

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

National Telephone Conference, 27 April 1992

Participating: Durban (Illa, John, Mike, Haydn), Grahamstown (Oliver), Pietermaritzburg (Andrew), Jo'burg (Chris), Wits (Tanya), Pretoria (Peter), National (David).

## 1. REPORT BACKS

Things have been fairly quiet in the recent period in most of the regions. However there has been a bit of activity on campuses, for instance Grahamstown is thinking of putting out a pamphlet on the court application and Wits had a meeting which was addressed by Roddy and where they watched "Full Metal Jacket".

## 2. COURT APPLICATION

At this stage we are waiting for the SADF to file their answering affidavits. Perhaps we could use the opportunity to give further publicity to the court application. People in the different regions could contact their local newspapers to fill them in about the latest developments. Perhaps it will be necessary to give them a full briefing about the court application, particularly if the newspapers concerned aren't as yet aware that the court application is taking place. We will have to check with lawyers what exactly we can say as well as whether we can refer directly to the contents of their argument.

David should fax the regions with information regarding the contents of the SADF's answering affidavits and what use can be made of them.

They have to file their responses quite soon after which our legal representatives can reply to their answering affidavits. The thing which we can't really influence is when the matter will be set down to be heard in court. There's a possibility that this will be just before or just after the July call-up.

We also need to discuss what our response would be if the court application fails. A proposal is that regions should discuss whether we should call on people to break the law (eg. ignore their call-ups/refuse to serve) if this happens. We could for instance say that we have tried all legal channels of opposition and that now we have no option but to call on people to disobey their call-ups.

Regions need to discuss this.

## 3. PETER AUF DER HYDE JUDGEMENT

If needs be we should definitely give a lot of publicity to the issue of registration at the beginning of 1993.

In the meantime Jo'burg has decided to send a letter to the newspapers and another letter to the different provincial education departments as well as to independent schools so as to try and ensure that the implications of the judgement are drawn to the attention of (white male) school pupils and their parents.

## 4. DEFENCE ACT AMENDMENTS



*End Conscription Campaign*

It appears that the government intends to make certain amendments to the Defence Act during the course of the current parliamentary session. Usually these amendments would take place during the defence budget debate which is usually held some time in May. It appears that they may try to amend the Defence Act along the following lines:

- to make some kind of amendment to the loopholes in registration procedure which have been exposed by the Auf der Hyde judgement.

- to amend the legislation relating to those who refuse to do military service. It is possible that this would involve broadening the definition of those who are liable to receive community service orders to include those who have political/moral objections to serving in the SADF.

- there is a possibility at least of broader amendments affecting the conscription system.

ECC would obviously have to respond to the amendments to the Defence Act. One angle that we could pick up on in criticising them is in relation to what they have said in the past about the need to wait for constitutional changes to be made in South Africa before the Defence Act can be amended. The fact that they are now amending the Defence Act would contradict this statement.

## 5. CODESA

ECC in Johannesburg intends to hold a briefing session with the progressive lobby group at CODESA so that they can be fully informed about the implications of the court application and these possible amendments to the Defence Act. Hopefully if they are briefed about the amendments they would be able to put pressure on the government to halt any process of piecemeal reforms to the Defence Act.

At a recent briefing on CODESA the ANC also outlined a possible scenario for the ending of conscription as follows:

CODESA decides on a two stage interim government. The first stage interim government basically only oversees the present government and the process of preparation for the election of a second stage interim government - perhaps at the end of 1992. The second stage interim government (which would also serve as a constituent assembly) would then be in a position to do away with conscription.

## 6. PETITION

Copies of a draft petition were distributed to most branches prior to the conference. Following discussion certain changes were made to the wording of the petition. A copy of the petition as it is now worded is attached to these minutes.

The petition has been put together in response to the large number of people who are facing call-ups for army camps who have been contacting the office as well as CAS and who have objections to the fact that they are still being called up. The petition is therefore worded so as to strike some kind of balance between the

kind of objections that these people usually have to being conscripted and the more general objectives of ECC.

One suggestion is that people who are doing conscription advice work could send out these petition forms to the people who phone them for advice. The idea would be that they would take responsibility for getting the forms filled in and then return them to us. They could also make copies of the form and distribute these to their friends, colleagues etc. Experience at the office has been that people who have phoned in have responded with enthusiasm to the idea of the petition. This would be one way of making positive use of the advice service and giving these conscripts who phone in a way of expressing their anger and doing something positive to bring about an end to conscription.

Other suggestions:

- \* the petition could be used as a focus for activity on campuses.
- \* branches should try and get various business people to support the petition as they are likely to be sympathetic.
- \* we also need to find other creative ways of promoting it.
- \* could be given a push round about July possibly by means of a newspaper advertisement.

Peter will look into drafting an advertisement.

July action: The combined conference in Durban (see item no. 10) will be taking place on the weekend immediately before the start of the call-up. A suggestion was that we have some kind of action, perhaps a public meeting, while people are there.

#### 7. FACT SHEET

Mandy and David are working on a fact sheet dealing with the implications of failing to report for military service or refusing to serve in the SADF. It should be out in the not too distant future.

#### 8. T.SHIRTS

We are still waiting for a suggested design for a T-shirt. Jo'burg, Durban, and East London supposedly have designs in the pipeline - but....where are they?

#### 9. STICKERS

Matthew in Joburg is working on a sticker design.

#### 10. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Durban reported that a combined peace/anti-military groups (COSG, CAS, ECC) conference is being organised for the beginning of July (3rd, 4th and 5th). ECC will be a co-host of the conference and therefore will be contributing to a proportion of the costs of the conference. We should find out from Kevin how much money is available for this purpose.

More details to follow.

#### 11. SA DEFENCE REVIEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

Branches who wish to take out subscriptions to the SA Defence Review should do so.

#### 12. HUMAN RIGHTS TRUST CONFERENCE

The Human Rights Trust has invited ECC to send delegates to their conference to be held on the 2-3 of June in Port Elizabeth. The HRT is able to pay the costs for one delegate. If we wish to send a further delegate we must pay for this ourselves.

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

National Telephone Conference, 27 April 1992

Participating: Durban (Illa, John, Mike, Haydn), Grahamstown (Oliver), Pietermaritzburg (Andrew), Jo'burg (Chris), Wits (Tanya), Pretoria (Peter), National (David).

## 1. REPORT BACKS

Things have been fairly quiet in the recent period in most of the regions. However there has been a bit of activity on campuses, for instance Grahamstown is thinking of putting out a pamphlet on the court application and Wits had a meeting which was addressed by Roddy and where they watched "Full Metal Jacket".

## 2. COURT APPLICATION

At this stage we are waiting for the SADF to file their answering affidavits. Perhaps we could use the opportunity to give further publicity to the court application. People in the different regions could contact their local newspapers to fill them in about the latest developments. Perhaps it will be necessary to give them a full briefing about the court application, particularly if the newspapers concerned aren't as yet aware that the court application is taking place. We will have to check with lawyers what exactly we can say as well as whether we can refer directly to the contents of their argument.

David should fax the regions with information regarding the contents of the SADF's answering affidavits and what use can be made of them.

They have to file their responses quite soon after which our legal representatives can reply to their answering affidavits. The thing which we can't really influence is when the matter will be set down to be heard in court. There's a possibility that this will be just before or just after the July call-up.

We also need to discuss what our response would be if the court application fails. A proposal is that regions should discuss whether we should call on people to break the law (eg. ignore their call-ups/refuse to serve) if this happens. We could for instance say that we have tried all legal channels of opposition and that now we have no option but to call on people to disobey their call-ups.

Regions need to discuss this.

## 3. PETER AUF DER HYDE JUDGEMENT

If needs be we should definitely give a lot of publicity to the issue of registration at the beginning of 1993.

In the meantime Jo'burg has decided to send a letter to the newspapers and another letter to the different provincial education departments as well as to independent schools so as to try and ensure that the implications of the judgement are drawn to the attention of (white male) school pupils and their parents.

## 4. DEFENCE ACT AMENDMENTS

It appears that the government intends to make certain amendments to the Defence Act during the course of the current parliamentary session. Usually these amendments would take place during the defence budget debate which is usually held some time in May. It appears that they may try to amend the Defence Act along the following lines:

- to make some kind of amendment to the loopholes in registration procedure which have been exposed by the Auf der Hyde judgement.

- to amend the legislation relating to those who refuse to do military service. It is possible that this would involve broadening the definition of those who are liable to receive community service orders to include those who have political/moral objections to serving in the SADF.

- there is a possibility at least of broader amendments affecting the conscription system.

ECC would obviously have to respond to the amendments to the Defence Act. One angle that we could pick up on in criticising them is in relation to what they have said in the past about the need to wait for constitutional changes to be made in South Africa before the Defence Act can be amended. The fact that they are now amending the Defence Act would contradict this statement.

## 5. CODESA

ECC in Johannesburg intends to hold a briefing session with the progressive lobby group at CODESA so that they can be fully informed about the implications of the court application and these possible amendments to the Defence Act. Hopefully if they are briefed about the amendments they would be able to put pressure on the government to halt any process of piecemeal reforms to the Defence Act.

At a recent briefing on CODESA the ANC also outlined a possible scenario for the ending of conscription as follows:

CODESA decides on a two stage interim government. The first stage interim government basically only oversees the present government and the process of preparation for the election of a second stage interim government - perhaps at the end of 1992. The second stage interim government (which would also serve as a constituent assembly) would then be in a position to do away with conscription.

## 6. PETITION

Copies of a draft petition were distributed to most branches prior to the conference. Following discussion certain changes were made to the wording of the petition. A copy of the petition as it is now worded is attached to these minutes.

The petition has been put together in response to the large number of people who are facing call-ups for army camps who have been contacting the office as well as CAS and who have objections to the fact that they are still being called up. The petition is therefore worded so as to strike some kind of balance between the

kind of objections that these people usually have to being conscripted and the more general objectives of ECC.

One suggestion is that people who are doing conscription advice work could send out these petition forms to the people who phone them for advice. The idea would be that they would take responsibility for getting the forms filled in and then return them to us. They could also make copies of the form and distribute these to their friends, colleagues etc. Experience at the office has been that people who have phoned in have responded with enthusiasm to the idea of the petition. This would be one way of making positive use of the advice service and giving these conscripts who phone in a way of expressing their anger and doing something positive to bring about an end to conscription.

Other suggestions:

- \* the petition could be used as a focus for activity on campuses.
- \* branches should try and get various business people to support the petition as they are likely to be sympathetic.
- \* we also need to find other creative ways of promoting it.
- \* could be given a push round about July possibly by means of a newspaper advertisement.

Peter will look into drafting an advertisement.

July action: The combined conference in Durban (see item no. 10) will be taking place on the weekend immediately before the start of the call-up. A suggestion was that we have some kind of action, perhaps a public meeting, while people are there.

#### 7. FACT SHEET

Mandy and David are working on a fact sheet dealing with the implications of failing to report for military service or refusing to serve in the SADF. It should be out in the not too distant future.

#### 8. T.SHIRTS

We are still waiting for a suggested design for a T-shirt. Jo'burg, Durban, and East London supposedly have designs in the pipeline - but....where are they?

#### 9. STICKERS

Matthew in Joburg is working on a sticker design.

#### 10. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Durban reported that a combined peace/anti-military groups (COSG, CAS, ECC) conference is being organised for the beginning of July (3rd, 4th and 5th). ECC will be a co-host of the conference and therefore will be contributing to a proportion of the costs of the conference. We should find out from Kevin how much money is available for this purpose.

More details to follow.

#### 11. SA DEFENCE REVIEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

Branches who wish to take out subscriptions to the SA Defence Review should do so.

#### 12. HUMAN RIGHTS TRUST CONFERENCE

The Human Rights Trust has invited ECC to send delegates to their conference to be held on the 2-3 of June in Port Elizabeth. The HRT is able to pay the costs for one delegate. If we wish to send a further delegate we must pay for this ourselves.

**Collection Number: AG1977**

**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

©2013

**LEGAL NOTICES:**

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.