

17 November 1983

AGENDA:

1. Minutes of previous meeting
2. Report backs
3. Structure of committee
4. Proposal of executive structure
5. COSG national discussion
6. Campaign planning
7. Discussion and general
8. Next meeting

1. Previous minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted

2. Report backs: The Black Sash, who initiated the call, felt that serving on such a committee would strengthen their stand, and that the depressing results of the referendum would add further impetus to the call. At their last meeting they expressed the feeling that there should be a big focus on the End Conscription Campaign.

The United Women's Organisation reported that they had discussed it at their Executive Council meeting, and that branches would send observers to the committee and that further discussion would take place in the branches. They reported that they were sympathetic to the campaign.

The Catholic War and Peace Society reported that they had not yet been able to discuss the matter.

COSG reported that the End Conscription Campaign would be a major campaign in the organisation and that it would be taken up nationally.

NUSAS reported that they had had a preliminary discussion, and that the committee and campaign would be important for NUSAS. They reported that they were affiliated to the UDF, so this was therefore their primary point of reference and would influence the way in which they saw the campaign. They felt that the extension of conscription would be an important aspect of the campaign, and that they would need to look at ways of linking up the campuses. They also felt that the conscription issue needed to be raised creatively on campuses and within organisations in the following year, and that there was a need to convince students of the importance of the campaign. Areas that they felt needed to be looked into were the change in legislation, the

Defence Amendment Act, and the increase in militarisation.

TEAM reported that they were very interested and were completely behind the campaign, but were waiting for a lead.

ADAC reported that they had discussed the campaign at their last meeting, and as they are a resource organisation, felt that this might mean that they would not be formally represented on the committee. They felt however that they would need to maintain links, and would send observers to meetings. They felt that information arising out of their work on repression could be fed into the campaign, and felt that there was a need to link the military and repression, and cited the example of Namibia.

The Women's Movement for Peace reported that the campaign had only been discussed by their central committee, but that they were very much behind the campaign. They felt that they could offer educational input to youth.

The representative from the Methodist Church reported that they had had a meeting of the Christian Citizenship group, and that they confirmed their continued participation in the campaign, particularly with respect to the extension of conscription.

UCT SRC reported that they were obviously a constituent of NUSAS, but that militarisation had had a high profile on the UCT campus, and therefore, given this ground-work, the campaign could be easily taken up. They felt that the call to end conscription would play an important rôle on the campus in the following year.

3. Structure of Committee

It had been hoped that no discussion would be necessary, but it was felt that as there was a certain amount of confusion, it would be necessary to discuss exactly what the committee would entail. The COSG anti-conscription committee stated that they felt that the committee had never been envisaged as an organisation, but that it was rather a co-ordinating committee of organisation who wished to work in this area and who identified with the working principles. In the light of this they proposed that brief adaptations should be made to the Working Principles and to the Draft Proposals. Amendments dealing with membership, representation etc. were then made, and the amended Draft Proposal was adopted as the structure of the committee. (Please see attached copies)

4. Structure of the Executive.

The planning committee suggested that the executive should consist of one student representative, one representative from COSG, one representative from the Black Sash, and someone who could liase with the churches. An amendment

to the executive structure was proposed and adopted, this being that the executive should include four persons and not be comprised of four persons alone. The structure and composition of the executive was then adopted by the meeting.

5. National COSG meeting.

COSG reported that there would be a meeting held in December which would be attended by representatives from COSGs in most centres. The purpose of this meeting would be to discuss the campaign, and as campaign committees in other centres were in various stages of formation, it was necessary for the COSGs to convene. It was hoped that the meeting would give clarity with respect to national co-ordination of the campaign.

6. Campaign planning.

The ideas for this were divided into three broad areas, and an 'input paper' on each of these areas was given. The areas were; A: the launching of the campaign, B: areas of work in the campaign and C: ~~a possible programme of action~~ ^{method}. It was however stressed, before the papers were given, that there was a need for flexibility in the campaign. (These papers have been typed seperately, and are included as an appendix to the minutes)

7. Discussion and general.

Arising from the papers, it was stated in discussion that media for the campaign neede to be good. Discussion also took place with respect to the timing of and the definition of a launch, and it was suggested that late February could be a possible time for a launching of the campaign. The Black Sash stated that they had a conference in Johannesburg from the 15-18 March, and that this could possibly be useful with respect to the launching of the campaign. No decision however, was taken regarding the nature of and timing of the launch, and the meeting felt that the national COSG meeting might provide guidance. The method of taking up the campaign was discussed, and it was felt that the issue should be linked to work that organisations were already doing, but bearing in mind that it should not become isolated to one area. The need for personal contact was also stressed as an aspect of the campaign. It was suggested that working groups be formed within organisations to work specifically on this issue, depending of course on how organisations were structured. It was then said that the Justice and Reconciliation group of the Western Province Council of Churches would take up the issue in various denominations, and that this would function as a working group. The need for

resources was also stressed, and it was said that we need to preach to the unconverted.

8. Next meeting.

The date for the next meeting was set for the 19 January 1984 , and the meeting would begin promptly at 7.45 p.m. The venue would be the Rondebosch Congregational Church Hall. Included in the agenda for the next meeting, would be a further discussion of resources, a report back from the national COSG meeting, and a report back from the executive of the committee.

oOo

Apologies to the meeting 17 Nov. 1983:

Race Relations, Civil Rights League and SUCA.

Present at meeting 17 Nov. 1983:

Women's Movement for Peace, COSG, ADAC, UWO, UCT SRC, NUSAS, TEAM, Kolbe, Methodist Church, WPCC, Catholic War and Peace society, Black Sash.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE - 19 January 1984

PRESENT: UCT SRC, NUSAS, COSG, Black Sash, WPC, Board of Social Responsibility, TEAM, Methodist Church, UWO.

APOLOGIES: Women's Movement for Peace, Catholic War and Peace Group.

AGENDA:

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Report Backs
3. Planning - Long-term Issues
Short-term Priorities
4. Contact
5. Finance
6. General
7. Date of Next Meeting

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted.

2. REPORT BACKS:

(a) NUSAS

NUSAS reported back that there had been a session at their National Congress devoted to the end conscription campaign. This had been very well attended which showed the enthusiasm and interest of students in the campaign. The session raised some problems which may have to be tackled in raising the issue:

- (i) that the call is an unrealistic demand which the government cannot afford to meet and which students might find difficult to conceptualise;
- (ii) there is a deeply entrenched fear of the communist threat which may result in antagonism towards the campaign;
- (iii) the extent of government propaganda will continually undermine the rationale of the campaign.

Despite these points, the campaign was seen as having vast potential. It was felt that at UCT particularly, the campaign would be well-received since the groundwork had been laid by consistent raising of militarisation issues around conscientious objectors. Smaller campuses such as Rhodes and Pietermaritzburg would have more difficulty in taking the campaign up because of the fear of right-wing backlash, but would still attempt to take up the campaign in some way.

The campaign was definitely seen as one of NUSAS's central campaigns for 1984.

(b) December 4th Meeting of COSG Representatives in Johannesburg

The meeting was attended by three Cape Town people, seven Johannesburg people, two Durban people and two Rhodes people.

The discussion was inconclusive due to the very different stages of development of the regional end conscription committees:

- Jhb has no formal committee as yet;
- Dbn has formed a committee and broken into subgroups such as media and research;
- the Rhodes people merely attended out of interest - there is no ECC in the Eastern Cape as yet.

There was discussion around the launch of the campaign and three main points emerged:

- (i) that an early launch was necessary;
- (ii) that contact between the regional groups was very important; in this regard
 - minutes must be circulated
 - a meeting during the year was necessary
 - COSG Conference in July could be orientated towards the End Conscription Campaign;
- (iii) that the post-July period would hopefully see the emergence of tighter national co-ordination, once all the committees were established.

Following this report back, the meeting discussed ways in which more productive contact could be made. Several suggestions emerged:

- (i) that use should be made of the NUSAS national structure and national gatherings which occur quarterly, to stimulate contact;
- (ii) that the travelling patterns of the committee's members should be presented at the next meeting;
- (iii) that contact addresses in each area should be circulated to all members of the committee, so that people going on quick visits can take the latest minutes or other information with them.

The importance of a national structure was also emphasised. It was felt that this would help to challenge national structures (for example, church groupings) to take up this issue. To this end it was seen as essential that a common set of working principles were adopted nationally.

(c) Executive Meeting

The executive met to plan for this meeting and to finalise positions, which are as follows:

Chair : David (phone - 65 1031)
Vice Chair : Beaver
Liaison : Lesley
Secretary : Viv

3. CAMPAIGN PLANNING:

A scenario was presented to the group to stimulate ideas. It was felt that there was a need for flexibility in the campaign to suite:

- (i) the pace of the regions;
- (ii) the constituent organisation;
- (iii) and complement the UDF campaign.

It was, however, seen as necessary for the Cape Town ECC to structure activity until such time as national co-ordination becomes possible. (The scenario presentation has been included as an appendix to the Minutes.)

Two ideas from the scenario were taken up by the committee:

(1) A Survey

This it was felt would be useful to

- establish general public opinion
- establish the influence of government propaganda
- reach large numbers of people in a non-threatening way.

The committee was unsure as to whether this should be a national or regionally limited survey. It was felt that it would be difficult to use the results to accurately assess the opinion in any constituency. It was suggested that the main thrust of the survey would be to raise militarisation issues with a large number of people and to give the committee some profile. Another important result of the campaign would be the education of the people who actually carry out the survey.

A group was set up to look into the feasibility of a survey, with Richard Goode as their co-ordinator.

(2) Preparation Morning

An idea was presented to hold a preparation day to which a minimum of five people from each organisation, and other interested parties, would be invited. This morning would serve to put a bigger range of people up to date with the progress of the campaign.

The committee felt that this was very necessary at the early stages of the campaign for two main reasons:

- (i) to motivate organisations to take up the campaign;
- (ii) to give them an idea of the other organisations working on the committee.

A date was suggested and accepted for the preparation morning: 3RD MARCH 1984. A group was set up to organise a preparation day, with David Schmidt as their co-ordinator.

4. During the course of the survey discussion, the question of who we were directing our campaign at was raised. After some discussion, several points emerged:

- (i) that there was a need for regular report backs on the progress of the UDF campaign against the extension of conscription;
- (ii) it was noted that COSG was represented on the UDF conscription commission;

(iii) it was felt that if this committee was to merge under the UDF banner, it would limit church participation, since they would be unable to affiliate to an explicitly political grouping.

5. FINANCE:

Nothing was raised.

6. GENERAL:

(1) It was noted that OBS Area Committee was holding a meeting against the Angola invasion (THURSDAY, 26 February).

(2) There is a new book out on the Draft Resistance Movement in Vietnam called "Out Now" by Fred Halstead - a participants account.

7. NEXT MEETING:

Date for the next meeting was set for the 22nd February at 8.00 pm, to be held at the Rondebosch Congregational Church.

MINUTES of the 3rd Meeting of End Conscription Committee
held on the 22nd February, 1984.

PRESENT: Black Sash, NUSAS, WPCC, TEAM, Catholic War and Peace, COSG, UWO, Board of Social Responsibility, Women's Movement for Peace.

APOLOGIES: Methodist Justice and Reconciliation

AGENDA:

1. Gerald Shaw on Peace Negotiations
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Matters Arising:
 - (a) * Contact
 - (i) - ECC Nationally
 - (ii) - SACC Meeting
 - (iii) - Black Sash gathering
 - (iv) - UDF
 - (b) * Preparation Day
 - (c) * Survey
4. Ideas from Organisations
5. Newsletter
6. Finance
7. General

1. Gerald Shaw gave a background and a perspective on the peace negotiations which are currently taking place between Angola and South Africa.

2. The Secretary apologised for the typing error of "Glack Sash".

3. MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Contact

(i) There was a reportback on recent contact with the Johannesburg and Durban ECCs.

Johannesburg Group: They had their first meeting on the 31st January, which was attended by similar groupings to ours. All groups contacted about the meeting were sent a dossier on militarisation, which was compiled by the COSG group dealing with end to conscription. The Johannesburg ECC has adopted the Cape Town group's working principles.

Durban Group: This group has had three general meetings. They have divided into four subcommittees:

- (i) Research
- (ii) Namibia
- (iii) Media
- (iv) Alternatives to War

This committee is also made up of similar groupings to our own. Both groups see themselves as co-ordinating groups as opposed to formal organisational structures.

Two ideas were discussed to enhance the national character of the campaign:

- (i) Survey - generally seen as an important, feasible idea.
- (ii) Conference - this idea needs discussion in all the centres. Seen as possible happening nearer the end of the year. Could be used to:
 - (a) pull the campaign together in regions;
 - (b) provide a show of strength;
 - (c) provide an opportunity to lay plans for future of the campaign.

* Decisions on both these ideas need to happen fairly quickly.

- (ii) There is a WPCC Conference in late March and it was mentioned that this might be a good occasion to present a paper on the ECC.
- (iii) Similarly, there is a national Black Sash Conference around that time, with a slot on militarisation. Black Sash people on the ECC saw the possibility of presenting a paper on the ECC.
- (iv) UDF Contact:
An approach has been made to WC UDF executive to discuss the relation between this committee and the UDF Commission. UDF executive felt that things were not sufficiently clear on the commission at this stage for such a meeting to take place. However, once things are clearer they will meet with the ECC to work out a parallel function.

The idea was raised and accepted that a letter should go to UDF executive inviting interested organisations or area committees to attend ECC meetings.

(b) Preparation Day

The structure of the morning was outlined:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8.30 - 9.00am | Registration |
| 9.00 - 10.00am | Background to ECC campaign given by member of exec, followed by reportbacks on progress by NUSAS, TEAM, Black Sash, UWO. |
| 10.00 - 11.00am | Video on conscription resistance |
| 11.00 - 11.30am | Tea |
| 11.30 - 12.30 | Ideas for taking up campaign |

It was stressed that as many people as possible should be encouraged to attend this morning from organisations.

(c) Survey:

This group has met and has representatives from NUSAS, Sash and TEAM.

NUSAS - Saw the advantage of a survey with quantifiable results.

Sash - Saw survey as best being done along the lines of the nationalist propaganda techniques in the referendum.

The group has decided that with differences in these ideas, that they will need to proceed with flexibility.

4. IDEAS FROM ORGANISATIONS:

TEAM

TEAM is considering a No War In Namibia Campaign. The aim of the campaign being to instigate action to end war in Namibia and to use this campaign to raise the issue with church groups.

COSG

* Video idea was pointed to in the report from the COSG weekend.

* An idea was raised to bring out a declaration around the time of the Defence White Paper and to get as many organisations and prominent people to sign it as possible. This idea was enthusiastically accepted by the committee. It was decided that a declaration should be drawn up and sent to all organisations to endorse.

5. NEWSLETTER:

The idea to have an ECC newsletter was raised. It was felt that this would be a very good way to give the ECC profile and raise the issue with constituent and interested organisations. It was decided that organisations should bring names of people who are interested in working on such a newsletter back to the next meeting.

6. FINANCE:

It is apparent that we need money for minutes and for a newsletter and we are sure to incur ongoing expenses.

The Executive was mandated to draw up a budget.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, 8th March.

1. PRESENT:

Noel, Sue, Beatrice, Paul, Jeremy, Des

2. APOLOGIES:

Billy, Fiona

3. MINUTES:

Minutes of 27/2/84 accepted

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Sue has posted the letter to Cape Town

5. GENERAL MEETING:

We discussed the need of having a general meeting before the one that will deal with the survey. It was felt that there would need to be some input, so that people would 'gain' something more from the meeting. Des suggested that we liaise with DURDAC which is having a group discussion on the present 'peace initiatives' between SA and adjacent countries. This suggestion was adopted.

A meeting on April will then be arranged to discuss the survey.

6. NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

Natal 'chapter' feels that the campaign is not developed enough to warrant national conference. We do not have a strong enough support base, resource people and committed individuals. However it was felt that a co-ordinating meeting of a small group of people from each centre would be useful. Propose a meeting of such a group after the COSG conference.

7. STRUCTURE:

Ref 62 of Minutes 14/2/84

7.1 Take campaign to other organizations:

Members of core group to make personal contact with organizations and report at next meeting. Paul will attempt to get some 'air' time at the Natal Youth Focus.

Perhaps we could produce a mobile display to present at meetings of organizations. People to bring ideas to next meeting.

Des to approach IPSA regarding their doing some research on militarization.

7.2 Stimulate the campaign:

The initial impetus will be gained through the distribution of the survey. Production of publications will wait until we get the publications being produced by other organizations e.g. NUSAS.

Other ideas: Black Sash is to focus on militarization for their national conference.

: Articles on militarization to be sent to Church newspapers. Sue to send.

: Rob's article to Southern Cross and Paul to send it to Dimension.

: People to monitor TV2 and see extent of military coverage in programmes.

: Tape 1 week of military oriented programmes that are screened on TV1 & TV2

7.3 Liason:

All centres have expressed the need to have a contact person at each centres.

Durban: Paul Graham Tel. (031) 317719 (Work)

Contact Address: Movement Against Conscription
PO Box 1879
DURBAN 4000

Des will co-ordinate minutes and the posting of same to other centres.

Paul will liase with other groups in Johannesburg on the 20/March.

7.4 Secretariate for General Meeting:

- Des to co-ordinate and mail minutes.
- We must compile a register of all names and addresses. Paul to do this with Sue's list and list from DURDAC (Des to obtain DURDAC list).
- We should also get a list of the people who attended the Non-Violent action programme.
- Two lists would be produced. One with regular members and one of interested but non-regular members.

7.5 Resource Base:

Old groups should be encouraged to continue. Paul will contact Billy in this regard.

6. PEACE TAX:

Some members felt a need to generate some sort of finance for mailing, photostats, etc.

It was also suggested that COSG, ECC(MAC) and the Peace Library should operate a joint bank account. This was rejected mainly because of unwanted bureaucratic responsibilities.

However the majority feeling was that the existing system worked well. It was suggested that people should rather become members of Diakonia in lieu of a Peace tax.

7. NAME OF CAMPAIGN:

We are not committed to / supportive of an "anti" or an "end" type of campaign slogan. It was felt that a positive name should be adopted, and that "ECC" should not be accepted merely by default.

People were urged to bring list of names to the next meeting.

8. JOHANNESBURG DOSSIER:

We discussed whether the Johannesburg dossier should be distributed to members. It was too big for duplication, so Paul undertook to approach Corda at the Ecumenical Centre Trust Resource Centre to see if it would be possible to keep a copy there.

NEXT MEETING: 26/3/84 5.00p.m. - 6.30p.m. at Jeremy's

X4

MINUTES of the 4th Meeting of the End Conscription Committee, held on the
8th March, 1984.

PRESENT: Black Sash, Board of Social Responsibility, Catholic War and Peace,
Civil Rights League, COSG, NUSAS, SUCA, TEAM, Womens Movement for Peace.

APOLOGIES: Methodist Citizenship Board, UWO, WPCC.

AGENDA: 1) Minutes of previous meeting

2) Matters arising:

(a) Preparation Day reportback

(i) Contact

(ii) Survey

(iii) Youth

(iv) Media

(v) Church contact

(b) Declaration

3) General

4) Date of next meeting

1) Apologies were made for the delay in distributing the previous meetings minutes.

2) MATTERS ARISING:

a) Reportback- the Preparation Day was felt to have been very useful in broadening discussion about the campaign, and in bringing members of ECCorganisations together. The ideas raised in the small groups were then outlined for discussion and action, viz:

(i) Contact- need for media coverage of campaign; links to be forged with commercial and community press. Idea for a series of articles in commercial press to be followed up.

(ii) Survey- meetings of this group have continued, taking a flexible approach to the different surveys required by organisations.

TEAM have distributed a draft for comment and discussion. Distribution of the actual survey will be happening soon in individual churches, with TEAM coordinating;

NUSAS have drawn up survey to be distributed shortly. Seminars have been held for those involved in handing out the survey. The possibility of a national NUSAS survey was raised. Ideas for a week of activities after the survey are being acted upon.

SASH are drawing up a survey with a limited number of questions for distribution to the general public.

It was felt, on the question of a general survey, that the Sash survey should be the most widespread. In conducting a general survey for a rigorous definition of the target group and a follow-up to the survey were raised.

(iii) Youth - a meeting should be arranged for groups working with youth, such as NUSAS, SUCA, and Kolbe, to discuss coordinated action.

(iv) Media- suggestion that sub-comm of ECC be established to produce the newsletter was accepted, as was the need to draw on organisations members to do the occasional work that is required.

Other media ideas to be looked into:

- car stickers (Sash/WMP)
- T-shirt (NUSAS)
- contact drama groups eg. CAP

(v) Church contact- discussion deferred.

b) Declaration - draft Declaration drawn up by working group after Preparation Day presented for discussion (see Appendix)
- the content was felt to be satisfactory, and the title "For a Just

Peace in Our Land" was agreed upon.

- the Declaration is to be taken back to ECC organisations for discussion and ratification, and will be brought back to the next ECC meeting for final discussion, before being taken to other organisations and prominent individuals for support.
- ideas of Declaration as a pamphlet with tear-off slip to be finalised later.

3) General - papers on the campaign are to be presented at WPCC and Black Sash Conferences.

4) Next meeting set for 29th March 1984.

MINUTES OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE, HELD ON~~29th MARCH~~ 8TH MARCH, 1984

PRESENT : COSG, Catholic War & Peace, Civil Rights League, UWO, WPCC,
Black Sash, Women's Movement for Peace, UCT SRC

APOLOGIES: Team, Nusas

A G E N D A

- (1) Correspondence
- (2) Report-back - Black Sash
- SACC
- (3) Survey
- (4) Declaration
- (5) Media - Newsletter
- Logo
- Stickers
- T-shirts
- (6) Namibia
- (7) CUPC meeting

(1) CORRESPONDENCE

The secretary read through correspondence from Durban COSG, noting especially that (a) Natal feels that the campaign is not strong enough to warrant a national conference. However, it was felt that a co-ordinating meeting of a small group of people from each centre would be useful. They propose a meeting following the COSG conference. (b) they are not satisfied or supportative of an "end" or "anti" type of campaign slogan. They feel that a more positive name should be adopted and that 'ECC' should not be accepted merely by default.

(2) REPORT-BACKS : BLACK SASH

Member from the Black Sash reported that the Black Sash wholeheartedly supported the campaign. A resolution to support the campaign was passed unanimously. It was noted that some Black Sash members were surprised at certain activities of the SADF mentioned at the conference, (eg. removal of children to weekend camps) and that this pointed to the necessity of internal education. Details about the survey were not available at the meeting, but ideas for the execution of survey were presented :

- each member of the Black Sash would take responsibility for surveying 5 people
- surveys would be distributed at shopping centres on a particular Saturday morning.

SACC

A meeting took place of the Justice and Reconciliation division of the SACC. Several problems were discussed which related to militarisation and conscription not being taken up in the churches.

- i) at the last SACC a resolution calling for an end to conscription was blocked.
- ii) there is a lack of clarity as to the relationship between militarisation and conscription.

- iii) with the peace talks, it is difficult to work out who will now be described as the enemy by the State.
- iv) the sensitivity of the military chaplain issue is seen to be a stumbling block to the churches' participation in the end conscription campaign.

In June the SACC is going to have a conference focussing on militarisation. The programme will include Namibian speakers and plays. Delegates with a specific interest in militarisation will be encouraged to attend.

This group also discussed the Board for CO's. The acceptance by the State that the churches would participate on such Boards was questioned. Also attention was focussed on the idea of a just revolution, following on from the idea of the just war theory, and how neither of these positions are accommodated by the Board.

(3) SURVEY at UCT

The results of the UCT SRC survey were discussed. The survey which was not scientific, was highly successful in stimulating debate on campus. Altogether 1037 students answered the survey. The main results were :

Question 5 : Do you think there should be conscription into the SADF?
YES : 36% ; NO : 64%

Question 7 : Do you think there should be cadets/YP at school?
YES : 38% ; NO : 62%

Question 8 : Do you think the presence of the SADF in Namibia is justified?
YES : 37% ; NO : 63%

Question 9 : Do you think the SADF is politically neutral?
YES : 6% ; NO : 94%

Question 10: Do you think we are adequately informed about the activities of the SADF in the media?
YES : 9% ; NO : 91%

(4) DECLARATION

The declaration was discussed and final wording agreed upon. Two members of the committee will write out the new declaration and write out a possible list of names and organisations to get to endorse the declaration. The executive will discuss the problems of Durban's problems with the name end conscription committee.

(5) MEDIA

- i) Newsletter - articles were required from SACC, the Black Sash on their recent conferences and the UCT SRC on the survey. The logo for the newsletter is in a rudimentary stage.
- ii) Black Sash will continue to look into possibility of a sticker.
* New idea for a slogan : Cancel the call-up
- iii) T-shirts - the possibility of UCT SRC producing t-shirts was raised.

(6) NAMIBIA

Team raised the idea of a No W.I.N. campaign at an earlier meeting. COSG supported this initiative. COSG and Team met and proposed to the committee that we campaign around an end to the war in Namibia in the month of May. It put forward several motivations :

- i) it would be easier for churches than other military issues because it does not directly challenge conscription-
- ii) churches have made repeated calls for withdrawal of SA troupes from Namibia.
- iii) the climate is right, with the extensive press coverage of "Peace" moves.

The committee enthusiastically accepted this idea although it was noted that May is a busy month - eg. May Day, Republic Day, Focus on Detainees, so timing would have to be carefully planned.

COSG and Team will work out a more concrete proposal for the next meeting.

(7) CUPC MEETING

The Churches Urban Planning Commission is holding a meeting at St George's Church on 6th April at 7.30pm. The topic is 'Conscription - the Church Responds'.

(8) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4 April at 8.00pm.

7th

MINUTES OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 1984

PRESENT : BLACK SASH, WM, CATHOLIC JUSTICE & PEACE, UWO, OBSERVATORY UDF, COSG, UCT SRC

APOLOGIES: WPCC, NUSAS, CLAREMONT UDF, CIVIL RIGHTS, TEAM, SUCA.

A G E N D A

- 1) Declaration
- 2) Namibia Campaign
- 3) ECC News
- 4) Date of next meeting

1) Declaration

The declaration has so far been endorsed by :

- * Black Sash
- * UCT SRC
- * UCT Medical Students' Council
- * Mike Savage
- * Civil Rights League
- * Catholic War and Peace
- * WPCC

It was reported back that :

- a) Grassroots felt that they could not support the declaration since they are a community newspaper and could not express opinions on behalf of the community. They are however, supportive of our campaign and would be willing to print information about the ECC.
- b) Quite a lot of organisations have not had general meetings yet, so have not had the opportunity to endorse the declaration.

It was agreed that the next meeting (Thursday 3 May) should be a deadline for collecting in declaration signatures. Ideas were thrown out as to how to publicise the declaration and included :

- * painting a banner
- * producing a pamphlet with signatures
- * devising a newspaper strategy
- * holding a meeting to gather endorses together to publically endorse the declaration.

It was raised that organisations that have endorsed the declaration should be sent minutes and general ECC material.

2) Namibia

a) Public meeting

Venue : St. Georges Cathedral

Speakers : Hurley, Kameeta, Mike van Graan - almost definitely

The meeting will be held under an ECC banner.

b) Symbolic event

Various ideas discussed for this :

- * vigil
- * candles held in the street (for those killed in Namibia War)
- * candles on tables at St Georges Church meeting
- * 5000 people holding candles (?!?)
- COSG group was mandated to look into this after lengthy discussion.

c) Pamphlets (Date of Distribution : Sat 12th)

Campus & Team organising these.

d) Concert

Campus is proceeding with this idea. Date : possibly 18th May.

e) Posters

David was mandated to speak to Leslie re the possibility of CAP designing us a poster.

f) Press

David will pull together a group who will try and ensure regular publicity.

g) Pickets

Beaver reported back on the extensive work that has been put into organising the pickets.

The demands to be put on the pickets were finalised as :

- i) TROOPS OUT OF NAMIBIA NOW
- ii) PEACE IN NAMIBIA NOW

(An idea that was rejected was - KEEP NAMIBIA CLEAN; TROOPS OUT OF NAMIBIA NOW)

Beaver worked out 37 points in the Cape Town district which would catch the vast flow of evening traffic. It was agreed that the executive would parcel out these spots among organisations. Each spot requires two people.

Picketing will take place on Friday 11 May and Friday 18 May, between 4.00pm and 6.00pm. The central collection point for pickets will be 5 Mallesson Road, Mowbray.

Beaver also reported back that Black Sash was going ahead with the stickers.

3) ECC Newsletter

Names for the newsletter which will hopefully come out soon were suggested

- Cancel the call-up clarion
- Ban the call-up bugal.

4) Date of next meeting

3 May at 8.00p.m.

MINUTES OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 1984

PRESENT : BLACK SASH, WM, CATHOLIC JUSTICE & PEACE, UWO, OBSERVATORY UDF,
COSG, UCT SRC

APOLOGIES: WPCC, NUSAS, CLAREMONT UDF, CIVIL RIGHTS, TEAM, SUCA.

A G E N D A

- 1) Declaration
- 2) Namibia Campaign
- 3) ECC News
- 4) Date of next meeting

1) Declaration

The declaration has so far been endorsed by :

- * Black Sash
- * UCT SRC
- * UCT Medical Students' Council
- * Mike Savage
- * Civil Rights League
- * Catholic War and Peace
- * WPCC

It was reported back that :

- a) Grassroots felt that they could not support the declaration since they are a community newspaper and could not express opinions on behalf of the community. They are however, supportive of our campaign and would be willing to print information about the ECC.
- b) Quite a lot of organisations have not had general meetings yet, so have not had the opportunity to endorse the declaration.

It was agreed that the next meeting (Thursday 3 May) should be a deadline for collecting in declaration signatures. Ideas were thrown out as to how to publicise the declaration and included :

- * painting a banner
- * producing a pamphlet with signatures
- * devising a newspaper strategy
- * holding a meeting to gather endorses together to publically endorse the declaration.

It was raised that organisations that have endorsed the declaration should be sent minutes and general ECC material.

2) Namibia

a) Public meeting

Venue : St. Georges Cathedral

Speakers : Hurley, Kameeta, Mike van Graan - almost definitely

The meeting will be held under an ECC banner.

b) Symbolic event

Various ideas discussed for this :

- * vigil
- * candles held in the street (for those killed in Namibia War)
- * candles on tables at St Georges Church meeting
- * 5000 people holding candles (?!?)
- COSG group was mandated to look into this after lengthy discussion.

c) Pamphlets (Date of Distribution : Sat 12th)

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3) ECC Newsletter

Names for the newsletter which will hopefully come out soon were suggested

- Cancel the call-up clarion
- Ban the call-up bugal.

4) Date of next meeting

3 May at 8.00p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

MINUTES of the 8th Meeting of the ECC held on the
3rd May 1984.

PRESENT: Black Sash, WPCC, Catholic War & Peace, TEAM, SUCA, WMP, Observatory UDF, Gardens UDF, COSG, UCT SRC, Namibian Action Group, Claremont UWO, Civil Rights League, AZASO.

APOLOGIES: NUSAS

1. NAMIBIA PLANS:

(a) Speakers from Namibia

A member of the Committee, recently in Namibia, noted:

- (i) that May 4th is Kassinga Day;
- (ii) the importance of the Mariental case.

and therefore suggested that speakers get invited down from Namibia to speak during the focus week. A group was set up to look into the viability of bringing speakers down which included representatives from ECC executive, TEAM, Adac and UCT SRC. Two speakers were suggested:

- Adv Lubowski - An advocate who was involved in the Sam Binga Trial and is very familiar with the security legislation in Namibia.
- Hans Rohr - The leader of the Namibian Christian Democratic Party who has documented SADF atrocities in Namibia.

For the programme of their suggested activities, see the attached time table.

A press meeting has been organised for these two speakers to which 20 newspapers have been invited. If anyone has any contacts in the papers, please speak to Mike. Also, as regards any press coverage of any event during the focus week, contact either: Mike at 47-7407, or Anton at 47-6726.

As regards the meeting on Tuesday 9th - it was noted that two pamphlets had been put out around the Mariental case on campus, and that these could be distributed at that meeting.

(b) Pickets

Beaver pointed out that:

- (i) boards for the Friday 11th stand will be available from Malleson Road from Sunday afternoon onwards;
- (ii) these boards must be returned to Malleson Road directly after the stand;

- (iii) boards for the Friday 18th stand will be available on Sunday 13th from Malleson Road again;
- (iv) instructions and standing positions will be posted on the back of the boards;
- (v) people are recommended to take cameras with them to record any unusual events;
- (vi) Beaver can be contacted at 72-3468.

(c) Final Public Meeting

Time: Sunday, 3.00 pm, 20 May
Place: St Georges
Speakers: Peter Storey (past-president of the SACC)
Pastor Kameeta
Mike van Graar

There was discussion and no agreement around whether there should be questions at the Namibia Meeting.

Also, the question of a UDF support statement was discussed and it was finally decided that UDF would be invited to make a statement at the meeting.

A pamphlet group was set up to organise an ECC pamphlet that could be widely distributed in churches, shopping centers and mosques. The person to contact is Jane at 65-1031.

It was decided that the Media Group will co-ordinate

- * badges
- * posters
- * banners

It was also mentioned that it would be a good idea to use the student viewpoint column to pick up on the Namibian issue. This idea will be discussed with campus people.

If anyone has any bright ideas or problems in the forthcoming period, the phone numbers of the executive are:

David 65-1031
Viv 47-5521
Leslie 45-1180
Beaver 72-3468

- (d) The campus multi-cultural festival is proceeding with vigour. It will be held on May 18th (not May 19th). Anyone knowing of any anti-war music, poetry or plays is please to contact Mike Loewe at 47-9272.

2. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 10th May, 1984 at 8.00 pm.

NAMIBIA FOCUS IDEAS

POSSIBLE DATES AND ACTIVITIES

MAY :

- Friday 4th No Win stickers/Posters begin to appear
- Monday 7th Launch of declaration in press
- Tuesday 8th
- Wednesday 9th Peace Now Concert
- Thursday 10th
- Friday 11th Pickets : Peace in Namibia Now
- Saturday 12 No War in Namibia: Pamphlet blitz of shopping centres
- Sunday 13th
- Monday 14th)
- Tuesday 15th) Press feature : *Namibia display at Baxter/Labia
- Wednesday 16th) *Teleletters
- Thursday 17th) *Statements to the press
- Friday 18th Pickets: Bring Our Boys Back
- Symbolic Event - eg. Candles for Peace
- Saturday 19th Articles and photo in press of symbolic event
- Street Theatre
- Sunday 20th am. Leaflets in all churches
- Support from local churches
- 6.00 pm. Service for Namibia
- 7.30 pm. Public meeting - 'Peace in Namibia'
- Speakers : Pastor Kameeta?
- Archbishop Hurley?
-

No minutes of 9th + 10th meetings → 10th + 17th May
- essentially co-ordinated Namibia focus

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE E.E.C. HELD ON 7 JUNE 1984

PRESENT : WPCC, COSG, UWO Claremont, UDF Claremont, OBS UDF, Catholic W P Kolbe, Team, SUCA, NUSAS, UCT SRC

APOLOGIES : Black Sash

1. There are no minutes for the 9th & 10th ECC meetings - they were purely administrative meetings for the Namibia Campaign.
2. ACC Report-back - This is the UDF anti-conscription committee and consists of UDF affiliates (CAHAC, CAYCO, UWO...) and the ECC.
Activities - They are assisting Mitchells Plain in the organisation of a rally on June 17 at Westridge Civic at which conscription will be one half of a dual focus.
3. Suggestions from the COSG Namibia Action Group
 - a) Questionnaire - NAG gave out a questionnaire which they distributed for participants in the Namibia campaign to respond to.
 - b) Assessment - (i) UCT : Namibia display was very well received. The Kassinga poster wasn't used - seen by some as distasteful. Certainly succeeded in raising issue of Namibia on campus.
(ii) Main meeting : It was felt that Sunday afternoon was a bad time for the meeting and that an evening during the week would have been better. Also that while the posters all over town certainly raised the issue of Namibia in people's minds - the actual lettering advertising the meeting was too small.
(iii) UDF Area Committees : there was unfortunately little involvement from the UDF A/C's, partly because of the big Republic Day meeting.
(iv) Vigil : felt that this was well organised and meaningful - but it was very poorly attended. It was however very badly advertised, this points to our need to form contact people in different churches. It was suggested that it might be useful to form some sort of contact structure in the churches.
(v) Overall : People felt that the overall effect of the campaign was very positive - and that we had succeeded in our aim of raising the Namibian issue. It was also felt that the campaign was a boost to people in Namibia.
 - c) Pamphlet - Suggestion for a follow-up pamphlet on Namibia. This was accepted by the committee and NAG volunteered to organise a pamphlet which they would bring to next meeting for distribution.
 - d) The following two events were raised - 20-22 July - COSG national conference at Wilgespruit near Johannesburg; 22nd (afternoon) - co-ordinating session for EEC's.
We will obviously need reps from ECC's to attend the conference. It was agreed that we would discuss it next meeting.
 - e) (SUCA) sweat shirts are on sale for R7,50 each.

4. Work over next 6 weeks -

a) Declaration

* Signed at present - Evangelical Lutheran Church, UCT SRC, UCT Medical Council, Prof. Mike Savage, Black Sash, Catholic War & Peace.
CAHAC - will sign
MPCC - will sign.

* People were requested to follow up their various organisations so that we can fully assess the state of play re the declaration at our next meeting.

b) Other Activities - could have educative input within organisations eg. export the ECC meeting which replaced Rohr & Lubowski (ie video and talk by Mike V.G.)

There was a suggestion that we hold a vigil/service around the July military intake. This can perhaps be organised by ECC church people. Leslie will contact people to discuss the feasibility of this idea and the committee can discuss the idea at the next meeting.

5. David is resigning as chairperson. We can discuss this fully at our next meeting. People should think about a replacement for David as well as thinking of a patron for our campaign.

6. Date of our next meeting - Thursday 21 June.

MINUTES OF THE TWELTH MEETING OF THE CAPE TOWN E.C.C.
HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST JUNE, 1984.

PRESENT: WPCC, COSG, UWO Claremont, Black Sash, Suca, Team, U.C.T. S.R.C., Civil Rights League.

APOLOGIES: Kolbe, Catholic War and Peace, Nusas, Obs. UD.F..

1. NEWS

David reported back on contact he had had with the Johannesburg ECC on a recent trip to Johannesburg. He said that they are planning to hold a Namibia focus week from June 21st - 26th along very similar lines to the Cape Town focus week.

2. EXECUTIVE

David explained to the group that since he had a July call-up he would be unable to continue in the position of chair of the committee. After some discussion it was decided that it would be useful for the person in the chair to be a member of COSG as according to the original structure. There were strong motivations for Mike Evans to take the chair. Mike accepted the job, but pointed out that one of his limitations for the position is that he is still regarded as a "student type". He therefore endorsed an earlier suggestion that the ECC look for a patron, who has standing in the community and can represent ECC on public platforms.

Some discussion followed on the subject of a patron:

There was some concern expressed about a single individual being seen as responsible for the campaign and it was therefore motivated that there should be a group of patrons. Some people felt that it would be unwieldy to have more than one patron. It would be far easier to arrange meetings with and keep in contact with a single patron. There were further motivations against a single patron; It was felt that it was a bit much to expect one individual to take responsibility for a campaign they were not directly involved in. Also individuals would be more likely to accept the position of patron, if they knew the responsibility was going to be shared by several people. Various suggestions for patrons of the campaign were made. It was decided that the Executive would speak to the individuals concerned and report back to the committee, before and final decisions about the number of patrons were made.

3. ACTIVITIES

(a) Declaration

Signatures from the following people and organisations have been received.

Oscar Wolhein (Race Relations)
David Welsh
Jakes Gerwel
Race Relations
Black Sash
U.W.O.
W.M.P.
Nusas
U.C.T. S.R.C.
W.P.C.C.
U.C.T. M.S.C.
Prof. Mike Savage
ANSOC
CAHAC
CAYCO
CLOWU
COSAS
DPSC
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Quakers
UDF

A list was read out to remind people of signatures still to be collected.

(b) Pamphlet

A pamphlet was read to the committee re the July call up and thoroughly endorsed by the committee. It is to be distributed on Saturday 30th June.

(c) National Cosg Conference

Members of the committee were encouraged to attend the conference. The Executive was mandated to draw up a report of the Cape Town ECC to present to the conference.

(d) There has been a suggestion that November 11th (Armistice Day) should be declared Namibia Day.

(e) There was a suggestion that the committee meets on a Saturday morning to assess our past activities and plan for the forthcoming months. This was agreed upon by the committee and will be discussed at our next meeting.

4. Date of next Meeting : Thursday, 26th July.

Present: SUCA, COSG, OBS Area Comm., UCT SRC, Team.

Apologies: WPCC, UWO Claremont, Claremont UDF Committee, NUSAS.

1. COSG CONFERENCE REPORT BACK

Minutes of the E.C.C. discussion will be sent around. These minutes will thus simply reflect discussion arising from points raised in the report back.

(a) Patrons

A suggestion was put forward at the COSG Conference that there should be national patrons from each region. Also that the different regions should discuss and agree with all the patrons. This idea was agreed on by the meeting and it was decided that the different organisations should think of two patrons for the Cape Town region.

(b) National ECC Conference

A further suggestion was that a national ECC Conference be held on the 26th/27th Jan. It was felt that this should be a working conference and the need for this must be discussed in the various centres.

2. ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

As discussed last week, ECC will be holding an assessment workshop.

Proposed Date : 12 August
Time : 2 - 5.30 p.m.
Venue : Rondebosch Congregational

After some discussion it was decided that as many members from organisations as possible should be encouraged to attend.

Areas to be discussed:

- Declaration and Patrons
- Structure and finance
- National Co-ordination
- Interest Groups - (Youth, Parents)
- Namibia campaign direction.

3. TRI-CAMERAL ELECTIONS

Viv raised importance of opposition to the new deal and especially the possibility of extension of conscription during the forthcoming period. People at the meeting suggested that a letter to press around the issue was a good idea and a group was set up to write it.

4. FINANCE

The Executive raised that the idea that in order that ECC might be a bit more liquid, that organisations should contribute R5 - R20 a month for running costs. The issue will be more fully discussed later.

5. EXECUTIVE MEETINGS WITH ECC ORGANISATIONS

Executive reported back that in response to the dwindling numbers at meetings, they had set about organising meetings to discuss the ECC with constituent organisations. This action met with the full support of the stalwarts present.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8 P.M. 16TH AUGUST, RONDEBOSCH CONGREGATIONAL

12/9/84

END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE

28 July 1984

Dear ECC Member

This note is to encourage you to attend an ECC Workshop and the next ECC Meeting and to bring to your attention a couple of issues which it would be useful if people discussed in their organisations before the next ECC Meeting.

(1) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16 August, 8.00 pm, Rondebosch Congregational Church.

(2) ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING WORKSHOP

12 August, 2.00 - 5.30pm, Rondebosch Congregational Church.

At our last meeting it was decided that it would be useful to have a thorough afternoon of planning and assessment of the campaign and the workings of our committee.

Areas that will be covered include :

- * Namibia Campaign - where to next?
- * Structure and finance of committee
- * National Co-ordination
- * Interest groups on youth/parents/international peace groups
- * the Declaration and Patrons

This workshop will be open to anyone in our organisations and representatives are asked to make a special effort to attend.

(3) ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED :

(a) Patrons

It has been suggested in the committee that it would be useful to have patrons for the end conscription campaign. This issue was raised at a meeting held in Johannesburg with reps from the Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban ECC's. This group suggested that we have national patrons (approximately two from each region.) Organisations need to discuss this idea, and put forward suggestions for patrons from Cape Town.

(b) Declaration

Another suggestion raised by the group of ECC reps from different regions was that the declaration should be launched nationally. (The other regions have adopted Cape Town's declarations and are busy collecting signatures). We need suggestions as to how we can launch the declaration.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NEXT ECC MEETING.

VIV

P.S. If any of this is unclear you can phone me at 47-9236

MINUTES OF THE 14th MEETING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE HELD ON
16 AUGUST 1984

PRESENT : COSG, Black Sash, SUCA, TEAM, War and Peace, Claremont UWO
and UDF

APOLOGIES : Board of Social Responsibility, WPCC, Methodist Citizenship
Board, Civil Rights League, UCT SRC, Observatory UDF

1. EXECUTIVE REPORT

The executive has begun its meetings with ECC organisations. So far Leslie and Mike have met with Catholic Justice and Peace. Meetings have been planned with BSR, War and Peace, WPCC and the Community Arts Project.

They also met with Archbishop Russell, who indicated that he would only be able to sign the declaration once it had been endorsed by Provincial Standing Committee or the Synod of Bishops. These groups would be meeting later in the year.

Tri-Cameral elections

Mike noted that the executive's letter concerning the extension of conscription to coloureds and indians, had been published in the Cape Herald, but not in the other 3 Cape newspapers.

Executive functions

The executive has delineated specific tasks for each executive member:-

Chairperson - chairing meetings, representing ECC publicly, assisting with liaison, and with international and press contact.

Vice-chairperson - replacing chairperson in his/her absence, financial co-ordination, liaison with lawyers and hall-booking.

Secretary - minutes, correspondence and keeping records.

Liaison officer - liaison with ECC and other organisations, international contact.

Media officer - co-ordinator of media committee, press liaison.

2. FINANCES

Mike stressed the urgency of this issue. ECC had no funds whatsoever. Three solutions were outlined:

(a) the executive has written to Durban and Johannesburg ECC's requesting that we apply for funds internationally as soon as possible, rather than waiting until January to make this decision. We could easily draw up a provisional budget.

(b) All ECC organisations have been approached to contribute between R5 and R20 per month to ECC. Organisations could decide how much they could afford. So far Black Sash is the only organisation to specify their contribution: R15 per month.

(c) Tight financial co-ordination was stressed. This will be ensured through a small finance committee co-ordinated by Beaver. The executive has requested that someone see it as his/her comradely duty to assist Beaver. All s/he will need are limited book-keeping skills. Margot indicated that if no one else volunteered, she would be willing to assist.

3. ISSUES ARISING FROM WORKSHOP

(a) Declaration

Proposed date for launch : weekend of 13/14 October.

Proposed form : to draw in UDF anti-conscription committee as a co-sponsor; to go as public as possible and incorporate drama and cultural elements into the programme. Richard will approach ACC.

And adhoc declaration sub-committee will be formed at the next ECC meeting. All affiliates are requested to send representatives.

So far 24 organisations and 15 individuals have endorsed the declaration. The latest endorser is the National Catholic Federation of Students.

(b) Youth

It has been suggested that organisations working amongst youth meet to discuss next year's youth focus. Since no one volunteered to co-ordinate such an initial discussion, it was suggested that it be postponed. Alternatively, the COSG schools group could co-ordinate such a meeting.

(c) Namibia

The Namibian Students' Organisation is planning to hold a solidarity meeting at UWC on the 26th August (Namibia solidarity day). Richard will request that ECC be permitted to make a statement of support.

The proposal that ECC form a Namibia sub-committee was postponed for discussion until our next meeting.

(d) Media

All affiliates were requested to put forward representatives to sit on the media sub-committee. The co-ordinator will sit on the executive. Margot was nominated to co-ordinate, but a final decision was postponed till the next meeting.

4. ECC MEETINGS

The executive suggested that brief (15 minute) input on a topical issue related to conscription be provided at each meeting. However, the majority feeling was that such inputs would make our meetings too long, and would be too much of a work-load for organisations to bear. In the end it was agreed that if particularly topical issues arose, then the executive could organise a short input/discussion.

The executive also suggested that tea be re-introduced at meetings. But again the committee decided against it, the majority feeling being that after 2 hours' discussion, people weren't keen to "hang around".

5. GENERAL

SUCA requested that affiliates return money for Namibia sweat-shirts.

It was noted that Vivien McMenamin's term of office on the UCT SRC had come to an end, and that she was resigning as ECC secretary. The committee expressed deep appreciation to Viv for all her work (much of it "behind the scenes"), and for her cheerful contributions at meetings. Thanks, Viv - truly a daughter of Africa.

6. NEXT MEETING : Thursday 30 August

MINUTES OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE,
HELD ON 30 AUGUST 1984

PRESENT: COSG, SUCA, UCT SRC, NUSAS, WPCC, Catholic Justice and Peace, Anglican Board of Social Responsibility, Gardens UDF, Observatory UDF, Claremont UDF and UWO, Rondebosch Congregational Church.

APOLOGIES: Black Sash, Catholic War and Peace, TEAM

1. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter responding to the ECC pamphlet, "What does the call-up mean to you?" was read out.

2. REPORTS

a) International Namibia Day

Richard reported on the meeting held at UWC, which was addressed by 2 SWAPO members. There was also poetry and a short play. A message of support from ECC was read out. Overall, the meeting was very good with a strong spirit of unity. The common theme was: "Their struggle is our struggle. Our struggle is their struggle."

b) UDF Anti-Conscription Committee

Richard reported that the ACC is going through a process of assessment and re-appraisal following the August 22/28 elections.

c) Organisational activities around conscription

Observatory UDF reported that it would be holding a workshop on September 2 at NUSAS Head Office from 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. The workshop will include short talks on militarisation, and the psychological effects of militarisation, a video on conscription, simulated exercises about how to debate the issue of conscription, group discussion on the campaign, and a 'cultural supprt'.

Anglican BSR reported that it was trying to change the Anglican canons, so that for military chaplains to operate in any area, the permission of the resident bishop would be required. Ivan pointed out that the Bishop of Namibia has indicated that he would refuse to give such permission. The BSR is also producing a booklet on militarisation, with information on the law, the board, synod decisions, etc.

NUSAS announced that its booklet on conscriptions was still on sale for 80c.

UCT SRC reported that two candidates in the SRC elections Paula Hathorn and Donald Skinner, were standing on a "Unite Against Conscription" ticket. In the course of their campaign they had managed to raise the conscription issue amongst a wide range of students.

Claremont UDF reported that they intended running an education focus on conscription over the next few weeks.

d) Exec Meetings with organisations

Anglican BSR - Lesley and Mike met with about 10 members of the Board and received a very positive and supportative response. They raised the possibility of having a permanent representative on the Board who would focus on conscription. They also spoke of taking up the issue formally in church structures.

Community Arts Project - They wont formally join ECC, but their facilities are available to us.

WPCC Board - Mike addressed about 30 members of the Board this evening. The board members then raised the difficulties they have had in taking up the issue in the churches. They endorsed the declaration and said that they would take it back to their denominations for endorsement.

3. MEDIA COMM.

Margo Lynn was ratified as the co-ordinator of the Media Committee. She will sit on the Executive.

4. DECLARATION LAUNCH

a) Process leading up to the launch

The following suggestions were made and discussed as to the type of activities ECC could engage in over the next six weeks:

- * Teleletters and letters to newspapers.
- * Press Conference
- * Pickets
- * Pamphlets
- * Cultural Road-Show
- * Slide Show of the declaration
- * A slide in cinemas
- * A concert (there was much debate as to the value of a concert in terms of raising the issue of conscription. In the end, the majority feeling was that we should go ahead with a concert, aiming it at an audience which we don't reach through meetings, etc).
- * A display
- * An A.1 poster of the declaration
- * A feature in the newspaper
- * Debate in the press around the Argus' lack of coverage of conscription.
- * An advert in the paper with endorsees listed.
- * A public debate, preferably organised by SAIRR or Civil Rights League.
- * Mass distribution of the declaration.
- * A vigil.
- * A day of prayer in the churches.

b) Launch

It was stressed that we must go as wide as possible, aiming particularly at conscriptees and their relatives, but also drawing in those organisations which have endorsed the declaration, but whose membership is not yet conscripted. The programme must be exciting, incorporating cultural activities and discussion from the floor.

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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