

Minutes of the End Conscription Campaign's Third National Conference

A) Conceptual

Our new focus means that we address all of our constituencies in terms of how they are affected by conscription. With the state of emergency we have become fuzzy in our message of opposing broad militarisation. We have never specifically targeted the conscript. Although servicemen are difficult to reach, we should attempt to. We also need more campers in our organisation.

Conscription should be the priority for ECC and ECC should represent groups of people that wish to see an end to conscription. The re-newed focus on conscription will give us a better understanding of what we are supposed to do: End Conscription.

But the re-newed focus does not mean that we are talking about a conscripts union. We are talking about reaching all of those who oppose the system of conscription and the role of the SADF and who are affected by the issue of conscription. The conscript would be an important constituency in this focus.

It needs to be stressed that we are not just to focus on conscription, but that we are focusing on conscription in the context of our opposition to the system of conscription and our call to end conscription.

The re-newed focus on conscription should be discussed in regions in terms of the following issues:

* conscripts groups in ECC vs independent organisation of conscripts: The conscripted community is our focus, but the more we focus on conscription, the less resources we will have to focus on other areas. While we aim to draw campers into ECC we realistically are not going to be flooded with conscripts because of ECC's image. But we need to be setting up conscripts groups to learn about conscripts and their experiences in the SADF, and the work with conscripts. Based on this experience, we need to consider the long term possibilities of setting up an independent conscripts group.

* implications for how ECC takes up COs: The broad aims of war resistance includes opposition to the role of the SADF, the political mobilisation of broad sectors of the conscripted community and the mobilisation of public opinion in support of demands for an alternative to military conscription. In terms of the re-newed focus, we are broadening our focus and will need to show that we are not just

an organisation that supports objectors, but that we also campaign around conscripts and their rights. We will take up campaigns around objectors, but will be selective. ECC forms part of a broad movement and it should be uniting the different responses to the military, eg OSG sees its role as dealing specifically with the issue of objection. ECC is not about to abandon objectors, but we need to move away from being just a objectors organisation.

* implications for women in ECC: women felt undermined by the discussion .

Women form an important part of the conscripted community and therefore as women have a right to take leadership positions. But if the focus is to be on the conscript with implications that women cannot be playing leadership roles in ECC the many women will be questioning their role in ECC. Many women in ECC are not there solely because of the way they are affected by conscription, eg lover, mother or sister, but as activists. Conference felt that the re-newed focus meant that we are to focus on the conscript within the issue of conscription and that we cannot allow this to fundamentally affect ECC. Conscripts are part of our focus, but we should not have an exclusive focus on them. Tension exists between the new focus and women, with this tension being something that can only be resolved through practice. (SEE women's workshop)

B) POLICY

1) International tours

Generally ECC does make some gains from going on international tours. These gains would be increased overseas profile, protection from repression, building links with overseas peace organisations and some local press coverage. However, most of the gains would be for the overseas organisation hosting the ECC tour. We should not automatically accept all invitations but need to assess each tour. We also need to grade each tour in terms of ECC priorities and the sort of person we should send.

Conference accepted that our decision making around selection of people to go on tours needs to be less tedious. The following proposal was accepted:

- regions would nominate from around the country
- national secretary would check if nominees are available
- NC would make a suitable recommendation
- regions have two weeks to overturn NC's recommendation.

ECC has been invited to send a person on a tour hosted by Oxfam Canada. It would be a four week tour and will include speaking at meetings and dealing with the media. Requirements are that the person should have a good understanding of ECC, be knowledgeable about militarisation and destabilisation, a good public speaker and be articulate and succinct.

Conference decided that we should send someone on the tour. Nominations were made by delegations, with NC to collate nominations and to make a recommendation.

2) Fronts and Alliances

ECC needs to constantly policy on fronts and alliances. Participation in an alliance needs to be assessed in terms of how it furthers ECC's objectives. Participation should never mean moving away from our single issue or dividing our member organisations.

ECC has been invited to participate as an observer on the UDF area committee in Johannesburg. The issue was not resolved although there would be some advantages in terms of communication with the UDF and its affiliates. A disadvantage would be the possible tension it might cause within our front.

be the possible tension it might cause in our front.. Participation would have to be discussed by our member organisations.

ECC individuals in Cape Town, Pietermaritzburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown are participating in the "white initiative". Johannesburg is a subscriber organisation in the Five Freedoms Forum. Participation in the white initiative is important in terms of contact with constituencies and helping with our public image and credibility. The white initiative also addresses ECC's issue, eg freedom from conscience and negotiations not war. The question of individual vs formal organisational participation was not resolved.

3) Structures and Finances

Conference accepted the proposal for a part-time National Treasurer and agreed on a process for selection as outlined in the Structures and Finances report. It was recommended that the National Treasurer take responsibility for training regional treasurers. The issue was referred to NC.

The branches from the Eastern Cape motivated strongly for an Eastern Cape Organiser in terms of the potential in the region and the lack of human and material resources. A strong priority would be work on the campuses. Conference accepted the proposal and referred the working out of a process for selection to NC.

Regarding the selection of National Organisers, conference suggested that a standardised CV be worked out and that the appointment of the National Organisers are synchronised and that they are appointed from 1 January to 31 December. The appointments should take place in October before the regional executive elections. Process referred to NC.

NC has to ratify the appointment of regional workers which for 1989, should be done by the September NC.

A national conference should be held yearly, and conference proposed that the next conference be held over Easter 1989.

The Structures and Finances report was accepted by conference.

4) Objectors' Support Group

The Objectors' Support Group presented a paper which was discussed. The broad

definition of objection helps objectors strategise collectively . There is a distinction between the noncombatant and the CO. The different options of evasion, exile and jail need to be discussed by objectors. The stand of the 23 has taught OSG some useful lessons which we need to be aware of.

OSG is part of the war resistance movement which could become a social movement. ECC could be seen as a "centre" in this movement, but OSG's work needs to be separate from ECC as there could be a danger of undermining ECC.

It is important to feed discussion back to regions and for regions to discuss the impact of objectors and OSG's role and relationship with ECC. ECC should realise the impact of the objector issue and should help OSG develop its potential.

5) Legal

From June '86 have been cautious in terms of the emergency regulations, with us becoming more adventurous in 1987, eg Durban fast to end conscription. In our opposition, we need to be honest reasonable and our statements should be well founded.

Conference decided that we should approach senior counsel to look at issue of calling for an end to conscription. Need to look at the grey areas using specific examples. We could virtually return to pre June '86 position, but statements should always be well founded. Not a good idea to "test waters" in one region. Johannesburg to approach senior counsel.

Legal opinion of KYR booklet was that it was subversive because of its tone, which was negative. But factual objective comment is fine, however we must be cautious of conservative opinion. We need to be aware of Defence Act and Official secrets Act in terms of new focus.

Where possible we should respect by-laws, eg posters. Laws may be ignored, particularly if it seems as if the by-law is not being enforced. But need to consider whether strategic and whether it may turn public against us.

All regions should hold security workshops, particularly to help members handle raids.(See Durban security workshop paper.)

6) Women in ECC

There is a tendency for men in ECC to take traditional male leadership roles

in terms of decision making, the direction of the organisation and high profile public positions. Women take up leadership roles at a more administrative and beaurocraticlevel. Division of labour takes place along traditional gender lines.

If ECC is going to take seriously the development of all its activists, we need to address this division of labour. Not enough attention is payed to the internal democratic processes, which is as important as our public output.

Many of the women have felt alienated during the discussion on ECC's new direction. There was a lack of clarity regarding whether ECC's new focus is on the conscript or on conscription. This confusion led to people making the assumption that the new focus was on the male conscript. Therefor, in order to reach this constituency, ECC will need to use conscripts. Therefore women have begun to question their place in ECC. Women have felt undermined by the way in which the discussion has been handled, eg all conscripts being asked to stand. The new focus should be on the conscripted community as women are an integral part of that community.

Women in ECC are not soley involved because of their relationship to conscripts (eg as mothers, lovers, sisters) but most are involved as activists and see the issue of conscription as a crucial issue around which to organise the whit community. The new focus puts limitations on the development of women activists in terms of fulfilling leadership positions and developing public speaking skills.

This workshop was the first time ECC has addressed the issue of women in ECC and that women have had the opportunity to examine their role in ECC. Conference felt that it was important for the workshop to be replicated in the different regions. (see separate structure for Womens Workshop).

7) Repression

Over the last year the states strategy against ECC has moved away from detentions and overt harasment to a well coordinated smear campaign. This has included the use of right wing publications such as Aida Parker, organisations such as Vetrans for Victory and annonymous smear pamphlets and posters.

We need to be vigilant in exposing the source of the smears as well as finding concrete proof and evidence. NC to coordinate the colation of information on smears.

8) Pietermaritzburg Townships

"I hope that tomorrow is doomsday so that evryone will die and God can create a new world", said a township resident after a mob went on a rampage after an Inkatha rally.

This statement rfects the desperation of township residents caught in the war between Inkatha and the rest of the community. During the Ashdown crisis, a group of women presented a petition to the PFP calling for the SADF to come into the townships. The mayor has also made this call.

Ramifications of this call:

- * the SADF is the only force likely to end the violence in the short term and will make political mileage out of this.
- * the SADF controlled peace would enable Inkatha to re-establish itself.
- * SADF involvement could indicte divisions between the SAP and SADF.
- * it is unlikely that the SADF would remain an impartial force.

ECC's response:

- * the situation needs to be thoroughly investigated befor working out a public response.
- * a report should be drawn up and circulated to other regions.
- * consultation should take place with democratic organisations.

9) International Record

A person is to be employed by ECC to conduct a feasibility study overseas. The study should be complete by May/June '88. The overseas coordinator is to liase with JHB creative action.. Salary is to be worked out by JHB and NC.

10) National Publication

Conference accepted the principle of having a national publication. It was proposed that it be based in Cape Town, have a fulltime editor, a part-time admin person and that it come out four times a year.. A proposal is to be circulated by National Employees.

C) Action Workshops

1) Schools

Grahamstown, Cape Town and Durban have schools sub committees. In Johannesburg Linx broke away from ECC because of smear campaign. Durban has experienced opposition to involvement directly in ECC from PPG and LINX .

Grahamstown initially worked with pupils. Paag collapsed but has been revamped. Teachers have been drawn into the group and an internal education programme is being run for teachers. Cape Town gives ECC media to PAAG and distributes outside schools. Approaching heads to speak in schools has not been effective. They are working on a cadets alternative programme and recently distributed time tables to schools. In Durban, before PPG, media was distributed outside schools. Some heads invited ECC to speak. Have had problems distributing media to schools.

Pretoria is working with a separate pupils group.. In PMB, pupils actively involved in ECC will decide on best tactics for forming a pupils group. ECC experiences flack from schools and parents. Want to get into contact with township organisations. Wits is working through churches to abolish the cadet system.

Schools groups are necessary because pupils are affected by conscription, but methods of work must be determined by security. We need to establish our name in schools so pupils will want to find out more about ECC. Teachers are part of our constituency and we must work with them.

We need to provide pupils with alternatives and make pupils aware of both sides of the story. We must stick to our single issue although we can play a role in the passing on of skills. We should incorporate pupils into ECC rather than form pupils groups, but this depends on the security of the region. Schools are a priority and must be tackled seriously.

2) Research and Information

Regions have done very little research. Cape Town has recently set up a research group headed by the education officer.

Research is important so that we have information at our fingertips and that ECC becomes seen as the experts in the military area. It is also important for internal education and helps to counter right wing research. It also enables people with particular skills to work for ECC.

Important areas of research are:

- * topical research, eg Angola
- * information on the SADF
- * attitudes towards conscription and the ECC
- * conscription in other countries
- * human cost of the war
- * troops in the townships

We have information available but it is not circulated. Conference suggested that all regions should send papers and information relating to militarisation to the National Secretary who would circulate it to regions.

Other ideas:

- * use academics to do research and present papers at public meetings
- * consult Afrikaner academics who often have access to privileged information
- * regions should link up with OASSSA
- * listen to news broadcasts on shortwave radio
- * press clippings to be circulated nationally
- * swap information with front organisations.

Cape Town is to co-ordinate package of available resources on Angola and topical issues. In terms of SADF research, PFP MPs should be encouraged to ask questions in Parliament and we should use Paratus, Defense white paper and parliamentary speeches. There is a proposed ECC survey, but in the meantime, all regions should conduct their own surveys.

Tasks:

- * Angola package from Cape Town
- * Survey to be followed up by Rhodes
- * Summer School papers from UCT
- * Wits to get Jackie Cock's course papers
- * SACBC resource centre to be looked at by Jhb.
- * All regions to look for materials in libraries.

3) Afrikaaner Community

There was consensus on the great potential of the Afrikaans community. Reportbacks from the various regions seemed to indicate ECC is having problems in tapping this potential.

Failure is not total: ECC has succeed in tapping Afrikaans energy and drawing Afrikaans speaking activists into ECC. But it needs to consolidate this gain and move forward into new areas.

In this regard, ECC's history provides us with the following cautionary points:

- * ECC should not let national imperatives override imperatives of local organisation
- * we must remeber the distinction between ECC and war resistance movement
- * we must remember the strategic value of autonomous organisation

ECC might find that Afrikaans areas need different styles of organisation. In this regard it seemed clear that ECC needs local initiatives to tap into, and must be aware of the difficulty of doing this. Afrikaans war resisters might be asking different questions.

In this regard, the focus on conscription is valuable. We must bear in mind the desparate situation of the Afrikaans war resister, for whom exile is more difficult. This presents the opportunity for uniting Afrikaans conscripts.

Concrete proposals:

- * ECC should investigate the possibility of Afrikaans conscription advice and counselling services
- * a conference of Afrikaans war resisters (at Stellenbosch?) which will feed into other Afrikaans regions.

4) Know Your Rights

Aims of KYR are:

- * offering something concrete and positive
- * a way of reaching our constituency
- * raising ECC's credibility in the conscripted community
- * providing a useful service to conscripts
- * show our concern for the unwilling conscript

UCT has found that few people knew their rights. Cape Town has organised three very succeeful KYR meetings with lawyers and other experts. They also are following up the possiblity of organising a Legal Resource Service for conscripts who are court-marshalled. Wits prodused a draft for a legal booklet, but there have been legal objections to it. We would have to cut out subjective comments. This is possibly because it comes from ECC rather than the content of the booklet.

We need to do more research on soldier's experiences on a national basis. Each

region should use their contacts to get information and we must collectively build up a body of knowledge.

Meetings

- * Johannesburg: Have had small meetings and housemeetings at which objectors and ex-servicemen have spoken. Word of mouth advertising.
- * Cape Town: Advertising: mailing list, suburban newspaper adverts, posters put up were taken down in 24 hours. Meetings have had no political content, apart from brief introduction to ECC. It has been important to get direction from the audience to find out what they want to know. Experts, eg SADF legal officers, are important. At the end of the meeting invited people to join ECC and place names on mailing list. Distributed ECC media. KYR meetings not necessarily for just before Feb and Aug call-ups.

The Cape Town KYR pamphlet was better received than any other. We need a standard booklet to circulate in all regions. Regions to send their resources and JHB to produce KYR booklet together with National Secretary.

5) August Call-Up

The aim of this action meeting was defined as the formulation of a coherent strategy around the call-up that could be implemented in all regions. The purpose was to develop a standard programme of action around the call-up that could be adapted in all regions on a regular yearly basis.

The group felt that two weeks before the call-up was too late to start campaigning as conscripts would have already made their decision and might react negatively to ECC action at this point. It was also felt that conscripts going into the army would be the central target constituency as they are directly affected, but that their families should also be targeted. It was stressed that attention should be paid to the timing and nature of events in terms of the state of mind of the conscript at each point.

The suggested programme is as follows:

- * raise the issue of conscription 2 months before the call-up, in all social institutions of the conscripted community, in the form of debate and lobbying. Social institutions named were the press and media, radio, other organisations, public debates, parliament and churches.
- * the build up would include actions such as:

- Know Your Rights meetings
- distribution of KYR pamphlets
- advertising ECC and Advice Bureau in the press and through stickers
- public booths where ECC members can engage public
- street theatre
- ASP projects
- support, advice and information house-meetings for parents and families of conscripts
- radio debate on conscription, possibly with SADF.

Closer to the call-up it was suggested that there be an ECC 'Stop the Call-Up' concert.

* Action close to the call-up should focus on support. Suggested actions:

- church service for conscripts and their families
- a personal focus in the press
- a press pic that shows an alternative to the traditional pic of troops on the train
- a 'Stop the Call-Up' legal picket

It was suggested that the National Secretary investigate newspaper Ads in the Citizen and the Sunday Times and a radio advertisement on 604 and 702.

A national programme should be formulated consisting of the following:

- * raising the issue, debate and lobbying in social institutions
- * KYR meetings and booklets
- * ASP project

(Regions to discuss proposal in terms of campaign motivation)

6) Recruitment

Different levels of membership are possible: activists, members who receive media and sympathisers who work on specific projects from time to time.

Initial contact is made with potential members through housemeetings, mailing lists, public events, orientation weeks, friends and the front and other organisations. Reach conscripts through targeting post-graduate and senior students, matrics, KYR meetings and newspaper adverts.

Follow-up of potential recruits has been a problem in most regions. We should use suppers, new members meetings, social contact, video evenings and integration~

into sub committees. When an event has potential for recruitment, follow up of recruits should be planned with projects that new members can get involved in.

suggestions:

- * get a time commitment from new members and use it constructively
- * computerised list of 'interests' for sympathisers
- * new members to write down questions that they wish to ask, so that they can be answered anonymously
- * new people need to be integrated and involved in decision making

NB Contact groups to send recruiting assessments of successful and unsuccessful experiences via NC to other regions.

7) Southern African Alternative Service Project

Regions felt the the South African project was the most important. Feedback has not been received from SWABC or Mozambique.

People felt favourable towards the project but raised questions about:

- * the relationship to the SACBC ASP
- * how substantial the actions could be
- * whether to concentrate on SA
- * if this was a once off programme

The project must be separate from any government department. The project should start in SA with the possibility of continuing in other countries. It was decided that we need to link with other organisations and maintain an ongoing programme to put pressure on the government.

The SACBC's programme was outlined and it was thought to be useful to work with the SACBC as it would allow ECC to concentrate on one project.

The nature of a possible project would have to be decided by the community and we would have to work through community organisations. The project would have to be finished by the time ECC left the area.

8) Educational and training

ECC activists need to be able to assess and strategise around issues. They should also have a broad familiarity with the democratic movement and how ECC fits in. They need to be able to engage and debate with the public in terms of ECC's

single issue. Reproduction of activists needs to take place and we need to be able to pass on skills. Important practical skills are chairing, facilitation and reporting back. We need to be aware of the current priorities and debate of other organisations. The rights of conscripts is an area activists should be familiar with. Other important skills are the ability to run and coordinate campaigns, delegation and the ability to handle criticism.

Cape Town has not put much energy into the training of new members, but has a new education portfolio on the exec. Durban has a new education portfolio. Education programmes have been ad hoc. Pmb aims to recruit new members and develop an education programme. At present it is ad hoc. Jhb had a formal education sub-group until June which ran a skills training and seminar programme. There is now an education portfolio with skills workshops initiated from sub-groups. Grahamstown has no formal programme, nor has Pretoria. Wits has a reading pack for activists. UCT has set up a group and there is an education portfolio but the programme has not got off the ground. PE has a formal programme.

suggestions for improvement:

- * one person to take responsibility for recruitment
- * link up with other organisations for skills training
- * a list of education resources should be compiled and sent to different regions

But education also takes place informally and we need to facilitate it, eg assessing the chair at the end of a meeting.

Conference proposed that the National Organisers investigate the possibility of a training workshop for activists (See Proposal).

9) Campaign around Ivan Toms

The aim of the campaign is to

- * raise the issue of lack of alternatives to military service
- * promote ECC's interim demands
- * raise support for CO's
- * build support for ECC and raise its public profile
- * provide Ivan with personal and political support.

The campaign has to date largely been centred in Cape Town where Ivan is a known and respected member of the community. The national character of the campaign is to be built through

-tour of the campuses

- national poster
- national pamphlet
- national campus action (signature campaign?)

Conference felt that a national action was needed and suggested the idea of either a vigil to take place on the 28 th February, or a protest meeting after his sentence. Most regions felt that the vigil was the most viable and the matter was referred to NC.

10) Angola

On the whole, we have not responded well to Angola and we have been nervous in responding. It is an important issue that affects conscripts and the conscripted community.

The deaths have affected our constituency, and attitudes have hardened amongst some. We need to be providing the public with information on Angola and the role of the SADF to counter the propaganda in the commercial press. ECC has to state what is actually going on, revealing the truth and appealing to our constituency on the basis of their lack of knowledge.

We must be prepared to respond quickly to the Angola situation. When the war hots up and there are deaths and casualties, we need to respond on behalf of the conscript. But we must never 'cash in' on deaths and must take care not to alienate the conscript. We must also be able to have a quick national response to Angola.

We should be offering both a political and personal message depending on the circumstances. In the provision of information, we need to gather resources on Angola and set up channels for collecting information. National Secretary to co-ordinate to flow of information.

D) Front and Sub-Committees

1) The Front

The front is generally weak in most regions with member/subscriber organisations not participating in GBs or in ECC's work. But the front is important for the following reasons:

- * good strategy to reach different constituencies
- * keeps us in contact with our constituency through participation at GBs
- * provides us with person power and resources
- * builds unity around the issue of conscription

But there is a danger that our front is to become stagnant and that perhaps we should examine the structure of our front.

Conference proposed that the following question should be discussed by all regions so that we can achieve consensus about the role of our front:

- * Why did ECC originally have a front? What are the advantages and disadvantages?
- * Are the arguments for a front still applicable? Discuss this in relation to how your front is working.
- * What do you think is the most desirable relationship between you and other organisations in your region (voting status, working relationship, etc) ?
- * Who should be making decisions for the regional ECCs? Should it be solely the ECC activists or should it include organisations that have a relationship with ECC?
- * Should formal distinctions be made between different levels of relationships?
- * Should there be national uniformity around our relationships with supporter organisations?

Questions to be discussed in regions and fed to NC.

2) Culture Sub-Committees

Culture coms exist in Cape Town, Durban, Wits, Jhb, Grahamstown and UCT. Projects have included films, photographic exhibitions, T-shirts, concerts, drama, cultural evenings, cakes, peace Easter eggs, WJP projects, parties and pavement art.

Aim of Culture com is to get message across in 'fun' way. It is also an access point for people to get involved in ECC who do not want to be activists. Problem with Culture coms in many regions are that they are isolated from general ECC.

Groups should be generating and building an anti-military culture.

Culture should also investigate possibilities of using more mainstream culture to get to other groups of people. Appropriate culture for white South Africans should be used. It is always important that ECC's message gets across to people.

Ideas for '88: Bands (Afrikaans?), poetry, book reading, sports team (eg Argus cycle tour), birthday party for ECC, national tour by eg David Kramer, photo exhibition, fairs, film festivals, cheese and wine, photo commic.

3) Conscripts' group

A conscripts group should consist of conscripts, but can contain non-conscripts. It is a group of activists that reaches out to conscripts to perform the specialised function of speaking to conscripts. Group should also facilitate the implementation of the new focus in the region.

Role of the group would be to provide service and information to conscripts. It would probably focus largely on conscripts about to go into the SADF; using a KYR focus. It could also provide soldiers with a service through the provision of lawyers and the setting up of a LRC. Veterans can be drawn into rap groups.

Offering of advice to conscripts should be done assertively. We need to find them and not to wait for them to find us.

We could reach conscript in the following ways:

Pamphlet blitz on bars, sport, pick up soldiers at the 'ride safe', videos, priests, ECC Troopiepack, farewell jorls, Scope, radio programmes.

4) Contact and Outreach

Contact's main areas of activity have been: mass membership, member organisations, mailing lists, contact with other organisations, house meetings and recruitment.

House meetings can be used as recruitment and to spread ECC's message. Invitations to house meetings through mailing lists and member orgs. We should look for opportunities to address groupings and other organisations, eg Sash, SAUJS, PFP, Chamber of Commerce. Good to get people to ask questions and to participate in meeting. Also useful to have a township resident.

We need a programme for new recruits. We also have to find ways to let people be involved without being activists, eg working on specific projects.

We should use mailing lists of sympathetic organisations. City councillors, journalists and important people should be on our mailing lists. We should have standardise computer software. A return address should always be put on envelopes so we can find out if people's addresses have changed.

We should consult with UDF and other progressive organisations, especially in the light of our new focus.

Jhb has considered use of Honourary presidents/vice presidents. We need to investigate issue of VIP membership, eg 'Friends of ECC'

5) Churches

Pretoria, Cape Town, Grahamstown and Durban have Church groups. Regions have been in contact with the Catholics, Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists, NGK and the Jewish community.

Suggestions are that Churches should try and get inot Biblical Studies depts, get statements from different churches on ECC and conscription and collect church newspapers.

Churhes are working on vigils for Ivan.

Some regions have been accused of using Christian groupings for ECC. Rest of ECC needs to have a better understanding of the church area and Churches needs to be more assertive in speaking to the rest of ECC.

It is alienating for some religions to call the group a Churches group. The name stems from ECC's history and that CO's have been Christians.

Need to make contact with progressive people in other groups.

6) Media

Johannesburg had a problem that some of the media produced by the group did not reflect ECC. Media is now to be vetted by exec and other sub-groups must consult in good time with Media in terms of producing suitable media. Cape Town has general lack of skills. Has not had enough time for general media work. Pmb is very small, unskilled and overworked. No other group does their own media. Wits is an over-extended small group that has problems with resources, time and contact with other sub-coms. They are organising skills workshops. Uct did

not consolidate itself as a sub-committee and there is a lack of skills. Durban found that co-ordination was lacking. Pretoria and PE are experiencing a lack of skills.

The effect of the new focus on our media needs to be discussed. Our media has fallen into the trap of appealing to a very 'lefty' group. Must make an effort to appeal, and media needs to be adapted to different constituencies.

Should be more co-ordination of regional medias through NC to share ideas and to co-ordinate image projected. T-shirts should be distributed nationally. Channels of selling media should be investigated. We need to look at producing a calendar and approach a sympathetic artist.

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