

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN ANNUAL REPORT

FOR CAPE WESTERN REGION

The End Conscription Campaign has gained enormous recognition in Cape Town during the past year. Much of this was particularly due to the Troops Out Campaign. Most of our high profile has been built through good public relations work. These things combined have helped make the End Conscription Campaign almost a household name in Cape Town. We generated a fairly popular and trendy image amongst younger people and gained ground with the white English speaking liberal community.

There were two highlights in our year, namely the Peace Festival in Johannesburg, which we all helped to put together, and our Troops Out Campaign, in September/October. This campaign entailed a huge amount of work and we produced 250,000 items of media before and during the campaign. Cape Town Sash was responsible through the Sash Conscription Sub Group for the financing of several posters and stickers which were greatly welcomed.

This was a time of extreme tension and strain for everyone as our Chairperson was in Detention and the conditions in South Africa were particularly bad -- worse than usual. However, we coped with the crisis and in doing so gained strength and confidence in our organisation and in ourselves. During the campaign we staged an Art Exhibition "Art for Peace". This was the first of its kind and created a ripple effect within the arts community.

We ended the Campaign with a Peace Rally. It was a landmark in recent Cape Town political history and swayed many undecided people towards us. There were 4,000 people there and one of the speakers said he had not been to such a meeting since Chief Albert Lutuli addressed a meeting in the same hall, the Cape Town City Hall)

Right through the year there were ongoing assessments and workshops, educational open forum meetings and alternative creative action such as "Mill-ins". These were times when we donned End Conscription Campaign T Shirts and "milled" amongst shoppers in certain Cape Town areas. It was very positive and also great fun!

The last year has enabled us to forge stronger links with our constituent organisations and despite the difficulties created by the State of Emergency, we have gained enormously in the growth of our organisation and in developing our credibility within our various communities.

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APPENDIX 1

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN AND THE BLACK SASH

There has been a decided strengthening of support amongst the Black Sash members in Cape Town during the year. People are talking about Conscription in a much more open manner and far more constructively. Many Sash members have taken part in End Conscription Campaign activities through the year and the Fast at the Cathedral was particularly well supported with our members in attendance every day. I would like to thank Sash for the support they offered myself and the End Conscription Campaign over the time of the Chairperson's detention, especially the Cape Town Executive and Mary Burton, who could not have been more supportive and helpful.

APPENDIX 2

CHRONOLOGY OF ACTIVITIES DURING 1985

- JAN - Pamphlet distributed to coincide with the call up
- Workshop to plan the IYY campaign
- First National conference at Botha's Hill, Natal : ended with raid by Security Police
- FEB - ECC represented on IYY committees of churches and UDF
- Workshop on security and detentions, with assistance from ADAC
- Production of "Hands off Crossroads" statement poster
- Roadshow perform. for UCT orientation week and Black Sash
- MAR - Public meeting on Civil War - addressed by Trevor Manuel and Laurie Nathan
- Concert in Observatory
- ECC participates in IYY launch
- APR - First meeting of the national committee in JHB
- Participated in NANSO workshop at UWC
- Assessment of sub-committee work and broadening of executive to include sub-comm. representatives
- Held first schools workshop
- Held first 2 open forums on alternatives to conscription and Namibia
- First edition of ECC Calendar
- MAY - Participated in Civil Rights League meeting celebrating 40 years since the defeat of facism
- Planning work for Peace Festival

CHRONCLOGY OF ACTIVITIES during 1985 Cont.

- JUN - Open forum on Civil War
- ECC writes SA Outlook, focussing on conscription
- Fund-raising supper
- Pamphlet distributed to schools
- Peace Festival in JHB, attended by 400 delegates and over 2000 participants - extensive international support
- JUL - Second National Conference in JHB
- ECC speaks at UDF meeting on State of Emergency
- Early planning for Troops Out Campaign
- AUG - ECC gives evidence to the Geldenhuys Committee
- "Troops Out" statement poster
- Public meeting on Troops in the Townships attended by 200
- 4th Open Forum on "40 years since Hiroshima" and the international cold war
- Hold first creative action workshop
- SEP - Public meeting in the Cathedral hall to co-incide with Sept 3 Sebokeng anniversary
- Detention of Chairperson, Mike Evans
- 5th Open Forum on "State of the Nation" attended by 250
- Meeting and vigil to launch Ivan's 20 day fast
- Launch of 2 week "Art for Peace" exhibition at the Baxter, attended by 500 people
- Regular services, lunch time programmes and evening workshops in the Cathedral
- One week programme for schools to co-incide with the vacation
- Vigils at Cathedral, Ron Con and Monenberg
- Relay fasts at St Mary's Cathedral and by UCT SRC
- Pickets on the United Nations International Day of Peace, Sep 17
- Production of 250 000 items of media for Troops Out campaign
- OCT - 6th Open Forum on "State of the Nation"
- Church services to begin and end 24 hour fast
- nearly 2000 people sign visitors book in Cathedral
- Peace Rally attended by 4000 people, addressed by Molly Blackburn, Archbishop Russel, Nompinda Mfaketo, Mike Evans, Ivan Toms and Christmas Tinto
- Assessment and planning workshop
- ECC initiates coming together of 23 organisations in response to decl ration of State of Emergency
- statement poster against State of Emergency

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CHRONOLOGY OF ACTIVITIES DURING 1985 Cont.

- NOV - Another newsletter released
- Alternative service co-ordinating committee meets
- Churches sub-committee formed
- ECC continues participating in range of activities with 23 organisations
- LAG produces "No news is bad news" T-shirts
- The first Cape Town AGM is held and a new executive elected

- DEC - "Cadets Campaign" planning workshop held
- ECC concert with poster exhibition -- good school student attendance
- Stall at CAP's open day
- 4 new T-shirt designs printed
- 23 organisations pamphlet and candle light vigil

1986

- JAN - Service for conscripts
- Pamphlet for churches distribution
- 8000 call-up pamphlets released
- Stickers and poster "Conscripts with no right to choose"
- Picket held to protest call up
- 2 successful creative actions - a sand castle and a jog-in
- Planning for alternative service and cadet campaigns
- Open forum with Laurie and Pete