

Hoylakeweg 26,
Greenside,
Johannesburg 2193.
9 Desember 1986

Liewe Vriende,

Hoe wonderlik is dit om te kan lewe en om hierdie brief te kan skryf om ons dank oor te dra aan so 'n groot kring van vriende oor die aardbol heen vir die betuiging van u besorgdheid na aanleiding van die hartoperasie (vervanging van die aorta en mitralkleppe), wat deur dr R Kinsley en sy span van spesialiste in Morningside Kliniek, Johannesburg op 27 November op my uitgevoer is. Namens Ilse en myself wil ek graag so gou moontlik reageer op die talle telefoonoproepe, telekse, briewe, versekerings van gebede, blomme en vrugte wat ons gedurende hierdie tydperk ontvang het. Iemand wat by die saal waar ek gelê het verbygehoop en die blomme bewonder het, het grappenderwys opgemerk: "Dit lyk byna soos die voorportaal van 'n begrafnisondernemer!"

Die genade van God, die bekwaamheid van die mediese span van spesialiste en die liefdevolle sorg van die verpleegsters en administratiewe staf het my in staat gestel om reeds vyf dae na die operasie rond te loop en die kliniek nege dae na die uitvoering van die operasie te verlaat. In opvolging van die voorskrif van ons huisarts en spesialis het ons nog nie teruggegaan na ons huis nie, maar geniet ons 'n periode van ontspanne herstel aan die huis van vriende voordat ons hoop om rondom Kersfees terug te wees in Greenside.

Die tydperk van siekte en herstel het my 'n geleentheid gebied vir van gebed, nadenke en van kritiese oorweging van die stand van sake in ons land, van moontlike toekomstige ontwikkelinge en van die verantwoordelikheid van die SARK, die kerke, en ander godsdienstige liggame, asook verskillende invloedryke gemeenskappe om die probleme te probeer oplos van 'n pragtige land wat besig is om sy hart dood te bloei. Ek hoop om tyd te vind in die voorsienbare toekoms om sommige van hierdie gedagtes en besorgdhede neer te skrywe as 'n bydrae tot die vraag oor hoe om te reageer teenoor die voortgaande noodtoestand, hoe om 'n betekenisvolle antwoord te bied aan die lyding en die geweld wat deur so baie mense in ons land ondervind word en hoe om te poog om die diepe wonde van pyn, vrees, onsekerheid, verdeeldheid en haat wat dreig om ons samelewing te vernietig, in die naam van Christus te genees.

Naas die uitdrukking van ons dank is hierdie brief ook bedoel om aan u oor te dra, ten spyte van al die huidige smart en onsekerheid van so baie mense, die vreugde van ons herinnering aan en versekering van die liefde van God vir die hele mensdom wat Hy openbaar het deur die geboorte van sy Seun, Jesus van Nazareth, die Kind van Bethlehem. Mag die vreugde en die vrede van hierdie wete en ervaring ons voorberei vir die Nuwejaar, selfs al sou 1987 uiteindelik blyk te wees 'n jaar van verskerpte krisis, verhoogde konflik en toenemende weerstand teen onreg en onderdrukking.

Temidde van spanning en botsing groet ons u in die vrede van die Here!

Beyers Naudé Ilse Naudé

Beyers en Ilse Naudé

End Conscription Campaign

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

17 November 1986

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

Well, hello darlings

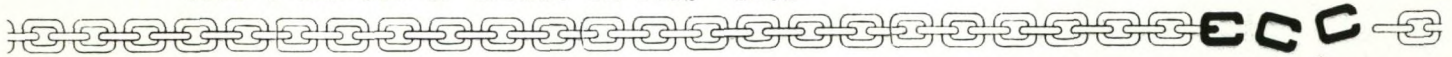
Yes, its another note to accompany the bits of paper in the envelope you are at this time holding in your hands, or have done so in the very recent past.

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

21 November 1986

Dear Diana

Thank you for your interest in ECC and your support.

I have enclosed a copy of ECC Focus, the regional ECC newspaper. I have also enclosed copies of our other publications, both regional and national. I hope that you will find the information useful.

If you are at all interested in joining ECC we would be happy to meet you.

Yours Sincerely

Adele Kirsten
ECC Executive

Four more things

24/11/86

1) IDASA:- Slabbert + Borraine's initiative is being launched in P.E. on 8 December. They have approached ECC to attend as well as endorse the initiative. We don't have any more info at this stage on what we are being asked to endorse. Can we endorse? Can we attend? Can I get your feedback soon soon?

2) Nominations for national positions are finalised. Those nominated for the positions of National Organizers are;

1) Nic Borraine

2) Care Verbeek

and for National Secretary:

1) Adele Kirsten.

I have enclosed motivations. Can your region please discuss and report back?

3) Ada Parker has responded! She published the enclosed insert in the APN of 12 November. It has been forwarded to the lawyer.

4) US Tour:- All regions ^{except Stellenbosch!} have come to initial positions on this. These are: P.E has said we can't go because the risks of contact with the ANC are too great. Pretoria and Grahamstown have

not come to any position.
Durban, To'burg and Paul felt we should go ahead with the tour but on a formally separate one from the UDF. Cape Town has also said as much with the motivation that the losses of not fulfilling our commitment to the tour would be too great. We would need to make careful provisions for the tour, and assess the contacts which we would be making on the tour.

We have received a letter from Matt Meyer of UDF motivating very strongly for a joint tour. I have enclosed it. Clearly we need to make a decision very quickly (within 2 weeks, i.e. by Monday 8 Dec.) We should perhaps be looking for some kind of compromise that suits everyone; if such a thing exists.

All my love
David.

P.S. Also enclosed is a letter sent out by P.T.A to people in Pretoria.

P.P.S. An extract from a right wing PE publication of September.

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
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Tel: 337-6796
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27 November 1986

The Secretary
Conference of Headmasters and Headmistresses
31 St David Rd
Houghton
2196

Dear Sir/Madam

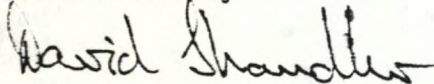
It has come to our attention that your conference has passed a most encouraging resolution on community service as an alternative to military service.

Motions such as these are a source of great encouragement to us in our work. A major demand that we have made since our inception is, of course, the call to end conscription. In addition to this we have always strongly promoted the call for viable forms of alternative service for as long as conscription remains. An ECC delegation put this to the SADF's Geldenhuys Committee in August 1985. Unfortunately the Defence White Paper published earlier this year rejected any new form of alternative service. I have enclosed a copy of our evidence to the Geldenhuys Committee and refer you specifically to pp 145 - 147.

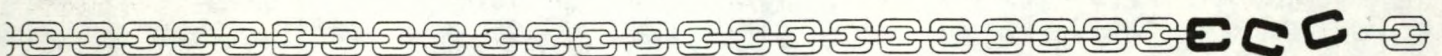
Earlier this year we ran a nationwide campaign to raise public awareness and support for our call for alternatives to military national service. Through it we went a step further than merely making calls. We involved ourselves in community work projects which we hoped would serve as an example of viable forms of alternative service. The campaign was a great success with many volunteers coming forward to work on the projects. We culminated it with big public meetings in Cape Town and Johannesburg attended by a total of 6000 people. I have enclosed a pamphlet which we brought out at the time of the campaign which will provide you with more details of the projects we ran.

If we can be of any assistance to you in this matter do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



David Shandler
ECC National Secretary



End Conscription Campaign

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UCT

not come to any position. Durban, Jo'burg and Pubs felt we should go ahead with the tour but on a formally separate one from the UDF. Cape Town has also said as much with the motivation that the losses of not fulfilling our commitment to the tour would be too great. We would need to make careful provisions for the tour, and assess the contacts which we would be making on the tour.

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All my love
Kasid.

P.S. Also enclosed is a letter sent out by P.T.A to people in Pretoria.

PPS. An extract from a right wing PE publication of September.

A42.8

Nov. 6, 1986

Dearest Laurie,

A 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 ~~it~~ 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 frined, 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.

How can I explain completely, the problems put forth by your letter? Of course I understand your problems (w/PFP 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 c-rner, 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 ~~it's~~ propogandistic 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 succesful tour without putting ECE firmly in the context of the wider movement, which is led by UDF. Without UDF, American Committe 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 exösts) would not be forthcoming. Ivan has tilled that field, and Gavin the more progressive end of it, but the next step must be ~~it's~~ 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. could be addressed as never before.

(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 speacial 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 plannign since the go-ahead from Gavin last month, and as the days go ~~th~~ 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).

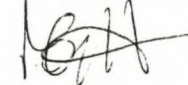
So I need word immediately on what's on or off. I hope that it is more a question of legalistic and logistical manuevering than a cancellation. But a 'by chance' occasional meeting with UDF tour scheme will not work. We'll hold off (maybe permanently) at rpinting UDF/ECC TOU stationayy, but the tour 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 hhis 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 M.

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.

Motivation from the Cape Town ECC for Nic Borain for the position of National Organiser

Nic Borain has been the ECC chairperson in Cape Town, a position he has held since November 1985. This period has seen the continued growth of the ECC in Cape Town as well as being marked by the second State of Emergency. Nic has responded well and adapted to both situations with his leadership qualities and organizational skills being an asset to Cape Town's ECC.

Nic is well qualified for the position of the National Organizer in terms of the political training he has received through a period of being involved in a variety of political areas. Nic was a student at UCT where he was actively involved in various SRC subcommittees. In 1982/3 he was the editor of the student newspaper 'Varsity'. In 1984, he was the President of the SRC and commanded the respect of a broad range of constituencies, both on campus and off. In 1985 he worked at Nusas Head Office as Secretary General. After the first State of Emergency was declared in Cape Town in 1985, he assumed a leadership role in a broad coalition of 23 'white' organizations, formed to protest against the S of E. In other forums as well, Nic is consistently perceived of as being a leadership figure. He has a particular ability to work with a wide range of different people from varied organizations as a result of an unalienating disposition.

During Nic's period of being involved in the ECC, a broad range of qualities has been consistently evident. He has excellent organizational skills in terms of a good understanding of and a sensitivity to the functioning of a healthy organisation. As a result, he has been able to deal successfully with a number of sensitive and difficult situations. His presence on the Cape Town executive has served as a source of inspiration to many of the Exec members. His leadership qualities were particularly well utilized during the new styles of organisational operation that emerged during the present S. of E.

As an organizational figure, Nic is approachable, respected and well liked by CT ECC activists. He has an air of quiet confidence, is hard working and is dedicated to the democratic processes in ECC. A particularly important quality which Nic possesses is an ability to impart his particular skills. He has a notable insight into the importance for and the need of passing on particular skills and the training of activists. This relates to both organizational skills and the development of a broader political understanding.

Possibly one of Nic's most important characteristics is the particular vision that he articulates. He has an unsurpassed vision about the ECC in terms of its inherent potential and the particular role of the ECC. His optimism and enthusiasm about ECC has inspired many Cape Town activists.

Linked to this, is Nic's sharp and incisive political understanding of the struggle in South Africa. He is well informed politically as a result of the links he has had over a number of years with activists working in different communities in Cape Town. He has also developed national contacts and understanding during his year in a national position in Nusas. His political understanding has been particularly useful over the last year for the ECC. Nic is undoubtedly a superb candidate for NO.

MOTIVATION FOR CLARE VERBEECK AS NATIONAL ORGANISER FOR 1987.

Since Clare arrived in Johannesburg in January 1985 she has not stopped working! She jumped into the deep end of ECC work, when it was decided to have the national peace festival in Johannesburg- Clare became co-ordinator of the mammoth task. Her work speaks for itself to those who were lucky enough to be in ECC at the time. Shortly after the festival, the last emergency was declared. The exec at the time were forced into hiding and Clare was central to bringing ECC together and putting it back on the path to success. She has subsequently been centrally involved in every Jhb campaign. She has also worked in the Contact subgroup.

Clare has been a successful Jhb chair since December 1985, although she had been carrying out this function since the July-85 emergency. She has clear insight into the areas of work needed, she organises efficiently, is enthusiastic, energetic, accessible, and she works well with people.

We are putting Clare forward as N.O. for the following reasons:

- we have confidence in her political judgement and of her ability to assess where ECC is at and to take the 'gap'
- she is incisive in her approach to problems and how to solve them
- she has national experience, both as an ex-Capetonian and as a National Committee rep
- she has been involved in political work for a number of years
- she is a 'people person'

Clare may need to pay some attention to her public speaking skills, and for the rest we are very proud to put forward Clare for the daunting and challenging task of National Organiser!!

MOTIVATION FOR ADELE KIRSTEN FOR THE POST OF NATIONAL SECRETARY.

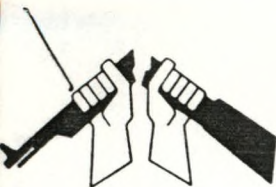
Adele has been the secretary and treasurer for Jhb ECC since December 1985. Her administrative abilities have become apparent; not only has she held down a full time job, but has been efficient, regular, reliable and calm in the carrying out of her daily ECC tasks. The emergency has in no way hampered her efficiency.

Aside from her position as secretary, Adele has participated on subgroups. There she has been able to share her visions and abilities in setting appropriate direction to the activities of ECC. Adele has gained a lot of experience in the area of non-violent action. She has therefore often helped to plan workshops, and facilitated roleplays. Adele was central in setting up and co-ordinating the womens action of October 1986.

Adele has been nominated for the position of N.S. because we have complete faith in her sound political judgement and that she has the day to day skills necessary. Adele worked in COSG before she joined ECC. She has maintained contacts there. Adele was part of the planning committee of the national COSG conference of 1984. She subsequently travelled overseas where she made extensive contact with peace organisations and non-violent action groupings. She has maintained many of her relations to the groups. We feel that her international perspectives and contacts will benefit her in the position of N.S.

Adele smiles most sweetly! We often send her out on the touchier outings that we so often are required for. She has an unsurpassed diplomacy and an ability to relieve tension and resolve opposing points of view. We are certain that she will co-ordinate national decision making smoothly!

The emergency--water off a ducks back to Adele! She has helped many in our region to overcome their fears and she has contributed to pulling Jhb region through this difficult time. She will cope as N.S. under emergency conditions.



War Resisters League

339 Lafayette Street, New York NY 10012 • 212-228-0450

Affiliated with War Resisters' International and the International Peace Bureau • Cable Address: Nonviolent New York

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Scott Abbott
*Norma Becker
Karen Beetle
*Bruce Birnberg
Mavis Belisle
*Riley Bostrom
Nanci Bower
Olive Bowers
Peggy Briggs
*Maris Cakars
*Susan Cakars

*†Linnea Capps, Chairwoman

*†Sybil Claiborne

*Lynne Shatzkin Coffin

Ruth Dear

Sam Diener

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Larry Gara

*Donna Gould

Diane Hampton

Russell Herman

Carol Jahnkow

Steve Leeds

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Michael Mongeau

*Esther Pank

*†Murray Rosenblith

*Vicki Rovere

*Charlie Scheiner

Vic Schumacher

*Wendy Schwartz

Joanne Sheehan

Tim Sperry

*Vera Williams

and one member
from each WRL local

*Executive Committee

†Steering Committee

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Catholic Institute on
International Relations
Ian Linden
London, England
International Fellowship
Of Reconciliation
Francoise Pottier
Alkmaar, Holland

June 12, 1986

Dear Friends,

I'd thought you would both enjoy this report/packet from last April's mini-tour of Gavin Evans of the End Conscription Campaign.

As you can see from the enclosed, we were able to send Gavin off to a wide variety of peace, religious, and anti-apartheid groups on both the national and local level. The tour both raised direct support and funds for ECC, and also increased our ability to continue doing ECC and southern Africa solidarity work.

We are currently hoping to pull together a coalition of groups to work on a joint ECC/ United Democratic Front tour, to take place next Spring. We're quite hopeful about this, and continue to hope that the letters, telegrams, etc. are helping enough to keep the legal movements somewhat safe. As you've probably both heard, physical attacks have been on the increase, with Pete Hathorne beaten up twice in the last month, his girlfriend badly beaten with sjamboks, an East London member shot in the back, and another E.L. member's car blown up. Ominous signs of an ominous time.

On a brighter note, we are two days away here from what will probably be the largest anti-apartheid demonstration in U.S. history. Possibly over 100,000 people will come together from Harlem and the U.N. to a public rally in Central Park. The organizing force behind this has been DC/65 United Auto Workers union, who have pulled together a strong labor movement grouping, with the active support of student groups, churches and the usual peace groups.

Well, I trust that all is going well and busy with both of you. Keep in touch; I look forward to hearing about the activities of both CIIR and IFOR.

For Peace With Justice,

Matt Meyer, acting Chairperson WRL

End Conscription Campaign

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29 May 1986

UPDATE ON ECC

Hello all.

This is a general pulling together of different areas of ECC work nationally at the moment.

For a campaign that is essentially between focuses at the moment we are amazingly busy. Of course this is largely due to the actions of the state in its mad path of destruction through Southern Africa. Rambo lives! A large part of ECC work over the past ten days or so has been devoted to responding to the raids. Action in protest was so widespread that it assumed the proportions of a national ECC campaign. Snappy responses in most of our regions ensured that ECC was at the forefront of protest.

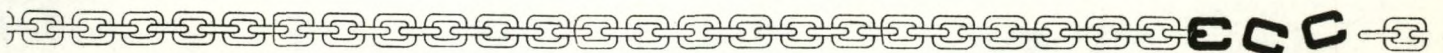
There are two other major items on the ECC National agenda at present. The first is the issue of the widespread harrasment of ECC and the other is the planning and build up to the July call up. Although no region has finalised its plans yet for the call-up campaign, developements are such that we are set to have a vibrant and forceful campaign nationally. A particular trend that is emerging in the planning is a move towards creative action around this campaign. This adds to a lot of our established patterns of organising at a public level.

On the issue of the attacks on ECC I refer you to the letter of motivation for action as well as the update below.

What follows is a rough and uneven account of developments in the regions at present. I apologise to regions for leaving areas out. This would be more in ignorance than deliberately.

Johannesburg

Jo'burg responded to the raids with media as well as a lunchtime meeting. Pickets, stickers and posters were produced and distributed very quickly. The public meeting held in a central city venue was attended by about 100 people.



End Conscription Campaign

Paul Goller of ECC chaired and the speakers were Steve Lowry, Philip Wilkinson and Curnick Ndlovo (UDF). The loony right used the occasion to make a bomb threat but the people at the meeting voted to ignore it and to continue. 1.00pm, the time at which the supposed bomb was meant to explode, came and went without incident.

ECC has started to plan for the call-up campaign, although the breathing space between campaigns is being used to consolidate sub-committees, for education, etc. A very successful workshop on "the conscript" was held last week which looked at the position of conscripts and CO and the law. What made it a memorable event was the sharing of stories by two vets at present studying at WRAU.

ECC on campus is busy with a focus week on troops in the townships. It will consist of low profile events (video shows) as well as high (a rally on Thursday). Last Friday night saw a very successful ECC concert on campus attended by about 400 people.

Stellenbosch

The big issue at the moment is the university council's ban on ECC. A lot of energy is being put into reversing the ban. A petition calling on the university to recognise ECC's right to organise is being circulated on the campus. A letter has been sent to the university council by ECC calling on it to reconsider its stand.

A group of 31 academics have endorsed a statement in support of ECC and it is hoped that the University Lecturer's Association might take a sympathetic stand.

If you can it might be useful to get the SRC of your local university to pressurise its admin to call on the Stellenbosch Council to reverse its decision. The Stellenbosch SRC has said that it might help. Even though it does not support ECC's aims it does recognise our right to exist and organise. The same is true of the Stellenbosch student parliament.

As if Stellenbosch ECC does not have enough on its plate it has taken up the issue of organizing support for Crossroads. ECC people have spoken at churches and resses and have collected a load of material. It has also been organizing people to go to Crossroads - as a white presence - to keep the security forces at bay.

Port Elizabeth

Work is going well. A General Body meeting of 25 people started working on

ideas for the call-up, around Philip's trial, and the survey. Sub-groups are taking forward the plans. The Port Elizabeth group is growing and is being consolidated.

Work on the creche in Walmer carried on last weekend. A picnic for Walmer and ECC people is to happen soon. Also planned for P.E. is an NVDA workshop for mid-June.

Grahamstown

Campus ECC held a succesful focus week last week. It started with a cheese and wine at which videos were shown. A meeting to protest at the raids was held on the Tuesday evening. Nic Borain spoke at it. Anti-war videos were shown on the Wednesday. On Thursday there was a panel discussion organised by the Christian affiliates of Campus ECC. This was on the topic of The Christian and War. This Saturday there will be a fare/concert organized jointly by Grahamstown and Rhôdes ECCs.

A planning workshop was held this past weekend. It presented an opportunity for everyone in ECC to get together and have a good general discussion. Sub-committee work is underway with the schools group having already adressed a few school groups. Churches too is getting into gear. Contact has organised house meetings and meetings with affiliates. Rape Crisis has expressed a lot of interest in getting involved.

Other plans include an NVDA workshop jointly hosted by the Sash, as well as preparing ECC input to the Grahamstown festival. The festival coincides with the call-up and so will provide a very useful focus for ECC activities.

A number of fake/smear pamphlets attacking ECC have been distributed in Grahams-town. These are covered in another section below.

Cape Town

Much of the recent work has consisted of responding to the raids. Pickets and pamphlets went out and a public meeting was held. The meeting was jointly called with the UDF (Observatory and Claremont) and the Black Sash. Nic chaired and speakers included Prof Savage, Mary Burton, Philip Wilkinson and Cheryl Corolus of the UDF. About 500 people attended. A rally adressed by Chippy Olver was also held at UCT.

This week CAG on campus are holding a focus with the theme "Botha we have had

enough". Open air drama, a debate in a res, an advice bureau presentation and a rally all form part of the weeks activities. A banner with the slogan "If we had the choice, we would not go into the townships" is to be displayed. Students will be asked to endorse it by making a mark on it. This "petition banner" will then be presented to the press.

Other activities in Cape Town have included an ECC weekend away and ongoing sub-committee work.

Pietermaritzburg

Responding to the raids has also been to the fore in ~~M~~Maritzburg's recent work. There were street pickets, an ECC speaker at a black student meeting on campus, as well as a joint ECC/Sash/PACSA meeting at lunchtime on Friday in town. Jac was the ECC speaker.

Ongoing work is concentrated on consolidating the group of people who joined the work projects during the WJP. To this end there was a very succesful afternoon workshop attended by about 35 people. It was an introduction to ECC as well as a brainstorming session for the call-up campaign.

Durban

Emphasis at the moment is being placed on smoothing out the coordination of the organisation as well as education and training. Thought is going into the possible establishment of a contact group.

CAG on campus has changed its name to ECC and is to structure itself as a front. The name change is to ensure that ECC gains in profile on campus. The group recently had a weekend away.

There was also a response to the raids in Durban. This consisted of street pickets (some of which were torn up by overzelous right wingers) and the stringing of a 15 metre long banner across a major highway. It carried the slogan "We say no to SADF raids -End Conscription Campaign". It stayed up for an astonishing 15 minutes.

East London

E.L. has had its second monthly meeting. It was a focus on troops in the townships withspeakers giving a national perspective as well as a local one. The next meeting is planned and will have as its topic CO and the law.

Philip Wilkinson

Philip appeared in court on Friday June 23. He was not asked to plead and his case was remanded until July 29. At present he is preparing his case together with the lawyers. The idea at present is that he will be running a high profile defence i.e. with a Bishop or Archbishop of the Catholic church, a soldier, a township resident etc. giving evidence. Regions should consider ways of giving support and raising public awareness.

Harrasment Update

Since the last NC meeting there have been a number of instances in which ECC has been threatened in various ways. You should already have recieved the motivation I sent out for action in response to the harrasment.

Since Malan's last attack on us which was at the same time as Barabara Orpen was attacked in Port Elizabeth there have been a number of instances of harrasment. I've drawn up a list of those that I know of.

Grahamstown has had a spate of smear pamphlets and posters which came out to coincide with the Campus focus week. Items were:

- 1) A poster advertising ECC's fare was put up but it had the wrong date on it. This was an obvious attempt at disinformation. It had the slogan, "Secure a better future - conscript" printed on it. This came out on Saturday 17 May.
- 2) On Monday 19th hundreds of photocopies of the Aida Parker Newsletter were spread throughout Rhodes campus.
- 3) On Tuesday 20th a pamphlet in the style of an earlier ECC one came out. It had an image of a dove on it with the title "War or Peace?". Slogans on it included "End the Call-Up and Peace flies out of the window" and "Choose to reject the ECC". It was put out in the name of the EECC (End the End Conscription Campaign) and used the ECC chain.
- 4) On Friday 23 ECC blitzed town with the Philip Wilkinson pamphlet. A while later a similar but larger pamphlet came out with a picture of Philip and the wording "Philip Wilkinson - Conscientious Objector or Coward?" printed on it. It was also put out in the name of the EECC.

All of this media was crudely produced. It was typed and blown up on a photocopier. All had been photocopied.

During the pickets in Durban, Maritzburg and Jo'burg picketers were harrassed by police, pickets were torn up, names and photographs were taken, and one picketer was arrested and held in PMB for a short period.

There was a bomb threat at the Jo'burg public meeting and a large police presence at the Cape Town one.

A new edition of the Aida Parker Newsletter has been released with an article on Gavin's tour in it. We have also heard that the Afrikaans daily Beeld has taken official policy not to carry any ECC stories.

Finally, on the 8.00pm TV1 news on Tuesday 26 May a Mrs Malan, who heads the 500 000 strong Vrouefederasie was interviewed. She was commenting on the VFs concern at the "revolutionary situation", and the "Marxist onslaught" against South Africa. A large part of her comment was devoted to the ECC which she described as cowardly, as working to prevent their sons from going to the SADF, and as working under the guise of seeking peace. She called for something to be done.

It is important that we keep one another informed of developments like these in the regions.

Op Manouvres

Two significant developments in the SADF have become evident of late.

The first is the widespread mobilization of the dad's army especially in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape. Some units have been mobilized for early June (possibly to coincide with June 16), while in others men have to register by July 1. The operation to mobilize these units is officially known as Operation Buttermilk. It's their idea not ours so dairise it.

I have had one or two indications that campers are being specifically called up for duty around June 16. In one case a man was called up to do a case in Alexandra township. Have you noticed similar developments in your areas? It would certainly be useful to monitor these developments and possibly act on them. Action could possibly be linked to the call-up campaign, and in this case specifically include appeals directly to campers and a strong troops out call (possibly the troop stayaway call).

A final bit of news of a military nature is that a couple of soldiers have sent us letters asking whether they can join ECC. Interesting wouldn't you say?

Gavin's Trip

I've enclosed a copy of Gavin's report.

Women and the Military

This was an area of considerable informal debate at the National Committee meeting. I've enclosed a few papers which can form the basis of further discussion in the regions.

Cultural Festival Speakers

NC came up with a few suggestions of foreign speakers. They are Joan Baez (veteran US peace activist, singer and chairperson of Humanitas International a US based civil and human rights monitoring group. They have sent us messages of support as well as a small donation in the past.), Bruce Kent (senior person in the British Catholic Church and very highly respected international peace activist. He was the past General Secretary of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.), Petra Kelly (a leading member of the German Green Party. The Greens are an activist-type political party which take up issues of ecological and social concern.), Pérez Esquivel (renowned Argentinian advocate of non-violence and winner of the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize. He has along history of involving himself in struggles throughout Latin America. He was imprisoned under the regime of the generals in Argentina.), Ngugi wa Thiongo (Kenyan author with a long history of involvement in the struggle for justice. He was imprisoned for his political activities in Kenya), and Thomas Mapfumo (a Zimbabwean musician who was famous during the chimurenga for the songs of liberation that he composed. He was imprisoned⁵ for a number of years by the Smith regime.).

Be free to add to the list. We need however to have a list of 3 or 4 that we can prioritise and send to CIIR to follow up for us. Could regions consider the list and give their priorities.

National General

- 1) I have not been receiving minutes from the regions. Please send these to me.
- 2) Could all regions send me copies of their pressclips from the beginning of the year until now? I want to pull the lot together and compile a bound volume of all of our coverage until now.
- 3) Please send your call up campaign ideas to other regions, and also ask regions

whether they want copies of your media.

- 4) Some regions have given me responses on certain issues that require national decisions. Here is the complete list on what we need answers on. Please let me know your regions feelings on them very soon.
- a) Barbara Friedman to do the CIIR research job.
 - b) We require your list of nob's who have signed the statement of demands by the 5th of June.
 - c) Your list of local welfare, church organizations etc.
 - d) What does your region think of a "Troops stayaway from the townships" call.
 - e) Any ideas on the proposal of a "peace walk" raised at National Committee.
 - f) Could you forward names of anyone doing research in your region on the psychological effects of militarisation.
 - g) Have you discussed the idea of another National Organiser?
 - h) Could you please pull together a list of the names, addresses and phone numbers of your sub-committee co-ordinators?

So Anyway Doll!

I'm so glad we've had this time together blah.

Go well, very well.

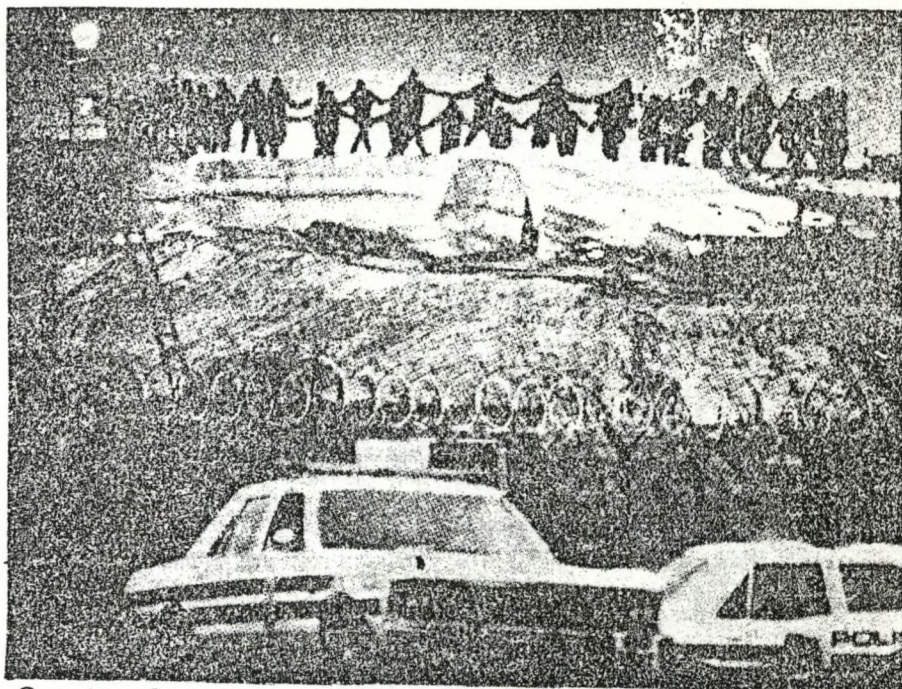
All my love and solidarity,

OK Bye

David

If I can't dance I don't want to be part of your revolution

OBJECTOR, Aug/Sept 1985



Greenham Common women - dancing at dawn

by Anita Kromberg & Richard Steele

Emma Goldmann, the Russian/American activist, summed up the feminist, non-sexist approach to peacemaking with her comment "If I can't dance I don't want to be part of your revolution". Dancing, laughing, and celebrating are an integral part of feminist peacemaking, which is the antithesis of the traditionally "male" way of resolving conflict with violence and domination.

Peacemaking means beginning to live the new society here and now. It means learning new ways of being, which recognise the dignity of the individual and respect group integrity and liberty. How can we put these ideas into practice, given the hostile and unpeaceful environment in which we live?

We can start on an inter-personal level: developing relationships that are not dominating, unequal, or characterised by sex-role stereo-typing. When we are familiar and comfortable in one-to-one relationships that are respectful of the other person and liberating for both individuals, we will be able to work like this in our organising and group work.

In groups, we could develop simple ways of controlling personal sexism and dominance: by rotating facilitators rather than having chair-people, each person round a circle sharing in an allotted number of minutes, consensus decision-making, rotating of functions within a group, and the sharing of skills and child-care. When our relationships and organising style reflect these new ways of being, then our contribution to society to change will have that much more credibility.

These are all important steps. But we also need to identify and confront the attitudes which are at the root of relationships based on dominance and submission. Unless we develop new ways of thought and action, we will simply be playing around with the old system.

One important area is that of symbols and language. If we continue to use the language of war ("my room looks as if it had been hit by a bomb", or "X is a walking minefield of problems") we continue to give legitimacy to the methods used by armies and governments to control and dominate ordinary people like ourselves.

Language which recognises that maleness is the norm for humanity (eg. using "mankind" where "people" are meant) needs also to be changed, to demonstrate our belief that all human beings are created with equal beauty and potential. "We can best help you prevent war not by repeating your words and following your methods but by finding new words and creating new methods". (Virginia Woolf)

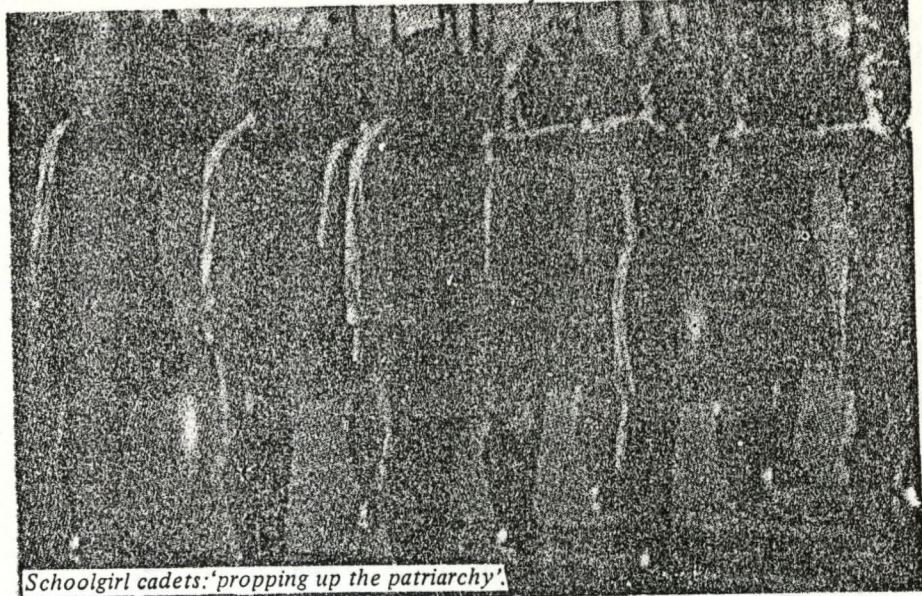
Feminist, non-sexist peacemaking takes very seriously the threat of nuclear annihilation, wars between nations, civil war within a nation-state, and oppression in its many forms precisely because feminists know the effects of domination and oppression at first hand. But, in opposing all that is destructive, peacemakers want to create and live the new order.

It is not enough just to pull down old structures - we should be building the new as we go along. And so peacemaking can be creative, spontaneous, and fun. It can involve all who wish to be part of building the new society - it does not discriminate against women, children, the aged, the handicapped, etc.

The peace camps at US Cruise missile bases in Britain are an example of the commitment of peace activists: "I've been accused of being cruel and hard-hearted for leaving my children behind, but it's exactly for my children that I'm doing this. In the past, men have left home to go to war. Now women are leaving home for peace". (Sarah Greenham Common Peace Camp)

FOCUS

FOCUS



Schoolgirl cadets: 'propping up the patriarchy'.

OBJECTOR, May 1985

This article by Richard Steele and Anita Kromberg – the first of two articles – argues for a particular understanding of the relationship between ‘militarism and patriarchy’. In doing so it poses the question of the effect on women of militarisation, an area which OBJECTOR has not examined in much depth. Responses from readers are welcomed, as any debate would broaden our understanding. The forthcoming article will look at non-sexist strategies for peace-making. This FORUM is intended as a regular feature.

Attitude that political problems can be solved with force is typical of a militarist mentality. It is also typical of a national machismo which regards negotiation as too ‘soft’ an option.

Militarism and the system of male domination are inextricably linked. A characteristic of militarism is a power structure which is in the hands of a few whom all others must submit. This is a model of power on the micro level in the military, and on the macro level between militaries. War is basically a struggle for dominance.

The dominant/submissive power dynamic is at the heart of patriarchy. Simply put, patriarchy is an imbalance of power in favour of men, which is maintained through open violence (eg rape), blatant discrimination (eg salary differences) and more subtle means such as the normalisation of unequal expectations through sex role differentiation. The system of male domination shows itself clearly in all aspects of life.

One element in patriarchy is contempt for women. The military environment provides an ideal context in which men can give vent to that contempt.

The most explicit illustration of the

alliance between male sexuality, male dominance and the military mentality is rape in warfare. Where rape is the ultimate sign of the virility and dominance of the conqueror. Rape by soldiers in the operational area of Namibia and by police in the townships is common. (see the Report on Police Conduct during Township Protests, by the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference). To quote Susan Brownmiller: ‘rape by a conquering soldier destroys all remaining illusions of power and property for men of the defeated side. The body of a raped woman becomes a ceremonial battlefield, a parade ground for the victors trooping of the colours’ (p31).

The military encapsulates patriarchy because it desuberately fuses male sexuality with aggression and dominance.

Any soldier who has done basic training can give examples of this correlation. A common chant goes, ‘This is my rifle, this is my gun, the one is for killing the other’s for fun’, as the soldiers slap their rifles and crotch in turn. On the one hand women are a prize to be sought after and fought for if necessary, on the other hand they epitomize all that is weak and despicable – one of the worst insults for any soldier is to be called a ‘sissy’. Whichever way they are viewed, women are to be ‘conquered’ and dominated.

The military functions not only as an armed force, but as a powerful reinforcer of patriarchal values and attitudes. If we are serious about overcoming female oppression, then we must address militarism as well. If we are serious about overcoming militarism we must address the problems of male domination and female oppression. We can take control of the kind of values and attitudes we display in our everyday lives, and in that way rob the military and patriarchy of valuable psychic support.

“If we are serious about overcoming militarism we must address the problems of male domination and female oppression.”

Here, the ECC and the COSG’s perform important functions: they are concerned with the broad political scene, but are potentially a community within which individuals can learn and practise on an inter-personal level what we are calling for on a macro level. We must challenge the attitudes and practises in our daily lives, to authentically challenge these patterns more broadly.

This article has focussed on militarism and its connection with patriarchy. We do recognise that in South Africa sexism is compounded by other factors such as racism, generating a particularly violent pattern of domination. We believe too that there are structural and psychic links between all forms of oppression (racism, sexism, class exploitation, ecological destruction, etcetera), so all forms must be addressed in order to achieve liberation, justice, equality and peace.

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