

B1.8.10

End Conscription Campaign National Committee Report.

WITS ECC.

Since we last met great things have been happening up here in the Transvaal. Though Botha and his cronies have been trying to do us over for nearly a year with their repression and restrictions, both on our comrades and on our beloved ECC, we still have the ability to show the middle finger and say "you can ban us, you can kill us, you can lock us all away, but we only grow in number with the hardships of each day." (well sort of, anyway)

After the rave, back to the report:-

1. Public profile

Being a campus branch we are in the fortunate position of being able to have a very high profile, relative to the town branches. We had an incredibly active last term getting involved in a whole range of activities.

a) With the comic "War Is No Solution" we had a build up media campaign to the launch where we put up posters with the head, that is on the cover, saying things like "want some comic relief look out on thursday" and "read don't bleed". On wenesday night we had a coctail party (beer and chips realy) for our affiliates and for reps from a range of organisations. It went realy well and thursday we hit campus with 1800 copies by lunch-time they had all gone.

b) We held an Ash Wenesday church service for our religious afiliates and other christian groupings on campus. There, were YCS, Cathsoc, Salt, Angsoc, Methsoc, ECC and sundery christian types.

c) We have shown "Witness To Aparthied" three times on campus, each time to packed venues.

d) If you had read your Weekly Mail around the time of the SADF's birthday you would have seen our culanry skills being tested to the full. We baked a Castle cake for our fellow students to eat and took along to Wits Command a cake made in the shape of the ECC chain. We also sent them a birthday card with the WJP interim demands on them.

d) We had a Phillip Willkinson focus this term with media and ECC Focus being distributed on campus.

e) Major activity of the term was the float building. Three areas of intervention were achived. i. We consolidated and got to know alot of our new membership, and they had good fun. ii. We gained recognition from a large number of the RAG types who's perception of us changed as they saw the way we entered the spirit of RAG. iii. We were able to get out on the streets of JHB and for thousands of people to see us and our motorisde ECC mobile slogan.

Though we have been slow to take of this term due to a variety of factor, such as not wanting to compette against NUSAS in their 'White Election Campaign', a lack of cohession bettween mebership we have three major activities to blow campuses mind before exams start and we blow our own.

2. Front

We see our front as an important area of campus work and have been working quiet hard on building formal and informal relationships between campus clubs and societies. So far we have been working with all the NUSAS sub-coms, the religious organisations, SAVS (a rural development group), PEG (progressive engeners group- with whom we had a joint seminar on Engineering and the Military- very sucessful), Voice of Wits (Campus raidio- with whom we are having a joint concert in June called Conscript Rock) Wargames, Wits wimmins movement. Also we had a realy sucessful seminar with Habonim about ECC.

3) Cohession, Internal Education, Leadership.

We are slowly regaining the people that we lost after the hipe of Orientation week and we are developing a good group of activists. However though they are very keen, our internal education programe has been very poor. we had one seminar on the ABC of ECC which was realy good but very little beyond that. With much of our time taken in coordinating and working on fun high profile work people arn't that keen on education. We are also seeing a bit af a leadership crisis as four of our exec are post grads and have heavy academics. We are now trying to broaden our exec to start training newer people in leadership and organisational skills. We are also planning to meet NUSAS about this issue and about how NUSAS will take up our issues once we get baned.

4) Repression and Security.

After being ignored by the state for along time Wits ECC is experiencing a taste of harasment. After the comic was launched on campus we had our room raided and one exec members place was raided and some stuff seized. Also two exec members have had strange phone calls and followed back from meetings. Also our membership lists were seized which is a problem. Security is still quiet laxed though were it needs to be good, say around the printing of the comic or when going to JHB exec meetings, its good.

-----An important development has been far beter relations with town ECC which is a real improvement from last year. There is regular representation on JHB structures as well as JHB using our campus resources.

AN APOLOGY FROM THE AUTHOR FOR THE SPELLING, PUNCTUATION AND GENERAL GRAMAR, BUT...well its a long story and I wont bore you.

N.B If people have any questions on the contents don't hesitate to ask.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN: National committee report
Wits University.

Morale

During the second term at Wits morale tended to be quite low as there was a general feeling of anti climax after the activities and political gains of the first term. Much of this lack of enthusiasm was seen as caused by bad planning during the April Vac and an unhappiness with the national campaign which was felt to be far too clumsy and nebulous. The activities of NUSAS and their non racial poll also delimited the time we had for organising on campus due to a desire not to clash with the NUSAS programme. During this period it was felt that the Exec needed to be expanded in order to draw more people in to decision making and the conceptualisation process. We now have an additional rep from each subgroup as well as a rep from the newly resurrected ECC at med school. To deal with the problem of lack of planning, during the July vacation we held an in depth planning and conceptualisation meeting where several proposals for this terms activities were put forward. They were then voted on by the general body and the referendum proposal was accepted. Because of the whole of Wits ECC being involved in the planning and decision process around this campaign there is a greater sense of enthusiasm and commitment by our membership than before and we have been able to draw in a large proportion of our membership into the work required.

Security

The level of security consciousness has improved but is still quite low. I think that this is partially to do with the nature of the campus

branches. However the major and continuing problem is that of spies and informers although we have entered into some process of investigation. The only state harassment has been the use of our membership lists which were seized earlier in the year. Here around the ECC diner and concert people were phoned and threatened and recently callers claiming to be members of the AWB have been phoning up less involved ECC members and threatening them. As well as this we have been experiencing a relatively high degree of smear attacks from the SMA (The NSF affiliate on campus).

Internal Education

Although still a weak area we have been holding seminars on a variety of topics such as ECC and NDS, media work shops, and discussion around the chairing of meetings. Once the referendum campaign is over it is planned to hold more skills workshops and so the legendary Organisational Pack (of which we have heard so much and yet seen not) will come in very useful.

Programme

In terms of our profile on campus last term, as explained earlier, it was weak although we were still able to pull off a GET PEACED concert with Voice of Wits campus radio station. Although not a huge financial success due to the brass monkey weather, we still pulled a large number of people as well as building very good relations with VOW. Our major gains last term were in the field of the front where due to sterling work on behalf of our front subgroup we have been able to build very good relations with a wide range of organisations and have most of them as affiliates such as the NUSAS sub coms, SAVS, STEP, METHSOC,

CATHSOC, YCS, PEG, PGA, Young Progs, SALT, VOW, NHD, War Games.

As already mentioned we at Wits are running a referendum on campus where the student body will vote on the issue "Should South Africans have the right to question the laws relating to conscription" at the time of the SRC elections that being the 25th and 26th of August. We have used this as a chance to test our support base among student organisations, academics and student as a whole and already endorsements are flooding in including one of the Deputy Vice Chancellors. We felt that this was a far more useful campaign to run rather than participate on the SRC as experience at Wits has shown that the structure does not facilitate the struggle regarding conscription on our campus but in many ways hinders it as it turns our activists into bureaucrats.

E.C.C.

12 August 1987

Dear

The End Conscription Campaign is based on the fundamental belief that individuals should have the freedom to choose whether or not to participate in the SADF.

In the very near future we shall be holding a referendum around the following issue:

"Do you support the right of South Africans
to question the laws regarding conscription?"

Before we take the referendum onto campus, we are trying to get endorsements from clubs and societies, organisations (both on and off campus) and individuals.

If you would like to endorse our referendum or would like to hear more about it, please contact Clare Loffler at the SRC offices.

Yours

E.C.C.

Sensitive Days

The 1986 Commission of Inquiry into events on campus strongly suggested that on days sensitive to any particular group of students, no other group of students are to hold displays or meetings, or any activity which could potentially lead to conflict.

The sensitive day concept was adopted by the council of our university, and is now official policy. The 19 and 20th March 1987 were declared sensitive for certain students and the SMA was not even allowed, by express instructions from Professor Tober (Vice-Chancellor), to distribute any pamphlets on any one of the two sensitive days. This was the case even though no gatherings or flated activities had been planned for the second of the two days.

With the above in mind, an application was ?? to Professor Tober for the SMA to be followed to hold focus tables on the 19, 20 and 21 May 1987, with a mass meeting on the 21 May, to commemorate the ANC car bomb blast in which 19 were killed and 239 injured.

Permission was granted to the SMA to hold the activities for which permission was requested.

An obscure leftist grouping calling itself the ERC approached committee members saying that it had organised a COSATU meeting for Tuesday the 19 may and that it would like the SMA to move its sensitive day from Tuesday to Friday, as Prof. Shear would otherwise not permit them to hold their meeting!

As a great deal of planning and organisation had gone into the SMA campaign, the SMA refused to move its sensitive day to a Friday. Besides, campus is virtually deserted on a Friday.

The SMA does in principle not think much of the sensitive day concept. It is a classical example of a poor attempt at treating symptoms rather than causes. The cause of violence on campus is the totally intolerant, uncivilised and undisciplined conduct of certain individuals. These persons should be dealt with in terms of the existing disciplinary machinery.

There would then be absolutely no need for sensitive days to be declared, as a SMA and BSS meeting could take place in close proximity to one another, without any violence or intolerant behaviour, since members of both groups would know full well that the full weight of the university's disciplinary machinery would come down on them swiftly for behaving in a manner that is not compatible with that of students registered at South Africa's premier university.

BREAK NUSAS



COMPULSORY MEMBERSHIP

ECC

PRETORIA could do itself no better service than to amend Acts that restrict publication of certain writings and documents, in order that a credible and true scene be set, to be viewed by your average man in the street, who is invariably politically ignorant. The naive socialism encountered in South Africa is largely due to the government's information black out on all things remotely connected to the highly publicised "communist plot theory". Ironically such a stance, as taken by the powers that be, can only serve as counter productive in any effort to oppose the revolution eminent in South Africa today. The long-standing fallacy that ignorance is bliss, should be woken up to. As long as the population is kept in the dark, how is one able to distinguish between organisations that are above board, and those that obviously are not innocent machinery.

I hate to dump this dose of reality on local idealism, but childhood has to eventually end. Many hollows and cries of peace and goodwill by members of certain organisations, would appear to be contradictory in the light of other activities on their part. The same superficiality is apparent in the portrayal of Ms WINNIE MANDELA, on account of her well-publicised "necklace" gaffe. In view of her "matches and tyres philosophy", as well as her message of militant greetings and gratitude for "brotherly solidarity to the SOVIET UNION", the ECC press release issued in October 1986, stating that activist Winnie Mandela had been invited to protest "against the increasing militarisation of our society" can only be frowned upon. This seems a far cry from "WORKING FOR A JUST PEACE".

In a letter Durban ECC emphatically consoled readers that "ECC has no links with banned organisations inside or outside South Africa. We do not call on people not to do their military service." In an article in DIAKONIA NEWS, RICHARD STEEL writes that "the goal of our campaign is to end conscription."

"ECC is not a pacifist organisation" are apparently the words used by MEG BERESFORD, representing the CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, to describe ECC at a rally organised by the COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICAN WAR RESISTERS in 1985. According to the press in Britain, at the same meeting, LAURIE NATHAN called for the disarming of the SAP and SADF and the unbanning of the ANC. He is also said to have explained that "conscription was merely an issue to raise other issues and to educate the whites about facts". The objective seemed to be to pressurise the State. PETER HATHORN, also an ECC member, apparently delivered quite a blow when he related that he had, whilst in Pollsmoor Prison, drawn strength from ANC prisoners.

Members of ECC can, however, justify any such unwanted publicity which results from association with somewhat dubious sorts, by coming up with the rather old line that ECC is a "one issue campaign". In other words, they cannot be held responsible for individual members' activities. This, however, does not ring true in view of recurring inconsistencies.

In the ECC response to the DSA pamphlet last year, it is explained that by "being a separate organisation, ECC cannot make statements on behalf of other organisations". According to press abroad, Laurie Nathan explained that the "ECC is a coalition of about 50 organisations", which hardly amounts to being a "separate organisation".

EXPOSED

In an article in the GUARDIAN, JO ANN KAWELL explains that Richard Steele estimated that "3 000 war resisters went into exile each year". He also explained that half of the 1985 January intake of 15 000 conscripts just "did not appear". What is happening in South Africa is neither better nor worse than such interviews would seem to reflect — it's simply very different.



There, there, Richard someday someone will take E.C.C. seriously.

According to a UNITED NATIONS press release, GAVIN EVANS represented ECC of South Africa at a meeting in March 1986, where he, alongside representatives from the ANC, PAC, PLO, SWAPO, THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES, as well as the SOVIET AFRICAN ASIAN Solidarity Committee reviewed the situation in South Africa. Mr ZEHEDI LABIB TERZI of the PLO believed that he could draw parallels between the South African question and those that his organisation was subjected to. STEPHEN TSEWETE of the ANC explained that the present government was carrying out a "genocidal warfare against his people". According to him "homes, factories, mines, churches, mosques, schools and creches had been converted into war zones".

Gavin Evans called on all to receive any persons who refused conscription. He ex-


plained that "thousands of conscripts were refusing to serve the military". An invitation was extended to those activists from organisations in South Africa, by VASILY SOLODOVNIKOV, Vice-President of the SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE, to spend a vacation in the Soviet Union. He also expressed moral, political and material support. Interestingly enough, the Soviet Union offered the most opposition at the 41st Session of United Nations Commission on Human Rights, held in Geneva, where it was proposed that conscientious objection by military service and the provision of alternative service to such people, be recognised in laws. Needless to say, the entire issue was therefore withdrawn.

Recently, the ANC posted the pamphlet headed "Education for War", to schools, in which it calls upon the students to "prepare to refuse to do military service" and "join the struggle". War resistance is, of course, a response to the continuing all-round political and military struggle led by the ANC. It can never be seen in isolation from this struggle. OLIVER TAMBO, President of the ANC, is said to have called on white South Africans "to refuse to join the army" in many of his speeches. Abroad many such examples emphasise the obvious importance of war resistance in the revolution. Apparently, one document calls on white men "to build united resistance" and to "join the ANTI-CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN" in order that the state "be frustrated wherever possible".

With current press restrictions, many of us are unlikely to hear about — and less likely to witness — brutality and the lack of discipline of the security forces. We would probably be equally unnerved and appalled by the ever increasing violence used by radicals to intimidate the moderate black man. The majority of white South Africans are aware that violence can no longer be blamed on a minority of trouble-shooters.

SMA urges the government to reconsider the stringent press restrictions. Avenues should be opened for honest reporting on the actual activities of the ANC and SACP and a greater understanding of the South African predicament can then be achieved.

At present, the only source of information is distorted facts projected by the radical left.

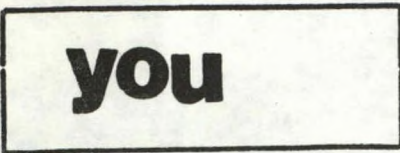
PEACE
through

STRENGTH

PW Botha's promise that M-Net will never be allowed to carry news as long as he is president seems fair enough. After all, SABC television doesn't carry news.

Registrasieskema SADF
 Registering Other SADF
 Private/Privaat Reg 8801
 Private
 6801

LEES DIESE INSTRUKSIES HOUKERS
 READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

1986-07-30



Magnummer
 Persoonlike _____

**KENNISGEWING VAN TOEWYSING VIR NATIONALE DIENSTPLIG
 NOTIFICATION OF ALLOTMENT FOR NATIONAL SERVICE**

DEEM HIERIN GEDEN NERTOEWYSINGS WORD GEDOEN DIE
 WOULD BE RE-ALLOTMENTS WILL BE MADE

1. U is ingesluit op die lysings van die Verdedigingswet, 1967 (Impressment Act).
 In accordance with the provisions of the Defence Act, 1967, you have been allotted to

2. **7 SOUTH AFRICAN INFANTRY**

3. **SA ARMY**

4. **4 AUGUST 1987 TO 6 JULY 1989**

5. **PHALABORWA**

6. Indien u van voorneme is om volgende jaar vir die eerste keer aan 'n universiteit/hogskool/tegniese instansie te gaan en u is aan die Juko-inkome toegewys, staan dit u vry om voort te gaan met enige opleiding wat nodig is vir u instudering. U moet egter, indien u by die universiteit/hogskool/tegniese instansie is, 'n sertifikaat in die vorme van die universiteit/hogskool/tegniese instansie vooraf aan die Sekretaris, Vrywilligersraad, by instansie adres stuur. By ontvang van die sertifikaat sal u daarop toe te sien opdat die toewysingskommissie u kan toewys tot 'n ander funksionele groep.

Indien u van voorneme is om voort te gaan met 'n ander funksionele groep, sal u toewysing nie aan die Juko-inkome toewysing nie.

Indien u aan die Juko-inkome toewysing is en u verken om om oorsig te gaan skoolwerk te doen, moet u 'n sertifikaat van die Juko-inkome toewysing kommissie, Vrywilligersraad, by instansie adres stuur.

Indien u alreeds 'n student is en aan die Juko-inkome toewysing is, en u voort te gaan met 'n ander funksionele groep, moet u 'n sertifikaat van die Juko-inkome toewysing kommissie, Vrywilligersraad, by instansie adres stuur.

Indien u alreeds 'n student is en aan die Juko-inkome toewysing is, en u voort te gaan met 'n ander funksionele groep, moet u 'n sertifikaat van die Juko-inkome toewysing kommissie, Vrywilligersraad, by instansie adres stuur.

Indien u oorsig kommissie sal u 'n sertifikaat van die Juko-inkome toewysing kommissie, Vrywilligersraad, by instansie adres stuur.

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7. Indien u 'n werknemer is of 'n betrekking gaan aanvaar, moet u hierdie kennisgewing onmiddellik aan u werkgever aan sy woning stuur op Skema 4 van die Verdedigingswet, 1967, wat gerieflike afskafers op die laaste verspreiding is.

8. Alle kennis wat betrekking het 'n oorsig kommissie sal u 'n sertifikaat van die Juko-inkome toewysing kommissie, Vrywilligersraad, by instansie adres stuur.

9. U oorsig kommissie sal u 'n sertifikaat van die Juko-inkome toewysing kommissie, Vrywilligersraad, by instansie adres stuur.

10. Indien u van voorneme is om te gaan by die SA Polisie, Spoorwagpolisie of Bevogingsdiens, moet u attestate in die betrekking kommissie kommissie, Vrywilligersraad, by instansie adres stuur.

11. Indien u van voorneme is om te gaan by die SA Polisie, Spoorwagpolisie of Bevogingsdiens, moet u attestate in die betrekking kommissie kommissie, Vrywilligersraad, by instansie adres stuur.

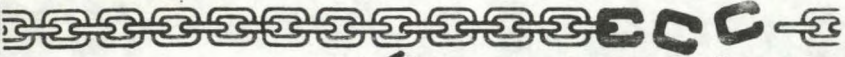
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**Phalaborwa; Perth
 or Pretoria central
 prison?**



Wits End Conscription Campaign

REMEMBER TO INFORM THE REGISTERING OFFICER IMMEDIATELY OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR ADDRESS THIS WILL ENSURE THAT YOU RECEIVE YOUR FINAL CALL-UP INSTRUCTIONS AT ALL TIMES QUOTE YOUR FORCE NUMBER UNIT TO WHICH ALLOTTED AND PERIOD OF SERVICE

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