

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT

I.1 Structure/s

I.2 Security

I.3 Harassment

I.5 Internal Education

I.6 Cohesion and Morale

I.7 Future direction

I.1 STRUCTURE

At present ECC members meet on a weekly basis and these meetings are attended by a Black Sash Representative. Further, we invite a broader grouping of people (including J and R reps and a few interested Ministers) to a once-monthly meeting (information cum entertainment)

We envisage our newly formed exec (consisting of Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Cultural Coordinator, and Internal Education Co-ordinator, who meet weekly outside of General body meetings, functioning to co-ordinate activities.

Our Internal Education subcommittee has been meeting regularly and have co-ordinated workshops, seminars, and suggestions for National Namibia Day which have been ratified by the general body group.

As yet the Media cum Cultural sub committee have worked on a flyer-type party invitation.

I.2 SECURITY

This has been a priority on our agendas and has been far tighter in the past few months (bar one incredible breach) . Increased security awareness in the group has , as is to be expected, created additional problems re contact , etc.

I.3 HARASSMENT

The Detainee Service continue to counsel released detainees from organisations various in the Border region so , although slashed tyres cost a lot we in ECC have got off lightly.

The Branch (security) have approached a number of young people (some of them not involved in ECC) and attempted to , or have questioned them about ECC activities. A number of schools have been approached about the 'activities' of their teaching staff.

A serious consequence of the harassment is that 'original' ECC members have attempted to exclude newer members. This issue has been top of our agenda for the last two meetings this week.

I.4 INTERNAL EDUCATION

PROBLEMS AND PRIORITIES :

- * Our members come from diverse 'backgrounds' and many have not been involved in an organisation before
- * Because of the above we have prioritised the promotion of ongoing discussion re ECC's aims and direction
- * Further we need to attempt to instil an understanding of organisational procedures (and the broader aims of the National Democratic Movement) in our members .

ACTIVITIES:

Weekend workshops have been held once a month

- i) Security
- ii) Namibian Focus
- iii) Introduction to Conceptual discussion - What is ECC? Why ECC for me ?
- iv) Conceptual discussion
- v) Internal Education - where to next ?

Seminars included in meeting agendas covering topics such as : militarisation, cadets, Rhodesian/Zimbabwe war, destabilisation, Namibian dateline, etc.

Larger meetings

Video viewings, 12th June commemorative meeting cum vigil (with cultural input) 16th June Comm and Peace Picnic (with J & R input over and above ECC input) .

COHESION AND MORALE

Group cohesion was adversely affected by a clash of individual members' interests and despite this people are feeling renewed optimism and morale is increasing.

I.7 FUTURE DIRECTION

We have prioritised the following:

- i) To ensure that we get our structures functioning effectively ;
- ii) Internal education;
- iii) To target specific groups within our constituency and through working on our first campaign (with the much sought-after help of a national organiser) to attempt to reach at least some of these groups;
- iv) Recruitment and incorporation procedures for the inclusion of new members;
- v) Consolidation of contact with 'key' members of the East London community ;
- vi) Finding a way of incorporating interested Ministers and church people.

CONTACT WITH MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

ECC reps have attended a number of Black Sash meetings and given input (ECC history, form, and aims) to the Sash G.B.

ECC reps attended PFP election house meetings.

ECC reps attended the two IDASA meetings that have been held and we feel that further contact with people in this forum will be useful in the establishment of contacts with other groups and organisations in E.L.

IDASA (1ST MEETING) REPORT BACK

Steve Fourie, the IDASA regional director, outlined the reason for calling the meeting and the aims of IDASA.

Reps of the organisations present gave input as to the nature of their organisations and work. Organisations represented at the meeting included: Hunger Relief; Unemployed Workers' Union; Border Education Crisis Committee; Operation Hunger; Black Sash; ECC; Industrial Health and Safety Union,

Second Meeting - 'perspectives on democracy' meeting addressed by UDF rep.

IDASA'S RESPONSE TO ECC

IDASA'S support of ECC was emphasised as IDASA is opposed to militarisation and conscription in particular because the SADF propagates and enforces apartheid. Although IDASA is not a protest organisation, it will assist ECC in making its point of view heard and in gaining support from other organisations who think the same way.

The assistant to the regional director of IDASA proposed that a meeting be set up between the ECC and UDF.

It was decided that the groups represented in the IDASA forum would meet on a once monthly basis and that the number of reps be increased where possible.

EAST LONDON ECC

Report for National Committee

Cintsa, 1-3 February 1991

Reporting on branch activities for the period September 1990 to February 1991 is rather like squeezing blood out of a stone - or, even better, squeezing blood out of someone who has just donated several litres (pardon the gory analogy but ECC East London is at this stage just a little anaemic).

The ten or so people who form this branch are, as is probably the case in other centres, largely involved in a number of other organisations. East London is in fact such a small community that these same people are actually key activists in other areas. The result - and the problem - is that there is no-one who regards ECC as a particular priority; people are simply too busy and too tired. Energies are put into other organisations and at the end of the day there is little left for ECC.

It has proved virtually impossible to draw in more people. Besides the reasons given above, the constituency ECC normally draws upon, namely young whites, consists mainly of apathetic surfers (hey sjoe, like, the army is a hassle, man), yuppie business types, and young 'housewives', with seemingly no concern for the issue and little or no social conscience.

However, the picture is not quite that gloomy. Because everybody is involved in everything, all these people encounter one another on almost a daily basis in a range of meetings, not to mention on the social circuit. Communication between members is no problem. ECC activists are well-placed in other organisations (this being an advantage of a smaller region), and because the concern with military and conscription issues remains, we have been able to raise issues and concerns informally, and as they arise.

An example of this was an organised, and heated, debate in the East London ANC branch between ECC people and the general(!) of the East London marshals on the topic of mock weapons (toy guns). Needless to say, we lost. However, these very same marshals were extremely helpful in the distribution of our 'resister' postcards, and returned hundreds.

On the **Safe Return of War Resisters** issue; ECC were asked to attend a meeting organised by the Border Council of Churches to form committees to aid returning exiles. The forum (which included AZAPO and BCM representatives) was extremely interested in the plight of returning war resisters and was disappointed to learn that it was unlikely that any would be returning to the Border region. We were asked to form an official part of the forum but did not have anyone to spare for the exhaustive meetings which take place in King William's Town. One of our members subsequently joined the legal sub-committee as a representative of Lawyers for Human Rights (a perfect example of

the above observation!).

It remains to be mentioned that the East London Register was almost doubled last year - from 12 to 18 !!(?)

We do not believe that the situation in East London will change in terms of support, interest and activity. However, as the issue of conscription still lies close to the hearts of this small group of stalwart activists, it is certain that urgent issues will be responded to promptly and with the usual enthusiasm East London ECC has displayed in the past!

0431

Phone No. 403894.

DENIS H PATRICK
25 NINTH AVENUE
5256 GONUBIE F.L.
10.06.87

ADELE KIRSTEN

Secy. KCC

Khotso House

Johannesburg

Reference to your letter to Readers Editors
(Sunday Times April, 12) and the Minister of
Defence's arrogant attitude toward the
KCC etc. (Report by C. Hays, 122 St George's
St. Cape Town) Dispatch Correspondent.

Since reading the above articles I
request that my name be added
to the KCC membership list.

Please acknowledge receipt of this
letter.

Yours sincerely,

Denis H. Patrick

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