

MINUTES OF THE 42ND MEETING OF THE ENC CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON 24 OCTOBER, 1980.

Present : Observatory UDF, COSG, Claremont UDF, Koeberg Alert, Anglican Board for Social Responsibility, NUSAS.

Apologies : Black Sash, WPCC, UCT SRC

1. Correspondence

We received letters of congratulation and support from a number of individuals including the Director of the Baxter Theatre and the National Chair of the Young Progressives. Ivan got some "hate mail" (only one letter).

2. National Committee Report

A summary of the discussion was circulated :

* NSF advert : the NC felt it would only be worthwhile suing if we were fairly certain of success. Lawyers had recommended suing the newspapers which carried the ad, but the NC hadn't felt that it was worth it.

* National Conference : the conference will be in Natal at the end of January and numbers will be restricted to between 5 and 20 from each region.

* Employees and co-ordination : NC suggested the NC remain structured as it is, but to better facilitate national co-ordination and admin. we employ a national secretary. We discussed the possibility of employing a part-time local admin person, and mandated exec. to bring a proposal to the next meeting.

* International tours : NC pulled together the different regions' suggestions as to who should represent ECC at the conferences to which we have been invited. A group was set up to start doing research for a document for the UN committee.

3. Assessment

Minutes from Saturday's workshop were distributed.

a) Report-back from Troops Out Campaign follow-up discussion

* Alternative project : On Saturday the major reservation re: the project was timing, and so it was proposed that it be moved to the Easter period. Whatever project is undertaken will be done in co-ordination with the community and organisations in the community so that it is in no way patronising. The proposal was met with enthusiasm, feeling it would be a very positive project for ECC to undertake.

* Call-up action : a focus day around the time of the January call-up was proposed, incorporating the churches who often hold services for those people who are called up. Stickers, pamphlets, a picket, an alternative service project brochure, and letters were also suggested.

* Other ideas included another poster; an advice bureau workshop in December directed at school students; the content; and a shoals cadets focus to follow on from the call-up focus.

These ideas are to be taken to sub-committees for further discussion.

b) Report-back from the discussion on women

It was felt that ECC needs to broaden its focus beyond conscripts, and incorporate the effects of conscription on women and broader society. Sub-committees should take this into account and consider it when producing media or undertaking a project. With schools and churches there is a particular need to focus on women. There are ECC organisations which are specifically "women-orientated", and many womens groups outside of ECC. We thought it would be useful to consult with these groupings as to how they felt about the issues of conscription and militarisation. A group was set up to organise an open forum focussing on this area.

c) Steenkamp-Evans debate

After some discussion we decided to drop the idea for a debate - we couldn't decide which question we should debate, and anyway he said he's stopping writing about ECC for the meantime. It was felt that we need some follow-up meeting to the peace rally, and that possibly the open forum should be on a bigger scale than usual.

d) Structures

* Many people were drawn into ECC before and during the troops-out campaign. While it seems that some of them have been incorporated into existing sub-committees, others have not. People involved in organising meetings and ECC activities should remember that there are people who can and should be pulled into adhoc work.

* General Body meetings have become fairly large and tend to focus on ECC work. This has resulted in an increasing lack of involvement of the front organisations. It was suggested that organisational reps go to sub-committee meetings and discuss their organisation. Another idea from the exec. was that ECC meet weekly, every alternate week with front reps and sub-comm reps, and the inbetween weeks as ECC. The problem with this is that it separates out the front and the organisation and the best solution would be one where they are able to feed into one another and complement each other. The discussion was not completed, and was left as an issue for the new exec to handle.

4. UDF request

ECC has been requested to help with door-to-door work in Athlone - a petition has been drawn up calling for the withdrawal of troops from the townships. We felt it was important that we do help.

5. UWO/UDF fundraising

We have been invited to an umfikelo on Sunday - everyone must please bring money, a song and something for tea. We should meet beforehand to invent and practice an ECC song.

6. Sub-committees

a) Media - are planning to make a year planner, stickers, pencils and pens; to bring out an information pack for interested people and new members; to do a slide-show on militarisation.

b) Schools - the meeting on Monday night was poorly attended; A letter is going to be sent to principals explaining ECC; Ivan addressed a PAAG meeting attended by +- 120 students.

c) Contact - letters of support for the fast are still coming in, including duplicates of letters which have apparently been sent to Le Grange; there was a programme on German TV on ECC; the story about the soldier being killed got into the Washington Post and New York Times with comment from ECC.

d) Culture - ECC have a night at the play 'What about Heroes' on 5 November. Tickets are being sold for R5.

7. AGM

A letter is being sent to member organisations telling them about the AGM and asking if ECC people can come and speak to them beforehand. Some organisations and individuals who are not ECC members but with whom we have had regular contact are also invited.

The AGM is on 21 November from 6.00pm.

8. Executive nominations

Culture proposed an alternation to the structure of the new exec., suggesting we have a president who plays a high profile up-front role. Some people felt there had not been enough time allowed for sub-committees to discuss the structure of the executive and that this discussion should have happened prior to that of nominations. Sub-committees presented their nominations, but will go back to discuss the Presidency proposal, and at the next General Body meeting the positions and nominations will be further discussed. It should be remembered, however, that we don't want to make final decisions since that is what the AGM is supposed to be doing.

9. General

1. There is a concert on Sunday night at the Lux.
2. Geldenhuys booklets are ready
3. UDF movie tickets (fundraising) are available
4. We were told that one of the venues for school pupils writing matric is the Cape Corps.
5. The next General Body meeting will be held on 14 November at 8.00pm at the Rondebosch Congregational Church.

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MINUTES of the 46th Meeting of the End Conscription Committee held on 9th January, 1986.

PRESENT: UCT SRC, CAG, Koeberg Alert, Anglican BSR, UDF Observatory, UDF Claremont.

APOLOGIES: Quakers, WPCC, Women's Movement for Peace.

1. CORRESPONDENCE:

A number of very supportive letters from peace groups in Europe were read. An entire village of 800 people in Australia fasted in solidarity with the Troops Out Fast. Ivan has received some supportive letters following the fast.

2. MEDIA COUNCIL:

The arbitration with Media Council over the slanderous Rapport article has come to agreement. Rapport has undertaken to retract certain unsubstantiated remarks made against the ECC and give us a chance to state our case. This article would be agreed upon by both ECC and Rapport. JHB ECC are in charge of this process and will report back to us.

3. SUNDAY TIMES ADVERT:

ECC had taken a national decision to place an 1/4 page advert in the Sunday Times to coincide with the January call-up. Overall cost just over R4 000,00. We would seek to present our case against conscription and call for alternatives to SADF service. Due to inadequate preparation, the draft for the advert was not satisfactory and the committee voted that the advert be cancelled.

4. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS:

Koeberg Alert are holding a workshop on Saturday 18th January. Anglican BSR have passed a motion on cadets calling on all pastors to withdraw their children from school cadets programmes.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) Culture: A successful concert was held during December, with many school students attending. Plans for the film festival are progressing. Overall T-shirt sales have topped R4 000,00.
- ii) Churches: A good response has been received to their recent pamphlet and poster, and a service for conscripts is planned for Sunday 12th at 7.00 pm at Ron Con, with testimonies from Peter Moll and Steve Hofmeyer.
- iii) Schools: The "Cadets Campaign" is to be held in the second and third weeks of the school term and a workshop on the campaign is taking place on Saturday 11th, 2.00 pm at Ivan's house.
- iv) Media: Are putting out a poster and sticker for the call-up focus.
- v) Contact: Have a lot of work coming up soon and are busy regrouping themselves.

6. NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

- This is being held in Durban in the last weekend of January (starting Friday, 31st January). Subcomms must draw up reports for prior national circulation. The agenda for the conference consists of:
- i) area reports
 - ii) assessing our past year's activity
 - iii) looking to activities for the year ahead
 - iv) conceptual issues relating to our campaign work.

Reports will be finally pulled together at the national committee meeting the day before the conference begins. Cape Town may take 20 representatives and it is important for our organisational representatives to be present.

A pre-conference assessment workshop is planned for Sunday 19th, January at 12.00 pm in St Michaels Church Hall, Observatory.

7. INFORMATION GROUP:

A group has been pulled together to assemble information on SADF activities. Ongoing work is needed, as well as preparing ourselves for presenting evidence to the UN.

8. CALL-UP ACTION:

The following activities have been planned:

- i) poster blitz on Thursday 9/1/86 and Sunday 12/1/86
- ii) pamphlet drives on Saturday 11/1/86 and Wednesday 15/1/86
- iii) a picket on Monday 13/1/86. Slogans are "Stop the Call-up" and "Let Conscripts Choose"
- iv) a press release is planned for Monday 13/1/86
- v) the churches activities have been mentioned above
- vi) Culture Comm have produced some January Call-up T-shirts
- vii) creative actions : *sand-castle building in "Stop the Call-up" T-shirts at Clifton 4th beach, Sunday 12/1/86 at 9.00 am
*a "jog-in" along the Sea Point beachfront on Wednesday, 15/1/86 at 6.00 pm. Meet at the Putt Putt course.

9. ALTERNATIVE SERVICE PROJECT:

A proposal drawn up by the Co-ordinating Committee was tabled (see document "Alternative Service Project - Campaign Proposal"). The following issues were raised in discussion:

- i) What will be our gains during the project? Mass involvement was seen as a major gain, as well as carving out the area of alternative service for ourselves. See proposal.
- ii) ECC's credibility in black areas and the danger of being perceived as a charity organisation. It was emphasised that we would be working together with the Crossroads community.
- iii) We need a range of projects in which to involve people. The state of emergency could well rule out certain projects in black areas and we need to keep volunteers occupied. It is essential that they perceive their participation in the project as worthwhile.
- iv) Cleaning up areas of the mountain was debated as a specific project - it was emphasised that this would take place in the context of other community-based projects.
- v) The ideas for the project will be discussed with a range of community-based organisations like CAHAC, UWO, UDF and Western Cape Civic Association.

10. GENERAL:

- i) The ECC tape "Forces Favourites" is nearly sold out.
- ii) An open forum with Laurie and Pete on the overseas trip has been suggested.
- iii) In future, badges and T-shirts will be sold from Rob's house (ph: 45-5873).
- iv) ECC needs to investigate the City Council's threatened ban on pamphleteering and should respond through Teleletters, Letters to the Editor and approaching community councillors.

Next ECC General Body Meeting on THURSDAY 23/1/86.

Present: Black Sash; CAG; UDF Obs and Claremont; UDF Gardens; WPC; BSR; CRL; Koeberg Alert; Society of Friends and representatives of all sub-committees.

1. CAG requested a speaker from ECC for a lunchtime meeting on Fri 17 about the Mozambican situation. Matthew was suggested and accepted.
2. An ECC member who recently received a visit from the security police recounted the experience. Among issues raised during the visit were the Arts Festival and ECC's relation to it; and personal motivation for joining ECC and current events such as sanctions.

Some discussion followed on how members should handle such possible situations. The overall feeling was that we should try and prepare ourselves, particularly in discussion within sub-comms, and we should remember that the only information one is obliged to provide in such a situation is your name and address. Discussion in smaller groups would probably allow for freer discussion of our responses to similar situations, and equip us to try and handle them appropriately.

3. Organisational report-backs:

- * Gardens UDF reported on the series of lunchtime talks they have launched at St Georges Cathedral Hall. (The first talk was the first public UDF meeting in Cape Town since the S of E.)
- * Obs/Claremont UDF invited ECC members to join their new branch structures.
- * MERGE - a public meeting on the University to be addressed by Jakes Gerwel is being organised for Monday 20.

4. Sub-committee report-backs:

- * CULTURE: have been discussing their relationship to the campaign and the cultural festival. They are working on a fanzine (sp?).
- * MEDIA: are expanding rapidly. In the process of circulating lists of media production to all sub-comms. Have just produced (and unveiled) a new designer t-shirt.
- * CONTACT: Are working on the Advice Bureau Open Forum for the 4 November. Contact held its first house meeting.
- * CHURCHES: is also expanding.
- * SCHOOLS: is working with PAAG and another youth group, hoping to make contact with pupils through this work.
- * CREATIVE ACTION: baked the Castle cake for ECC's birthday, and sold pieces of cake under the slogan, "Chow the castle - Happy Birthday ECC".
- * CAG: is in the process of consulting with organisations and individuals about becoming a campus ECC.

5. PFP YOUTH VOTE: Voting took place and the result was:
1 abstention; 1 against; and 8 for. The result will be conveyed by the executive to the PFP Youth, in a formal letter.
6. CAMPAIGN REPORT: The theme for the campaign is "WAR IS NO SOLUTION". The campaign group has drawn up a comprehensive report on plans thus far. The central action is to be a walk to an area affected by SADF actions. The destination and planning of the walk is to be done in consultation with organisations in the area, through UDF. The question of possible sponsorship for the walk was raised. Some discussion ensued around the likelihood of the walk being banned - and this question is to be more thoroughly discussed. Other ideas for campaign activities include a symposium (lunchtime talks); a mass rally; peace/mothers' picnic; peace wall and media etc. If possible, the focus of the campaign would be on a specific township, to raise the issues in a concrete way, linked to conditions in the area concerned.

In discussion on the report back, everyone was asked to look for walls for murals. The question of applying for permission for the walk was raised, as was the issue of 'protection' for participants. These questions will be discussed in depth by the campaign group and reported back to the next GB.

7. AGM/EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS: A report on the electoral process and an executive report were tabled, detailing the procedure for discussion up until the AGM on 27/11/86. Any amendments to the executive structure to be proposed by next Thursday to the Executive.
8. NATIONAL PAMPHLETS: Distribution lists to go through sub-comms. Organisations are encouraged to assist in distribution through own channels.
9. ORGANISATIONAL FORUM: This idea was suggested by Contact as a monthly get-together for ECC organisations. Feedback was invited and it was generally thought to be a good idea. The first is to take place on Friday 24 and will discuss the campaign.
10. STELLENBOSCH COURT INTERDICT: Stellenbosch ECC is taking the university administration to court about its banning from the campus. It was agreed that this was a useful move, provided the funds are available for the court action.
11. DOMINIC SOUCHON: Anyone interested in working on support group for Dom to contact Penny. Everyone was reminded to write letters as he can now receive as many letters as we write.
12. IVAN: has been invited to speak in Durban at a fundraising dinner for ECC's birthday. It was agreed that he should go.
13. JANET CHERRY: Appeal for financial assistance to help her family to go and visit her. Contributions to Alastair.
14. General/Any Other Business:
- * A report was handed out on the office/office worker. To be discussed by all sub-comms and the question of the definition of the job to be discussed further later.
 - * Dad's Army - many people receiving call up papers. The question of how to respond was discussed and a combined Advice Bureau Open Forum on Dad's Army too was suggested. It was also suggested that the parents group might look at issue and house meetings on it.
 - * On finances, we were all exhorted to be careful in our spending, and to be thorough in our records thereof.

NATIONAL EXEC MEETING:-

AGENDA:

REPORT BACKS - CIVIL WAR

FESTIVAL

FINANCE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

GLIDENTHUIS

SHIFTY RECORDS

DADS ARMY

FILM FESTIVAL

WORKSHOP - PMS

LAURIE

ANGOLA STATEMENT

REPORT BACKS:

JHB: Festival main focus, Debate btwn APP + ECC - wed 5 JUNE

TOPIC: ^{SA} sheddung apartheid OR defending apartheid,
vitentage meeting together with other groups held. - 400,
stated newsletter, Paul Graham gave report on Namibia,
schoals grp jnt with Jodac / ECC / NGUSA. , media group

Problems: overlap of pple

DBN: workshop on security legislation - chris Albertain excelled. -

picket planned for Thursday morning with other org. Pamphleteering
schoals on Republic Day issue, workshop coming off this Saturday
Jodac at Methodist church, making T-Shirts, June 16 stall at Dan
Rea meet, out exiation wanted, NSA women + peace - offered to speak.

UPG: after meeting with Right wing Protest -> letter to SRC, university + Assoc.

subcoms: advice, media, newsletter, culture group, had meeting
with SWAPO person, and vitentage person, released Press statement
on vitentage, holding Picket on Thursday

Problems: affiliates weak, no public presence, large no. of P.E men
conscriptees.

SAT - letter apt using ecc logo.

C.T: April - July period, had meeting on 10yrs anniversary of defeat of fascism, have open forums monthly for pple not involved in ECC but interested.

- Topics: C.O + Board, Namibia, Civil War. Subcomms: - media, culture - most active - planning art display, approached artists & for art - auction pieces to raise funds. Planning Film Festival, schools concert planned + producing T-shirts.

contact Committee: holds open forums, internal education, press, newsletter, Fact Sheets, Schools - work through Sib - Road Show: Dramas - close btwn sick + drawing pple in Problems: Civil war nation emotive, gap btwn groups - no coherent programme, now exec includes subcomm reps

led position on PPP - such + Term leaving.

Outlook: C.T. ECC given 1 edition of SA outlook to do - all pages - hopefully ready by festival - articles include: war psychology, press + military, analytical criticism on civil war, History of CO since 1960, + Namibia

F/C Book: ECC asked to do chapter

Philip Frankel - state economy + resistance - ECC asked to do chpt

HAP: tape show produced - 30 minutes long - on Militarisation - specifically good for youth.

SASH: 30 yrs Birthday - ecc letter of support.

Laure: contact made with Stellenbosch. Forum on Dads Army with Stein Justice + Sir Richard Lyle speaking.

- SACBC released motion calling for end to conscription - as war civil, + C.O. leg. unjust - releasing on 12 June in press conference with ECC
- OASA - Psycho. union looking at effects of militarisation - info to be dest. in journal / pamphlet by ECC + papers for internal use
- EASTERN CAPS - SATD in townships, not reported enough, ecc produce book with chronology of events, Role of army in townships + analysis, interviews with key pple. - layout with SACBC or SAC
- ECC needs to develop understanding of what we mean by civil war + need to assess understanding, how? - by posing questions. Need to expand on new angles of civil war

- + need to explain counter violence - civil war needs to be thrust of ECC together with call for just peace + what that means
- we need to be more sympathetic to the plight of new soldiers, realising they are part of a system that is evil.
- need to advertise COSG services + maybe intro rehabilitate services - need a day workshop to train ppl in this.

FESTIVAL: PROGRAMME, PRESS, INTERNATIONAL, letters of invitation, Finances, media, advertising.

• venue: WITS STUDENTS UNION

- meals registration
- accommodation

COST: R30 p.p / students R10 others

will be create for children - maybe non-violent games

JITB needs estimated numbers as soon as possible

Get NUSATS to advertise ECC as part of FESTIVAL.

race relations, Helen Joseph, T.U.

- ON PLATFORM: Tutu, Kuley, Peter Storey, Pressy Church, congregational church, Sir Richard Lobb, All key speakers, ECC choirs, South, P.P. Yahn, UDF, UDF 144, Churches 144, NUSATS, COSG, DP SC, JODAC, Namibien CC

• PRESS conference 12 June, day before festival

• got international letters of support - IMCS - counter support

• letters of invitation to organisations - asking for attendance, message of support, music/drama, organisational stuff, - get as many organisations as possible.

• Finances: Got R1000 - promised 25000 from IMCS, owe Wits 3000 + Sheena 1000 - DBN owes money so does C.T.

→ try + raise all our money - claims in on Monday. - Apply to organisations + churches

• media - programmes printed, advertising posters - Ten C.T. to produce 2 statement posters, T-shirts being made by JITB - Buttons made by JITB - stickers - Declaration - DBN, South stickers - C.T.

TICOPS out - peace stickers C.T. - sell 10c each - Producing

ECC Budget explaining Declaration + ECC. Banner being done by C.T. Display by each group.

• schools Debate - Emile Se Hukon, Mariel Wisk + St Anns, Kearsney, Whickham, ST JOHNS, QUEEN, EDWORTH

NAT. CONFERENCE: Monday 1pm - Tuesday 1pm.

INPUT ON CC → LEWRE

assessment of our roles directly - Policy / Strategy.

DISCUSSION about actions

IDEAS FOR PUB

- media w/s.
- small projects → stickers, newsletters for affiliates
 - Fact sheet →
 - w/s on affiliates. / PAR
- churches display
- affiliation
- meetings - 1 plans, 1 input
- Civil war -
 - Namibia - Paul
- Angola - Peter Steneret
- Peter Steneret formation
- Festival - Play / Dramat music

Gratonsom
11/4/86

Dearest Dave
Hey there! How's it going? The WSP
really seems to be cutting, nationally.
All our branches are reporting great
successes. This letter deals firstly with
a proposed national committee
and secondly with a moratorium
the WSP projects after April
Why am I writing at such a stupid
angle? Well may you ask.

National Committee Agenda

Last year we decided to draw up national committee agendas early and send them to all the regions. This would allow us to discuss national issues on the basis of the feelings of our respective general bodies. It will obviously be difficult to discuss fully all the agenda items, what with WSP on the go, so I've indicated with a star those areas that would be particularly useful to have been discussed in regions before national committee meets.

In no particular order:

- 1) Finances
- 2) ECC expansion
 - developments within Afrikaner communities (Stellenbosch, Pretoria, Jhb Afrikaner sub-committee)
 - Cape Town, Middleburg, Krugersdorp, Bloemfontein
- * 3) December Cultural Festival
 - discussion of ideas from regions so far, and process from now
- 4) International work
 - report backs of Gavin and Janet's tours
 - international correspondence
 - * - process of national decision-making around ECC reps on overseas tours
- 5) Harassment of ECC and security issues
- 6) Jeldenhuis Committee
- 7) Philip Wilkinson
- * 8) May Survey Campaign
- * 9) July National Conference
 - at the ECC Conference in January we did not make a

decision on whether we would have another conference this July. I would motivate that we do: ECC will have had two national campaigns that need to be assessed nationally; the Conference will be the only opportunity to discuss in a national forum the Lydenby Committee's report, the December Cultural Festival and the National Publication; the Conference will provide an opportunity for sub-commo to meet on an interregional basis and for new ECC members and branches to get a national feel for ECC.

I propose: (a) that the Conference concentrate on practical planning and assessment, and on interregional sub-commo discussions; (b) that we have it in Lyhamstown on the 5th and 6th of July. The motivation for this is that: the Lyhamstown Festival, which many ECC culture comm. members will be attending and participating in, ends on the 4th; Lyhamstown is geographically central; it is also in a region with two, possibly three branches. The Lyhamstown ECC Exec has endorsed this proposal.

10) National co-ordination and structures

- the national office and national organisers
- regional workers
- campus ECC co-ordination

11) Regional report - books

12) Assessment of WTP

13) National publication

14) "I would have made a good Pope" (Richard Nixon)

- Steve to lead discussion

15) Other ideas

1

It obviously may not be possible to have full ^{regional} assessments of the WSP before national committee meets. If it is possible, the following framework for assessment might be useful, and would provide us with a common basis for assessment:

- i) Discuss the most important strengths and weaknesses of the WSP

- ii) Assess ECC's public gains in terms of:
 - getting the themes of the WSP across to the public, and winning support for our interim demands
 - public meetings, symbolic actions and other public activities
 - the VIP demands
 - press
 - the public impact of the projects
 - different target groups (students, pupils, churches etc)
 - building links with the black community
 - local media

- iii) Assess ECC's internal development around the campaign in terms of:
 - national co-ordination (media, logo, brochure, national office)
 - recruitment and training of volunteers, and maintaining their involvement
 - affiliates participation
 - sub-comm participation
 - internal planning and co-ordination

Σ

Proposal to stay with the projects!

Had an idea: that ECC continues working on WSP-type projects after the campaign is over. I thought that I should write to you motivating the idea now, rather than waiting to raise it at National Committee, so that it can be discussed with the project volunteers at the end of April.

In the course of conceptualising the WSP, we were clear that while the projects would provide some service to black (and white) communities, they were essentially protest and symbolic in nature. We were clear that ECC was not about to become a peace corps or a service organisation like Shawsco, and that the projects were of a limited time duration.

I think that we conceptualised the projects correctly, but need now, in the light of the WSP so far, to reconsider our position that the projects end with the campaign.

The projects are attracting a large number of volunteers, and generating much excitement amongst our affiliates and within the white community. Through the projects we are making powerful statements about the nature of constructive alternative service while conscription exists, and about the circumstances under which white youth ought to go into black townships. Above all, for the white community we are seen to be doing and not just talking and protesting.

The black community, through the organisations we consult

has been overwhelmingly positive. In addition to the political statements behind the projects, our presence is an important means of countering the anti-white feelings caused by the actions of the security forces.

I can't see any conceptual problems with ECC continuing to make these statements by undertaking similar projects for the WSP. The aim of the projects would still be primarily educative and protest-oriented rather than primarily service-oriented. They would give ECC's national character a fantastic new dimension; and as long as we act only after full consultation with community leaders we can avoid the dangers of dependency and paternalism.

The practical considerations are obviously also important to work through. They need to be assessed by each region in terms of both its organisational strength and the nature and logistics of future project work.

In organisational terms: some regions may not have the capacity to undertake such projects in the long term; others may want to take up the occasional project periodically; and the larger regions could consider forming new projects sub-committees - this would obviously be an ideal way of maintaining the involvement of the current volunteers.

Regions would also need to work out the practical dimensions of the projects: long or short term projects? regular or monthly weekend work? including projects under the auspices of welfare organisations? joint projects with black organisations? etc.

My feeling about the process of discussing this idea further is that regions should discuss it if they want to and should then have autonomy to decide on whether to go for it or not. Please let me know if you feel that an idea of this kind requires national discussion ~~before~~ regions make their decisions.

Lets get our hands dirty!
The Bricklayer. (LN)



1986

ECC NATIONAL COUNCIL

DATES: Friday 31 January to Sunday 2 February

VENUE: Natal

NUMBERS: Between 5 and 20 from each ECC region

PROCESS

1. This agenda was drawn up on the basis of comments received from regions, following a provisional agenda circulated by Laurie on 10 November
2. Reports indicated by a star (*) should be circulated to all regions to be received NO LATER THAN 21 JANUARY. This will allow 10 days for regions to copy and circulate all reports to regional delegates and for these to be worked through. Pre-conference discussion of reports will be vital to our successfully working through a tight agenda.
3. Besides assessing ECC work during 1985, regions should thoroughly equip themselves with regard to sections C and D of the agenda - Direction and Planning, and National Policy and Conceptual Discussion. A framework for discussion follows.
4. A number of regions suggested that regional reports need to be integrated with the 'state of struggle' discussion and the section on the role of the SADF. An understanding of both these areas will also assist our discussion on our future direction. Research into the role of the SADF will furthermore provide part of the basis for our report to the UN. Each region should prepare

a report on both these areas, focussing specifically on the situation at a regional level. This will then be pulled together at the National Committee meeting.

5. The final details of the agenda, as well as the process and form of the conference will be sorted out at the National Committee meeting on 31 January.

A G E N D A

A. NATIONAL STRUCTURES AND CO-ORDINATION

1. National Press - Report* and Assessment
2. International Liaison - Report* and assessment, including discussion on International Tours.
3. National Committee - Report and assessment of national co-ordination
4. National Finances - Report* and discussion of new financial system.
5. National Organiser - Report*, assessment, 1986 job definition and appointment.
6. National Office and Secretary - Function of national office, job definition and appointment of National Secretary.
7. Regional part-time workers - discussion and ratification.

B. REGIONAL ASSESSMENT

1. State of Struggle
2. Role and activities of the SADF
3. Annual regional reports*.
4. Inter-regional sub-committee discussions.

C. DIRECTION AND PLANNING

1. Broad direction for 1986
2. Alternative service National action - regional report and national discussion.
3. July call-up action
4. 1986 Festival?
5. Film Festival
6. ECC Record
7. UN Year of Peace
8. Research into role and functions of SADF
9. C.O., the law and Geldenhuys report.

D. NATIONAL POLICY AND CONCEPTUAL DISCUSSION

1. State and right-wing attacks on ECC, including the implications for us, our public response, our legal action and our level of security. There will also be a short report on the Media Council hearings.
2. ECC as a front and an organisation
3. ECC and the PFP Youth
4. ECC as a single-issue campaign.

GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION

SECTION A

Self-explanatory

SECTION B

See Point 4 under 'Process'. The intention will be to understand the political and military context in which we work, and then to evaluate our progress. The section on State of Struggle should cover general political developments in both the white

and black communities, as well as developments within particular constituencies - eg. the Church. Regional developments which have a bearing on the national situation will be extremely important, eg. the activities of Inkatha.

The section on the SADF should include a summary of both its military and non-military activities in particular regions; the effect of both the presence of the SADF in townships, and its withdrawal from certain townships; and any concrete feedback on the attitudes of conscripts.

The basis for the inter-regional sub-committee discussions will be provided in the Regional Reports.

SECTION C

Crucial here is point 1 - our broad direction for 1986. Issues to consider when discussing this question:-

1. How to broaden our work within the white community
2. ECC's work within the Afrikaans constituency
3. ECC's work in the black community, including the relationship with black organisations.
4. Ways of reaching individual conscripts (accepting the position we reached at the July conference).
5. The best tactics in the light of continued State of Emergency and possible state action against ECC

The rest of Section C is fairly self-explanatory, although Point 4 may need prior discussion: Do we need a festival this year?

...../5.

If so, when? Where? Form and content? etc..

SECTION D

The focus of discussion on Point 2 should be on how to maintain and develop the front, with the intention being to generalize lessons learnt in the individual regions.

The discussion on the PFP is an 'optional extra', with some regions feeling that there is no need to discuss it at all. There has been general agreement that if it is discussed, the intention will not be to reach national policy, but rather to understand the different regional positions.

Point 4 is also an 'optional extra', although it seems to have taken on increasing importance - for example, how does our existence as a single-issue campaign influence our participation on bodies such as 'Concerned Citizens'(JHB) or the '23 Organisations'(CT). Also - what does it mean for the criteria of membership of ECC. There has been a suggestion that we formulate national criteria.

** Please contact me as soon as you receive this with any initial comments.

Good luck with the work.

Michael Evans (Ph. 021 47-7407 A/H)

There were a number of issues/activities which need to be followed up arising out of the Feb. N.C. meeting. I have drawn up a list of these. Please be prompt in discussing matters + forwarding the conclusions to the national office. I know that you are all such darlings, so please...

1) July Conference:

Do we need one? We need a decision by the end of the WSP campaign.

2) US Trip

Provisional dates for this are 21 March to end April. Depending on Mike + Janet's availability we might need to appoint either 1 or 2 new people to go. N.C. felt that a basic criterion for this would be that at least one should be a man - to present the conscript's view. We drew up a short list, which regions can adjust i.t.o.

1) Order of priority

2) names - you can add on. Think of more options.
The list (in order of priority) is:
Gavin, Justin, Paula, Chippie, Nic

3) CIIR Publication

CIIR are wanting to update their publication 'War + Conscience'. They have asked us

to do this and what it involves is one person being employed by them for \pm 2 months to do research. Areas that will need to be covered are:

- 1) Militarization in general
- 2) Apartheid def developments, reform initiatives etc.
- 3) Development of organized resistance to the military; COSG, ECC.
- 4) Troops in the townships.

The researcher would be expected to draw up a first draft. Regions are asked to look around for a suitable person.

4) Setting up Offices

Regions establishing offices and who will need to furnish them should draw up a list of what they think are essentials; and a second list of less important items. This is up to you to decide. Please forward these lists to the national office. Steve and I will work on getting funds for these.

5) WORKING FOR A JUST PEACE

Finalised Dates - 2nd April (Wed) to 30th April (Wed).

- Regions will stagger their bunches
- Everyone will end on 30th April

National Media for the campaign:-

- i) Brochure outlining motivation for campaign + types of projects / glossy - to be produced by Cape Town.
- ii) National logo - ideas being worked on by C.T. - to be circulated for approval.
- iii) T-Shirt with logo - Shb.
- iv) Sticker " " - Durban
- v) Buttons - Portb.

- A national press statement will be released
- A statement on the campaign to be endorsed by prominent individuals in regions will be drawn up by me and circulated for approval.
- Vic will draw up and circulate a comprehensive motivation for the campaign.
- Regions are encouraged to consult embassies in their regions for finance for the specific projects - they might well help; + afford a degree of protection.

6) 1986/7 Festival

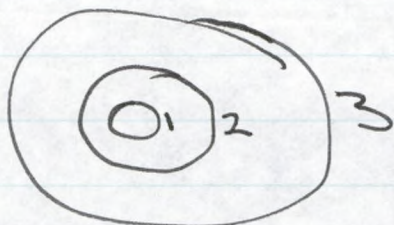
C.T. is working on a proposal + will circulate it. Regions should be thinking of ideas and what there is in their areas at this stage. If this one is going to be BIG we

need to book the LSO soon! (Only playing, sorry, acting!)

8) Laurie's work

A useful way of describing Laurie's work this year came up at N.C., and it goes like this:

If we imagine our established regions ① (Dbn, C.T., Shb); our newer regions ② (P.E, Pmb, G'Town); and our new areas ③ (E.L., S'Bosch, Pretoria, Middelburg) as three concentric circles like this,



= [a genuine eq. of
= [a ven diagram]

Laurie will concentrate on the middle ring (the newer regions), and venture out to the 3rd to establish new ECC's. A large focus will be withdrawn from the established regions.

9) General Information:

i) The new National Publication will initially be based in C.T. Nic will be the N.C. rep on its editorial group + will feed in ideas from the National Committee. The group should work on

S/

a budget and forward it to the national office.

ii) A draft for a national "What is ECC" pamphlet is being worked on by Shb Contact and myself. It will be circulated soon.

iii) N.B - With all media produced in the regions the National Office should get at least 25 copies + 1 example of every T-shirt produced. (Doesn't have to be my size!)

iv) We are finding out details of the evidence that the UN requires. As soon as there is finality on this regions will be informed ~~as~~ as to what is required from them.

v) Err....

vi) That's all.

OK, Bye.

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MINUTES of the 47th Meeting of the End Conscription Committee held on 23rd January 1986.

PRESENT: Civil Rights League, Claremont UDF, Gardens UDF, Anglican BSR, Observatory UDF, Koeberg Alert.

APOLOGIES: WPCC.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Cornelia Bullen-Smith writes from Europe where she received our newsletter, and gives great encouragement.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

(i) Schools

They were engaged in the Cadets campaign (discussed later).

(ii) Churches

They are producing a pamphlet in conjunction with Johannesburg on Christian Action.

(iii) Media

They are planning a skills workshop for after the Cadets campaign. They have produced a school timetable for this campaign, as well as a banner to be made in conjunction with high school pupils.

(iv) Culture

James is the new chair. New T-shirts are being prepared for the national conference. The Baxter has approved a cultural evening during the ECC film festival as well as a photographic exhibition.

HAROLD WINKLER:

Harold Winkler has recently come to Cape Town from Johannesburg ECC. He fasted for three weeks during the 'Troops Out' fast last year. As a conscientious objector he has been rejected by the Board, but has been given 6 months' deferment of service. We are very pleased to have Harold with us and wish him strength for the time ahead.

PAMPHLET BAN:

The City Council is considering a ban on all handbill distribution due to the littering problem, which would severely restrict our campaign work. In conjunction with other organisations we are (a) writing to the council and the papers, (b) phoning through Teleletters, (c) approaching councillors and (d) asking our member organisations to take up this issue as well as (e) approaching certain prominent individuals to exert whatever pressure they can. Suggested alternatives to the Council's ban were:

- banning commercial handbills only
- instituting a fining system for littering
- embarking on a clean-up campaign
- using anti-litter slogans on our pamphlets
- handing pamphlets into peoples' hands, not leaving them lying around

NATIONAL CONFERENCE: (31st January to 2nd February 1986.)

(i) Arrangements:

Two combis are booked from Thursday noon to Tuesday morning. They leave from the Observatory parking-lot at 8 pm on Thursday. Travelling costs have been divided between centres and amount to R20 per person. Additional contributions for petrol are welcome. The venue is a priory near Umhlanga. Bring bedding.

(ii) Cultural evening:

Saturday night has been kept free and people are invited to put on cultural activities for those not otherwise engaged.

(iii) Research:

This is currently very weak in ECC generally. We need 2 people to pull a report together using "facts and reports" data for a 15 min. input on the SADF in Southern Africa. Mathew and Cosima volunteered.

(iv) Report:

The Cape Town report consists of (a) a chronology of our year's activities, (b) minutes of our assessment workshop, (c) subcommittee reports, (d) the alternative service project report, (e) the Cadets campaign report.

(v) National Publication:

The idea of a national ECC publication to fill the space of Objector has been raised and will be discussed at NC. It would provide a broad perspective on the SADF's role. It was suggested that the publication be initially housed in Cape Town, using media people not currently working in ECC, and that we set the basis for a later rotation of production amongst our centres.

SECRETARY:

We have interviewed 4 very good candidates, and Paula Hathorn has been finally chosen to fill this position. Among her good points was her public relations experience; her bad point was that she is on the Executive.

LOCAL OFFICE:

A very suitable renovated suite of four offices at the corner of Main and Bowden roads in Observatory, has been found. It costs R550 per month. It is central, presentable and comfortable, but we need 3 other organisations to share it with us.

ALTERNATIVE SERVICE PROJECT:

(i) Negotiations have begun with community organisations, and the limited feedback we have received is positive.

(ii) The film festival is occurring simultaneously, but no clash of interests is anticipated. (The Troops Out campaign and art exhibition set a precedent.)

(iii) The next planning meeting is on Sunday the 26th of January at 7 pm at 30 Malleison Rd.

(iv) Negotiations concerning the maternity wing at SACLA clinic are delicate, and we mustn't rely on this as our major project. Large funds are available for it, though. Feedback from the Observatory UDF area committee was that the projects should be fully non-racial, that environmental projects were a good idea, and that to farm people out to various organisations for the project would dissipate the focus of the campaign and was therefore a bad idea. The question of non-racialism was pointed out to be a serious discussion needing careful consideration and was sent to the coordinating committee for decision.

Other projects included a research project aimed at helping community organisations give statistical backing to their demands for facilities. Schools and SRCs in the townships were suggested.

CADETS CAMPAIGN:

This campaign is currently under way, coinciding with the first few weeks of school. Its themes are intended to link militarization as it occurs in school with the broader processes affecting S.A. nationally; it is being pointed out that cadets programmes are not compulsory for pupils. A number of ECC front organisations have been involved. The programme includes:

Tuesday 28/1: Women's Movement for Peace hold meeting.

Wednesday 29/1: Pamphlet distribution to schools.

Saturday 1/2: Banner and possibly mural.

Wednesday 5/2: Another pamphlet. 4:30 PAAG meeting.

Thursday 6/2: Possible open forum.

EDASA, PAAG and Sash are releasing a joint statement.

-Media committee have produced a timetable and sticker and are thinking about making a screen for the cultural day.

-Culture committee are liaising with the campaign coordinators for a cultural evening on Friday 7th February.

A pupil is committing himself to objecting to cadets on moral and political grounds, and may be joined by other pupils.

GENERAL:

(i) Margot is typing Laurie's report on the overseas trip-- 29 handwritten pages!

(ii) Those interested in working on the military research group must phone Mathew at 655868.

(iii) A few instances of right-wing harassment have been reported-- all such occurrences must be reported to Paula to aid us with monitoring such conditions.

(iv) Security arrangements have been made in case of crisis-- please ask the Executive for details.

(v) Creative action: another meeting to arrange even more exciting stunts has been set for Saturday the 8th of February at 4 pm at 31 Bowden Rd.

The next General Body Meeting is on Thursday the 13th of February (every 2nd and 4th Thursday in the month).

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