

Newsletter of the Cape Town

ECC Calendar

End Conscription Committee

National

Festival for Peace

The growing conditions of civil strife in South Africa over the last year have made the call for peace an ever more urgent necessity. Amidst a host of appeals for peace from organisations opposed to apartheid, the ECC has added its voice. At the same time as the call to end conscription is made, it is vital that this is accompanied by a just peace in South Africa.

In this light the ECC sees its forthcoming Peace Festival as being of major significance. At its January National Conference near Durban it decided to hold a National Festival in Johannesburg from 28 to 30 June this year. The proposed theme of the festival is "Stop the Call-Up: ECC Peace Festival". According to ECC National organiser Laurie Nathan it is hoped that the festival will make a considerable impact on the public in "reinforcing its anticipation and desire for a peaceful future for all in South Africa."

At present ECCs throughout the country are raising and consolidating plans and ideas for the Festival. While the overall direction of the Festival will be informed by the spirit of a future peace, it will at the same time present a valuable overview of conscription, militarisation and civil war in South Africa today.

The festival, to be held over two days and three nights, looks set to be jam-packed with exciting events and inputs. Activities on the first day will focus on the role that the SADF plays in South African life, and that in Namibia. This will include aspects such as incursions of the SADF into townships around the country, the occupation of

Namibia, the effect of the military on the economy as well as the general militarisation of life in the South African region. The second day will see a concentration on opposition to the SADF and conscription, and a review of the growing peace movement in our country. Activities will take the form of speeches, panel discussions, seminars, action-orientated workshops, film, music and drama. Keynote addresses will be delivered by, amongst others, Nobel Laureate Bishop Tutu, SACC General Secretary Beyers Naude, as well as representatives of the Namibian Council of Churches, the UDF and the ECC. Invitations have also been extended to international figures such as Cardinal Arnns of Brazil, and Monsignor Bruce Kent of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. A further highpoint of the Festival promises to be the discussion by a panel of conscientious objectors. They will speak of their motivations and experiences as objectors.

Preparations are at a well developed stage with ECC affiliates around South Africa drafting plans. The ECC nationally is furthermore extending contacts internationally with a host of organisations sympathetic to its work. "We foresee strong support from these groups in the form of solidarity action to coincide with the Festival," says Nathan. "This should significantly advance the development of the growing movement for peace in South Africa."

In the context of the July call-up and the ongoing activities of the SADF in African townships, the Festival is set to have a considerable impact. With strong public support the Festival is bound to advance the cause of a just peace in South Africa.

Comment

South Africa at War

Uitenhage, Port Elizabeth, Crossroads, Atlantis, Kroonstad, Bothaville, Odendaalsrus, Bloemfontein, Cradock, Somerset East, Fort Baeufort, Kimberley, Thembisa, Kattlehong, Beaufort West, Sasolburg, Parys, Attridgeville... all scenes of violent conflicts this year between the police and the military on one hand, and workers, students and township residents on the other.

And this year, over 350 people have died in violent confrontations with the police.

The government and the authorities have shown total disregard for the loss of human life, whether they are demolishing houses, forcibly removing people, or shooting them down.

This indicates a country in a state of civil war. This is not a term which the ECC is glibly bandying about. It is a term which reflects the reality of life in our country in 1985, where the government has denied the great majority of South Africans basic human rights while enforcing its rule through violence and repression.

In 1974 Archbishop Dennis Hurley warned that "any conflict arising in the near future...will be in the nature of civil conflict, with people of the same country fighting each other." Events over the intervening decade have confirmed the Archbishop's prediction.

The violence of apartheid: the pass laws, forced removals, Bantu education and the denial of political rights, has been met by the resistance of the people. In its turn, this resistance has been responded to with the might of the police, and now the Military. Townships throughout the country have effectively been placed in a state of seige. In this context is it at all surprising that protests and demonstrations have given way to stones and petrol bombs?

"We must look for a peaceful resolution to the question," concluded Archbishop Hurley. We believe that the campaign for an end to conscription is one vital part of the search for this peaceful resolution.

In January this year 7589 conscripts failed to report for military service, many of those who did report are now being deployed in townships

throughout the country. This is a reflection of the polarisation of our society and reinforces our demands for peace and an end to conscription. It is imperative that we do all in our power to extend and broaden the campaign.

Our Newsletter

ECC has been in existence for a year and a half. The 19 member organisations participate to a varying degree in the work of the campaign. It is a matter of concern to the ECC that members of our organisations are fully aware of the work of the ECC.

Moreover, in the course of the campaign, ECC has attracted interest and support from a wide range of individuals not involved in the member organisations.

The intention of this newsletter, then, is to facilitate communication with both these groups of people. It is hoped, too, that the newsletter will assist the expansion of the campaign, by being passed on to potential new supporters.

The newsletter will appear twice a quarter. Readers are invited to contribute by sending responses, news snippets, etc. Organisations as well are encouraged to use the newsletter to advertise meetings or events around the theme of conscription and militarisation.

Basis of Opposition

The End Conscription Committees were united by a four-fold opposition to conscription. These were expressed as follows in an ECC press package:

1) Conscription intensifies the violent conflict in our society. This is engendered by a political system which denies most South Africans basic human rights. South Africa is confronted by a civil war. Attempts to stop this by compulsory conscription can only result in escalating violence and further division. Conflict can only be resolved by dismantling the apartheid system and recognising all South Africans as full citizens.

2) Conscription prolongs the war in Namibia. South Africa's occupation of Namibia is illegal in terms of international law. The Catholic and Anglican Bishops, the Namibian Council of Churches

ches, the South African Council of Churches and many other church and human rights groups have called for the withdrawal of South African troops and immediate elections supervised by the United Nations so that the people of Namibia can determine their own future. Forcing people to fight in Namibia will only slow down the process.

3) Conscription affects every aspect of our lives. It conditions us to accept ever higher defense budgets at the expense of better education, equal education and less poverty. Conscription conditions us to accept the intrusion of the military into all aspects of life - our schools, the media, even to the highest level of political decision making. Conscription conditions us to accept destabilization, war in Namibia, Koevoet atrocities, army involvement in townships and assistance in resettlement programmes.

4) Conscription violates a human right - the right of any individual to refuse in conscience to render military service and be granted instead a non-military alternative. Present conscription does not recognise this right.

National

Round-Up

Since the National Council held in January this year ECCs in centres around the country have busied themselves with activities and campaign work. Here is a brief summary of what has been done:

Cape Town

There has been much ongoing work with the ECC Roadshow being performed on numerous occasions; the ECC has participated in the International Year of the Youth (IYY) programmes in the Western Cape; a rock concert has been held; and workshops on Namibia, detentions and C.O. and alternatives to conscription have been conducted. The media committee have published two new badges as well as three posters including the highly successful statement poster titled 'Hands off Crossroads.' Pamphlets dealing with the call-up and the Uitenhage shootings have been distributed. At present a video detailing militarisation, conscientious objection and the campaign is being produced. There was also a public meeting in the Claremont Civic Centre which provided the opportunity for the ECC to respond

to the Uitenhage shootings and the state of civil war in South Africa.

Johannesburg

In Most respects the work of the ECC in Johannesburg is similar to that in Cape Town. Much media has been produced, with a specific focus on the military budget, with stickers bearing the slogan 'Budget for Peace not War' being produced. There was also a meeting in response to the Uitenhage situation. This meeting was held in conjunction with the SACC, Black Sash, Detainees Parents' Support Committee and the Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee. IYY work has taken place as have a number of educative workshops. A research group has been established and is working. At present the Jo'burg ECC is preparing plans for activities to coincide with May Day, Republic Day and the July intake. A public debate with the PFP over the question of conscription is to occur shortly.

Durban

Here activities are also much the same as elsewhere. A specific issue that was taken up was a poster and pamphlet response to the recent intrusion of the SADF into Wentworth, a coloured area near Durban. A pamphlet and sticker campaign around the shootings at Uitenhage and the state of civil war was very well received by the public. A public meeting on this issue was also held. Plans are underfoot for activities around Republic Day and the July intake.

Port Elizabeth

The first general body meeting of the P.E. ECC occurred in mid-April. An unfortunate incident marred the course of the meeting, when about 60 right-wing students from U.P.E. barged in. They disrupted proceedings for almost two hours causing many tense moments. Only once they had left could the shocked ECC members continue with their meeting. At the meeting an executive was elected. Initial plans are in the process of being formulated in P.E.

Pietermaritzburg

Much interest has been shown in establishing an ECC in this centre. It is hoped that this might occur in the short term.

ADVICE BUREAU ON MILITARY CONSCRIPTION



If you are worried about your call-up, contact us for advice and information on alternatives.

CAPE TOWN

Barbara 7471210

Paula 698531 x 352 Anton 476274

Structures

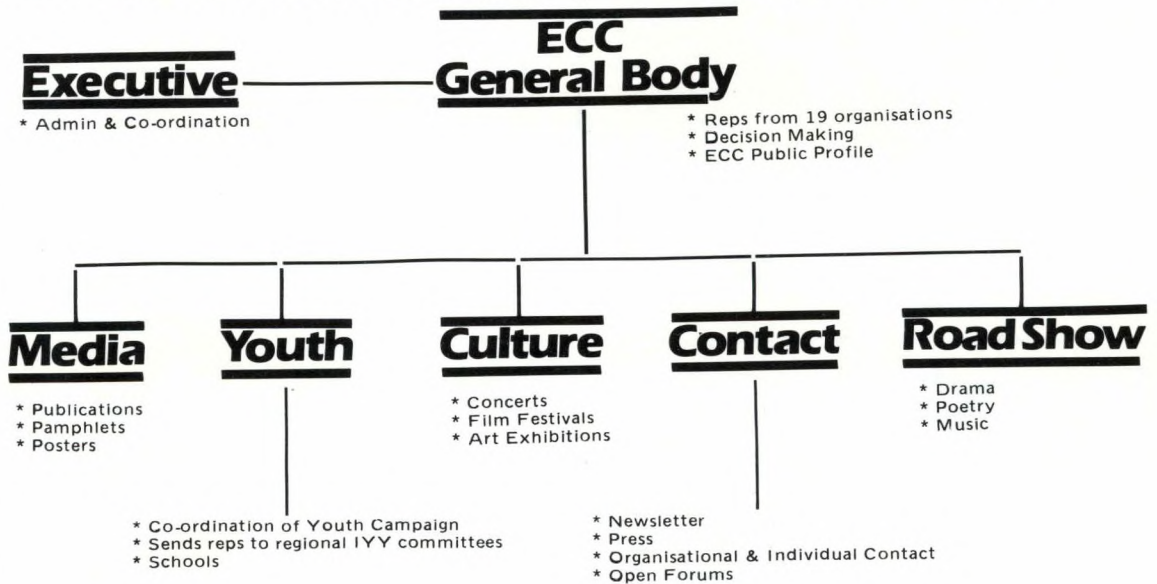
What Happens Where?

The End Conscription Committee is an umbrella body embracing 19 organisations. These organisations send a mandated representative to the General Body meetings which occur twice a month. Planning and decision-making is done at these meetings. The bulk of the ECC's work takes place in the appropriate sub-committee. The Cape Town ECC also sends a rep to National Planning meetings several times a year. Also, we keep in close contact with our National

Organiser who travels around to each regional ECC.

Our first National Council, made up of reps from ECCs around the country, was held in January this year. This policy making body will be meeting at least once a year in the future.

The diagram below illustrates the structure of the Cape Town ECC and the relationship between the General Body and the sub-committees.



Our friends often ask if there is any way in which they could aid the work of the ECC.

If you feel you could undertake any of the following, please fill in the slip and return it to us.

I could

- * Hang up posters on lamp-posts.
- * Assist in pamphlet distribution in the streets.
- * Take delivery of 5 extra newsletters and pass them on to my friends.
- * Distribute pamphlets in my neighbourhood letter boxes.

- * Subscribe to this newsletter at R5.00 per annum.

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ECC Calendar

End Conscription Committee

Culture

Art against War

As an interesting adjunct to the June 28 ECC Peace Festival the Cape Town ECC Culture Committee has been assembling an exhibition of posters to illustrate peace themes around the world. The content of the posters varies considerably, and puts an historical perspective on current issues. An example is the large section dealing with the Vietnam war, which will be useful for ECC media groups to learn from. Another section focusses on nuclear disarmament, and again we can learn from the sophisticated techniques of anti-nuclear arms groups internationally. But further than this, the exhibition is seeking to place the growing South African movement towards a just peace in the context of peace movements world wide - it is important for us to establish links with groups around the world just as we should understand the way they are connected in the worldwide fight against militarism and war. To this end the posters range from indigenous South African work, including many from the churches, to the anti-war posters of WWI Germany. And of course, much in between.

A further exhibition is planned for later this year, probably August. This would contain some excellent work by local artists, and deals



with the themes of civil war and militarism in South Africa. The venue is not finalised as yet, but watch this space for details.

C.R.L.

VE Day Remembered

A very successful VE day meeting was held by the Civil Rights League in St. Georges Cathedral, to which they very kindly invited the ECC as participants. Under the

chairmanship of Sir Richard Luyt, with Eric Oettle (ex-Torch Commando), Gerald Gordon (QC) and Crispian Olver (ECC Executive member), the emphasis of the meeting was on the fight against fascism in the context of our situation in South Africa today. Each speaker in turn came round to the topic of conscription, and specifically, conscription into an apartheid army, fighting a civil war against

fellow South Africans. For many of us the fight is similar, and continuous. As Crispian Olver said, "We remember this victory ... we draw support and encouragement from the Allies' bravery - because for us living here in South Africa, in 1985, the struggle has not ended."

"How can we celebrate peace when the Nationalist government is arming itself for war, calling up ordinary citizens, and propagating its own brand of apartheid militarism", the speaker asked.

"This is why we say, together with thousands of other South Africans, that this war is indefensible, immoral and unjust; indeed this war is unwinnable, for one cannot stop a peoples' quest for freedom indefinitely. I, and many of my friends with me, can categorically state that we shall never enter into, nor serve in, the SADF."

Comment

SADF Deception

The death of 2 South Africans and the capture of another in northern Angola hardly surprised keen observers of SADF operations. For over a decade the SADF and the government have deceived the South African public. In 1975 South Africans were only informed of the invasion of Angola 2 months after it had begun. In Mozambique, the insurgent movement RENAMO was backed by South Africa for 4 years in its attempts to topple the FRELIMO government. Yet only after frequent denials, did the South African authorities finally acknowledge that they had, in fact, supported RENAMO.

Now, only a couple of weeks after Foreign Minister Pik Botha announced that all SADF troops had been withdrawn from Angola do we hear of the confrontation in Cabinda. South Africa has claimed that the commando was on an intelligence mission. Angola and the captured South African soldier have asserted that the commando was intent on destroying Angolan oil installations. Whatever the reasons, the SADF has clearly flouted the territorial integrity of an independent country. And it has shown that, far from being the "peace-maker" of Southern Africa, it is still actively engaged in destabilising neighbouring states.

The recent Angolan action furthermore prompts the question: Can we ever believe the SADF and the government? If the authorities are prepared to deceive us once, twice, three times, can they ever be relied on as a source of information? Here again we have

witnessed the accuracy of the often-quoted maxim: At a time of war, the first casualty is the truth.

Dads' Army

It is now a month since the "Dad's Army" callup in the Strand, Stellenbosch and Somerset West areas, was withdrawn. Yet the decision by the Defence Force to cancel its registration drive should not be seen as a permanent backing down by the authorities. The legislation remains, which allows the military to recruit all white males up to the age of 55 to do military duty in defence of apartheid.

ECC Calendar notes, too, the stand taken by the well-known author, Professor Andre Brink. In a recent article he stated that he will not serve in the SADF because this "is not the South Africa for which I want to live or die." In choosing not to do his commando duty, Professor Brink went on to say: "By making such a decision, I am also demonstrating my conviction that a person HAS a choice in every situation." (Cape Times 25/5/85)

Peace Festival

The ECC Peace Festival is almost upon us. At the end of the month over 500 people will participate in the Festival, while many more will attend the public meetings. The Festival will aim to expose and educate. But more than that, the Festival will serve as a massive statement of protest against compulsory conscription and against the continued presence of the SADF in Namibia and in our own townships. ECC Calendar encourages all readers to attend and participate in the Festival.

Our Newsletter

This is the second edition of 'ECC Calendar'. We hope that readers will use the newsletter to further the campaign against conscription, by passing it on to friends or informing them of its content. We welcome any comments or criticisms, and also encourage readers to assist us in covering the costs of publication, by subscribing to the newsletter. (See back page)

We note, however, the banning of the first edition of ECC Calendar. At the time of going to print we have not yet received the reasons for this action. We intend appealing against the ban and will notify readers as soon as we hear the outcome of our appeal.

The ECC Resource Collection is kept in the SRC Resource Centre in the Students Union, UCT. The resources are broken down into 3 broad sections: Militarisation, Armed Conflict and Resistance to Conscription. In these sections there are pamphlets, documents and articles on a large range of topics regarding the military in South Africa. The ECC Resource Centre is available for anyone to borrow material on a short-term loan basis. There is also a photocopy machine in the Centre.

Festival

Smoking Ahead

Message of welcome from the ECC Festival Committee

Once upon a time, in January this year, it was suggested that the ECC organise a one day Peace Festival in June. Since then the Festival has exceeded our expectations in every respect. The response from people and groups who want to attend has been overwhelming. We are packing into two days enough poetry, drama, music, seminars and workshops to fill a week. Cardinal Arns, (Archbishop of Sao Paolo, Brazil), Carol Tongue (Labour Party member of the European Parliament), Bishop Tutu, Beyers Naude, Archbishop Hurley, Anton Lubowski, Stone Sizane (UDF Publicity Secretary, Eastern Cape) and ECC speakers will ensure that the demands of the ECC are made in a more powerful way than ever before.

For us on the Committee, the Festival is proving to be a massive undertaking. What gets us through the long days and nights of work, apart from coffee and cigarettes, is the knowledge that thousands of people locally and internationally share our concern about the intensifying conflict in South Africa and our desire for a just peace, and actively support the Festival.

The Festival will take place from the evening of Friday the 28th to Sunday the 30th of June at Wits University in Johannesburg. The costs of the Festival, including food, transport, accommodation and registration, will be R30

for non-salaried delegates and R40 for salaried delegates. We would encourage people who can afford it to subsidize at least one other person who cannot meet this amount. Please contact Mark Patrick at 553028 for further information.

Those of us working on the End Conscription Campaign see the Festival as a celebration of our belief in a just society at peace with its people and its neighbours. The Festival is a statement of our determination to contribute towards the realisation of this society.

We really look forward to seeing you there.

Support Message

This is an extract from the International Movement of Catholic Students' message to the ECC Peace Festival.

"We learned about your campaign against the conscription of young men into the SADF. The SADF has become a powerful machinery to perpetuate unjust apartheid policies and the illegal occupation of Namibia. We realized that this intensifies militarization and the violation of human rights. We also know that this forced conscription is vehemently opposed by freedom and peace-loving South Africans.

We wish to express our deep support in your struggle to end conscription towards the realization of peace in your country. We also believe that apartheid has to be dismantled to bring about a just and free South Africa.

Trust that we are with you in your legitimate and just struggles towards the dismantling of Apartheid to a society where all people are worthy to be 'in the image and likeness' of their Creator.

STRUGGLE IS THE PROTEST OF THOSE WHO HOPE - HOPE IS THE CELEBRATION OF THOSE WHO STRUGGLE"

ADVICE BUREAU ON MILITARY CONSCRIPTION



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CAPE TOWN

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Sao Paulo's Dom Paulo

Among the speakers at the forthcoming Peace Festival is the Archbishop of Sao Paulo, Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns. Known to Brazilians as Dom Paulo, he has persistently advocated that it is the role of the church to show the 'hypocrisy and injustice' of a country as rich in resources as Brazil, where so few benefit from, or share in, the wealth.

"Changes must be made," says the 64 year old Cardinal, "so that the majority have a minimum of justice; life cannot be the privilege of a minority."

And in his work of seeking justice Dom Paulo has been a leading force in opposing the absence of democracy in his country. Brazil is marked, like South Africa, by the strong hold of the military in everyday life. When he criticised Brazil's flourishing arms industry, one general called him 'a bad Brazilian'.

Despite this he has defiantly continued his work of aiding a wide range of trade unions and community organisations. Rather than associate with the authorities he places his energies into working with the poor and oppressed. At his office he receives an unending stream of visitors: diplomats, strikers, mothers of disapp-



ered prisoners in Argentina or Uruguay, repentant police torturers, shantytown dwellers, nuns. He is renowned internationally for his work in the sphere of human rights.

He promises to make a useful and exciting contribution to the discussion on peace at our forthcoming festival. We look forward to having him with us.

Our friends often ask if there is any way in which they could aid the work of the ECC.

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Assist in pamphlet distribution in the streets.

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ECC Calendar

End Conscription Committee

Comment

State of Emergency

The declaration of a state of emergency is final confirmation that our country has entered a stage of civil war. The door to peaceful negotiation which has been closed for so long, has now been tightly locked. Increased violence and bloodshed would appear to be the unavoidable consequence.

ECC is particularly concerned about the implications for young conscripts. For nearly a year they have been constantly deployed in at least 21 townships throughout the country.

Now they have been given increased powers. National Servicemen (many of whom are too young to drive a car) can now stop anyone in the street, search them, arrest them, detain them. If they injure or even kill in the course of carrying out their duties, they will be indemnified from civil or criminal prosecution.

Already 5 township residents have died as a result of action taken by members of the SADF in unrest situations. How many more will die in this way, with the public now not being informed of their deaths?

Conscripts are given no choice. They are compelled to be in the SADF. And they are compelled to obey all instructions. Now more than ever it is vital that the government heeds ECC's call : Give conscripts the choice!

Troops Out Campaign

The ongoing use of the SADF in the townships to quell the growing resistance to apartheid, has become an everyday phenomenon in South Africa. The basic demands of

township residents for the police and SADF to be removed have gone unheeded by the authorities.

This new use of the military has furthermore posed severe dilemmas for many conscripts and for those wanting peace in South Africa. This has especially become severe in the light of the present State of Emergency. The ECC nationally, has decided to embark on a 'Troops-Out Campaign' to peak in October. The focus of the campaign will be on the present situation and a promotion of the call for troops to be removed. At the time of going to press plans have not been finalised, but it is known that a broad range of activities are in the pipeline. If you are interested let us know. Watch the media for further details.

Houses for War

David Pipers, who is objecting to further service in the Cape Corps told delegates to the Peace Festival that he had enlisted originally because, amongst other reasons, his parents had been promised a house if he did so.

At present there is a housing waiting list of 50811 families in the City Council and Divisional Council areas of Cape Town. It is iniquitous that the army is using this appalling state of affairs to coerce people into the Cape Corps. One wonders how many young coloured men would be able to resist such pressures. ECC strongly questions the morality of such promises.

United for Peace

All who attended the ECC Peace Festival in late June agreed that it was a great success.

Attended by over 2000 people, the festival united a broad range of South African anti-conscription sentiment.

In the public meetings, panel discussions, seminars and cultural activities, which made up the festival strong statements against conscription and for peace in South Africa were made. A motion was unanimously passed at one of the public meetings which captured this spirit.

The motion read, "The building of peace in Southern Africa is threatened by the presence and actions of the SADF in Namibia and elsewhere in Southern Africa, and in SA's townships. We call on the government to immediately withdraw all these troops. We call for an end to conscription which forces young men to fight in these situations."

A number of prominent speakers addressed the festival. Speaking at the opening SACC General Secretary, Dr Beyers Naude said that the struggle for justice and peace was one in which everyone should be involved.

Turning to the issue of conscription he said, "What are we doing to our young people? When will we realise that we are destroying

the creative talents which God has given to youth?"

Other speakers included Nobel Peace Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Hurley of the Catholic Bishop's Conference, Murphy Morobe (UDF), Sir Richard Luyt, Nadine Gordimer, Molly Blackburn (PFP), and Mokganedi Thlabanelo (SWAPO).

A highlight of the festival was a panel of conscientious objectors. Richard Steele, who served a year in detention barracks in 1980 and recently addressed the UN Commission for Human Rights on Conscientious Objection in SA said that he saw "the military as a pillar of an unjust society and saw my steps as an act of non-cooperation with apartheid."

Another panelist was David Pipers, the first person to publicly object to serving in the Cape Corps. He had volunteered for service, but his experiences in Namibia had caused him to desert. He now faces a court martial for refusing to complete his 10 year contract.

Other panelists included Dr Ivan Toms, Pete Hathorn and David Schmidt. Pete Hathorn who served a year for his political objection saw serving in the SADF as a mockery of his commitment to the Freedom Charter.

An important aspect of the festival was its international flavour, with Carol Tongue, a European MP and member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament adding many useful contributions. Seminars and poster displays,



Pondering Peace: An actor in one of the cultural activities at the festival.

Opening night platform
(L-R) Carol Tongue, Bishop
Desmond Tutu, Benita
Pavlicevic (ECC chair,
Jo'burg), Laurie Nathan
(National Organiser, ECC)
and Dr Beyers Naude.



as well as a range of foreign messages added to the international dimension.

The festival was regarded by all as a huge

success and showed clearly that there now exists a committed and growing movement to end conscription and for peace and justice in South Africa.

Arns sends Greetings

Readers would have read in the press of the withdrawal of Cardinal Arns' visa within hours of his planned departure for South Africa. He was to be one of the key speakers at the ECC Peace Festival. He sent the following message to the Festival.

"My friends, in spite of my sorrow in not being able to be with you today, I want to send you through these words, written through my tears the support and love of my people here in Brazil.

My suitcases were ready in the car and I was ready to leave for the airport when the representatives of SA informed me that I would have to sign a declaration that would bind me from taking part or even to be present in any manifestation about the End of Conscription or in any other acts organised by the Church. I see clearly that your government is not satisfied with the sacrifice and injustice that it imposes on its people and on the neighbouring countries. Now it also prevents a visit of friendship from a Bishop and Cardinal from Brazil even though he is a member of the independent committee of the United Nations for Humanitarian issues and of the International Executive Committee of Pax Christie.

Your authorities still do not accept my argument, that I am a person of dialogue and non-violence.

Today the first President elected in Brazil after 21 years of dictatorship manifested his displeasure to the Ambassador of South Africa. The international press has also been informed about all that has happened.

My friends, your struggle is more than ever our struggle. Your strength will increase with the support of many. Love of country cannot be destroyed by arms!

May the God of history grant to the dear people of South Africa the just solution of your problems and the end of all discrimination.

I wish you strength, authentic justice and lasting peace, without military conscription for all South Africans."

ADVICE BUREAU

ON

MILITARY CONSCRIPTION

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CAPE TOWN

Barbara 7471210

Paula 698531 x 352

Anton 476274

Why not Subscribe?

Many thanks to those readers who have subscribed to ECC Calendar. Your contributions have enabled us to cover the cost of the first edition. We are dependent on subscriptions to cover the costs of this and future newsletters, so we strongly encourage more readers to consider subscribing by returning the attached tear-off.

Did you Know?

1. That in the 2nd half of 1984 there were 67 reported attempted suicides in the SADF.
2. That 982 immigrant men have refused to take out South African citizenship on the grounds that they do not want to be conscripted into the SADF. And of these 982, 80 have been issued with deportation orders.
3. That the Port Elizabeth university military unit was deployed in unrest situations in the Eastern Cape on 4th and 5th May, 1985.
4. That according to Magnus Malan, a few school cadet officers were "incorrectly" called up and utilised in an operations centre in Port Elizabeth.
5. That according to Magnus Malan, to draw up a list of the occasions on which troops were used to control unrest and monitor townships "would take months to compile" and would

run "to hundreds of pages."

6. That 5 people died between October 1984 and May 1985 as a result of action taken by members of the SADF in unrest situations.
7. That 1 SADF member was killed and 25 were wounded in unrest situations between October 1984 and May 1985.
8. That at a temporary police base in Zwide, Port Elizabeth, 50 per cent of the personnel were national servicemen.

Source — Answers to questions raised in Parliament.

Open Forum
0 years since Hiroshima

A focus on The World Nuclear Threat
South Africa's Nuclear Capacity

With Peter Wilkinson (Koeberg Alert)
Tony Karon (UDF Observatory)

8.00pm Thursday 15 August

Rondebosch Congregational Church Hall

Another ECC Open Forum Discussion

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Campaign

Troops Out Campaign

When South African history is re-written, October 7th 1984 could well be marked as a significant day. For on that day SADF troops assisted the South African police in operations in Soweto and in Joza township, near Grahamstown.

It was not the first time that the SADF had assisted in quelling internal resistance. They had done so in 1976, 1980 and in 1981. But October 7th marked the beginning of what now amounts to an 11 month period of almost continuous SADF presence in South Africa's townships. At least 23 townships have experienced this presence, in the form of tanks and ratels, army comps and patrols, and regular "scat and search" operations. And at least five people have died as a result of the actions of soldiers.

Not surprisingly, October 1984 marked the point, too, when conscripts began to question, in large numbers, the role they were required to play. The number who failed to report for service in January 1985 was 7 589, five times the figure for the whole of 1984. In ECC, we have been approached by and heard of a large number of conscripts who are sickened by the actions of the army and are facing acute crises of conscience. And in the first case of its kind, Rifleman Alan Dodson was sentenced last month to a fine of R600,00 for refusing to obey an order to go into the townships.

This is the context in which ECC is embarking on a "Troops Out Campaign". The hub of the campaign will be a 3-week fast undertaken by Crossroads doctor, Ivan Toms. Throughout the fast, Ivan will be joined in St George's Cathedral by a relay of church leaders and other sympathetic people.

The fast will be launched on September 17th, the International Day of Peace. A meeting will be held at 8.00 pm that evening in St George's Cathedral Hall, followed by a short dedication and lighting of the "fast candle" in the Cathedral.

The 3-week campaign will be punctuated by a series of media events and other activities. Anyone is welcome to join Ivan at any stage in the Cathedral. There will also be a relay-fast in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral.

The climax will be on October 7th. ECC is inviting all who support the campaign to participate in a 24-hour fast from 10.00 pm on the 6th, until 10.00 pm on the 7th, exactly a year since the first SADF operation in Soweto and Joza. The intention will not only be a protest against the presence of troops in the townships, but it will also be an act of solidarity with those who have suffered and a statement of commitment to work collectively for a just peace in our land. The fast will be ended with a mass meeting in the City Hall at 8.00 pm on

7th October.

The campaign is being undertaken throughout South Africa and a wide range of international peace organisations will be joining ECC in solidarity on the final day of the fast.

Comment

Violence Escalates

Since September 3 1984, the day unrest started in Sebokeng, we have seen an unprecedented spiral of conflict and violence in South Africa. The situation has assumed the proportions of the early stages of a civil war. More than 600 people have died in the turmoil, and the actions of the government are not helping in creating peace.

The confrontations were confined to Sebokeng in September last year. But these soon spread throughout our country. We have seen the events of the past weeks in Cape Town and Worcester. Right on our doorstep more than 30 people have died.

Despite massive security measures by the SAP and the SADF, the unrest continues unabated. And the reasons?

- * unemployment in the townships is unacceptably high;
- * township residents cannot afford further rent and food price hikes;
- * they are dissatisfied with the system of community councils;
- * black school children are dissatisfied with what they term "gutter education"
- * across South Africa people are rejecting the institutions of apartheid that govern their lives. They are demanding a democratic and unitary country with citizenship for all.

The ECC believes that the use of force to suppress popular demands will not solve the crisis. We therefore are calling for the urgent withdrawal of troops from the townships. Their presence further polarises our already divided society. There has been an effective declaration of war against township residents, which is further distancing us from a peaceful resolution to our problems.

The Conscript and the Conflict

In the situation of conflict our land finds itself in, the dilemmas and anxieties confronting conscripts are at their most acute. Many have come forward expressing their feelings. The one factor which unites all these men is their extreme unwillingness to enter the SADF, be it for their initial period of service or for camps. They do not want to be deployed against fellow South Africans.

Alan Dodson, a Cape Town lawyer, was recently court-martialled for refusing to do township duty. At his court martial, Alan made it clear that he fully understood military discipline and authority, but he would disobey an order which conflicted in a fundamental way with his conscience.

"I object to the use of force by the SADF in quelling township unrest," said Alan, "as this can be solved only by addressing the causes of apartheid." There are many more who feel like him.

The need for young men conscripted into the SADF to be free to choose not to go into the townships is urgent. The ECC sees it as its responsibility to repeatedly say: Give conscripts the choice.

Of course, an end to conscription would allow individuals to be free not to defend apartheid. They would then not have to face the life-shattering experience of being placed in this excruciating moral dilemma.

STOP PRESS

At the time of going to press, Cape Town ECC Chair, Mike Evans and Durban ECC members, Richard Steele, Sue Britton and Anita Kromberg are being held in detention under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. Homes of ECC members in Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg have been searched.

The ECC condemns this repression in the strongest terms. These are clearly not isolated incidents directed at a few individuals. It is a direct attack on our campaign by the state. We believe these actions are based in a fear by the state of the growing support for our campaign. We call for nothing more than an end to conscription and a just peace in our country. Is this what the state fears?

Ivan Thoms to Fast



The ECC "Fast for a Just Peace" has received an enthusiastic response from many quarters. Spearheading the fast will be Ivan Thoms in Cape Town, Dave Hartman in Grahamstown and Richard Steele in Durban. Ivan and Dave will be fasting for 3 weeks from 17 September to 7 October, while Richard's fast will be of two weeks duration from 22nd September to 7 October.

Dr Ivan Thoms, an active member of the Cape Town ECC, is a medical doctor in a team in the Empilisweni SACLA Clinic — a Christian primary health clinic serving the health needs of the 100 000 people who live in the Crossroads squatter camp. After graduating from the University of Cape Town in 1976, he served 2 years in the SADF. While in the SADF, Ivan says that he was "unable to reconcile the Christian injunction to love my enemy and the demand of the SADF to shoot him, so I applied for, and received, non-combatant status."

His experiences in Crossroads solidified these feelings. "There," says Ivan, "I have learned first-hand of the viciousness of apartheid and the extreme oppression of the blacks. I have witnessed people shot indiscriminately by riot police and the SADF, people's shelters ruthlessly torn down day in and day out for 3 weeks in 1983."

"Could I continue to serve in the SADF with war declared on the very people I work with and believe I am called by God to serve? Could I put on the SADF uniform — the same uniform that symbolises the oppressors in the township? Some people want peace at any price, I believe the only peace that is meaningful is a just peace — where apartheid is abolished and people can live freely as citizens of a unified country, with a truly democratically elected government."

Ivan's views have convinced him to become a conscientious objector. He is liable to serve 3 years in jail if called up for further camps. In the meantime, Ivan continues his work as a doctor as well as being an associate member of staff of the St John's Parish, Wynberg.

"Fasting has a long Christian and political tradition," says Ivan. "I have chosen to fast in order to protest against the oppression of blacks in what is now a civil war."

He is also concerned with the plight of the individual conscript. "The SADF's marching into the townships amounted to a declaration of war on fellow South Africans, it is yet another step to uphold apartheid at all costs."

"In a situation like this where young men

are expected to fire on fellow South Africans, the very least we can call for is that the individual conscript be given the right to decide not to go into the townships."

"For the three weeks that I fast in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, my prayer is that many will recognise, with the ECC, the injustice of the use of troops in the

townships, and will support the ECC's call - that troops be withdrawn from the townships now, and that we work for a just peace in our land."

"We call people nationally and internationally to join in a 24-hour fast to express solidarity with those who are suffering at the hands of the SADF in the townships and in so doing call with us for a just peace in South Africa.

ART for PEACE

an ECC exhibition against apartheid militarism

with

Marguerite Boland. Hardy Botha.
Hamilton Budaza. Jochim Berger.
John Burnt. Peter Clarke. Jonathan
Commerford. Peggy Delport. Paul
Grendan. Garth Erasmus. Chris Julius
Craig Masters. Brett Murray. Emile
Maurice. Shelley Sacks. Mario Sickel.
Pippa Skotness. Andrew Steyn. Roger
van Wyk. Jan Vermeiren. Louis van
Vuuren. Sue Williamson. Gavin
Young. Manfred Zylla.

Baxter
Theatre

22 September
to 7 October

Our friends often ask us if there is any way in which they could aid the work of the ECC. If you feel you could undertake any of the following, please fill in the slip and return it to us.

I could:

Assist in pamphlet distribution in the streets.
Take delivery of 5 extra newsletters and pass them on to my friends.
Take part in a legal, one-person stand.

Subscribe to this newsletter at R5,00 per annum.
Become a donor subscriber at:

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Newsletter of the Cape Town

ECC Calendar

End Conscription Committee

International

Support flows in

The Troops out of the Townships campaign received international support from organisations and individuals in at least 12 countries throughout the world.

Messages of support for the ECC and the recent "Troops out" campaign came from the Philippines Latin America, the USA, the UK, Europe, Australia, and Zimbabwe. Among them was a message from Denis Healey, a leading member of the British Labour Party and Shadow Minister of Defence. He wrote:

"I very much sympathise with the goals of your campaign to provide the rights of conscientious objection for conscripts forced to serve in the townships and Namibia. I hope that your fast went well, and that your campaign meets with success and that you will be able to convey my support to those actively involved."

Another message was received from 75 German war resisters on pilgrimage to Assisi, who heard of the ECC campaign. Many of those who wrote to us, also engaged in protest action - some in the international solidarity fast on 6/7 October, others wrote letters to Louis le Grange in protest at the detention of ECC members. An exciting letter was received from a group of Chilean refugees in Switzerland, who wrote:

"We express our solidarity with all South Africans

and with all organisations which attempt to overcome apartheid by non-violent means and wish you success in your efforts."

A German peace group, affiliated to the international Catholic movement, Pax Christi, wrote to express their delight at hearing part of their message to the Peace Rally read out by Archbishop Russell in a German TV programme on the ECC.

ECC also received a surprise donation - from Humanitas International, an American human rights organisation whose president is singer Joan Baez. They wrote: "Enclosed please find our check as a token of our support for the very important work you are doing in South Africa today. It is indeed encouraging to see the contribution which you are making towards fighting against the increasing militarism of the South African state. You can be sure that we will be drawing public attention in the US to the work which you are doing, and the price which your officers are having to pay for their commitment. We wish you lots of luck in the future. Keep up the good work."

ECC's international contact has made an important contribution in bringing the issues of conscription and militarisation in South Africa to people throughout the world. The response we have attracted has been heartwarming and is an inspiration to all of us to carry on the work of ECC.

The Emergency and the Conscript

For two and a half months the army and police have had a continuous presence in Cape Town's townships and suburbs. Little restraint has been shown in the way the security forces have conducted themselves. Atrocities have been well-documented by the press and by monitoring groups.

ECC is particularly concerned at the use of conscripts in the present conflict. Both army and navy national servicemen have been used to line the streets of Athlone, to quell resistance in Guguletu and even to seal off Belmont Road, Rondebosch. Now conscripts are being used in the "cleaning up" operations being conducted from Manenberg police station.

The dilemma facing conscripts, who have no choice but to obey orders, is a severe one. And even more so since the declaration of the state of emergency at the end of October. The situation now exists where an 18 year old national serviceman can arrest, detain and search anyone. And he can act with total indemnity from any legal action. If the powers now wielded by all members of the security forces are awesome, how much more so when they are wielded by an untrained young conscript?

Six weeks ago 4 000 people attended an ECC Peace Rally in the City Hall. The demands which echoed from that gathering have even more pertinence today:

- * that the troops should be withdrawn from the townships and suburbs.

- * that the system of compulsory conscription should be ended.

In addition ECC strongly condemns the recently imposed news black-out. Now not only will the security forces operate with complete indemnity, but their actions will be unmonitored and unreported. Only a police state in the grips of civil war denies its citizens the right to information.

ECC under attack

- * Sept 7: In Durban, deputy defence minister Adriaan Vlok alleges that ECC is being "used by the ANC to achieve the banned organisation's evil goals." (Natal Mercury, 9.9.85)

- * September 9: Detention of 4 ECC activists, Mike Evans, Anita Kromberg, Richard Steele and Sue Britton. Houses raided in all 5 centres where there are ECC branches. Detainees released after 2 weeks without charges being laid.

- * September 20: Scathing attacks on ECC by Magnus Malan at the Transvaal National Party Congress and by Major General Van Loggerenberg, Chief Director of Operations, at a passing out parade.

- * October 6: Right-wing National Students Federation publishes advertisements in 2 Sunday newspapers (cost: R6 000) - insinuations and questions mirror exactly those raised by security police when interrogating ECC detainees.

- * October 25: ECC listed among 102 organisations whose meetings are banned in most parts of the Western Cape.

- * October 27: Scurrilous attack on ECC in 'Rapport' newspaper. Full of unfounded allegations and libellous assertions. ECC takes newspaper to Media Council.

November 2: Ivan Toms detained and then released.

The past 2 months have seen a dramatic increase in state action against the ECC. In the first half of the year there was the security police raid on the ECC national conference held in January near Durban, the withdrawal of Cardinal Arns' visa at the time of the ECC Peace Festival, and the frequent banning of ECC publications and media.

But it is only over the past 2 months that the onslaught against ECC appeared to be concerted and co-ordinated. What's changed things? First, the Peace Festival held in June and the national "Troops out" campaign held in September indicated a dramatic increase in support for the campaign.

Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, the

presence and conduct of the security forces in the townships has significantly intensified the dilemma faced by conscripts. ECC has increasingly come to be seen as the mouthpiece of conscripts as well as their friends and relatives who regarded the ending of conscription as part of the solution of their dilemma.

Clearly the government is increasingly intolerant of this. Its actions and those of the SADF have led to growing dissent. The ECC has become the scapegoat in this situation. Could this not be a clear indication of the fear that government has of the ECC gaining in support?

Yet ECC has shown that despite harassment and repression, the campaign continues to grow. ECC's participation in the recent initiative of the "23 organisations" is just one example of a creative response to intensified state action. And ECC is confident that for as long as young men are forced into the SADF, so the call to end conscription will echo louder and louder, however the authorities might choose to act.

International

Overseas Tour



Cape Town ECC member, Pete Hathorn: carrying the campaign to Europe and India.

In another exciting development 2 ECC members are at present on a tour of Europe and India. They have gone as representatives of ECC to meet with a host of foreign organisations sympathetic to our campaign. The two, ECC National Coordinator, Laurie Nathan, and Cape Town ECC member, Pete Hathorn, are to address a conference on conscientious objection in Helsinki, and the triennial conference of the War Resisters' International in India. They are expected back in early January.

Campaign

Relief Fund

At the peace rally which rounded off the "Troops out of the Townships" campaign there was a call made for donations. These would be forwarded to the South African Council of Churches Emergency relief fund, a fund for the benefit of victims of the state of emergency. ECC is happy to announce that the collection taken amounted to R638,00. This money has been ed over to the SACC.

Working for Peace

ECC has constantly asserted that it is not opposed in principle to the concept of national service. It is opposed, however, to compulsory military service.

However, a genuine 'national' service is one which serves the nation as a whole. To do this, it needs to meet the real material needs of the people.

With this in mind, ECC has decided to embark on a national campaign in March/April focussing on the issue of "Alternative National Service". The intention will be to demonstrate through work projects that genuine national service is a real option; and that ECC is not just opposed to conscription, but also supportive of a real process of peace-building.

The process of defining the work projects will be as important as the work itself. Organisations rep-

representative of the people will be consulted over the next few months. This is important because it will ensure that projects embarked on are not imposed on the people.

ECC believes that this could be one of our most

exciting and dynamic campaigns. Following editions of ECC Calendar will provide more information on the projects, and on how readers can enlist in ECC's "Peace Corps".

ARE YOU AFFECTED BY CONSCRIPTION ?

Open Forum Discussion, with: * a wife of a conscript
* a conscript's father
* a Cape Flats teacher.

Rondebosch Congregational Church Hall.

Wednesday, 4 December 1985 — 8.00 pm

Our friends often ask us if there is any way in which they could aid the work of the ECC. If you feel you could undertake any of the following, please fill in the slip and return it to us.

I could:

Assist in pamphlet distribution in the streets.
Take delivery of 5 extra newsletters and pass them on to my friends.
Take part in a legal, one-person stand.

Subscribe to this newsletter at R5,00 per annum.
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Newsletter of the Cape Town

ECC Calendar

End Conscription Committee

Campaign

Working for a Just Peace

Last year, ECC gave evidence to the Geldenhuys Committee which, amongst other things, is examining the question of conscription. We told the Committee we thought that all people, who in good conscience found themselves unable to serve in the SADF, should be allowed to do a realistic period of alternative service.

Now ECC is taking the process a step further by launching the "Working for a Just Peace" campaign.

In April this year, thousands of volunteers throughout the country will set to work on a range of projects. Some will be helping in child care centres, others will be cleaning up the environment. Still others will be assisting communities that have recently been resettled.

We will be embarking on these and other projects not only because they are useful in themselves, but to demonstrate that "national service" in the true sense of the word, can contribute to building a peaceful society.

ECC's central concern is that conscripts be given the right to choose – the right to decide whether or not they can participate in the SADF. Compulsory conscription gives them almost no choice.

The few who have an alternative are universal

religious pacifists. But even those who are accepted by the Board for Religious Objection, face a punitive six years alternative service in a government department.

Those who fall outside this definition, face a choice of six years in prison or a life in exile.

The "Working for a Just Peace" campaign is a positive protest against compulsory conscription into an army that, at the very least, plays a controversial role. The campaign is an active call for viable and beneficial alternatives.

ECC is not opposed to genuine national service. National service should involve service to the nation – to all the people of our country. When the public comes forward in April to help lay a water pipeline in a rural area, paint a night shelter for vagrant children, lay a tricycle track for township toddlers or help preserve the natural environment, we will be demonstrating what a genuine national service could be like.

* * * *

Cape Town ECC is still in the process of meeting with community-based organisations and defining the projects. Those interested in the campaign can either meet us at any of the events listed below, or contact Paula Hathorn at the ECC office – phone 47-9170 between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm.

International

Tour

ECC broke new ground internationally through a recent tour by national organiser, Laurie Nathan, and conscientious objector, Pete Hathorn.

The pacifist organisation, War Resisters International (WRI) and the London-based Catholic Institute for International Relations jointly hosted the two month tour of nine European countries and India.

On his return in January Laurie enthused: "The trip was tremendously successful. We were invited over to attend a symposium on youth and conscription in Helsinki and the WRI triennial conference at Vedchhi, India.

"The time between the two conferences, we spent travelling through Europe meeting with church, peace and anti-apartheid groups and doing an enormous number of press interviews.

"We were amazed at the reception we got. At both conferences, South Africa was the 'hot' issue and everywhere people were very excited about ECC – seeing us as a young creative and highly effective organisation operating in the face of formidable opposition."

Asked to evaluate the impact of the tour, Pete said:

"We set out to achieve several objectives:
– to highlight the destructive role of the SADF in Southern Africa;
– to stress the importance of ECC's work and the increasing opposition to conscription;
– to consolidate ECC's international solidarity network;
– and to learn from other struggles in order to enrich the work of ECC.

"At a more abstract level, we tried to promote an understanding of non-racialism and the role of whites in the liberation struggle and to emphasise the structural violence of apartheid underlying the violence Europeans used to see on television.

"Although ECC is not yet a household name in Europe, we certainly made substantial progress on all these points."

In addition, the pair were able to update and encourage Southern African solidarity groups, to draw together a wide range of organisations around ECC and to start building links with third world groups.

Other gains include an ECC tour of the USA; the likelihood of ECC being invited to a conference on women and militarisation in the Philippines and to another on conscientious objection in Greece. There is also the possibility of a delegation from the international peace movement coming to South Africa.

Asked about the highlight of the tour, Laurie insisted on at least three – India ("despite getting dysentery"); finding ECC posters and a German translation of the ECC declaration on the walls of a basic community in Frankfurt and the Picasso Museum in Paris.

Pete managed to restrain himself to two – India ("a complete assault on the senses") and having lunch with Archbishop Trevor Huddleston.

National

Conference

A year ago, 35 delegates from Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town met at the first ECC National Conference.

A month ago, the second National Conference was held, this time attended by 95 delegates from six ECC branches, including Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown and Pietermaritzburg.

By next year East London, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, Stellenbosch and the Karoo are expected to be added to the list of areas represented at the third conference.

Such has been the growth of the End Conscription Campaign – an expansion thoroughly and critically reflected on by the delegates at the conference held at Verulam, north of Durban, early in February.

The "Troops Out" campaign was assessed as one of the most important in ECC's short history and as a good example of how white and black people were able to work successfully towards a common goal.

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