

SECTION 2 ; PRINCIPLES RELATED TO A FUTURE DEFENCE FORCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

INTRO/CONTEXT

\* ECC National Committee suggested the drafting of a paper to reflect ECC thinking on principles related to a future defence force in South Africa.

\* This paper is a draft framework for use in discussion. The questions which follow are intended to facilitate debate.

DRAFT FRAMEWORK

1. NON-RACIALISM

A new defence force must be non-racial in character. However when the creation of a new defence force takes place there can be no semblances of racism with regard to units, structure, or recruitment. The new defence force should be open to all citizens of South Africa.

- should one be talking of non-racialism ? what about minority rights ?
- how are all the different elements of the forces and people that will make up a new defence force be accommodated ?
- how will certain units respond to their disbanding ? will the Transvaal highlanders or the June 16 detachment be happy with disbanding in accord with non-racialism ?
- what about recruitment policy ?

2. DEFENCE POLICY

a) The defence forces primary role must be the protection of the territorial integrity of South Africa. The use of the Defence Force in internal operations is unacceptable. Internal security is the responsibility of the police force.

b) SA should be committed to developing a nuclear free zone in Africa (in accordance with the OAU's position) and the surrounding oceans

c) SA should adhere to the Geneva conventions relating to the protocol of war and all related internationally accepted agreements that govern the conduct of warfare

- what about internal security in times of war ? when is the defence force entitled to declare war ?

3. DEMOCRACY AND THE NEW DF

a) The new DF should be fully accountable to an all-party parliamentary committee

b) Principles of internal democracy should be prioritised with special emphasis on the individual rights of soldiers as embodied in a bill of rights

c) Soldiers should be entitled to their own political opinions and the right to vote according to their conscience. However in line with maintaining a defence force that will remain accountable to the elected government of the day the influence of party political agendas within the DF must be discouraged through a number of avenues.

d) No member of the Defence Force should be such a member against his or her will; in the event of universal or partial conscription in times of war provision must be made for conscientious objectors in line with a universally accepted bill of rights.

- how can accountability be ensured with a non-conscripted army ? what avenues can be used from a parliament level down to a grass roots level to ensure accountability ?
- what defines an official secret and what level of disclosure should the public be entitled to ?

4. FURTHER ISSUES

a) what type of army is desirable in South Africa ? A professional army or an army based largely on peoples militias ?

b) should the army be the only agency with military capacity ? What type of firearms policy should exist with regard to civilians and their right to defend themselves ?

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