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Cape Town ECC

Research Group report to National Committee

August 1988

We have a small, but active Research Group. It is not a formal ECC sub-committee although it meets regularly and has an ongoing programme of work.

Activities include:

1) The formulation and initiation of a national research project for ECC. We also took responsibility for various aspects of establishing this research project outside of ECC.

2) The initiation and encouragement of research projects outside of ECC. These include:

a paper at present being prepared on military spending;

a survey by the UCT Graduate School of Business on the attitudes of the Top 100 businesses to issues of militarisation and conscription. This is an exciting project which could be of great use to us in our work;

we are also at present trying to find a law student willing to research aspects of procedural law with respect to the sentencing of offenders to community service, as against prison sentences.

3) A thorough pressclip service which is coordinated and administered via a computer cataloguing system. We wish this service to be made available to other branches and organisations. If you are interested, please let us know.

We have also started producing pressclip packages on topical issues for the use of ECC members.

4) A monitoring function, whereby we watch for important publications, articles etc. to distribute to ECC members. We have done so a number of times.

5) We have produced a research package of vital information for ECC activists. The package includes our submission to the SADF; the law with respect to conscription; facts and figures on military spending; facts and figures on the brain drain; documents on international provisions for conscientious objection.

6) We are at present writing a paper on the effect of the SADF on race relations which is likely to be published by an outside body.

7) We have assisted people doing military/conscription related research.

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