

MEMORANDUM TO ECC BRANCHES

January 1990

From: Mandy Taylor

At the national consultative conference in October, the question of ECC's revival was discussed. It was decided that ECC should not be revived other than symbolically and that regions should be given autonomy in deciding how this should happen. No national structures were set up.

Since the conference some regions have raised the problem, that whilst most issues can be dealt with regionally, some issues may arise which need to be raised nationally. For this purpose I have been asked to be a conduit of information between regions when and if this becomes necessary. The following issues have been raised:

1. Durban has asked that the enclosed document on the Van Loggerenberg committee, be circulated nationally. May I suggest that should regions wish to respond to the document, they do so directly to Durban.

2. The second issue that has been raised by Durban regards a visit to the ANC of ECC members and members of other AM organisations. The issue was raised at a COSG national meeting where it was unanimously felt that such a visit would be inappropriate before the possible launch of a new organisation. Our reasoning was that such a visit should incorporate the new organisation, and that a visit prior to the formation of a new group may give rise to the connotation of the group having arisen on an ANC directive. However, COSG thought that it would be useful to brief the recently released leaders on what has been happening in the AM area and to this end asked Jhb COSG to facilitate such a meeting. We envisaged members from a cross-section of AM organisations being part of our delegation. Should any region disagree with the above position, please contact me.

3. A few months ago ECC received a letter from the Registrar of reporting organisations, asking us to make representations as to why ECC should not be declared a reporting organisation in terms of the new Disclosure of Foreign Funding Act. So far there have been three other organisations that have received similar letters, namely the Kagiso Trust, Idasa, and Wilgespruit. Although ECC has been dormant for the past year and has not received any funds in that time, we thought that it was crucial that the move to declare us a reporting organisation be opposed, both because of the possibility of ECC acting in the future, but also because the state seems to be treating these 4 organisations as guinea pigs, and it is important to resist the control imposed by this act in whatever way possible. The 4 organisations have been trying to co-ordinate their responses, and from ECC's side this has meant participating in a briefing for embassy officials as well as pursuing a legal strategy which culminated in us making representations to the registrar via our attorneys. Thus far we have had no response to our representations. Should we be declared a reporting organisation, we will have to decide

whether to take the registrar on review and/or whether to defy the order for us to report on our financial affairs. The opinion of Senior Counsel, is that we would have an excellent basis for reviewing any decision declaring us a reporting organisation. Should you require copies of any of the correspondence or of our representations, please let me know. Otherwise it would be helpful if you had an initial discussion on what we should do in the event of ECC being declared a reporting organisation.

Any queries I can be contacted at (w) 3397613 or (h) 6483181.

Keep well.

Love

Mandy

PS. I enclose a copy of the resolution on conscription passed at the Conference for a Democratic Future.

APARTHEID ARMY

This conference

Noting:

1. The system of military conscription whereby all white males are legally obliged to fight in defence of apartheid;
2. The growth of objection to service in the SADF as shown by the recent stand of 771 objectors and the thousands of conscripts who leave South Africa annually to escape military service;
3. The imprisonment of those men who have refused to serve in the SADF - some of whom are currently serving 6 year sentences;
4. The allegations that members of the SADF, including conscripts have been involved in death squad activities;
5. The increasing recruitment of poor and unemployed black South Africans into the Security forces.

Believing

1. That conscripts should have the right to refuse to serve in the SADF;
2. That the current system of compulsory conscription should be ended;
3. That the question of whether a system of conscription should exist at all is an issue to be decided by all citizens of a non-racial democratic and united South Africa .

Therefore Resolves

1. To call on all peace loving white conscripts not to serve in the SADF and to work with the mass of our people in building a non-racial and democratic South Africa;
2. To demand an independent open judicial enquiry into SADF/SAP and other security force involvement in death squads;
3. In the context of the need to create a climate for negotiations as laid out in the OAU declaration, to campaign for:
 - 3.1. an end to conscription into the SADF;
 - 3.2. a moratorium on all objector trials;
 - 3.3. the unconditional release of jailed objectors;
 - 3.4. the unconditional return of exiled objectors;
4. To call on foreign governments to provide asylum for conscientious objectors and other South African political refugees;
5. To campaign against local and international companies and organisations which provide material, spiritual and financial support to the security forces eg. Armscor, Barlow Rand and Atlas Aircraft Corporation;
6. To initiate awareness campaigns directed at both conscripts and black security force members in order to educate them about the role of the SADF in upholding apartheid.

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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