion on the right to object to military service.

The period of alternative service for religious objectors - and the jail sentence for non-religious objectors - has now been set at six years.

Furthermore, religious objectors who do not accepts the idea of a single deity (such as many Budhists) will now also be liable for six years imprisonment.

A year ago ECC presented evidence to the government's Geldenhuys Committee of Inquiry which examined, among other things, the system of conscription. We called for alternative service to be extended to all thosewho, for moral, political or religious reasons, felt they were unable to serve in the SADF. We also called for this service to be equal to the duration of military service and for such service to be allowed in non-government organisations.

These recommendations were not accepted by the Geldenhuys Cimmittee. Now it seems that the right to freedom of conscience has been further curtailed.

It is of concern to ECC that these added restrictions come at a time when a growing number of conscripts were applying to the Board for Religious Objection. In the 2½ years of the Board's existence a total of 1059 people have applied to be granted status as non-combatants, non-militarists or non-uniform wearers.

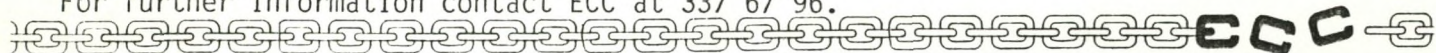
Already 15 conscientious objectors have been refused - meaning that they face the prospect of a possible six years imprisonment. The proposed ammendment to the Defence Act will now make it even more difficult for many objectors to apply to the Board.

It appears that an increasing number of cosncripts are simply not turning up for their military service, many perhaps because their are no viable alternatives. In Febuary this year the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, refused to release to parliament the figures of those failing to report for duty, because, he said, those campaigning for an end to compulsory military service had "misused" these figures in the past. Figures from previous years had shown a steady increase in the number of conscripts failing to report. ECC has also received information showing that, on average, 25 percent of conscripts are not reporting for their annual SADF camps.

Furthermore, ECC believes that the growing number of emigrants is partly related to the fact that in a civil war situation conscripts are liable for a total of four years military service. In the first six months of this years 7 189 people emigrated and the number is rapidly increasing.

We believe that, at this time of heightened conflict, government should be attempting to broaden the scope of conscientious objection. Many young men experience a severe moral dilemma because of conscription and the ammendment makes no attempt to address this.
ENDS

Issued by David Shandler, ECC National Press officer.
For further information contact ECC at 337 67 96.



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.