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### CAMPAIGN AIMS

- \* Reassert ECC's public profile as an action orientated national campaign.
- \* Overcome the smear of ECC and build an image of a mature, professional organisation of the conscripted community, concerned about the conscript and having something practical to offer.
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- \* Respond effectively to the call-up.

### CAMPAIGN FORMAT

The campaign has three thrusts:

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The main activities are:

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- \* a statement of ECC's demands for Alternative Service
- \* Alternative Service Projects (ASP's) formerly called WJP's
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- \* a possible consultive conference on Alternative Service

The campaign passes through four phases which cover most of the year. It will have low and high profile periods according to the different phases. This campaign represents an ongoing emphasis in our work rather than an "old-style" three week blitz. /// \*

#### CAMPAIGN OUTLINE

##### Phase 1 - PREPARATION March and April

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- \* Consult communities, churches etc about Alternative Service Projects (ASP)
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- \* campaign planning - events, media etc

##### Phase 2 - Know Your Rights (KYR) May and June

###### Message

Our message during this phase is three-fold:

- 1 \* That ECC is concerned for conscripts, particularly those who feel forced into the situation against their will.
- 2 \* that we are committed to providing a service by informing conscripts of their rights.
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#### ACTIVITIES

- \* KYR booklet - National and possibly regional launches in early May
- \* campaign launching media (national and local)
- \* lobbying prominent people and interest groups and debating publically the need for Alt. Service
- \* publicizing and gathering support for our Alt. Service demands.

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By our actions we are demonstrating the "rights we want", to serve our country in constructive, humanitarian ways outside the army. Our ASP's are practical examples of the kinds of service that we would like to see made available.

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The proposal is to hold a consultative conference which gathers the broadest possible range of organisations and institutions to build opinion in favour of a system of alternative service.

#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON ALT. SERVICE PROJECTS

The ASP conference workshop set the following criteria for the projects

- \* Consultation with community and welfare organisations in the area concerned needs to be thorough and ongoing
- \* ideally we should work in areas where the SADF has been.
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# ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE

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## Definition

National service performed under the control of an authority or institution designated by the central government to people recognised by the central government as conscientious objectors.

## The present situation

- (a) The government does not recognise any form of alternative service for declared conscientious objectors.
- (b) We have heard that certain categories of JW detainees have done fence building in the Kruger Park (this may however be a co-opted form of service - military presence).
- (c) On occasion mention has been made of service in the prisons department or merchant marine.

However both these occupations apparently involve small arms training and periods of service that are so long that they are not viable options. They constitute a career rather than national service. They provide no governmental recognition of the conscientious belief of the objector.

- (d) The civic Action Programme (under the control of the Department of Defence) had been suggested as an alternative.
- (e) Various attempts notably those of Prof. A H Hare and associates in the Cape Town group have been made to establish voluntary service organisation that could provide an alternative model. These were largely undermined by poor planning and execution of the communications with the Press and the SADF. In addition ill-advised attempts were made to precipitate service in Namibia which resulted in high profile confrontation with the military.
- (f) Individual CO's have prior to their trials found work that could be interpreted as alternative service as an indication of good faith.
- (g) Recently in parliament M Malan suggested that legislation will be introduced in 1983 for "religious objectors" who wanted alternative service.

## CO's criteria for alternative service

These vary from individual to individual but general guidelines have been the following :

- (1) That the service be rendered outside the military complex.
- (2) That the period of service be as long or up to twice as long as military national service.
- (3) That the remuneration be same or less than that of national servicemen.
- (4) That the service be rendered at a distance from the objectors home town.
- (5) That when the factors above are evaluated the CO is seen to endure similar hardships, dangers and dislocation to the average military serviceman.



Potential Government Criteria for alternative national service

- (1) That the serviceman undergo a period of basic military training without weapons (cf Methodist statement).
- (2) That the period of service be longer.
- (3) That proper control and discipline be exercised.
- (4) A period of imprisonment may be incorporated to discourage large numbers.
- (5) That the CO be identifiable by distinctive garb.
- (6) That the service be under control of a government department. The service may be manual labour under SADF control.
- (7) Heavy penalties for non-compliance.

It seems likely that the government will require a period of about 5 years continuous alternative service.

They will not allow CO's in teaching, research institutions, social work or other places where they may seriously influence people.

The pay will probably be commensurate with the services rendered.

It will probably only be allowed for religious objectors.

There is a distinct possibility that the government will introduce legislation that will appear to be liberal but which in its formulation will make it impossible for most CO's to make use of its provisions and that the government may try to co-opt religious leaders to support this legislation.

The two elements of the possible legislation that should be specifically opposed are :

- (i) A long continuous period of service which would constitute an impossible burden.
- (ii) Types of alternative that do not involve training for meaningful participation in a process of service. Thus manual labour should be rejected as an alternative.

What should we do about alternative national service

- (1) Each group in each centre should formulate proposals like the ones submitted to the Naude Commission and Charles Yeats' request for an alternative.
- (2) CO's awaiting trial should find a job/activity that fits his/her conception of alternative national service.
- (3) Every opportunity should be taken for church synods and meetings of secular groups and other relevant bodies to draft resolutions requesting alternative national service of a reasonable form.

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**Collection Number: AG1977**

**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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