

Present: 2 reps from Rhodes Campus, 3 from G'town, 3 from PE. Absent: East London.

Matters arising:

1. ECC VIDEO

First suggested by G'town at NC that there be a new, non-subversive ECC video. In order for film-maker to draw up proposal, discussion needed on budget, content etc. Consultation needed with regional and national ECC.

Film-maker's ideas so far: very tight script (not a propaganda rave); consultation with lawyers at every step; stick to popular documentary codes; ± 30 minutes.

Brainstorm of possible content

Brief analysis of militarisation in SA, starting mid 60's

History and formation of ECC; interview with Sheena Duncan

Pre-ECC groups with similar aims

Show work and structure of ECC; focus on various campaigns

Atmosphere of EXCITEMENT: there is an option other than that given by the Nats!

Stills from plays, exhibitions, cultural evenings etc.

Namibia

Townships

Interview with Laurie

Footage from overseas

Churches: role and attitude

Front structures: interviews with affiliates

Smears, harassment, repression, detentions

Why people are involved in ECC

Township perception of ECC

Legal input from lawyers

CO's and Board for Objectors

Interviews with conscripts

WJP projects

Costs of the war - facts

political basis of ECC

History of objection in SA

Cadets

War toys - militarisation of sa society

Women and conscription

Militarisation and sexism.

Exiles, braindrain

Psycho effects of conscription

Philip's trial

Dad's army

The way forward

Must communicate that ECC is for not against the conscript.

Need for co-ordination between regions. Will need other regions to submit footage and to film own events if able to do so, so that film-maker can concentrate on regions which can't.

Budget would need to include costs of travel, equipment, stock, copyrights.

Reference group for film-maker: one Rhodes campus person plus one G'town person will organise this locally. PE also to set up reference group. If other regions accept proposal (to be worked out by G'town reference group plus film-maker) suggested that they also set up reference groups.

2. REPORT BACKS FROM BRANCHES

2.1 RHODES

Focus over PW's trial, including a mass meeting which was poorly attended.

Wrong to have seen this as a campaign, should rather have been a focus.

4/1
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Media was put out and a seminar on militarisation was arranged but was difficult to motivate attendance.

Cohesion and morale good. Many new people. Subcoms working well on their own now. People a little over enthusiastic - must tone it down and realise repression is a reality. Good programme for campaign (see later). 6SA Infantry given freedom of G'town on 4.4.87 - campus organised a t-shirt mill-in and distributed stickers.

Internal education neglected cos of public action. Will only concentrate on this again after national campaign.

Security limited at the moment.

Started a "diplomatic mission" which is doing good work among societies on campus. Have spoken to SAUJS, Methsoc, PFP to date. Have been able to reach out to new groups and consolidate ties with the old ones.

ECC on campus seen as an exciting, approachable organisation. Far more active members: 10 new people since last regional meeting. No cases of harassment.

2.2 PE

Philip Wilkinson service on 24th March went v. well, as did advertising for the trial. Cohesion and moral much better since the campaign - more people have been pulled in as a result of the trial and its publicity. Attempting to energise mundane meetings with new Contact Group and this is succeeding. Int. Ed. going well - had a fake house meeting and video. Planning to concentrate on internal education every 6-8 weeks.

Security is good. Relatively little harassment.

2.3 GRAHAMSTOWN

Cohesion and morale good. Problems of having too little to do solved with campaign plans. No formal sub-coms - operating as one campaign group with 'interest groups' around different aspects of the campaign. For security reasons new recruits will be vetted in the campaign group before being incorporated more fully. 3 new members so far and various possibilities. No formal internal education, but packages are being prepared for new members and should be ready soon.

Had a successful pamphlet blitz - response was very favourable and no there was no harassment. Have got a platform at a concerned citizens meeting soon. Security: trying to achieve a balance between security and public work. Have realised will have to take calculated marginal risks if public work is to go ahead.

3. PHILIP'S TRIAL

3.1 PE

Was a mistake not to have started preparing as soon as the trial date was announced but this can be rectified now that the trial has been postponed. Trial was well prepared, though there was a problem finding a particular witness. This has now been arranged. With regard to postponement: not clear whether the state backed off or generally messed their case up. State prosecutor was only informed the evening before the trial, and the state changed the magistrate on the day of the trial. New magistrate was only available between 11am and 3pm and after that (conveniently) only after the elections.

Philip decided to fight the state on all the charges. Meant the state felt the need to call more witnesses. Witnesses weren't available therefore state needed postponement. Only state witness called was the commandant in charge of admin at piet retief. He admitted 2 things:

1. there are others who feel like philip.
2. an informal arrangement exists to try and keep such people out of the townships, but this is not infallible.

The trial MUST now proceed on 13th May.

Although the campaign was started late, it fell together well. A pamphlet was put out by Media and mailed to approximately 500 people to advertise the pre-trial service.

B7

AK

Had a "first ever" sticker blitz which was a great morale builder and v. successful.

Just and Peace commission pamphlet was somehow delayed until after the trial - the delay is being looked into. It was reprinted in time for the trial and circulated in schools and churches. 2500 went into the townships.

Media for the trial was at saturation level and generally v. successful. Campaign existed primarily of media and support of church hierarchy. Bad press though with gross inaccuracies. Also, could have contact PFP and chamber of commerce but started too late.

Service went very well. About 600 people attended the main cathedral service. Boraine spoke well and put in good words for ECC. Philips mother's attitude changed considerably after talks with the bishops. Entire service was a great morale builder. Could have been an ECC table though.

3.2 RHODES

Campaign not as successful as had hoped. Were relying on PE and JHB for contact with speakers etc. so not under own control. However, produced lot of media. Had a mass meeting at which an SADF conscript plus Willie A Amutenya, chair of namibian catholic justice and peace commission, both spoke. Advertising was late cos of not arranging own speaker and working at the last minute, so meeting was poorly attended. Learnt valuable lessons re media distribution and where campus is at for the national campaign. People attended Philips trial.

3.3 G'TOWN

Distributed 800 pamphlets and raised the issue with Sash, but not in a position to do more cos of restructuring and planning national campaign.

3.4 ASSESSMENT

Learned a lot. Good to have a chance to do it a second time! Need for better regional contact. Need to start planning for 13 May NOW. If big name speakers brought in, need to share between all branches.

3.5 SECOND TRIAL - 13.5.87

Eastern cape could see trial as culmination of entire National Campaign. Major problem is how to initiate enthusiasm for trial all over again? Cant have another service.

3.5.1

- Brainstorm of actions for second trial
- "Last Supper" dinner/cocktail party as sendoff the night before
- Picnic on the day before
- "township walk" by Philip
- WJP project: 'calling philip up' on the weekend before his trial to do community service. Could use layout of genuine call-up papers. Advertise in papers. Philip could spend one day in PE and one in G'town, also possibly EL, doing community service. If restrictions make this impossible, could publish a reply to call up to the effect that he would love to do it but ...
- Publicity: important witnesses to attend all functions where appropriate.
- Concerted press strategy
- International coverage through embassies, lawyers etc.
- National t-shirts
- Banners hung from churches
- (suggested slogan: PW vs PW??)
- Other action: public meeting with other co's to speak on Philip's behalf.
- NDM: could have Philip as a feature in PE
- Grahamstown to contact Sash re hosting observers for the trial.
- Ideas for WJP project: PE: painting a mural; re-building the Walmer shacks. Grahamstown/Rhodes: Building playground at creche for handicapped; building playground at Sun City; Cleaning up rubbish dump near Joza.
- Branches to discuss these ideas in depth.

4. NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

4.1 PE

Due to timing of Philip's trial, will have an alternative service, right to choose focus. Definitely hoping to involve philip in a WJP project, but no concrete plans yet. Focus on alternative to cadets. Stickers and pamphlets to be produced. Need national media and t-shirts if available.

4.2 GRAHAMSTOWN

Most events during focus week. Hope to get Boraine or Slabbert for public meeting; other speakers = Sheena Duncan, church person : PE to investigate bishops. NDM: service in the cathedral plus candlelight vigil outside afterwards.

Peace picnic being planned with lot of black sash help. No WJP project planned, but could possibly pull into campus WJP. Media blitz in Port Alfred planned. Suggestion that Rhodes cover Kenton in the same way. Media: 2 pamphlets (1 x theme, 1 x costs of the war/choice). Advertising through Grocotts, flyers in town.

G'town to provide PE with 500 copies of all pamphlets. 100 to EL

4.3 RHODES

Term starts two days before the NDM which makes advertising difficult. Have planned armbands, banner across the road in front of Students Union. Will try to incorporate Joint Christian Societies as much as possible. Will be attending town's Cathedral service. Will also attend the peace picnic, but will not advertise due to limited space at the venue. "Cost of the War" meeting planned for Tuesday 28 April. Will co-ordinate with town re possibility of sharing Boraine, also so that meetings don't clash. Also inviting black mother, white mother, conscript, economist, religious leader and possibly a psychologist, depending on who's available to speak.

Cultural event being arranged for 1 or 2 May. Either an open-air fair with big bands, exhibitions etc, or else big concert indoors. Erol Moorcroft hopefully coming to address a meeting soon after the white election.

Planning a WJP project, possibly with town group. Philip's trial to be the climax of the campaign. People will go down for 13th and possibly for 14th May. Will be a summing up meeting after the trial to tie up loose ends.

4.4 GENERAL

Should be maximum co-ordination between branches. Must co-ordinate common events, speakers etc. Should meet more regularly once the campaign has begun e.g. once a week from 17 April. Only one rep to attend if others cant make it.

5. NEWSLETTER

If there is to be a regional newsletter, tighter co-ordination is needed. This time - articles not submitted in time, hence delay. Proposal from G'town is that each branch appoints a newsletter co-ordinator - G'town can't co-ordinate own side as well as other regions. Each branch to put forward ideas for stories, and be available to contribute stories suggested by other branches. Task of delegating stories, collecting copy and pics and getting to G'town to be undertaken by co-ordinator in each branch. G'town to try and organise layout so that it happens round regional co-ord meeting times if possible, so that others from PE and EL can participate. If too many stories, suggestion that G'town be mandated to select which go in, also to sub stories. If branches want, can contribute stories in point form and G'town will put together. All this to be discussed in branches a.s.a.p.

300 copies of newsletter for PE. 800 to Rhodes. 100 to EL? PE to apply for post box...

6. ART EXHIBITION

Was suggested at previous reg. co-ord meeting that there be a regional art exhibition. Seen as a good idea, cos draws in a whole new range of people. Too expensive to get all joburg exhibits, though could use their posters and photographs.

Suggestion that regional exhibition spend ± one week at each branch. See as a long term project - needs lot of time for collecting and organising. In the meantime, get childrens' art from all functions e.g. G'town peace picnic. Each branch to appoint local co-ordinator if okayed. Start collecting artwork. Aim to have exhibition by September

6.1 Other culture: If Rhodes imports bands, contact PE with view to sharing them.

7. GENERAL REMARKS RE REGIONAL CO-ORD SO FAR

All branches to adhere more strictly to deadlines. Be more careful about regional contact on phones. PE media group: benefitted enormously from workshop with Rhodes. Good to practice on "live" production e.g. pamphlet for philip's trial, rather than just sharing media. Rhodes: may need to have permanent reps to regional co-ord cos of security problems. Problem motivating poeple to attend. Permanent reps not to be encouraged, otherwise forum could become set think-tank.

8. TASKS

PE to contact EL and find out why not able to be present. Fill them in on any details. G'town to send pamphlets and newsletter to PE and EL. WJP ideas to be discussed in branches. Also content of NDM. PE to contact bishops for G'town. G'town to contact Sash re hosting observers. Newsletter proposal to be discussed plus proposed deadline for next one of after philips trial. Art exhibition co-ordinators to be appointed and to attend next meeting. Newsletter co-ordinator to be appointed in each branch of proposal okayed. Next meeting: time arranged subject to confirmation from EL.

9. ASSESSMENT OF THIS MEETING

Seen as a positive and exciting meeting. People v. optimistic. Gave clearer idea of regional co-ordination. Excitement about video.

Very late start: need to be more punctual. Hitch in co-ordinating with EL seen as a problem. Must ensure it doesn't happen again. Uneven contribution: need to involve people more in discussion.

Minutes of Eastern Cape regional co-ordination forum meeting, 17.4.87

Present: 2 Grahamstown reps, 2 PE reps, 1 Rhodes rep.

Absent: East London

1. Tasks from previous regional co-ord meeting

- 1.1 Unclarity as to who was supposed to contact East London and whether this was done.
 - a) Should have a clear run through of tasks at end of each meeting.
 - b) Need to jack up minute distribution to ensure regions know what their tasks are. Breakdown in distribution of minutes this time happened ^{between} G'town and Rhodes.
 - c) G'town and Rhodes to investigate possibility of going to EL to find out what is happening. Rhodes to contact EL, G'town to let PE know whats happening by end of next week and to set up next meeting with EL.
- 1.2 G'town pamphlets for PE: Problems with printers in G'town so only 100 copies available for PE. PE to reproduce more as needed. G'town to send 500 copies of next pamphlet to PE + 100 to EL.
- 1.3 WJP and Day of Mourning: See under report backs.
- 1.4 PE contact with bishops for G'town: cancelled. PE to contact Rev Xundu for G'town public meeting instead. Inform G'town by Wednesday ^{2nd} latest.
- 1.5 G'town contact with Sash re observers for PW's trial: to happen next week.
- 1.6 Newsletter proposal: PE has discussed and accepted in principle. Still to appoint co-ordinator. Next newsletter: see under item 5.
- 1.7 Art exhibition co-ordinator: PE has one. G'town and Rhodes still to discuss.

2. REPORT BACKS

2.1 G'town

Work at the mo' is campaign oriented. Update on plans: Peace picnic postponed till 10th May 'cos of slow and sensitive process of consultation re DC kids. Sash pulling in in a v. constructive and helpful way. Public meeting: All OK, just need confirmation re Xundu - PE to confirm by Wednesday 23rd.

NDM: Still seeing it as a day of mourning. Service going ahead - organised largely ^{through} St Pauls. Media: flyers plus Grocotts insert. Can't use banner: cathedral won't allow.

Media: No change from last meeting - still 2 pamphlets, one to be distributed in town on Saturday, the other later on in the campaign.

*P/C x 2 for N. & Jhb
P/C for other regions*

WJP: Haven't discussed, but unlikely G'town will be able to pull off own WJP cos people overstretched, active personpower small. More likely to pull into campus WJP.

2.2 PE report back

Major morale problem - only 5 people at last campaign meeting. Decided to key campaign down and concentrate on house meetings, media, philip. Are going to have an activists workshop with township speakers to help motivate people - 28th. Content: township view of role of ECC in context of struggle. PE to contact G'town about meeting arrangements if g'town want to attend.

PE education sub-com : planning an education workshop - after PW's trial. G'town to discuss possible content of workshop - eg what kind of activists do we need to train and how. Get back to PE within ten days.

Philip's trial: dropped WJP idea. Difficult to regenerate enthusiasm for trial, plus personpower problems. Focus more on pre and post-trial media, more concerted press strategy.

2.3 Rhodes campus

Campaign: not much happened since last regional meeting. Public meeting postponed cos of clash with town plus problems with speakers. Planning another meeting post philip's trial - would like a big name person who attends trial. PE to investigate - preferably for 14th.

Will put out one pamphlet plus posters plus banner for campaign. Still planning cultural event - no more details. Also still investigating WJP project. Seeing Philip as addition to WJP, not main focus. Possibility of calling Philip up to attend WJP, Philip to respond giving reasons why he can't i.e. restrictions.

General: Also got morale problems plus problems of getting to campus. Don't know why - is not ECC specific, other organisations eg NUSAS, AISEC, RAG experiencing same problems. Not sure whether achieving anything. Also recent BSM activities alienated white students. Also not enough distinction between ECC and NUSAS on campus - lumped together in campus's eyes. Problems getting people to meetings. But contact with societies looking v. good.

3. PRESS STRATEGY

Need to work out co-ordinated East Cape press strategy. Suggestion is that each branch responds to/initiates issues concerning own region. G'town to handle all local issues with the exception of campus-specific issues. All branches to develop more concerted press strategy, formalise links with local press people.

PE to investigate ECNA/Herald links. G'town and Rhodes to formalise contact with local Herald person plus others.

4. NEWSLETTER

Should have been out this week but problems with printers plus new regulations re detainees. Should be sorted out by next week, newsletter to come out week after. G'town to send 500 copies to PE, 100 to EL. PE to try and organise computerisation of mailing list, G'town to help if needed.

Next newsletter: provisional date set at Monday 25th May. To be taken back to all branches. If okayed, all copy to be in G'town with pics, graphics by 13th May - absolute deadline. To be sent to usual address. Philip's trial - copy can be in by Friday 15th. Each branch to initiate and take responsibility for own stories.

5. FOLK CLUB

PE have got a spot at Folk Club evenings on Sundays. G'town and Rhodes to investigate local input, get back to PE a.s.a.p.

6. OTHER CULTURE

Proposal from PE for hosting Savuka for regional tour. V. popular last time in G'town. Possibly September/early October. All branches to discuss and get back to PE a.s.a.p.

7. Nat sec visit: branches to discuss proposed timing.

8. NEXT MEETING: 23rd May - provisional. Branches to confirm with G'town a.s.a.p. G'town to set up with EL.

9. ASSESSMENT

Breakdown of contact with EL problematic. Must be sure who is supposed to do what. Branches must confirm with G'town that they will be attending. Also problem with people arriving late : suggestion that 1/2 hour leeway be given, if reps from PE ~~or~~^{new} EL not present then meeting to go ahead. Suggestion that starting time be 9.30, cut off time 10.00. This meeting: more to discuss than reps thought initially. Useful, especially re distribution of media and contact with speakers.

10. *Task List attached.*

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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