

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN - JOHANNESBURG

EVALUATION OF "TROOPS OUT" CAMPAIGN + FAST FOR A JUST PEACE.

a) INTERESTING INFORMATION

- Number of people signed up to fast:
- Candles lit in classrooms at 8 schools: only one managed to continue to the end of the 3 weeks
- Principal at St Andrews School wants to write to Le Grange or Botha supporting ECC.
- 40 pupils at Waterford School in Swaziland fasted 24 hrs (mainly South African)
- Campus: 3 pamphlets, posters; concert at Swimming Pool and Public meeting each addressed by Harald.
- Overseas Press coverage by: German TV, BBC, CBC, ITW, WTN, Visnews, ABC, independent film producer Sharon Sopher who networks in to all European + American stations.
Also: AFP, AP, BBC Radio, DPA, London Times, Newsweek, Reuters, Time, Washington Times, plus various independents and freelancers.

B) EFFECT ON THE PUBLIC

- Positive:
- A lot of groups began to talk about and be excited about the fast and the campaign.
 - We came across as non-hierarchical and fairly inclusive, which helped to bring people in.
 - Breaking out of our student image is good thing.
 - The more creative way of working made it possible to draw in new people

Problems: • Needed to do more active organising to get people to activities

- Public meeting should have been on last night
- Should have had statement posters out on streets
- Not enough high-profile speakers to attract public?
- Too much Christian-orientation
- No attempt to get to the 'counter-culture' → they organised a concert for peace but we didn't support it.
- Local press did not take the TOC up sufficiently, although we made the effort.
- Initial programme put out was not comprehensive enough or accurate enough - a bit of a waste.
- Lunch time programmes a problem.

C) HOW EFFECTIVE WERE WE AT GETTING THE TROOPS OUT MESSAGE ACROSS?

1) THE CALL.

- Despite our original fears, we were able to make the call without alienating people. In fact, criticism was more often on the level of us not addressing the role of the police than on the need for the maintenance of law + order.
- The call for the rights of individual soldiers was useful in drawing people in; especially the mothers, and the few servicemen who came to events
- The call for a Just Peace has evoked different responses in ECC-Int. Some think that the campaign was too peace oriented, that too little content was given to Just Peace. Many others disagree with this.
- The call for a fast took emphasis out of the "Troops out" Aspect.

2) MEDIA:

- The "Where is the Border Now?" poster was effective. So was "Why is Harald Winkler fasting?"
- Needed to have Troops out Poster on the streets
- Ad. for public meeting not effective
- ECC focus useful, but should have been available earlier.
- Invitation was scrappy + not clear enough.

3) PANEL DISCUSSIONS / OTHER INPUT.

- Mother's perspective was astoundingly successful. Very good atmosphere created, and commitment to action.
- Panel on "Violence in S.A. - Civil war or Anarchy?" not pulled together well, no discussion from floor.
Is ECC qualified to tackle the morality of violence??
- Services on 6 + 7th October far too Christian.
Some felt that images of candles + doves + talking about peace, Justice + compassion are too Christian.
Many others disagreed.
Needed to think the services through better in ECC + could have called them, eg Celebrations.

D. EFFECT ON ECC AS A WHOLE

Positive: • United us

- Involved many in Public Roles
- Got people in ECC - thinking about ECC
 - interested in our workshop
 - challenged about our structures
- New participation from older groupings - eg Women for Peace, Churches
- Built a sense of non-racism + new

respect for ECC, eg from leaders of the T.U. unity talks.

- geared people to taking responsibility
- good spirit developing among ECC people - comfortable, trusting + committed to each other
- Action-based campaign was good.

- Problems:
- Not meeting often enough to start with
 - Need for minutes of meetings to make clear who was responsible for what (in spite of security probs)
 - Sub-groups should have been more obvious at the beginning
 - Needed a co-ordinator after all!
 - The slow start was a problem in terms of building momentum + publicity

E. EFFECT ON AFFILIATES

- More involved than in other campaigns in that they took responsibility for certain programmes
- But, we should have emphasised to affiliates the importance of them encouraging the active involvement of all their members in all the activities.
- Sash has seen far greater interest in + trust of ECC
- Nusas has raised the issue on campus, + set up advice Bureaus at Med school + on main campus, and CAG group is very excited following the TOC.

F. GENERAL

- Venue was quite nice, informal, accessible, but perhaps not that easy to get to from N. Suburbs
- Harald should have been more involved in the planning.
- Growth of ECC relates to the momentum generated over the festival
- State of emergency had positive effect on us, forcing members to confront their commitment to ECC and allowing us to relate to repression
- ECC has a public profile which we need to develop rigorously
- Need to ORGANISE our constituency to get to events.

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