

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BROAD FORUM OF GROUPS INVOLVED IN ANTI-MILITARISATION WORK, HELD ON 28TH MARCH, 1989

PRESENT: Conscription Advice Service (CAS), Conscientious Objectors Support Group (COSG), ECC Caretaker Committee, Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (IDASA), Anglican Justice and Reconciliation Support Group, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Diakonia, Durban, Progressive Federal Party, National Community Servers Group (NCSG)

REPORTS:

1. CAS will be meeting on 3rd April in the Diakonia meeting room for counselors to discuss cases. Anyone welcome although not an open meeting. 3rd August is a significant date and organisations are requested to mark it appropriately.
2. The meeting was informed that ECC has gone international!! The logo is being used by an organisation in Germany which translated is "initiative against conscription".
3. Cosg Conference held in Durban on 10-12 March was well attended with many new ideas forthcoming. There was representation from families of CO's as well as supporters. Discussions on how to support CO's both in prison and in alternative service were therefore informative and helpful. At the conference COSG was constituted as a National Organisation which is currently operative in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town plus "fledgling" groups in Eastern Cape, Pietermaritzburg, Pretoria and Fort Elizabeth.

Ivan Toms himself and his support group fast on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 8.00 pm and ending on Wednesday at 8.00 pm. It was suggested that other organisations might like to join in breaking their fast with a bring and share supper.

15th May will be International COS day and this year the focus will be on South Africa. COSG group will be meeting every Wednesday for planning of events for this time. Any ideas would be welcome and for further information on meetings to be held phone 847284.

4. Women Against War Evaluation was attended by only 10 women most of whom were members of Black Sash. In view of this an open invitation was extended to interested parties to join an ad hoc working group formed by Black Sash to deal specifically with the question of militarisation.
5. Alternative Service Forum are presently planning a Seminar.
6. PFP information attached.
7. At this point the question arose as to how to create an on-

going awareness of the situation of COs. It was suggested that the most effective way would be to use existing dates and occasions wherever they arose and to organise functions around these. Also to inform media by letters to the press etc.

8. Saul Batzoffen will be going on to the second part of his trial on the 12th April and members were asked to uphold him.
9. In a final general sharing the forum reported that they were generally happy with the sharing of information facilitated by these meetings. It was felt that there was a definite strength from the unity of the group. Albert Nolan's book "God in South Africa" was suggested as enlightening reading.

The next meeting will be held on the 25th April 1989 at 5.00 pm at the same venue. Chairperson - Beatrice. Minute Taker - Rob.

→ name to
Public Meeting
SAS

Maggie
Ja R.



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MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH FEDERAL CONGRESS
OF THE PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY
HELD IN CAPE TOWN ON 5TH & 6TH AUGUST 1988

Resolution 4

Congress

*D.P. conscription would definitely
be phased out as quickly as possible.*

(1) reiterates its belief that the defence of a post-apartheid free democratic South Africa can most efficiently be undertaken by a strong, non-racial, motivated, well-trained and well-equipped Defence Force consisting of a professional standing Defence Force backed up by volunteer reserves;

(2) believes that military conscription should be phased out, inter alia

(a) it applies at present only to white, male citizens thus placing an inequitable burden on this group;

(b) it is neither politically desirable nor practically feasible to extend conscription to other sections of the population;

(c) it is a wasteful and inefficient means of recruiting manpower, and damaging to the economy;

(d) it disrupts family lives and careers; and

(e) promotes the braindrain from South Africa.

(3) further believes that until the system of compulsory military conscription has been phased out, the right of individuals who object to military conscription, to perform specified alternative service on application, should be recognized. To ensure adequate numbers of recruits, disincentives in the form of extra service may have to be

Resolution 4 (contd)....3/....

instituted for those applying for such alternative service. This service ought to be productive, and, where possible, should make use of the qualifications and experience of the individual concerned.

Proposed: Mr. B. Goodall
Seconded: Mrs. H. Suzman M.P.

Amendments were proposed and seconded

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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