

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

18 September 1986

Dear Matt

Greetings from a sunny state of emergency! I am writing to bring you up to date on our work. We are all doing well. There has not been any state action against us for some weeks now, and while the situation has far from returned to normality there does seem to be a more relaxed attitude in ECC circles around the country. The Eastern Cape and Jo'burg are experiencing both the greatest repression and threat of further action. Such action up till now has included detentions, many raids on members homes and places of work, as well as assorted harrasment such as the petrol bombing of Steve Lowry's house. Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Stellenbosch, Cape Town and Pretoria are experiencing conditions in which one might think that there were no emergency.

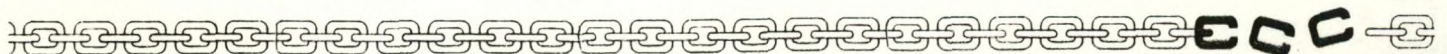
Most of our detainees have been released. They are Karen Thorne from Grahamstown, Mike Loewe and Sandy Stewart of Port Elizabeth. Mike and Sandy have been issued with emergency banning orders which effectively bar them from participating in political activities. Despite this they are all well and raring to carry on work. You should have been informed by CIIR of Janet Cherry's detention. I asked them to pass on the news to you. Janet, the chair of the Port Elizabeth ECC was detained in Cape Town where she had been in hiding for about a month. Janet has faced extensive repression in the past having been detained 4 times in PE, suffering numerous raids, and acts of intimidation. Earlier this year she was wrongfully arrested on a charge of possessing an illegal drug. Her car has twice been fire-bombed. We feared greatly for her safety as a result. Soon after being taken in she was moved from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth. We have fortunately received good news about her and that is that she has been taken out of solitary confinement and placed with two white women detainees viz. Anne Burroughs and Louise Vale. The other ECC members still in detention are Melissa de Villiers, Bridget Hilton-Barber, and Roelien Theron in Grahamstown; Dominic Souchon and Philip Wilkinson in Port Elizabeth; and Ian McKenzie in Cape Town.

We have approached the French Embassy for assistance and pressure in Janet's case. They gave us a sympathetic hearing due to Janet's ECC work in France earlier this year. Regarding Dominic's threatened deportation (he has been under threat of deportation since July 7 when a deportation order was issued against him) we have heard that his Mauritian passport has expired and the Mauritian's are not intending to issue him with a new one. This effectively jams up the works for the South African authorities. This should provide the time and pressure to remove his deportation order.

We are at the moment in between intensive periods of public work. We held a succesful meeting in Cape Town entitled ECC speaks which was attended by between 7 and 800 people. While this figure is below the three to four thousand figure that Cape Town people have become accustomed to, it was good considering the fact that the white South African public have been very frightened by the state of emergency and as a result can not be relied on to come forward in large numbers. The meeting formed part of our national "Right to Speak" campaign which is a counter to the emergency regulations' silencing of us.

As part of this campaign we have participated in joint public meetings with other organisations on the theme of the "right to know". We have put forward ECC's point of view in such meetings in Johannesburg, Pietermaritzburg and Durban. In these centres as well as in Grahamstown, Stellenbosch and Cape Town we have distributed large numbers of media. I have included examples. We have also had an ad placed in papers around the country which is a statement endorsed by a number of prominent individuals. We are also shortly to be running a campaign in Jo'burg with a dual focus: firstly we will be calling for the right to speak; and in the second place we will be protesting at the troop presence in the townships and in the schools there. We will be producing a lot

2/...



End Conscription Campaign

of media, be using symbolic yellow ribbons to make the call for "Troops Out" capture the public imagination, and we will be culminating with a public meeting. This meeting is being seen as atesting of the legal ground on which we operate. It is going to be a calculated risk to hold the meeting, but this is worth the potential gains we will be making if it goes off without incident.

People in Durban are looking at a focus with the theme of "Is the war worth the cost of fighting it". Practical ideas around this theme are still being considered. Also in Durban there is a new issue of "At Ease" about to start rolling off the presses. We are also planning a dinner in Durban for October 19 to celebrate three years of our existence. We expect about 250 of our close supporters to attend and we intend having a speaker.

Perhaps one of the most exciting aspects of our work at present is the growth and consolidation of our branch in Pretoria. As you know Pretoria is the heartland of the white South African war machine. Any development of white resistance to apartheid and militarization is thus a very exciting development in the city. We are very pleased that the ECC group there is pulling together very well, and after only a few months of being in existence is planning a public campaign around the right to speak theme.

Earlier in the emergency we were considering taking the state to court to contest the emergency regulation that restrict our work. We were also in the process of bringing an action against the Aida Parker Newsletter in the Media Council as a result of a 12 page smear that she published about us in May. At that stage we were busy with presenting our argument to the Media Council as to why we felt the APN should fall under the jurisdiction of that body. This followed Aida Parker refusing to subscribe herself to its authority claiming that only registered newspapers were obliged to do so. It has since tranpired that Aida Parker by doing this had in fact lied to the council as it has been discovered that her publication is a registered newspaper. This has meant that the case is going ahead on October 6 in Cape Town. Our lawyer is very confident of our succeeding in the case. We have decided to conclude this case before bringing any further action against the state.

By taking Aida Parker on in this way we are in effect taking the state on as regards the arguments it uses against ECC. In a recent application for the release of detainees (including two ECC members) the security police pointed to the arguments in the Aida Parker Newsletter as the basis for detaining ECC members. A number of right-wing publications with close links to the state have quoted from the newsletter. Our case against Aida Parker is thus more than a simple matter between us and her. It assumes the proportions of an ideological challenge against the state. If we win, which we are confident of doing, it will mean that we are setting back the state's attack on us in a significant way. We thus stand to gain a great deal from this action. As a result we also intend to have a big media drive around the hearing.

As well as the campaign and ongoing work of ECC at the moment we are also looking at the future of the campaign. With our seeing the emergency, or conditions akin to an emergency, lasting for a very long time we feel the need to very carefully asses where we are going.

An important point of direction is that we hope to motivate our member organisations to take much more responsibility for the campaign and the issue of the military in South African society. In this sense we are very fortunate that one of our key member organisations, COSG (Conscientious Objectors' Support Group), is still going strong. It is running advice bureaus for conscripts as well as establishing an association of all those at present engaged in alternative service. This past weekend saw COSG hold its 7th annual conference which was very succesful with much useful practical discussion about counselling and CO support.

At the conference I met Rob Goldmen who sends his fondest regards.

The UDF is interested in ~~the~~ spring tour, but would need to know more details about it before committing itself to sending people. They would like to know the exact position as regards the hosting of the tour, which groups would be included in the itinerary etc. Would it be possible for you to send more details?

I have enclosed an outline and proposal of the book we are writing for CIIR. The manuscript would be the same one we would be submitting to New Society Publishers. Could you please forward it to them for us.

I will shortly be sending out another letter for widespread international distribution. CIIR are at present atking responsibility for the distribution for us. They are however under heavy oressure of work and it has not been possible for them to distribute to everyone on our mailing list. Would WRL be in a position to distribute to the North American organisations on our list? If so could you communicate with the CIIR people in London about how to do this. At present I send them a package of things for distribution. Perhaps they can pass on to you those that are intended for North America. The reason for this cumbersome process is that we feel that to send the packages from South Africa would lead to them not reaching their destinations due to the authorities here intercepting them.

A final note is that Justin Hardcastle, a leading member of ECC in Cape Town, is shortly to leave for London where he is to study for a few years. For the first month or two of his visit he will be a formal ECC rep in the UK and will be doing public work for us. If you would like to get hold of him for anything you can do so through the CIIR from October 1.

Greetings from Gavin, Laurie and Pete. They are all doing very well despite their altered appearances and current status of being in hiding.

Go well

Love

David

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
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2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

1 October 1986

Hello and welcome,

This is just another of those packages. Enclosed please find:

- 1) Memo from Bell, Dewar and Hall on the state of the Emergency Regulations
- 2) A compilation of press clips on the first three months of the emergency
- 3) An interview with Magnus Malan from the latest Die Suid Afrikaan containing a bitter attack on us. Pretoria people want to workshop and write a response. Is that OK with you?
- 4) An interview with Zwelakhe Sisulu which contains some rather pleasant references to ECC.
- 5) A copy of an extract from Dove Tail from Pax Christi in the US
- 6) A copy of our press release re the Media Council hearing
- 7) My love
- 8) a statement in which I implore you to go and keep well

OK Bye

David

8-10-86

Hi Dave

Sorry to have taken so long with this.

The memo re amendment bill was put together the evening before the standing com. sat - co is scrappy. We are reviewing it for submission, along with motivations for widening scope of service (data re welfare organisations etc) and a report on how community service is functioning.

The other memo, of 12/12/84, is also loose, and a "trail blazer" sent to all govt depts to test the channels of communication. A second one, much more comprehensive, is fairly shortly to follow it up.

I'm afraid I don't have a copy of the Bill on me. Rob Robertson should have one. See copy of Bill enclosed

Regards

Pete Kantor

Johannesburg 18/10/1986

Dear All,

Since I last wrote, life in Jhb has improved considerably. There hasn't been a house-raid for weeks (though the detention of the 3 JODAC people - which was largely due to slackness - has kept us on our toes); the sun shines and spring is definitely in the air. ECC is going fine, though we have struggled a little in conceptualising this campaign.

We have, in fact, entirely refocused our 'Right to Speak'. This is a result of several factors: the urgent need to respond to the Troops in the schools, the fact that we have been speaking very regularly in the Papers anyway, and the fact that we have already had $\frac{1}{4}$ of a year of this S. of E. What we have decided to do is to make a tripple focus: Troops out of the schools (and Townships) - Our Right to oppose concepts - we work for a Just Peace. A fuller motivation is enclosed, but please guard it carefully!

Internally, we have been building up our strength slowly. The Internal Education Forum is continuing weekly. Unfortunately the process of writing up papers has fizzled out, so we can't send you material at this stage. We have just had another security workshop, focussing especially on strategies for detention. We have also planned a skills workshop (chaining meetings, reporting back etc). We have initiated a structure re-evaluation process with a view to elections for a new exec towards mid November. Our sub-committees are thoroughly tied

up in campaign work. We now have separate media and culture groups, and have revived contact. Our Afrikaans group is still not functioning, but we're working on that. The big problem remains our affiliates, only 3 of whom came to our last General Body meeting, and many of whom do not seem to be functioning normally at the moment. How are you dealing with similar problems?

I have been asked to raise a number of ideas for action and discussion. Please could you respond somehow?

1. We should make a big thing out of our birthday (see the UOF's publicity around theirs), linking in to R2S. The idea would be to emphasise legitimacy, importance, growth etc.

BUI When is our birthday? And how old are we? Eventually we have come up with a more-or-less inaccurate date, the 18/19th October - the Declaration Launch, 2nd anniversary.

or Sometime at the Beginning of the year - 3rd Anniversary.

What do you think?

We have had 3 ideas for action (see attached page)

2. People here are keen to make an ECC 1987 Diary, possibly published by Ravan. Are there any objections to the idea? A full motivation + budget probably follows.
3. We also have a group prepared to work on the National Publication. What's going to happen with it?

Please keep in touch! It would be good to hear from you all.
love, Clare

Johannesburg 18/10/1986

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Please keep in touch! It would be good to hear from you all.
love, Clare

Dear Paula,
Could you please read & suggest what
I should do with this

Cape Town

30.10.86.

Dear Dave.

Greetings from the Eastern Cape!

I had rather a rude awakening after national Com. - I hadn't even unpacked my bags from the boot of the car when I was informed by a com. that I had to go into hiding. ECC had organised a concert in a town venue and branch was snooping around, bringing up my name etc. they managed to ruin two consecutive venues until we settled for a mediocre campus hide-away. the evening turned out to be a huge success and I am now finally unpacked and settled.

Despite these mild irritations, Rhodes ECC has decided to come out into the open and assert ourselves as a legal, open organisation. we had our first general body meeting 2 weeks ago (have been meeting in sub-coms. only) and elected a chair (myself) and 2 co-ordinators (Steve Markovitz - culture and Pauline Higgins - media). Orientation com. has got together a dynamic orientation week programme that is bound to have the masses swarming around our recruiting table. Aluta Continua!

there were a couple of important issues that I had to get back to you on. Firstly I include enclosed 2 readings for the organisational pack - I don't know if they are the sort of thing you were thinking of, but I found them quite useful.

We discussed possibilities for the national campaign and concluded that the suggestion from Cape Town was a good

one but that it would have to be adapted to our region - walking into the downship would for eg. be a problem but the idea - what cost the call-up - is great.

Our participation in the national call for unity was initially received with much enthusiasm but after discussion realised that it would involve much consultation with our affiliates. Unfortunately this cannot be done before next term so we can't give a mandated answer. If time is a factor then the general feeling is to put our name on the call for unity but participation in the day of action will have to be discussed.

As far as the meeting with the AWC is concerned - a definite veto. What gains can we make? It was felt that the Function of Ecc is not to lend credibility to the AWC and that we should steer away from any association with it, unless we want to give Aida something to chew on.

People were very interested in COSG and plan to meet with GRACONS next term to discuss the possibility of establishing an advice office re conscription on campus. Yay!

The workbook for detainees will have to be an '87 project as most people are immersed in exams etc. We also feel that it is perhaps something that ex-detainees with restrictions could work on - but we'll have to check with lawyers.

As Far as melissas case is concerned - they have decided to stall it for the moment altho we have money. Basically if the case goes against us it could do alot of damage and leave them more firmly entrenched in detention. It would also have a detrimental affect on the white community who may begin to think that they have done something wrong because court has heard their case - it therefore becomes less of a case of 'detention without trial'.

I am afraid I am unable to send you a detailed budget for next year as we havn't really planned much yet. We have recieved some money from the SRC - the amount of which remains to be seen, I'll get back to you on this sometime early next year.

National Employees?? Naughty Ecc forgot to discuss this somewhat important issue. You know what national reportbacks are like - everyone starts yawning and shuffling their feet. But I will try to speak to individuals and get some sort of suggestion together ... Sorry.

I think thats all I had to get back to you on. Send love to all in thb. especially my friend Steve H.B. Our Coms. in detention seem very well - a bit weary of it all but holding out. Melissa and Janet seem to have become Firm Friends!

See you soon. Go well
Karen thorne



End Conscription Campaign

Room 227
Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg

15 October 1986

Dear Sir

On behalf of Johannesburg ECC I would like to thank you for your most generous donation. It will be well used.

It is encouraging to know that there are those committed to supporting the work of organisations such as ECC and our work towards a just and secure future for all South Africans.

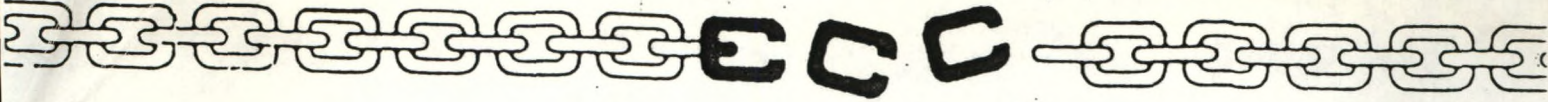
I have enclosed some ECC publications and will place you on our mailing list for future publications.

Once again thank you for your support.

Yours Sincerely

A Kirsten

Adele Kirsten (ECC Executive)



End Conscription Campaign

Room 227

Khotso House

42 De Villiers St

Johannesburg

15 October 1986.

Dear Friends

Enclosed please find a copy of the latest ECC Focus. I have also enclosed some other regional and national publications which may be of interest to you.

We appreciate your support of our work here in South Africa and would value your continued interest. It would also be interesting to hear how your own community is organising around South African issues, particularly in the whole area of militarisation.

We hope that you will find the enclosed materials useful and thank you again for your interest.

In Peace with Justice

Akirsten

Adèle Kirsten (Johannesburg ECC Executive)

2/11/86

Dearest

Hullo hullo already! Lets get down to business!

This is one pack whose contents you have to read!

I will be dispatching the ECC flying chicken to check under your beds and in your bins for unread national reports!

So be warned!

Have a nice day!

Laurie

P.S. In this report / envelope are issues to be discussed in regions coming out of the last NK meeting: the February campaign proposal (- can you make copies for you region), a review of national structures, a description of my work as national organiser and some other bits and pieces.

SOUTH AFRICAN PRESSCLIPS
36 Woodside Road
Tamboerskloof
Cape Town
8001

5 November 1986

David Shandler
End Conscription Campaign
227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Str
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Subscriber

This is a reminder that your subscription to South African Pressclips expired at the end of May 1986.

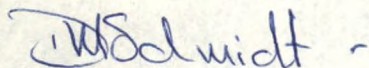
The rates are as follows:

South Africa	R11,20 per month
Other countries in Africa	R16,00
U.S.A.	R25,00
Europe and U.K.	R20,00

If you are interested in renewing your subscription, please let us know as soon as possible. In view of some unfortunate experiences in the past, Pressclips will only be mailed on receipt of payment.

Enclosed also find an invoice for your subscription.

Yours sincerely



MRS DM SCHMIDT

wing propaganda and state attack outweighed the gains in terms of international support, funding etc. We felt we could survive without the extra money and added support and publicity, and that our obligations to WRL should not be over-stressed, but that if any of the potential negative consequences came to fruition it could cause lasting damage to our campaign.

On the other hand most of us felt that if the potential dangers could be lessened then the tour could be of value for ECC. We therefore needed to search for a compromise which both alleviated the dangers outlined above and at the same time fell within the aims of WRL - if we wanted the tour to go ahead - ie we had to bear in mind Matt Meyer's comment on the question on the separation of tours: "I hope that it is more a question of legalistic and logistical maneuvering than a cancellation. But a "by chance" occasional meeting with UDF tour scheme will not work".

Our feeling however, in our search for a workable compromise, was that we should rather err on the side of caution than take a reckless approach in order to ensure the tour remains alive. In other words if the WRL feels the "compromise" we suggest is not acceptable then the tour should be cancelled.

On the question of the "separation of tours" we feel this should go beyond the level of appearances, while recognising that the tour will be cancelled if this is too absolute. A few suggestions in this respect are:

- 1). That WRL alone be the sponsor of the ECC side of the tour (ie at a formalistic level the ECC is hosted by the WRL while the UDF is hosted by the other organisations - or perhaps by all three). Two advantages of this would be that ECC could avoid the direct link with the UDF and that ECC would not be sponsored by a divestment group like the ACOA.
- 2). That the ECC and UDF arrive and leave a few days apart and that they don't hold joint press conferences on arrival or departure.
- 3). That the tour is not advertised as a joint tour.
- 4). That while we accept that at times we will speak together and make joint appearances, and that it might sometimes be necessary for us to travel together, we nevertheless avoid the appearance of being part of an identical package. Therefore, where possible, we need to stay with different people, speak to different groups and at times do separate media appearances.

In general our feeling was that while the level of separation need not be absolute, it should be large enough to enable us to argue that we were part of separate packages and for this argument to be credible.

Secondly, on the question of appearing on ANC platforms or on platforms with ANC speakers our refusal should be absolute.

Thirdly, on the divestment question we should attempt to avoid appearing on platforms solely connected with the sanctions/divestment issue. Our appearance on any platform should be compatible with ECC-related issues such as conscription, militarisation, resistance to conscription, as well as with apartheid, non-racialism etc.

On this point, and also with regard to some of the suggestions in terms of the separation of tours issue, we felt that we should set guidelines rather than water-tight rules for those who representing ECC. There will be many times when the judgement of the ECC reps will be more appropriate in assessing a situation than any hard-and-fast "rules" made back home - ie when to appear with the UDF reps and when it would be imprudent to do so, whether a particular meeting is too closely associated with the divestment issue and so on.

Our feeling was that rather than seeing the tour as a training camp we should make sure that the people we send are experienced ECC people who are familiar with public platforms and who we would feel absolutely confident about in making difficult snap decisions of significance to ECC.

We feel that if we do this and we follow the "compromise" approach outlined above the tour could be of considerable value to ECC and the democratic movement and would not expose us to unnecessary risks.

Gavin

(2)

Let me make clear that what we're envisioning and hoping for is a large scale "events" oriented tour. A meeting with the Mayors of Atlanta, Georgia and/or New Orleans, Louisiana, getting the key to the city; with special Senate and Congressional caucuses in Wash. D.C.; large meetings in NYC and San Francisco and elsewhere; some stops in the deep South; press conferences and cocktail parties, etc. etc. We've already started the planning since the go-ahead from Gavin last month, and as the days go on, more planning is being done. Tomorrow night there's an internal WRL meeting to discuss our role at the next coalition meeting, and to help plan for a special "Racism and Militarism" educational packet that we're producing for the tour. Next Monday another meeting with ACOA and CALCL will discuss fundraising, and will confirm cities and dates (which we've tentatively set, if o.k. by you, at March 5 - April 5).

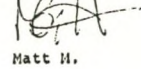
So I need word immediately on what's on or off. I hope that it is more a question of legalistic and logistical maneuvering than a cancellation. But a 'by chance' occasional meeting with UDF tour scheme will not work. We'll hold off (maybe permanently) at reprinting UDF/ECC TOI stationary, but the tour package, from this end, needs to remain pretty much intact. Maybe folks (ECC?) need to travel in their individual capacity?? Though even this, I think, would be a drawback, and of course I and WRL would be disappointed if ECC couldn't come "officially" and in an organizational capacity.

There's much to be gained at this time as far as international solidarity. I hope that we can figure out a way out of this problem.

So much for hurried business. The book looks exciting. And the thought of you as close by as England is exciting, indeed. I've already passed the idea along to one good \$ source, and will work on others in time. Marie and I are well, WRL is getting geared up, Susan S. is in Costa Rica, the New York Mets baseball team have won the "World" Series, and the November mornings are cold, even under my Indian shawl. Be well, my dear friend.

Till I hear your voice,

Love and Struggle,



Matt H.

P.S. - You all should have gotten a significant package, passed on to Beyers from Di Scott here. It had some checks, and many letters of support from Sen. Kennedy, Bishop's Moore and Walker, etc. I'll check on this end to make sure it has been sent out. Keep your eyes posted, and if the worst has happened, I've got copies of everything, and could possibly get the checks re-written.

P.P.S. - Also in the packet was my new home telephone number, though all the old and safe addresses remain the same. Call me at 718-797-9589 in the wee hours, so's I know its you. Also, I've received packet from you, several from Gavin & one from David S. Love to all.

ov. 6, 1986

eariest Laurie,

long and warm (but not quite hot, if you know what I mean) Fall is turning into Winter, quickly now reminding us that 1987 will be a fast-paced year, that the '80's are turning into the '90's at an alarming rate.

Page 3 of the N.Y. Times reports: "Leaving South Africa Increasingly Alone With It's Troubles" in re: IBM & GM, and I cannot help but shift quickly to business - my friend, confidant, dear Laurie.

Just spoke to Ivan Toms, he'll pass the message no, and Ian Linden earlier this week, for another message passed. Your letter arrived two days ago, not dated, but clearly fresh - straight from Graceland.

Now can I explain completely, the problems put forth by your letter? Of course I understand your problems (w/PPF and perceptions at that end, and the increasing attacks, etc.), but I cannot help but really feel that with a possible Aida Parker victory for ECC, and Dominique still on hold, you can only lose by backing ECC into the single issue legalistic corner, away from your natural allies. If they want to ban you that much, they'll ban you anyway. From that end, as I say, I understand the absolute need for the greatest possible political breadth - and you and I and Gavin and I discussed (and must continue to discuss) legalistic and pro-propagandistic ways of making the package acceptable for folks at home.

But from this end, my friend, it is absolutely impossible for us to do a successful tour without putting ECC firmly in the context of the wider movement, which is led by UDF. Without UDF, American Committee on Africa will pull out of the coalition immediately. Though Bayard would be thrilled, no significant Black leader - grassroots or governmental - would have high level meetings with you. Advances within the white "mainstream" (to the extent that this actually exists) would not be forthcoming. Ivan has tilled that field, and Gavin the more progressive end of it, but the next step must be with taken with your Black counterparts in the legal organizing sector.

On the other hand, a joint tour, as I and the WRL and the ACOA leadership now see it - would be a unique opportunity to present to the U.S. movement and people (for the first time in years and years) representatives of South African activists - the spectrum of people, Black and white - who are actually struggling legally within South Africa today. We are clear that ECC could not and would not meet with or share a meeting with any organization that was not legal, or with any banned movement, even if the UDF, at times, would. But to present the legal spectrum - Black and white representatives together - to activists here, would indeed be a first, and an historic moment for the peace and anti-apartheid movement here to go beyond disinvestment towards direct links and support work. The myths of: the military, Black vs. white, Black on Black violence, etc. should be addressed as never before.

Johannesburg 7/11/86.

Dear Biggest-Bestest-Most-Effective-White-National-Organisation,

This is a shortish note to let you know what's happening in Jhb

1. The last action of the Right to Speak Campaign, the women's protest outside the Headquarters of Wits Command, finally happened on the day of the Machel Funeral (having been postponed for a week because of his death). The cops and army pitched up in excessive numbers, cordoned off all the surrounding streets, lined up in battle formation and generally made fools of themselves. A very dignified (and scared) group of 15 women managed to stand in front of Wits Command for $\frac{1}{2}$ a minute, sit down on the pavement for 4 minutes and then get bundled into a Hellow Yellows where they proceeded to tie Yellow Ribbons onto the bars. Another group of 10 women "got lost" and did not end up participating in the final moments of the action. We managed to deliver a statement to Wits Command, a copy of which is enclosed. The women were released without bail after being held for 3 hours and charged under Section 57 of the Internal Security Act (ie Illegal Gathering). They appear in court on 27 November.

We are generally very pleased with the action. It was superbly organised and prepared for, although there were hitches in the heat of the moment. It gained some fairly good publicity (though we'd have liked more) and certainly made a big impression on the crowd which gathered at the scene.

What about some kind of national creative action at the time of the Festival? Possibly linking in to Human Rights Day on the 10th Dec. We'd be very keen.

2. Harassment has reared its ugly head once again. Our General Body Meeting on Thursday 6th was raided by Security Police just as we were about to leave the venue. By the time they had been forced to identify themselves all evidence of ECC had been spirited away, our chairperson had scaled a wall and vanished into the night, and everyone was curdly watching Shaka Zulu. A restriction order, already prepared, was served on Annesmarie Rademeyer, ex-publicity officer and now internal liaison officer on the exec. The order, under regulation 7(1) of the Public Safety Act restricts her from taking part in the activities of ECC, Sash, JODAC, DPSC, Descom, Nensa, Fedbrow or the UOF where these activities aim to incite the public to support or promote calls for: the withdrawal of SADF from any area, the termination of the system of compulsory military service, an end to the State of Emergency, the unbanning of the ANC, or the resignation of Coloured and Indian MPs. She is also restricted from taking part in protest against any action by a force and from taking part in any manner whatsoever in the Yellow Ribbon Campaign. On the same day Joy Harnden (editor of Focus) was issued with a similar order. So were almost every member of the Jodac exec not in detention. This seems to be a new and fairly clever attempt by the state to stop organisation in the white community. In the process of serving orders, the branch hinted this was a national strategy So we think that all centres should step up their security arrangements and, for a while at least, be very protective towards high-profile people in ECC.

a single-issue campaign, with a national dimension. We feel, nevertheless, that we should push for 'Troops Out' to be included in the demands.

For similar reasons, we feel the US tour should be organised very separately from the UDF. We think that with careful mandating, we can avoid too many problems + that the tours should go ahead separately.

5. Campus: is in hibernation for exams, so no news. We will be having a campus assessment at the end of November. For the moment, at least, the NUSAs/ECC tension seems to have abated. One good thing about it is that it has forced us to look carefully and creatively at the triangular relationship between Nusas, Campus ECC + ECC as a whole. There is hope that things will improve even more.

6. Other Projects: (a) The Diary is going ahead. How many do you think you could distribute? (Bearing in mind that you're nothing if you don't have an ECC diary). Cost would be under R5. Please Reply via David.

(b) A good idea for fundraising: raffle a cake. We raffled a Yellow + green Caspary cake (it was more a feat of engineering than a confectionary item) and made R250 without any real effort. We also changed our name to Eat a Caspary for Christmas!

(c) Concerned-Citizens-coalition-thing in Job is about to be decided on. The call is being made by Beyers, Geoff Budlender (LRC) and Zwelakhe Sisulu (New Nation). ECC will decide on formal participation once it's clearer what form it will take.

love,
Clare

3. Short-term goals: We have decided not to engage in a concerted campaign until next year. Nevertheless, we are trying to keep up a continual presence through smaller actions like market stalls, going to fetes and cultural events, putting out an end-of-year schools pamphlet, having a cheese + wine for VIPs, holding info. meetings on ECC etc. We are at present going through a thorough evaluation of process, structure and method, which will lead us into elections in the New Year.

Planning for the campaign next year has not yet begun: Sub-coms are still discussing it in a preliminary way. There seems to be consensus on the general approach outlined by N.C.

We are still battling with the area of recruitment, as it is no longer proving tenable to say we will only include people we know into sub-coms. It looks as if we will end up opening ranks broadly again, with some sort of open "initiation" programme/screening process first to make people quite aware of what they're in for, and to allow us to get to know them a bit better. How are you coping with it?

4. National Decisions: We think, on balance, that ECC should not come out in explicit support for the campaign for National Unity. But we understand the spirit in which the call is made to be a call for increased action by all organisations in their own sphere. So we think the best way we can show our commitment to a non-racial democratic future is to work harder in ECC. Reasons for this decision are: (1) Our constituency's attitude to the UDF/COSATU/NECC (2) The State's attempts to discredit us by linking us to various organisations within the people's camp (3) ECC itself, as a broad front +

Room 22
Ecumenical Centre
20 St Andrew's Street
4001 Durban
ph 031 304 5883
November 13 1986

Dear Friends

On Friday October 31 we had a very successful Third Anniversary Dinner, in the midst of a very successful Yellow Ribbon Campaign. We had about 120 people to the dinner, many of whom had never been to an ECC event before. We realised that a dinner is a good event to invite new people to because it is relatively unthreatening and unheavy. Ivan Tomms, from Cape Town ECC, was our speaker. We also had two excellent acoustic guitarists who created beautiful music during the evening. We even made a few hundred rand profit!

The Yellow Ribbon Campaign was great. Media-wise we produced: 3 stickers, a t-shirt and a pamphlet. The t-shirt was bright yellow with black writing: "Troops Out of the Townships and the Schools" on the front, and "Tie a Yellow Ribbon for a Just Peace" on the back, with the ECC logo. The Durban Central Business District was blitzed with stickers on Thursday and Friday nights. Three people were bust for bill-sticking (against city bylaws). They were issued with R50.00 admission of guilt fines. On Saturday November 1st at 10.00am we blitzed town with yellow ribbons and handed out about 2000 pamphlets. About 40 activists were involved - we all wore the t-shirts. We were not harrassed by police at all. Reaction from the public was not too heavy. Reporters covered the event, but because "nothing happened" (i.e. we were not arrested), no article was published on that morning's events.

A "Toys for peace, not for war" campaign is starting to develop, with a pamphlet due soon. We hope to get mainstream women, church and charity type groups along with us on this campaign. It will mainly be a consciousness raising campaign, about the connections between war toys and the real thing.

Recently two ECC reps attended a meeting of white political organisations, called by NUSAS, which considered the National Unity Campaign. Organisations present were: ECC, COSG, Black Sash, Women for Peaceful Change Now, Joint Academic Staff Association, Descom, Action Group Against Apartheid, Career Information Centre, Diakonia, Catholic Justice and Reconciliation Commission, NUSAS. Most of the discussion centred on the conceptualisation of the Campaign. On the whole, the meeting felt more comfortable with the original idea of a broad "anti-fascist alliance" than the present formulation which is more specifically originating from workers and township residents. This makes it more difficult for us to relate the Campaign directly to our constituency. We were also dissapointed that ending conscription, or at least troops out of the townships, had been left out of the demands. NUSAS, who sit on the regional coordinating committee for the Campaign, was mandated to take to the regional meeting our concerns. There will be another meeting of the same organisations in three weeks time. ECC has not yet formally "joined" the campaign.

Anita and I have just been on a week long trip to Namibia. (See the enclosed draft article for AT EASE, and cuttings from THE NAMIBIAN.) There is a great need there for the expertise ECC can offer. One possibility we discussed with people up there was that a workshop be set up on end-conscription work and CO support work for some time in the first half of next year. Details of this can be discussed at the next NC. Many people we met were upset that ECC seems to have dropped Namibia as an issue. In a way this has happened because of troops going into the townships, but we really must look for ways of bringing the issue to the fore again.

The next edition of AT EASE is nearly ready, and will be printed in the next week or so.

Attached to this letter is material regarding the proposed ECC delegation to Military Headquarters. I will be contacting you all soon for feedback on this.

In peace and unity

Richard

Richard Steele, for Durban ECC.

PROPOSED ECC DELEGATION TO MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

*See CHENNELS ALBERTY.V
letter, attached.*

1. Background

- 1.1. Proposed by Durban ECC in July this year, when persecution of Natal ECCs by military intelligence was at its height. The main purposes at that stage were to explain to M.I. the nature of ECC, neutralise the pressure from them on us, and show the public we were taking initiative.
- 1.2. We approached Chris Albertyn to help us and act as a go-between. He is fully supportive of ECC. His legal firm handles mainly labour cases (e.g. they handled the MAWU challenge to the Emergency regulations), so has much experience in "delegation" type work.
- 1.3. Natal Command referred our request for a meeting to Pretoria. Pretoria responded by saying ECC must send affidavits if we think we are being badly treated. They missed the point of our request. However, for various reasons, we did not follow up on the matter, until recently.

2. Present status of the Delegation

- 2.1. At the recent NC meeting we agreed to re-start the process of setting up the delegation, with more of a national ECC flavour. Delegates would be: Richard Steele (NC rep), Jacques Boule (Maritzburg ECC, as an ECC activist who has been detained by Military Intelligence), Archbishop Hurley (church rep), Mary Burton (Blach Sash, representative of human rights groupings), a

rep from the Afrikaans community (Jaco from Stellenbosch), and Chris Albertyn. These people have all been approached and are willing to participate. They need to be recontacted to make precise arrangements if Pretoria agrees to a meeting. Should we also have a national ECC employee as part of the delegation, e.g. the National Secretary?

3. Scope of the Visit

Chris thought we should broaden the scope from what was originally envisaged, that we should present ourselves as a force to be reckoned with. The proposed agenda reflects this more assertive approach. ECC would put its case on all the agenda items. SADF will be able to put theirs. There will be no "negotiation" at that point. If it looks like moving in that direction, the ECC delegation would request an adjournment to discuss with its members and constituency whether negotiation as such is desirable and if so, how to go about it. This first meeting is not intended to be for negotiation.

4. Gains for ECC

Even just making the approach indicates ECC's openness and good faith, in the matter of conscription. We can gain publicity if we have the meeting or if we are turned down.

5. Date and Venue

When would suit us better, January or February? Durban would be the cheapest, from the ECC delegates travel costs point of view. Date and venue will need to be negotiated with the SADF.

6. The Proposed Agenda

6.1. Notes on the agenda items:

1. That our aim is to change the law regarding conscription, that we believe in the freedom of choice, that we are open and legal.
- 2&3. These items are related - similar to unions saying they should be consulted when management wants to make changes.
4. Improvements related to broader recognition of COs, and broader terms of alternative service.
5. Similar to a "right to reply".
6. Conscripts should be able to choose whether to go into the townships, Namibia or any of the surrounding territories.
7. Harrassment, detentions (especially Dominique), bannings, smear pamphlets etc.

6.2. Comments: This is a highly optimist, very assertive agenda - the type of agenda Chris would draw up for a union in relation to management. Is it appropriate for ECC? Does it go too far?

7. Will the SADF accept?

Chris thinks it highly unlikely. But it is worth making the effort.

8. Costs

Chris has offered his services for free. He has asked for his transport costs to be paid by ECC if he needed to travel to the meeting. Presumably, all ECC delegates will require the same. Costs will vary, depending on where the meeting is. Pretoria is the most likely from a military point of view. Transport costs would be about R2500.00 if the meeting was in Pretoria. Should this be raised as a separate amount?

9. Process

- 9.1. Feedback from the regions.
- 9.2. Go back to Chris with the feedback, change the letter if necessary.
- 9.3. If there are major changes, send the letter around to the regions again to be checked.
- 9.4. Send agreed upon letter to the military.
- 9.5. If they say "No", call a press conference or at least make a press release on the matter.
- 9.6. If they say "Yes", Durban ECC works with Chris to develop the practical details (date, venue etc.) and to work out thorough positions on all the agenda items, in consultation with the regions.
- 9.7. Individually brief all the participants.
- 9.8. Participants meet immediately before the meeting to work out final strategy.

I will convene the process.

Please treat this matter as urgent, so we can get the letter off to the military as soon as possible.

Thanks



Richard Steele

CHENNELLS ALBERTYN

— ATTORNEYS & CONVEYANCERS —

404 Denor House, 356 Smith Street, Durban 4001 • Telephones: 304-6603/4/5 • P.O. Box 5423, Durban 4000
• Telex: 6-21299 • 17 Durban

Your Ref.:

Our Ref.: CJA/E7.1/dcj

ATTENTION : KDMT. P.R. VENTER
The Chief of the Army
(M.L.O)
Private Bag X172
PRETORIA
0001

Dear Sir,

RE : END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

We act on behalf of the End Conscription Campaign.

Our client is of the view that both it and the SADF would benefit from a meeting between representatives of the two organizations with a view to clarifying their positions on various issues.

Our client is concerned that there has been some level of misunderstanding of its work by the SADF. Our client believes that it is making a bona fide contribution towards the achievement of peace and stability in South Africa and believes that that object will be facilitated by a meeting between the ECC and the SADF.

We have accordingly been instructed to propose to you, as we hereby do, that a meeting take place in January or February 1987, at a venue to be arranged, between a delegation of the ECC and a delegation from the SADF.

The ECC delegation would consist of a maximum of 8 people. The ECC would hope that the SADF delegation would include senior representatives from the Army Staff (Intelligence), the Army Staff (Personnel) and from the Chaplain General's Office.

We set out below the proposed agenda for such a meeting :

1. an explanation by the ECC of its aims and objects;
2. discussion of the future relationship between the SADF and the ECC;
3. discussion of appropriate consultation of the ECC by the SADF in suitable circumstances;
4. discussion of proposals for improvements to the treatment of conscientious objectors by the SADF;
5. discussion of a right of audience of the ECC in the orientation programmes of the SADF, when the ECC is being considered in those programmes;
6. discussion of a right of conscripts to make representations as to their place of allocation for service;
7. discussion of treatment of ECC personnel during the Emergency.

We confirm that you will consider this request and bring it to the attention to the Chief of Army Staff (Personnel) and the Chief of Army Staff (Intelligence). Please also bring it to the attention of the Chaplain General.

Please revert to us as soon as possible so that proper arrangements may be made for the proposed meeting and so that we may exchange details as to the persons who will be representing the two parties prior to the meeting.

Yours faithfully,
CHENNELLS ALBERTYN

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

17 November 1986

Well, hello darlings

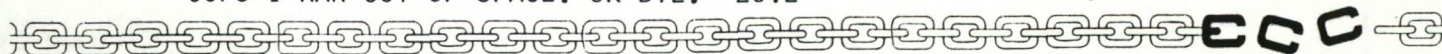
Yes, its another note to accompany the bits of paper in the envelope you are at this time holding in your hands, or have done so in the very recent past.

So what have I sent you?

- 1) The much vaunted and highly enjoyable judgement in the matter ECC vs APN. Viva Mr Justice Diemont! Viva!
- 2) A letter from Pretoria on their yellow ribbon adventure in the badlands of San Pretoria.
- 3) A well typed and interesting document from the DPSC. Of peculiar importance to ECC is the section at the back on the new restriction orders. Outrage!
- 4) A press release from the UDF on the call for a Christmas against the Emergency. They are seeing this as part of the Call for National United Action. We spoke to them about our feelings on the call and about our wish to see a "Troops Out" call included in the list of demands. They promised to take it back to their NEC. We also told them of our hesitations regarding endorsing the call which they appreciated but nevertheless expressed their wish that we come in on it. They are hoping to have the National Day of Action sometime in February. They also indicated that they are seeing the call as vital to their building a solid relationship with COSATU and local township churches, sports clubs and so on. They stressed too the fact that the actual form which National Unity will take is still unfolding and much will depend on what happens at the local level in townships. They are seeing the process of developing the call at the local level as all important.

OOPS I RAN OUT OF SPACE. 'OK BYE. LOVE

David



ECC

End Conscription Campaign

5) A wonderful letter from the Conference of Headmistresses & Administrators of Private Schools. Glee!

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
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27 November 1986

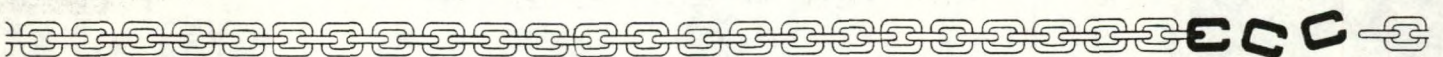
Dear Howard,

This is a note to inform you that our National Committee has discussed the WRI proposal that the international CO day next year focusses on South Africa. We were very pleased by the proposal and did not have any hesitation in endorsing it.

We would appreciate further details and guidance on what we should do to contribute.

Yours for a just peace

David Shandor



End Conscription Campaign

End Conscription Campaign

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42 De Villiers Street
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2000
Tel: 337-6796
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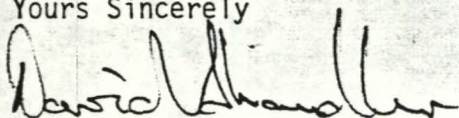
27 November 1986

SA Pressclips
36 Woodside Road
Tamboerskloof
Cape Town
8001

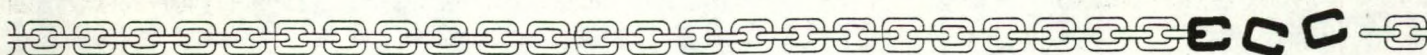
Dear Mrs Schmidt,

Please find enclosed a cheque for R89,60. This is to cover the subscription fees for June to October 1986, as well as an amount for a further three months subscription.

Yours Sincerely



David Shandler



The Job'g ECC Executive
(Adiek, Isabel, Gamin & all the others)

26 Hoylake Rd.,
Greenside,
Johannesburg 2193.
9th December 1986.

Dear Friends, Thanks so much for your
very appropriate card, your good wishes
& your love. I'm well and making good progress -

Dear Friends, thinking about you and the ECC every day!
Beyers

How wonderful is it to be alive and to write this letter to carry our thanks to such a large circle of friends around the world for the expression of your concern following the heart operation (replacement of aorta and mitra valves), which was performed upon me by Dr R Kinsley and his team of specialists in Morningside Clinic, Johannesburg on November 27. On behalf of Ilse and myself I hasten to reply as soon as possible to the many telephone messages, telexes, letters, assurances of prayer, flowers and fruit we received during this period. Somebody who was walking past the ward where I was lying, in admiring all the beautiful flowers, jokingly remarked: "It almost looks like a funeral parlour!"

The grace of God, the skill of the medical specialist team and the loving care of the nursing and administrative staff made it possible for me to be walking around five days after the operation and to leave the Clinic nine days after the operation was performed. On the instruction of our family physician and the specialist we have not returned home yet but are enjoying a period of relaxed recovery at the home of friends before we hope to be back in Greenside around Christmas time.

The period of illness and convalescence has offered me an opportunity for prayer, reflection and critical appraisal of the state of affairs in our country, of possible future developments and of the responsibility of the SACC, the churches' and other religious bodies, and different influential communities in trying to solve the problems of a beautiful land bleeding its heart away. I hope to find some time in the foreseeable future to put some of these thoughts and concerns on paper as a contribution to the question of how to respond to an ongoing state of emergency, how to give a meaningful response to the suffering and the violence experienced by so many in our country and how to try and heal in the name of Christ the deep wounds of pain, fear, uncertainty, division and hatred threatening to destroy our society.

In addition to expressing our thanks this letter, however, is intended to convey to you, despite all the present agony and uncertainty of so many, the joy of our remembrance and assurance of the love of all human kind, which God manifested through the birth of his Son, Jesus of Nazareth, the Child of Bethlehem. May the joy and the peace of this knowledge and experience prepare ourselves for the New Year, even if 1987 may eventually prove to be one of deepening crisis, heightened conflict and growing resistance to injustice and repression.

Amidst tension and strife, we greet you in the peace of the Lord!

Beyers Naudé & Ilse Naudé

Beyers and Ilse Naudé

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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