

Procedural preliminaries - seating, length of meeting, chairperson, agenda etc.

A. Introduction

* ECC legal, nonviolent, calling for a change in the law.
The right to choose.

Conscription a sensitive issue, therefore should be openly discussed and debated.

Dismay at Emergency regulation concerning criticism of conscription.

Obviously an attempt to gag ECC, but misplaced - conscription the problem, not ECC. Opposition will exist as long as conscription does.

B. Explanation of ECC

NB: Campaign directed at the government, not individual conscripts.

1. Structure:

- a. coalition
- b. list of active member organisations
- c. ECC functions nonhierarchicly
- d. 9 regions nationally, meet at annual national conference.
- e. finance.

2. Formation of ECC → direct reponse to the crisis of conscience conscription causes.

Background:

- CO movement
- Naude Commission
- Defense Further Amendment Act, 1983
- Section 72 of the Act
- the Act recognised the principle of CO and alternative service, but did not go far enough
- Black Sash Conference resolution, March 1983
- Conscientious Objectors Support Group conference, July 1983
- regional committees formed by December 1983
- first national conference in January 1985.

3. Style and arena of work:

- open, public, nonviolent
- no links with banned organisations
- invitations to SADF to participate in forums
- presentation of evidence to Geldenhuis Committee, August 1985.

C. ECC's position regarding conscription

1. We believe conscription:

- a. violates freedom of conscience
- b. helps maintain illegal occupation of Namibia
- c. exasperates the civil war in South Africa
- d. increases the militarization of South Africa.

2. Freedom of choice.

3. Political means for resolving political problems.

4. ECC is committed to working for a just peace in our land.
Advocate positive service to the community.

(Input from affiliate representatives regarding the importance of the issue of conscription, and of support for the ECC.)

D. Questions from ECC to the SADF

1. What is SADF policy regarding ECC?
2. If there is no policy, what is their attitude toward ECC?
3. Why is the SADF now investigating ECC? Is there something specific being investigated?
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5. We are concerned about the harrassment of our members during this period of the State of Emergency. In Durban, this activity has been conducted mainly by Military Intelligence. Harrassment has included numerous house visits, and detention of various people associated with ECC. What is the point of this activity?
6. If ECC has transgressed the law at any stage of its history, why has it or its members not been prosecuted?

access to info
open debate
freedom of choice

Agenda

2. Until such time as Congress is called,
ECC calls for certain interim ^{measures} ~~provisions~~ to be
adopted:

1. Call for an end to conscription
i.e. for the Defense Act to be amended
such that mil service is
no longer compulsory.

A. 1.1. Legal, sound, calling for a change in
the law

1.2. Sound

1.3. Foundational

1.4. Single arena of work.

B. ECC's position regarding conscription

1. We believe conscr.

a b c d

∴ we call for

2.

- - -

2.1. Definition of conscription objection to
broader to include ^{selective} ~~all~~ universal, ~~and~~
religious and secular
well as selective conscription objections.

2.2. Troops to Alternative service to be
available in ^{non-state} ~~private~~, ~~foreign~~ ^{state} ~~localities~~
as well as ^{state} ~~localities~~

2.3. The ~~length~~ of period of alt service to be
reduced to the length of mil service

2.4. Troops be allowed to choose whether to
serve in the territories or not, or in
N.A. or N.A.

ECC DELEGATION TO NATAL COMMAND - July 1986

* N.B.: The ECC campaign to end conscription is directed toward the government, not at individual conscripts. We do not call on individuals to refuse military service.

A. Introduction
(See separate page)

B. Explanation of ECC*

1. Structures.

- a. ECC is not an organisation as such, but is a coalition of organisations which share a common commitment to changing the law so that military service is no longer compulsory.
- b. ^{Active} Member organisations of ECC in Durban are: Christian Education and Youth Department (Methodist Church), Catholic Justice and Reconciliation Commission, Black Sash, National Union of South African Students, National Education Union of South Africa, Diakonia, , Student Union for Christian Action, Conscientious Objectors Support Group, Detainees Support Committee, Conscription Action Group, Quaker Peace and Service Committee, International Fellowship of Reconciliation. As can be seen, ECC represents a very broad constituency.
- c. ECC functions non-hierarchically. Meetings consist of delegates from the different organisations, and representatives of the main working groups within ECC viz. media, culture and churches. Decisions are made collectively. Bureaucratic positions such as secretary, treasurer, spokesperson, press liaison, organiser, are rotated on a regular basis so as to give everyone a chance to learn those skills, and to prevent overcentralisation of tasks and responsibilities.
- d. ECC nationally is active in 9 regions: Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Stellenbosch, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown and East London. Once a year all the regions come together for a national conference.
- e. Finances are obtained from donations and sale of t-shirts, buttons, pamphlets, calendars, posters, jumble, cakes and fundraising dinners, and concerts.

2. The formation of ECC.

ECC was formed in direct response to the crisis of conscience provoked by conscription. This crisis is both moral and political. It is a crisis regarding killing and the taking of human life, and the rights and wrongs of defending a particular political system.

Background to the formation of ECC:

Since the mid-70s conscientious objection gained momentum as a public issue. With the detention of several COs between 1978 and 1983, public pressure for legal recognition of CO mounted.

In 1981 the Naudé Commission (Naudé is the present SADF Chaplain General) was appointed to look into the matter of CO and alternative service. Several representations by religious and human rights organisations were made to this Commission.

The outcome of the Commission was ^{incorporated into} the Defence Further Amendment Act of 1983. Section 72 of this Act makes provision for CO for religious pacifists. These COs are given the option of a civilian alternative to military service. The penalty for non-recognised COs is increased from 2 years to 6 years.

The Act, while containing ^{the} positive step of recognising the principle of CO and alternative service, fell far short of the standards requested by supporters of the CO movement. The Act did not go far enough in accomodating the crisis of conscience caused by conscription in the South African context.

It was against this background that the Black Sash passed a resolution at their annual Conference in March 1983, calling for an end to conscription. This was picked up at the Conscientious Objectors Support Group Conference in July 1983,

where it was decided to form regional committees to implement this call. By December 1983, ECC committees had been formed in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. The first annual conference of the ECC was held in January 1985.

3. Style and arena of work.

For the whole of its existence, ECC has functioned as a completely open, public and nonviolent organisation. ECC has no links with the ANC or any other banned organisation inside or outside of South Africa.

At all times we have sought to debate the issue of conscription openly and honestly. On numerous occasions we have approached the SADF to participate in public forums with us so that people can clearly understand all points of view. However, the SADF has consistently refused to participate.

A further indication of our good faith in dealing with this issue was our presenting of evidence regarding conscription to the Geldenhuis Committee in August last year.

C. ECC's position regarding conscription

1. We call for an end to conscription because we believe conscription:
 - a. violates the freedom of conscience in respect of killing and being trained to kill, and defending a political system one does not necessarily believe in;
 - b. helps to maintain the illegal occupation of Namibia;
 - c. exasperates the civil war situation in South Africa, by setting neighbour against neighbour;
 - d. increases the militarization of South African society ^{through} ~~by~~ money being spent on military equipment and operations which could better be spent on housing, health, education, welfare, roads, public transport, pensions, etc., and through using military means to address political problems.
2. ECC believes in the freedom of choice, that conscripts should be able to choose whether to go into the SADF or not, and whether to go into the townships or not. In this respect, ECC included in its evidence to the Geldenhuis Committee a call for the law to be changed to allow for these choices, even while conscription is still in force. ECC accepts that it is the right of conscripts to go into the SADF if they so choose.
3. ECC believes that political problems should be resolved through political means.
4. ECC is committed to working for a just peace in our land. To this end we advocate positive forms of serving the people of our country, through welfare, peace and development work.

(At this point, representatives from affiliates to say why conscription an important issue for their organisations, and why they support the End Conscription Campaign.)

D. Questions from ECC to the SADF

1. What is SADF policy regarding ECC?
2. If there is no policy, what is their attitude toward ECC?
3. Why is the SADF now investigating ECC? Is there something specific being investigated?

1. Why longer

2. format

3. # structures & style

B4 Why

+ summary.

~~summary~~

→ ~~background~~

para to questions ... Terry

INTRODUCTION

SUMMARY

The End Conscription Campaign is a legal, nonviolent, campaign calling for a change in the law which makes military service compulsory. We believe it is a human and civil right to be able to choose whether to serve in the SADF or not.

Conscription is a sensitive issue. It is sensitive not only from a political point of view, but personally and materially too. For conscripts, being displaced for two years and more from family life, social relationships and careers, is a high price to pay.

Because it is so sensitive, and because it has such a broad effect in society, we believe it is imperative that conscription and the role of the SADF be openly discussed and debated.

We are, therefore, dismayed at the clause in the Public Safety Act which deems any statement critical of conscription to be "subversive" and punishable by a fine of R20 000 or 10 years imprisonment.

This provision is a fairly obvious attempt to gag the ECC. But such an attempt is misplaced, because conscription itself is the problem, not ECC. As long as conscription exists under the present circumstances, there will be oppression to it, whether ECC exists or not.

4. We have heard that the SADF give briefings to conscripts regarding ECC. Why does the SADF not permit ECC to put its own point of view in that , especially when serious allegations are made about it?
5. If 'ECC is such a bad organisation, why has it or it's members not been prosecuted?
6. We are concerned about the harrassment of our members during this period of the State of Emergency. In Durban, this harrassment has mainly been conducted by the Military Intelligence. Harrassment has included numerous house visits, and detention of various people associated with ECC. What is the point of this activity?

CHENNELLS ALBERTYN

— ATTORNEYS & CONVEYANCERS —

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• Telex: 6-2125

Box 5423, Durban 4000

17 Durban

Your Ref.:

Our Ref.: CJA/E7.1/dcj

ATTENTION : KDMT. P.R. VENTER

The Chief of the Army

(M.L.O)

Private Bag X172

PRETORIA

0001

Dear Sir,

RE : END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

We act on behalf of the End Conscription Campaign.

Our client is of the view that both it and the SADF would benefit from a meeting between representatives of the two organizations with a view to clarifying their positions on various issues.

Our client is concerned that there has been some level of misunderstanding of its work by the SADF. Our client believes that it is making a bona fide contribution towards the achievement of peace and stability in South Africa and believes that that object will be facilitated by a meeting between the ECC and the SADF.

We have accordingly been instructed to ^{March} propose to you, as we hereby do, that a meeting take place in ~~January~~ ^{April} or ~~February~~ 1987, at a venue to be arranged, between a delegation of the ECC and a delegation from the SADF.

The ECC delegation would consist of a maximum of 8 people. The ECC would hope that the SADF delegation would include senior representatives from the ~~Army~~ ^{Chief of} Staff (Intelligence), the ~~Army~~ ^{Chief of} Staff (Personnel) and from the Chaplain General's Office.

We set out below the proposed agenda for such a meeting :

- change
as per
attached
sheet.*
1. an explanation by the ECC of its aims and objects;
 2. discussion of the future relationship between the SADF and the ECC;
 3. discussion of appropriate consultation of the ECC by the SADF in suitable circumstances;
 4. discussion of proposals for improvements to the treatment of conscientious objectors by the SADF;
 5. discussion of a right of audience of the ECC in the orientation programmes of the SADF, when the ECC is being considered in those programmes;
 6. discussion of a right of conscripts to make representations as to their place of allocation for service;
 7. discussion of treatment of ECC personnel during the Emergency.

We confirm that you will consider this request and bring it to the attention to the Chief of Army Staff (Personnel) and the Chief of Army Staff (Intelligence). Please also bring it to the attention of the Chaplain General.

Please revert to us as soon as possible so that proper arrangements may be made for the proposed meeting and so that we may exchange details as to the persons who will be representing the two parties prior to the meeting.

Yours faithfully,
CHENNELLS ALBERTYN

We set out below the proposed agenda for such a meeting:

1. an explanation by the ECC of its aims and objects;
2. discussion of harrassment of ECC, with particular reference to treatment of ECC personnel during the Emergency; *incl: SAOP orientation lectures etc*
3. discussion of future contact between the SADF and the ECC.

OR

A set of questions from ECC to the SADF, after an explanation by the ECC of its aims and objects.

1. What is SADF policy regarding ECC?
2. If there is no policy as such, what is their attitude toward ECC?
3. Why is the SADF now investigating ECC? Is there something specific being investigated?
4. We have heard that the SADF gives briefings to conscripts regarding ECC. What is the content of these briefings? Why does the SADF not invite ECC to put its own point of view in this forum? Should not ECC be able to defend itself in this forum when serious allegations are made against it?
5. We are concerned about the harrassment of our members during this period of the State of Emergency. In Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Cape Town, this activity has been conducted mainly by Military Intelligence. Harrasment has included numerous house visits, and detention of various people associated with ECC. What is the purpose of such activity?
6. If ECC has transgressed the law at any stage of its history, why has it or its members never been prosecuted?

NOTES ON "AIMS AND OBJECTS"

1. ECC is not an organisation as such, but is a coalition of organisations which share a common committment to changing the law so that military service is no longer compulsory. (list the major affiliates?)
2. The End Conscription Campaign is a legal, nonviolent campaign calling for a change in the law which makes military service compulsory. We believe it is a human and civil right to be able to choose whether to serve in the SADF or not.

- 2.1. The campaign is directed at government, not individual conscripts.
- 2.2. ECC has no links with the ANC or any other banned organisation inside or outside of South Africa.
- 2.3. At all times ECC has sought to debate the issue of conscription openly and honestly. The SADF has been approached on numerous occasions to participate in public forums with ECC so that people can clearly understand all points of view. However, the SADF has consistently refused to participate.
- 2.4. In August 1985 ECC formally presented evidence to the Geldenhuys Committee on conscription.
3. We call for an end to conscription because, we believe, conscription:
 - 3.1. violates freedom of conscience and freedom of choice;
 - 3.2. helps maintain the illegal occupation of Namibia;
 - 3.3. exasperates the civil war in South Africa;
 - 3.4. increases the militarization of South Africa.
4. Until such time as conscription is ended, ECC calls for certain interim measures to be adopted:
 - 4.1. the definition of conscientious objection to be broadened to include selective and universal, secular and religious conscientious objectors;
 - 4.2. alternative service to be available in non-state as well as state bodies;
 - 4.3. the period of alternative service to be reduced to the length of military service.
 - 4.4. troops should be allowed to choose whether to serve in the townships or not, or in Namibia or not.
5. The End Conscription Campaign is committed to South Africa and its peoples. ECC is committed to working for a just peace in South Africa. To this end it advocates positive service to the broader community through welfare, peace and development work.

Procedural preliminaries - seating, length of meeting, chairperson, agenda etc.

A. Introduction

* ECC legal, nonviolent, calling for a change in the law.
The right to choose.

Conscription a sensitive issue, therefore should be openly discussed and debated.

Dismay at Emergency regulation concerning criticism of conscription.

Obviously an attempt to gag ECC, but misplaced - conscription the problem, not ECC. Opposition will exist as long as conscription does.

B. Explanation of ECC

NB: Campaign directed at the government, not individual conscripts.

1. Structure:

- a. coalition
- b. list of active member organisations
- c. ECC functions nonhierarchicly
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1. What is SADF policy regarding ECC?
2. If there is no policy, what is their attitude toward ECC?
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- [REDACTED]
4. We have heard that the SADF give briefings to conscripts regarding ECC. Why does the SADF not permit ECC to put its own point of view in that [REDACTED], especially when serious allegations are made about it?
 5. If ECC is such a bad organisation, why has it or it's members not been prosecuted?
 6. We are concerned about the harrassment of our members during this period of the [REDACTED] State of Emergency. In Durban, this harrassment has mainly been conducted by the Military Intelligence. Harrassment has included numerous house visits, and detention of various people associated with ECC. What is the point of this activity?

In beginning this section, ~~we~~
~~have~~ ~~is~~ ~~are~~ ~~paid~~ we would
like to ⁽³⁾ make clear from
the start:

D. Questions from FCC to the SADF

- Thus,
- ④ [An campaign to end conscription is
directed toward ^{government}
~~the~~ ~~state~~, not at individual
conscripts.] We do not call on individuals
to refuse their training. We ~~do not~~
~~try~~ attempt to educate the general
public (which includes ^{in the site}
conscripts) ^{regarding our view of the role of the SADF} so that ~~the~~ ^{the people} can make
an informed choice about how they
view the military & conscription, but
[~~the~~ campaign is primarily about
② changing the law, which is
① a ~~state~~ government prerogative]

We ~~make no direct effort to~~
~~if there is any~~ ~~sympathy~~ ~~to~~ ~~FCC~~ ~~with~~
~~the~~ ~~views~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~military~~, ~~that~~ ~~is~~ ~~because~~
~~the~~

Parameters:

Put forward our position

Clarity clarify, increase understanding
de-mystify

~~et~~ tone:
friendly.

→ continue on open approach.

Ag ~~some~~ specifics, "trial questions",
amendations → handled by Chris.

Conceptual level

Show the breadth of our support

How answer certain questions eg who
we get finances from?
~~What - when last that was held?~~

Paddy: History ^{of 10} information of ECC

Ann: Intro

Peter George: the crisis of confidence - need to
reconcile, civil war, Protestant
militancy etc.

Richard: Just peace - reg pl structures.

P. Mad: Basic pricing.

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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