



A7.17.1

End Conscription Campaign

37 Polo Rd
Observatory
Cape Town
7 August 1985

Dear Friends

Warmest greetings from the End Conscription Campaign.

We really appreciate the message of support you sent to our Peace Festival. The support that we received from local and international organisations is a source of great strength to us and an indication of the widespread opposition to the role of the SADF and the conscription of young white men into it.

The festival was a great success in terms of the number and diversity of people and groups that participated and in terms of the spirit and resolve that developed amongst them. The participants united behind the demands of the ECC which were made in a powerful way at the public meetings and through extensive press coverage of the festival.

At the end of the weekend we were left with a tremendous sense of excitement at ECC's contribution to the growth of a movement for peace and justice in the white community. Now, under the State of Emergency, the ECC and its member organisations must redouble their efforts to build support for the calls for an end to conscription and for the withdrawal of the troops from the townships.

We wish you strength in your own activities and look forward to continuing to work with you.

Peace and solidarity.

Laurie Nathan
ECC National Organiser

End Conscription Committee,
P.O.Box 208,
Woodstock.
August 1985.

Dear Friend,

The End Conscription Committee (E.C.C.) is launching a national campaign, calling for the withdrawal of the SADF from the townships. The focus of the campaign will be a mass fast on October 7, the day last year on which troops were first used in the townships. By fasting we will demonstrate our commitment to a just peace, and express solidarity with people suffering throughout South Africa.

As an act of personal commitment to peace and of support for the objectives of the campaign, Dr. Ivan Toms will fast in St. Georges Cathedral from September 17, the International Day of Peace, to October 7. Ivan is a conscientious objector and a doctor at the SACLA Clinic in Crossroads. Church leaders and prominent individuals will fast with Ivan throughout the period.

We hope that you will fast with us on October 7 and support Ivan by visiting him at the Cathedral during the fast.

IF YOU SUPPORT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN, YOU CAN HELP US IN A PRACTICAL WAY BY MAKING TEN COPIES OF THIS LETTER AND SENDING THEM TO INTERESTED FRIENDS.

Yours sincerely,

ECC, Cape Town.

If you want further information about the campaign or would like to join us in working on it, please phone Alistair at 692742 or write to us at the address given above.



End Conscription Campaign

P.O.Box 208

Woodstock

7915

11 August 1985

Dear

At the ECC National Conference in July, we decided to embark on a national campaign focussing on the presence of SADF troops in the townships. With the declaration of the state of emergency, the demand that troops be withdrawn from the townships has taken on greater pertinence.

The main focus of the campaign will be from September 16 to October 7. During this period Ivan Toms will embark on a continuous fast, and will be joined for shorter periods by church leaders and other prominent people. A range of actions is being planned to run parallel to the fast. The campaign will climax with a 24 hour fast and mass meeting on October 7, which hopefully will attract widespread support.

ECC has begun the "build-up" period for the campaign. Already this Wednesday (14th) a public information meeting will be held.

As part of the build up, we would like to invite one or more representatives from your organisation to discuss the campaign with members of ECC.

The joint meeting, which will be a "one-off" event, will be held on TUESDAY 27 AUGUST at 8.00pm at ST PAULS ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL, RONDEBOSCH.

I hope that you will be able to join us.

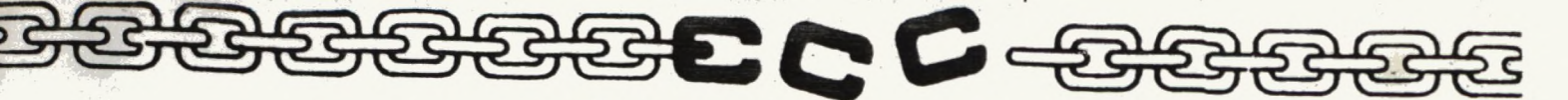
Yours in the struggle for peace

Michael Evans

Michael Evans

Chairperson, ECC.

(Phone: 47-7407 - home)



End Conscription Campaign

September 1985

37 Polo Road
Observatory 7925
SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Friends

Warmest greetings from the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) in South Africa.

The ECC is launching a national three-week "Troops out of the Townships" campaign on September 17, the United Nations International Day of Peace. The campaign will culminate in a mass 24-hour "Peace Fast" on October 7, the anniversary of the first invasion by the South African Defence Force (SADF) of a township last year.

This campaign takes place at a time when troops are being used more extensively and with greater powers (under the proclamation of a State of Emergency) than ever before. Throughout our country the army is using violence to suppress the resistance of black people who will no longer tolerate the suffering they experience under apartheid.

During the Emergency, troops have allegedly beaten township residents indiscriminately, raped black women, looted houses, attempted to break the consumer boycott by assaulting people shopping in township shops, and been involved in forced removals. It is clear that the deployment of the SADF has not brought peace to the townships, but that true peace will only prevail when the root causes of the conflict are eradicated.

As the recent Church delegation to State President, P.W. Botha, pointed out, the use of security forces is in fact exacerbating the situation and increasing the level of violence. In a racist and highly militarised society, it is not surprising that many soldiers are not questioning their role in the townships. We in ECC have, however, been approached by and heard of a large number of soldiers and conscripts who are sickened by the actions of the army. They are experiencing an acute crisis of conscience at being forced to take part in these actions. In the first case of its kind, Rifleman Alan Dodson was recently sentenced to a fine of R600 for refusing to obey an order to go into the townships.

It is becoming increasingly urgent for us in the ECC to apply greater pressure on the State, through non-violent action, to end conscription and immediately withdraw its troops from the townships and, until this happens, to at least give conscripts the right to refuse to go into the townships.

The "Peace Fast" is intended as a powerful protest against the presence of SADF troops in the townships, and as an act of solidarity with township residents who bear the brunt of SADF violence. The fast involves an individual acknowledgment of moral responsibility and commitment to a peaceful future for our country. Above all, it is a statement of our commitment to work collectively for a just peace in our land. Those who fast will be asked to donate the money they would have spent on food to a fund to assist the victims of police and SADF actions in the townships.

Several members of the ECC will be fasting for long periods. In Cape Town, Dr Ivan Thoms, a conscientious objector and doctor at Crossroads squatter camp, will fast for three weeks, from 17 September to 7 October in St Georges Cathedral. In Grahamstown, Dave Hartman, a Buddhist objector (whose application to the Board for Religious Objection was rejected last year) will fast for the same period. In Durban, Richard Steel, a conscientious objector and curator of the Ghandi settlement, will fast from September 22 to 7th October.

The international support we received for our Peace Festival in July was a source of great strength to us. We call on all those organisations and individuals throughout the world, who support the ECC and its demands, to fast with us in solidarity from the night of the 6th October to 7th October.

The "Troops out of the Townships" campaign is based on the following demands of the End Conscription Campaign:

- + We demand that the troops be withdrawn from the townships as -
 - their presence is an effective declaration of war on the township residents;
 - their presence further polarises our already divided society;
 - their presence distances us yet further from any peaceful solutions to the 'unrest';
 - it is part of a broader militarisation of our society.
- + The End Conscription Campaign:
 - calls for a just peace in South Africa
 - calls for the withdrawal of troops from the townships
 - calls for an end to conscription
 - calls for conscripts to be given the right to refuse to enter the townships.

The ECC would greatly appreciate any messages of support, or notice of solidarity action or fasting which you and your organisation may be involved in.

We have enclosed some media, including profiles of the ECC members who will be fasting for long periods during the campaign.

We wish you strength in your own work, and look forward to hearing from you.

In love and peace

LAURIE NATHAN
ECC National Organiser

(Messages of support may be sent to Telex No. 5722323 (SA) ,
or phone (from 17th September to 7 October) (SA) 021-247361 extension 3

43

ECC PEACE FAST
c/o P.O. Box 1879
4000 Durban
4 September 1985

Dear Friends

Enclosed you will find information on a campaign to be conducted by the End Conscription Campaign, between 22 September and 7 October.

The campaign, to be based at St Anthony's Church, Centenary Road, Durban, will be characterised by fasting - a single fast for the duration of the campaign, and a mass fast on 7 October.

Events arranged to date which are related to the campaign include:

- 17 Sept: United Nations International Day of Peace.
Mass for a "Just Peace" to be held at Emmanuel Catholic Cathedral, 5.15pm
- 20 Sept: Peace Concert at UND campus /7.30pm
- 22 Sept: SERVICE TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE SINGLE FAST, St Anthony's
- 25 Sept: Service to mark World Council of Churches Day of Prayer for Africa, St Anthony's, time to be announced
- 29 Sept: Friends' Meeting for Worship (Quakers), Botanical Gardens at the bell, 12 noon
- 1 Oct: "The right to choose" - debate on UND campus, 1.10pm
- 6 Oct: Friends' Meeting for Worship (Quakers), Botanical Gardens at the bell, 12 noon
- 6 Oct: SERVICE TO MARK BEGINNING OF THE 24 HOUR FAST, St Anthony's, 7.30pm. Followed by a vigil
- 7 Oct: ENDING THE FAST, culture and celebration, St Anthony's, 6.00pm

The daily routine of the fast will be as follows:

- 9.00am - 9.30pm venue open for people to come and visit the faster, pray, discuss etc.
- 9.00am - 9.³⁰am prayer, meditation, singing
- 1.00pm - 2.30pm organised program
- 5.00pm - 5.30pm prayer, meditation, singing
- 7.30pm - 9.30pm organised program

These times will be flexible, according to what is planned.

We hope that different organisations, churches and individuals will take responsibility for planning and "running" each day. This will involve organising the lunch and evening slots, and could involve putting up displays etc. for the day. ECC will coordinate the whole program to ensure continuity.

Appearing below is a list of ideas and themes for discussions and activities we thought appropriate for inclusion in the program. If you can think of any more, please note them on the Return Slip.

- a. troops occupying the townships - what it's like, what it involves
- b. military involvement in the townships - black recruitment, schools etc.
- c. detentions
- d. military and police connections - the way they work together
- e. militarism in South Africa
- f. schools - cadets, military recruitment, camps etc.
- g. the right to choose - conscientious objection
- h. history of political fasting
- i. medical aspects of hunger and starvation, political consequences
- j. vision of the future
- k. the anti-Vietnam war movement in the USA, and other aspects of the international peace movement.
- l. justice and peace in Nicaragua

- m. women and conscientious objection
- n. the psychological effects of military training and war.

A variety of audiovisual materials will be on hand. We are also planning to have handwork and arts and crafts material available for people to work on while they are visiting the fast. At the end, a collage can be made up of all the work. There will be a graffiti board, and a book for people to write in.

We would appreciate it if you could please complete the return slip below, indicating to us how you are able to contribute.

We look forward to working together with you.
the End Conscription Campaign committee, Durban.

RETURN SLIP

Tick, or write in, as appropriate.

1. Visit the fast _____
2. Fast with on 7 Oct _____
3. Financial contribution _____
4. Program ideas you would like to help organise (write in corresponding letter) _____ ii. other ideas or activities? _____
_____ iii. what day and time would be most suitable for you to have this discussion or activity? _____
5. Leading a morning or afternoon meditation, prayer and singing _____
On which day? _____
6. Help with handcraft materials etc. _____
7. Help plan the vigil on 6 Oct (poetry, audiovisuals, discussions, talks) / _____
8. Help plan the celebration on 7 Oct (music, drama etc.) _____
9. Would you like an ECC person to come and talk about the fast and campaign with your organisation or church? _____
If possible, indicate when, or else arrangements can be made by phone. _____
10. Would you like to be kept informed of campaign and program developments? / _____
11. Name _____ Address _____
Telephone number _____ Organisation or church _____

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End Conscription Campaign

Box 2338
Pietermaritzburg
3200
10 September 1985

Dear Friend,

You will probably have heard of the recent clampdown on ECC across the country. In response to this, it was decided at our general meeting on 9/9/85 that this should not deter us from going ahead with our 'Troops Out' campaign.

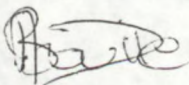
We feel the most significant feature of the campaign is the fasting. Members of ECC together with other organisations, will be conducting a two week long relay fast. The fast will be launched at our dinner, and is to be centred at St Peters, Anglican Cathedral in Church Street.

As the demands of our fast, ie for individual conscripts to be given the freedom to choose, for troops out and for a just peace in our land, are widely held, we would like to encourage you and members of your organisations to participate with us in the relay fast.

The campaign ends off with a Day of Prayer on Sunday 6 October and a national 24 hour Peace Fast on 7 October. We would also like to encourage people to participate in this.

If you are able and willing to help and would like more information, please phone 67788 - Jacqui Boule
20052 - PACSA.

Yours faithfully



Jac Boule.



End Conscription Campaign

MOTIVATION FOR ECC TROOPS OUT CAMPAIGN AND PEACE FAST (17 SEPTEMBER - 7 OCTOBER).

The ECC is holding a national three-week Troops Out Campaign which begins on September 17, the United Nations International Day of Peace. The Campaign ends with a mass 24-hour 'Peace Fast' on October 7, the anniversary of the first invasion by the SADF of a township last year. A few members of the ECC are considering fasting for the entire duration of the Campaign.

THE TROOPS OUT CAMPAIGN.

The campaign takes place at a time when troops are being used more extensively and with greater powers under the State of Emergency than before. Throughout the country the army is using violence to suppress the resistance of black people who will no longer tolerate the suffering they experience under Apartheid. In the current period troops have allegedly beaten township residents indiscriminately, raped black women, looted houses, attempted to break the consumer boycott by assaulting people shopping in township shops, and been involved in forced removals.

It is clear that the army has not brought peace to the townships, but that true peace will only prevail when the root causes of conflict are eradicated. As the recent Church delegation to P.W. Botha pointed out, the use of security forces is in fact exacerbating the situation and raising the level of violence.

Township residents, who have long seen the SADF as their enemy, are now beginning to see all whites as their enemy.

It is a cause for great concern that the non-racial character of our struggle is being so severely undermined, and that a spirit of reconciliation in a new South Africa seems so remote.

In a racist and highly militarised society it is not surprising that many soldiers are not questioning their role in the townships. What is alarming is how many of them actually express a sadistic delight at the opportunity of physically confronting black people.

We have, however, been approached by and heard of a large number of soldiers and conscripts who are sickened by the actions of the troops.

They are experiencing an acute crisis of conscience at being forced to participate in these actions.

In the first case of its kind, Rifleman Alan Dodson was recently sentenced to a fine of R600 at a court martial in Durban for refusing an order to go into the townships.

It is becoming increasingly urgent for us to expose the actions of troops, to protest against their use in the townships, to build non-racialism and to provide support for the young men whose consciences are violated by their participation in the military.

It is becoming increasingly urgent for us to apply greater pressure on the State, through non-violent action, to end conscription and immediately withdraw its troops from the townships or, until this happens, to at least give soldiers the right to refuse to go into the townships.

We believe that ECC, together with its member and sympathetic organisations, can advance this work in an important way through the Troops Out Campaign.

THE 24 HOUR PEACE FAST.

The Fast is intended to be a powerful protest against the presence of troops in the townships, and an act of solidarity with township residents who bear the brunt of SADF aggression.

It will build non-racialism by showing the extent of opposition in the white community to apartheid and the role of the army in defending it.

It will build a sense of community amongst those who participate in the fast.

At the same time, it involves an individual acknowledgement of moral responsibility for one's actions and an individual act of commitment.

Above all, it is a statement of our commitment to work collectively for a just peace in our land.

Those who fast will be asked to donate the money they would have spent on food to a fund which the SACC will use to assist the victims of SADF actions in the townships.

We believe that the Fast will be an effective political action at the culmination of the three week fasts and the Troops Out Campaign. It will be newsworthy and have a high dramatic potential, highlighting the call for 'Troops Out.'

It can strengthen the ECC's relations with member and sympathetic organisations that publicly endorse the Fast and involve their own constituencies in it. It can also win international support for the ECC's demands through solidarity fasts by peace groups in other countries.

We believe that the Fast will appeal to a large number of people. It is not an action that is limited to a few people - anyone can participate in it.

It is a more active political activity than simply attending a mass meeting, yet it is not as threatening as a picket or march. While the State of Emergency has led to political activity being curtailed in various ways, the State cannot stop anyone from not eating! As a non-violent action it presents an alternative to the violence of Apartheid.

Fasting has significance in every major religion as a means of raising spiritual awareness and affirming one's faith. It was considered by Ghandi as the highest form and most powerful tool of Satyagraha (truth force). As a political action fasting has been used effectively by movements for peace and justice throughout history.

For example, a hunger strike climaxed the campaign of the Women's Suffrage Movement that won the vote for women in the US in 1918. A 40-day fast by peace activists won many members of the British Columbian Legislature over to opposing the Trident Weapon System in 1974. Anti-Vietnam War activists engaged in many fasts to end the war, withdraw US troops and deepen the commitment to action of the peace movement. Hunger strikes have been used frequently in Chile in the struggle over 'Los Desaparecidos ', the Disappeared Persons. In 1978 an indefinite fast by a small group of women in Bolivia was a major factor in the amnesty granted to 19 000 political prisoners and exiles, and the subsequent fall of the military dictatorship. In South Africa under the 1961 State of Emergency several groups of detainees went on hunger strikes to improve prison conditions.


THE THREE WEEK FAST.

Ivan Thoms, a conscientious objector and a doctor at Crossroads, has decided to fast for the entire three-week period as a political statement and an act of sacrifice and commitment.

He will fast in the Anglican Cathedral in Cape Town, where ECC media and resources will be available; there is the possibility of prominent church leaders fasting with Ivan for shorter periods.

Dave Hartman, a Buddhist objector whose application to the Board for Religious Objection was rejected last year, will also fast for three weeks in Grahamstown.

Richard Steele consciously objected in 1980, and spent a year in military Detention Barracks as a result. He will fast for two weeks from 22 September, at St Anthony's Catholic Church, Centenary Rd., Durban.



End Conscription Campaign

FASTING FOR A JUST PEACE

ECC Troops Out Campaign and Peace Fast (22 September - 7 October)

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Politically, socially and spiritually, our country is in turmoil. In Durban itself, the situation is bordering on chaos, with hundreds of families displaced, bloody conflict between political organisations, detentions, hunger, unemployment. The remedy being applied is a military one: meet force with force, violence with violence. The police, the SADF, and other para-military forces are instituting a reign of terror in our townships and the country in general.

To one degree or another, we are all affected by this turmoil. How do we cope with our own feelings? How do we respond to the pain and anger of others? How do we bear the frustrations and uncertainties of our society? What can we do?

Considering the crisis we are all involved in, the End Conscription Campaign feels that we are not helpless, and that we can make constructive responses which will help bring about a just peace in our land.

Our broad response is to call for an end to conscription. We believe that conscription fuels the civil war in South Africa by providing personnel for the enforcement of apartheid, and by fostering the kind of attitudes in conscripts which perpetuate racial hatred and suspicion. We believe too that conscription encourages the shortsighted militaristic mentality which seeks to impose military solutions on political problems.

To help localise and concretise this broad response, ECC is embarking on a two week campaign in Durban (and other major centres in South Africa) from 22 September until 7 October, for which we request your support and participation.

The chief characteristic of this campaign will be fasting. Fasting may seem an odd choice for a campaign conducted by a political organisation, but we feel it is appropriate, for the following reasons:

- a. fasting is an action which causes no harm to anyone else, and is accessible to all people;
- b. it is a disciplined action which enables individuals to express their commitment to a cause, and their solidarity with those experiencing oppression and injustice;
- c. it has immense symbolic value, so its witness reaches many people at many different levels.

The overall theme of the campaign will be "Fasting for a Just Peace". Different aspects of the theme will be emphasised during the course of the campaign. One of the most important aspects is our call for an end to conscription and the withdrawal of troops from the townships or, until this happens, to at least give soldiers the right to refuse to go into the townships.

One person - conscientious objector and ECC activist, Richard Steele - will fast (drinking water only) for the duration of the campaign, to be joined on 7 October by as many others as possible in a 24 hour fast. 7 October is the anniversary of the SADF's first public deployment in the townships (in this case, Sebokeng) last year.

Richard will fast at St Anthony's Catholic Church, Centenary Rd., Durban. The parish priest, Fr Mannie de Passos, Monsignor Nadal and

Archbishop Hurley have expressed their support for the fast and the campaign

The venue will be arranged in such a way that the public can come and visit with Richard and the ECC support group during the day and early evening, to discuss issues, pray, or join in in whichever way seems appropriate. Available too will be relevant literature, and educational displays. We hope prominent civic and religious people will join in the fast for short or longer periods.

The fast will begin with a service on the evening of Sunday 22 September, at St Anthony's, ~~at 7 30pm~~ Another service will be held to mark the beginning of the 24 hour fast on Sunday evening 6 October. This may be followed by a vigil that night. On Monday evening we plan to break the fast together in a joyful manner.

We ask you to support and participate in this campaign. We ask you too to fast with us for a just peace. This needn't take place at St Anthony's - you could fast wherever you are. By asking you to join us in the fast, we ask you to join us in consciously stepping out of the maelstrom of everyday habits and social demands, into a space where we can be open to ourselves, each other, God, or environment, our society, in order to really understand what is happening in our country, and how through our actions we can reach our for, and grasp hold of, a just peace.

For more information, with offers of help, letters of support, or to make suggestions, please contact Loek Goemans (031 301 8088 or 28 4320), Richard Steele (031 301 5663), Gary Cullen (031 45 5682), or write to PEACE FAST, c/o PO Box 1879, Durban 4000.



PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY, 5th FLOOR, RUSKIN HOUSE, 2 ROELAND ST., CAPE TOWN, 8001
PROGRESSIEWE FEDERALE PARTY, 5de VERDIEPING, RUSKINGEBOU, ROELANDSTR 2, KAAPSTAD 8001

07.1.10

**YOUNG PROGRESSIVES
JONG PROGRESSIEWE**

**NATIONAL OFFICE
NASIONALE KANTOOR**

☎ 45-1431 ☐ 1475, 8000 ↪ PROGRESPAR

1st October, 1985.

The End Conscription Campaign
P O Box 208
7915 WOODSTOCK

Dear Mike,

TROOPS OUT CAMPAIGN

The Young Progressives encourage you in this campaign. We too feel very strongly about the misuse of the minds and bodies of South African men by the Nationalist Defence Force. At the recent PFP Congress in Durban the majority of delegates showed their support for an end to conscription, and for the withdrawal of troops from the townships. The ECC has stimulated debate around this issue within the white community in particular, and this is our collective debt to you.

May your campaign grow bigger and bigger, so that the call to end conscription is so loud, that it dislodges the cotton wool in the ears of the National Party.

I know that if all of us committed to a just peace in our land, work harder than ever before, we will win!, its only a matter of time.

Yours with warm greetings,

Andrew

ANDREW MILLER
National Chairperson
Young Progressives

AM/fm

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM "JEWS AGAINST APARTHEID"
TO THE ECC PEACE RALLY, 7 OCT 1985.

Jews Against Apartheid - a newly formed grouping within the Cape Town Jewish community - supports the ECC in demanding:

- the immediate withdrawal of troops from the townships,
- that individual conscripts be given the ~~right~~ right to refuse to enter a black township,
- an end to conscription into the Apartheid army,
- a just peace in South Africa.

Unfortunately we are not able to be represented on your platform tonight as it is a religious holiday. We nevertheless give our full support to this "Peace Rally".

signed: *Anton Richman.*
for the Steering Committee.

JBG

MHJJJJJHHYTC666VM#

5-22323 SA

CT 09/24 15:57

5-20303R SA

ALLO EDS TELEX EXCH ERE YOUR MACH IS NOW WORKING SORRY ABOUT THE PROB
DO YOU READ ME OVER ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

5-22323 SA

LAURIE NATHAN

ECC NATIONAL ORGANIZER

37 POLO ROAD, OBSERVATION 7925 RSA

24/09/85

TLX. NO. 9-13

ZIMBABWE FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION SALUTES YOUR TROOPS OUT
OF TOWNSHIP CAMPING. WE JOIN IN YOUR CALL FOR AN END TO CONSCRIPTION
, WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM TOWNSHIPS AND PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE
IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE WILL ENCOURAGE ZIMBABWE TO FAST AND PRAY
WITH YOU ON OCTOBER 7. WE ALSO CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN
TROOPS FROM ANGOLA AND END SUPPORT FOR MNR AND DISSIDENTS HERE.

AKADIM CHIKANDAMINA,
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WORLD REPORT



The Universe 20/9/85

'Back us' plea from S Africa

CATHOLICS in Britain should give more active support to people fighting apartheid, a South African Church worker said last week.

Steven Lowry, who works for the South African bishops' Justice and Peace Commission "Peace Project", was visiting London as part of a European tour to build up solidarity among international peace organisations, and particularly the Church.

He said he was "amazed" by the "apparent lack of grass-roots awareness among Catholics here of the struggle in South Africa.

"At the moment there is little sense of support and solidarity in South Africa from the Church outside," he said.

"The South African government must be made aware that the Church is not simply a small South African church which the government can handle, but a huge international church which is extremely concerned about the present injustice in our country.

"If the international Catholic Church is seen to do nothing, then it is assumed in South Africa that it

By SANDRA PAJAK

is supporting apartheid."

Mr Lowry's work on the "Peace Project", an educational programme aimed at white South Africans, involves the national End Conscription Campaign (ECC), which he says is an "ideal vehicle" through which Catholics can demonstrate their support for black rights.

The South African bishops have publicly aligned themselves with the ECC and its single aim of ending the compulsory military conscription of young white men.

In a statement issued earlier this year, the bishops said:

"Young men are conscripted to assist the implementation and defence of apartheid policies, and to maintain illegal occupation of Namibia. Those who refuse are faced with a life in exile, or a possible six years in prison.

"We believe it is the moral right of South Africans to exercise freedom of conscience and choose not to serve in the South African Defence Force. Therefore we call



POLICE PRESENCE: Demonstrators against the repression in Chile getting close attention in Santiago recently.

for an end of conscription. We also encourage Catholics to help promote peace by working for an end to conscription in whatever ways lie open to them."

The ECC on Tuesday launched a three-week "Troops Out" initiative, to end with a 24-hour peace fast on October 7. They plan to expose the actions of troops in the townships, and will call for soldiers to be given the right to refuse to go into them.

"It is clear the army has not brought peace to the townships," Mr Lowry said. "In the current period, troops have allegedly

beaten township residents indiscriminately, raped black women, looted houses, and been involved in forced removals.

"In fact, the use of security forces is exacerbating the situation and raising the level of violence. There is now open civil war in the townships."

The peace fast is seen as an act of solidarity with township residents and a means of showing the extent of opposition in the white community to apartheid. Mr Lowry is asking peace groups in Europe to join in solidarity fasts.

"Messages and actions of sup-

port from outside South Africa are a tremendous boost to morale, as well as demonstrating to the government the growing support the End Conscription Campaign is gaining," he said.

Such support was particularly important since the detention of four leading ECC workers just a week before the start of the Troops Out/Peace Fast initiative.

"This action shows that the state fears the ECC," he said. "If there is a general clamp-down on the campaign inside South Africa, then external support is more important than ever."

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The Church in the World

South Africa

Churchmen urge the government to change

The homes of 20 whites engaged in the End Conscription Campaign were raided at dawn on Monday and four activists arrested: Richard Steele, who has already been jailed for objecting to military service and who was about to embark on a fortnight's fast for a just peace; Anita Cromberg, who like Richard Steele was prominent in the campaign in Durban; Sue Britten, who works for Diakonia, the Durban ecumenical social agency; and Michael Evans, chairman of the Cape Town branch of the campaign and son of the Anglican Bishop of Port Elizabeth. One campaigner who would have been arrested had he been at home was Stephen Lowry, but he was in England, where last week he attended the National Conference of Priests at Birmingham as an observer. All four arrested have been detained under section 29 of the Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without recourse to legal representation.

Last week 41 seminarians of different races marched to the government headquarters at Union buildings in Pretoria to deliver an open letter to President P. W. Botha calling for the dismantling of apartheid. They asked for one citizenship in a united democratic South Africa; the redistribution of land and its resources; the complete dismantling of apartheid legislation; a new economic system to ensure that all shared in the country's wealth; an end to conscription; a single educational system; and an end to the state of emergency. Anything less than this, they said, would indicate a definite reluctance on the part of the government to move away from "an intrinsically evil system" and would make a "total mockery" of the new constitution's profession of belief in God. "This country no longer has time on its side," they warned. As the 41 seminarians stood outside the President's office singing *Nkosi sikelele i Afrika* — the African national anthem — inside the Union buildings the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, was explaining to a press conference how sanctions would hurt not just South Africa but all of southern Africa.

The "total, not merely rhetorical, abolition of apartheid" was called for by Archbishop Stephen Naidoo, C.S.S.R., at a press conference on Tuesday. The bishop, who was speaking from a bed in hospital where he

was undergoing back surgery, declared that the government should give an unequivocal assurance to this effect. The time had come for rebuilding South Africa, but the government was tinkering with apartheid, and this was one of the fundamental underlying causes of the recent unrest. If the government wanted peace then it must give peace, in the form of the restoration of human dignity to all deprived of it by the totally abhorrent system of apartheid. It must be prepared to listen to the "real grievances" of the people, and complaints of police brutality should be investigated by "a completely independent body of respected men and women, particularly from the legal profession". Archbishop Naidoo did not give details of any allegations of police brutality because he was afraid that his own priests might be victimised as a result.

The archbishop called on the government to lift the present state of emergency and to release detainees. In answer to a question, the archbishop criticised President Botha's rejection of talks with the banned African National Congress. "It is necessary now for all South Africans to listen to one another," he said. Asked to comment on the feasibility of a papal visit, Archbishop Naidoo said that such a visit could be misused or seen as indicating support for "an abhorrent system".

Bishop James O'Brien, Bishop in Hertfordshire and chairman of the department of international affairs of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has written to the South African Ambassador to Britain, Dr Denis Worrall, to express the bishops' "deep concern" over developments. Recent detentions had increased the already great anxiety in Britain. The arrest of men like the Revd Allan Boesak, the Revd Mcebisi Xundu, the Revd Syd Luckett, and Paddy Kearney, director of Diakonia, men whose opposition to apartheid stemmed from Christian conviction and who had courageously worked for fundamental change in South Africa in the light of the Gospel, was "a shocking commentary on your government's policies" and was further evidence that the work of the Churches and work for human development "have become criminal acts in the eyes of your government". Bishop O'Brien cited as "signs of a new inhumanity growing from the inhumanity of apartheid" police shooting innocent citizens, the arrest of schoolchildren, the beating of women by police, and the imprisonment of Oscar Mpetha, "an ailing 75-year-old man". He asked the ambassador to pass on to his government "this appeal for an end to police violence, a lifting of the state of emergency, and some tangible evidence

that the South African government upholds the Christian standards it so frequently professes".

Argentina

France reverts to case of 'disappeared' nuns

The French government has made a new request to Argentina to investigate the disappearance in 1977 of two French nuns. Their request follows a documentary shown on French television in which a self-confessed former "torturer", Claudio Vallejos, gave an eyewitness account of the arrest, torture, and eventual death of the two nuns. He identified one of the interrogating naval officers as Lt Alfredo Astiz, who was captured by British troops during the Falklands war but was repatriated despite French requests to question him.

The two nuns, Sr Alicia Domon (aged 43) and Sr Léonie Duquet (aged 62), were abducted from the churches where they were working with groups of relatives of the "disappeared" in Buenos Aires. According to Claudio Vallejos, speaking in the film shown on the French *Antenne 2* network last week, the two nuns were taken to the School of Marine Engineering, a notorious centre of torture, and were stripped naked, tortured and raped. Two months later they were transferred to La Plata, another naval battalion headquarters, where they were again tortured. After a fortnight at the Vesuvio concentration camp, they were sent to the military hospital at Rio Santiago "where prisoners are sent to recover before being returned to Vesuvio". Sr Alice died five days later in the hospital and Sr Léonie died a day and a half after her. They were buried "with other important prisoners" near the naval training camp between Buenos Aires and La Plata, at a site filmed by the documentary.

The Argentinian judiciary decided in August not to carry out the international arrest warrant for arrest served on Lt Astiz by a French judge, Claudine Lechanu-Forkel.

Claudio Vallejos has settled in Brazil. An Argentine diplomat in Rio de Janeiro has said that Argentina will demand his extradition, and that his allegations "are only 5 per cent true".

French diplomatic sources have said that the matter is bound to be raised during the state visit of the Argentinian President, Mr Raul Alfonsín, to France next week.



War Resisters League

339 Lafayette Street, New York NY 10012 • 212-228-0450

Affiliated with War Resisters' International and the International Peace Bureau • Cable Address: Nonviolent New York

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85 Carl Street
San Francisco CA 94117
415-731-1220

September 23, 1985

End Conscription Campaign
37 Polo Road
Observatory, Cape 7925, South Africa

copies to: State President P. W. Botha / Secretary George Shultz
Senators Moynihan and D'Amato

Dear friends and co-workers,

We have received the news of the arrests of Sue Britton, Anita Kromberg, Richard Steele, and Michael Evans with great concern and had earlier cabled the government there to protest.

Now we find that Dr. Ivan Thomas and Harold Winkler have begun a prolonged fast. Our concern deepens.

You are too fully aware of the ironies of the situation - if you were resisting conscription in the Soviet Union you would have no end of supporters (in addition to us). If you resisted conscription in Nicaragua, where U.S. pressure has forced the government to adopt a policy we cannot support, you would have support from many official U.S. sources (in addition to us).

But we have a President who thinks segregation has ended, (and had to correct his statements in this regard when an aide got his attention), we have a government engaged in a cooperative relationship - "constructive engagement" - with a government which has continued to wage war against its neighbors and now against its own people.

We fully support your work. We call on U.S. officials to apply the same standards to South Africa that they apply so swiftly elsewhere. Your actions require enormous courage - and they remind us that it is not South Africa we condemn, but the present government of South Africa. You give witness to the fact there are, in your troubled nation, both Black and white South Africans who may yet redeem the future.

Fraternally,

David McReynolds
staff, War Resisters League



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FND CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN
POBOX 208
WOODSTOCK 7915
CAPETOWN

WARMEST WISHES AND SOLIDARITY FROM ALL CAMPAIGN NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
BRUCE KENT

COL 208 7915

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This form and envelope should accompany any enquiry

Albion Ave



**KOMMISSIE RECHTVAARDIGHEID
EN VREDE v.z.w.**

Adres Koningstraat 171
B-1030 Brussel

Metro "Kruidentuin-Botanique"

Telefoon 02/218 63 48

Bankrekening 799-5503740-59

End Conscription Campaign

37 Polo Road
Observatory

CAPE TOWN 7925

Zuid-Afrika

Brussels, 23 September 1985

Dear Friends,

On this occasion of the launching of the TROOPS OUT campaign, we like to express our solidarity with you in your struggle for a non-violent solution for South Africa.

We believe that international solidarity is indeed essential for the creation of justice and peace throughout the world.

Hoping and praying for justice for all in South Africa,

in solidarity,

for the Justice and Peace
Commission,

B. MAES, boardmember



UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Department of Social Development and World Peace

1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 (202) 659-6812

Office of International Justice and Peace

September 26, 1985

Laurie Nathan
End Conscription Campaign
37 Polo Road
Observatory 7925
South Africa

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Your courageous stand against conscription is admirable and deserves a lot of support. May the Lord who is the God of justice, strengthen all of you, and especially Ivan and Harold in their fasting.

For my part, I will try to spread the word of your actions and objectives here in the USA.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Rollins E. Lambert
Adviser, African Affairs

cc: Bill Johnston



97.1

WOMEN FOR PEACE
VROU VIR VREDE


P.O. BOX 87233,
HOUGHTON
2041 JOHANNESBURG

646
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TEL: 414501

WOMEN FOR PEACE STRONGLY OBJECT TO THE USE
OF THE ARMY IN THE TOWNSHIPS AND SUPPORT THE
CALL FOR "TROOPS OUT"

Dudabane

CO-CHAIRMAN OF
WOMEN FOR PEACE



End Conscription Campaign

503 ALFIN HOUSE
510 MAIN STREET
NORTH END

Dear Friend

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) is holding a national campaign, calling for the withdrawal of troops from the townships. At the very least, soldiers should have the right to refuse to go into the townships! Young white men should not be forced to take up arms against fellow South Africans, but should enjoy the universally recognised right of freedom of conscience with regard to military service.

The Campaign runs from September 17, International Day of Peace, to October 7, the day on which troops were first used in the townships last year.

The focus of the campaign will be a mass 24-hour 'Peace Fast', from 8 p.m. on 6 October to 8 p.m. on 7 October. All who support the campaign are encouraged to fast on that day, wherever they may be. The fast will begin with a Vigil for Peace on the evening of the 6th, and it will end with an Ecumenical Service for Peace in the St Augustine's Cathedral at 7.00 p.m. on October 7, followed by a Peace Supper. By fasting we will demonstrate our commitment to a just peace and express solidarity with people suffering throughout South Africa.

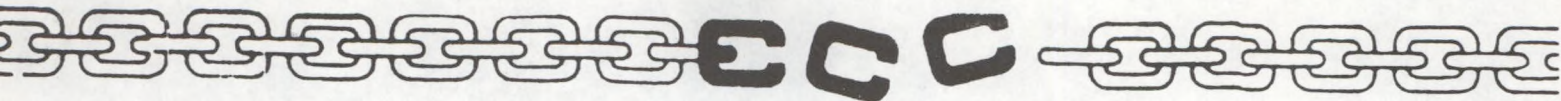
There will also be a relay fast in St Augustine's for the three-week period of the campaign. Twenty-one people will fast consecutively for 24 hours each.

We hope that you fast with us on October 7, and support the relay fasters by visiting them in the Cathedral.

IF YOU SUPPORT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN, YOU CAN HELP US IN A PRACTICAL WAY BY MAKING TEN COPIES OF THIS LETTER AND SENDING THEM TO INTERESTED FRIENDS.

Yours sincerely
ECC (Port Elizabeth)

If you want further information about the campaign, or would like to join us in working on it, please phone Janet at 23098 or write to us at the above address.



End Conscription Campaign

503 ALFIN HOUSE
510 MAIN STREET
NORTH END

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

NATIONAL THREE WEEK "TROOPS OUT OF THE TOWNSHIPS" CAMPAIGN

The Johannesburg region of the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) will be holding a photo-call to launch the three week campaign "Troops out of the townships - Stop Apartheid Wars".

Harald Winkler, who has volunteered to fast for three weeks from 17th September to 7th October in support of the demand for the withdrawal of troops, will be present at the photo-call.

DATE: Tuesday 17th September

TIME: 09h30

VENUE: Khotso House Hall,
Ground Floor Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg

ENQUIRIES: Clare Verbeek
tel; 6489282

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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