

## CONSCRIPTION INTO THE SADF.

Whites-only conscription is an anomaly within the current climate of reform and political change in South Africa. Since February 1990 the National Party has made it clear that race-based discrimination is no longer part of the new South Africa. The Population Registration Act has recently been scrapped, joining the Group Areas Act, the Land Act and the Separate Amenities Act. Despite this it appears that whites-only conscription will remain.

This shows the SADF to be out of step with the changing South Africa. Whites-only conscription can serve only to maintain a Defence Force whose interests reflect those of the white minority. We believe that the SADF, like all structures of the State, must prepare itself for the new South Africa by building a defence force based on merit and choice rather than on race and conscription.

The violence rampaging through our society means that an effective peace-keeping force is required to contain the conflict so that the deeper causes of violence can be addressed, and in certain circumstances the SADF is used for this task. Conscripts, though, cannot form the basis of a peace-keeping force because of their short training period and the fact that they are enlisted without choice. To operate effectively in strife-torn communities members of such a force must be trained in peace-keeping and not just for war.

We believe that such a force should consist of volunteers and should be representative of all South Africans. We call on the SADF to end racist conscription now so as to open the way towards a defence force that acts for all South Africans.

*Sheena Durcan*

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

## END CONSCRIPTION NOW. Campaign content statement

State President FW de Klerk announced in Parliament in February this year that all apartheid legislation would be repealed during the 1991 parliamentary session. The State President has now repealed the Land Act, the Group Areas Act and the population registration Act. But whites only military conscription remains.

At this very moment thousands of Citizen Force members are being called up for camps. In January 1992 over 30 000 white South African men will begin one year of compulsory military service in the SADF. This is the reality.

Why are we still being called up?

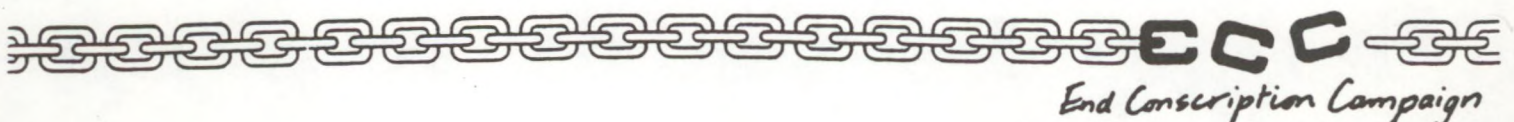
- \* National Service and Citizen Force camps are racially discriminatory
- \* Many who are being called up feel that it is unfair that only whites are being forced to do military service whilst the government has committed itself to a constitutional dispensation which incorporates ALL South Africans
- \* The system of military service is a waste of resources and manpower. Research has shown that an expanded Permanent Force army would meet the legitimate defence needs of South Africa and be cheaper and less wasteful than the current system of "national service" and Citizen Force service.
- \* At the moment in South Africa there is a need for a genuine peacekeeping force. Instead the SADF is playing a dual role in the conflict. On a public level it acts as keeper of the peace. However behind the scenes the SADF, and more particularly the Department of Military Intelligence (DMI) are still up to their old tricks. CCB structures are still in place and the Press is full of reports of right wing sections of the SADF attempting to destabilise the negotiation process. The SADF therefore needs to be transformed into a genuinely representative and neutral force. As a first step towards this, CONSCRIPTION MUST GO.
- \* Military conscription is an infringement of the individual's right to freedom of conscience.
- \* The state has suspended prosecutions against conscientious objectors. In effect, conscription is only being enforced selectively. The government is avoiding having to face the consequences of opposition to conscription.
- \* Senior legal experts say the call-up is illegal.

The End Conscription Campaign says enough is enough. The SADF is not a neutral force, the actions of the DMI have shown it.

Now is the time to say no to more conscription. No to more camps. No to the political manipulation of the DMI.

Yes to the right to freedom of conscience. Yes to the right to choose whether or not to serve in the SADF.

Yes to a non-racial defence force which is representative of all South Africans. Yes to a politically neutral peace-keeping SADF.



## ECC CAMPAIGN DECLARATION

1991

The purpose of our July "End Racist Conscription" campaign is to highlight the anomalous nature of continued "whites-only" conscription within the current climate of reform and political change. Through this campaign, we also intend to address the current crisis of violence facing our country.

Since February 2nd 1990, the National Party has made it clear that race-based discrimination is no longer part of the new South Africa. State President F.W. de Klerk has promised the repeal of all discriminatory legislation by the end of June 1991.

We have seen the repeal of the Group Areas Act, the Land Act, the Separate Amenities Act and the beginning of an integrated education system. Other Acts like the Population Registration Act are due to be repealed in the current parliamentary session.

However, judging by the statements of the Minister of Defence, it appears as if the "whites-only" system of conscription is to remain until the process of negotiating a new constitution has run its course.

The ECC believes that this reflects the fact that the SADF and its Generals are out of step with the changing South Africa.

At this time, it seems to serve no purpose to maintain whites only conscription apart from maintaining an SADF whose interests reflect the white minority.

The ECC believes that the SADF, like all structures of the state, must prepare itself for the new South Africa by building a defence force based on merit and choice rather than race and conscription. It is vital that the Defence Force is representative of all South Africans.

With the violence currently rampaging through our society, it is clear that an effective peace keeping force is required to contain conflict while the deeper causes of the violence are addressed.

In certain areas round the country, community organisations have requested the SADF to be the main peace keepers. This request is based in the belief that the SADF does manage to fulfill the role of a neutral peace keeping force. It is also based on the belief that the SADF is the lesser of two evils and reflects a crisis of legitimacy faced by the SAP.

However, we believe certain elements in the SADF are misusing its structures and resources which they have at their disposal, to further their own sectarian political interests. We believe it is necessary for individuals involved to be fully exposed and requested to resign from whatever position or link with the SADF they have, in order for the SADF to function effectively as a peace keeping force.

ECC acknowledges the fact that in certain situations the SADF may be required to maintain peace and stability in strife torn communities. At the same time, it is important that the SADF plays the role of an effective peace keeping force.

In order to achieve this it is vital that SADF members are effectively and rigorously trained in peace keeping and not just for war.

We believe that such a force should consist of volunteers, and should be representative of all South Africans. Conscripts cannot form the basis of an effective peace keeping force in areas of conflict because of their short training period and the fact that they are conscripted without choice.

The key objectives of the July campaign are:

- 1) To continue our call for an end to conscription and to promote our policy on conscription now and in the future;
- 2) To expose the anomalous nature of whites only conscription in the current political climate and challenge the State President to repeal race based conscription in line with the promise of political reform;
- 3) To pressurise the SADF to respond positively to the political challenges of the day;
- 4) To demonstrate the ECC's constructive concern about the violence and explain the why conscription and the deployment of conscripts in areas of violence are not contributing to long term peace and security among strife torn communities;



FAX TRANSMISSION - COVERING MEMORANDUM

DATE; 26/6/91

TO; Nan Cross

ATTENTION; \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESSEE'S NUMBER; (011) 8343189

FROM; Kevin McManus

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVERING MEMORANDUM; 2

If you do not receive all the pages, please telephone or telex us immediately.

Dear Nan

Attached is statement for endorsement

Regards

Kevin

Get signatures & send to hess. by Fax.

Send Gleason to other regions. check round the country by Monday for actions. and tell Chris.

Whites-only conscription is anomalous within the current climate of reform and political change in South Africa. Since February 1990 the National Party has made it clear that race-based discrimination is no longer part of the new South Africa. The Population Registration Act has recently been scrapped, joining the Group Areas Act, the Land Act and the Separate Amenities Act. Despite this it appears that whites only conscription will remain.

This shows the SADF to be out of step with the changing South Africa. Whites-only conscription can only serve to maintain an SADF whose interests reflects those of the white minority. We believe that the SADF, like all structures of the State, must prepare itself for the new South Africa by building a defence force based on merit and choice rather than on race and conscription. It is vital that the Defence Force is representative of all South Africans.

The violence rampaging through our society means that an effective peace keeping force is required to contain the conflict so that the deeper causes of the violence can be addressed, and in certain circumstances the SADF is required for this task. Conscripts, though, cannot form the base of a peace keeping force because of their short training period and the fact that they are conscripted without choice. To operate effectively in strife torn communities members of the SADF must be trained in peace keeping and not just for war.

We believe that such a force should consist of volunteers and should be representative of all South Africans. We call on the SADF to end racist conscription now so as to open the way towards a defence force that acts for all South Africans

Whites-only conscription is anomalous within the current climate of reform and political change in South Africa. Since February 1990 the National Party has made it clear that race-based discrimination is no longer part of the new South Africa. The Population Registration Act has recently been scrapped, joining the Group Areas Act, the Land Act and the Separate Amenities Act. Despite this it appears that whites only conscription will remain.

This shows the SADF to be out of step with the changing South Africa. Whites-only conscription can only serve to maintain an SADF whose interests reflects those of the white minority. We believe that the SADF, like all structures of the State, must prepare itself for the new South Africa by building a defence force based on merit and choice rather than on race and conscription. It is vital that the Defence Force is representative of all South Africans.

The violence rampaging through our society means that an effective peace keeping force is required to contain the conflict so that the deeper causes of the violence can be addressed, and in certain circumstances the SADF is required for this task. Conscripts, though, cannot form the base of a peace keeping force because of their short training period and the fact that they are conscripted without choice. To operate effectively in strife torn communities members of the SADF must be trained in peace keeping and not just for war.

We believe that such a force should consist of volunteers and should be representative of all South Africans. We call on the SADF to end racist conscription now so as to open the way towards a defence force that acts for all South Africans

## CONSCRIPTION INTO THE SADF.

Whites-only conscription is an anomaly within the current climate of reform and political change in South Africa. Since February 1990 the National Party has made it clear that race-based discrimination is no longer part of the new South Africa. The Population Registration Act has recently been scrapped, joining the Group Areas Act, the Land Act and the Separate Amenities Act. Despite this it appears that whites-only conscription will remain.

This shows the SADF to be out of step with the changing South Africa. Whites-only conscription can serve only to maintain a Defence Force whose interests reflect those of the white minority. We believe that the SADF, like all structures of the State, must prepare itself for the new South Africa by building a defence force based on merit and choice rather than on race and conscription.

The violence rampaging through our society means that an effective peace-keeping force is required to contain the conflict so that the deeper causes of violence can be addressed, and in certain circumstances the SADF is used for this task. Conscripts, though, cannot form the basis of a peace-keeping force because of their short training period and the fact that they are enlisted without choice. To operate effectively in strife-torn communities members of such a force must be trained in peace-keeping and not just for war.

We believe that such a force should consist of volunteers and should be representative of all South Africans. We call on the SADF to end racist conscription now so as to open the way towards a defence force that acts for all South Africans.

*Sheena Duncan*

## ECC CAMPAIGN DECLARATION

The purpose of our July "End Racist Conscription" campaign is to highlight the anomalous nature of continued "whites-only" conscription within the current climate of reform and political change. Through this campaign, we also intend to address the current crisis of violence facing our country.

Since February 2nd 1990, the National Party has made it clear that race-based discrimination is no longer part of the new South Africa. State President F.W. de Klerk has promised the repeal of all discriminatory legislation by the end of June 1991.

We have seen the repeal of the Group Areas Act, the Land Act, the Separate Amenities Act and the beginning of an integrated education system. Other Acts like the Population Registration Act are due to be repealed in the current parliamentary session.

However, judging by the statements of the Minister of Defence, it appears as if the "whites-only" system of conscription is to remain until the process of negotiating a new constitution has run its course.

The ECC believes that this reflects the fact that the SADF and its Generals are out of step with the changing South Africa.

At this time, it seems to serve no purpose to maintain whites only conscription apart from maintaining an SADF whose interests reflect the white minority.

The ECC believes that the SADF, like all structures of the state, must prepare itself for the new South Africa by building a defence force based on merit and choice rather than race and conscription. It is vital that the Defence Force is representative of all South Africans.

With the violence currently rampaging through our society, it is clear that an effective peace keeping force is required to contain conflict while the deeper causes of the violence are addressed.

In certain areas round the country, community organisations have requested the SADF to be the main peace keepers. This request is based in the belief that the SADF does manage to fulfill the role of a neutral peace keeping force. It is also based on the belief that the SADF is the lesser of two evils and reflects a crisis of legitimacy faced by the SAP.

However, we believe certain elements in the SADF are misusing its structures and resources which they have at their disposal, to further their own sectarian political interests. We believe it is necessary for individuals involved to be fully exposed and requested to resign from whatever position or link with the SADF they have, in order for the SADF to function effectively as a peace keeping force.

ECC acknowledges the fact that in certain situations the SADF may be required to maintain peace and stability in strife torn communities. At the same time, it is important that the SADF plays the role of an effective peace keeping force.

In order to achieve this it is vital that SADF members are effectively and rigorously trained in peace keeping and not just for war.

We believe that such a force should consist of volunteers, and should be representative of all South Africans. Conscripts cannot form the basis of an effective peace keeping force in areas of conflict because of their short training period and the fact that they are conscripted without choice.

The key objectives of the July campaign are:

- 1) To continue our call for an end to conscription and to promote our policy on conscription now and in the future;
- 2) To expose the anomalous nature of whites only conscription in the current political climate and challenge the State President to repeal race based conscription in line with the promise of political reform;
- 3) To pressurise the SADF to respond positively to the political challenges of the day;
- 4) To demonstrate the ECC's constructive concern about the violence and explain the why conscription and the deployment of conscripts in areas of violence are not contributing to long term peace and security among strife torn communities;



ECC END CONSCRIPTION NOW CAMPAIGN

Re-action to the ECC insert in the Star of 10 December 1991  
from 10 to 17 December 1991

Approximately 65 calls on answering machine with no message.

Other calls:

Most of the callers wanted information or advice on camps or national service. (68)

Some quite polite calls opposing the pamphlet.(4 or 5)

The following are choice abusive calls (either on the machine or in person): (approx 16)

"I've got your pamphlet and I'm going into the Army and I'm going to fuck all the kaffirs and all you bitches too"

"Alles wat julle se in hierdie pamflet is onwaar"

"People like you should go back to your own country. You're not wanted in this place"

"You liberal clown.... When we come to power we're going to conscript all the whites and all the floppies and the coolies too"

(Unclear)... kak...flipping hoor"

"Without the army there's no country you dumb bitch"

".....Go out and get a proper job"

"I hope a fokking kaffir rapes you"

"....just an ANC and communistic pamphlet. I'm sick and tired of receiving rubbish in the Star"

" I think this is a damn cheek.....it's people like you who have got this country into a mess.....the army is wasting its time in the townships: let the bloody kaffirs kill each other."... and a lot more in similar vein, very angry.

"What about Chris Hani's army?"

"Your organisation stinks"

"...the biggest lot of bull you can think of...you should be ashamed of yourselves"

"Fuck you; watch your back lady"

"Stuff your whole campaign"

In addition to these comments (all anonymous and most of them on the answering machine) there was a rather more polite call from

a member of the AWB, and others who are in favour of conscription, mainly on the lines of character building for young men. But even these agreed that the camp system as at present implemented is disastrous and should be scrapped. One very confused man who called himself an anarchist and a pacifist and just wanted to talk. One black caller asked whether we were advocating conscription for blacks too. And a few asked about joining ECC.

Total responses to date: (approx.) 154

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

TOWARDS A JUST PEACE IN OUR LAND

An ECC Campaign Declaration

1. Our message:

Conscription is wrong.  
Conscription is unnecessary and unreasonable.  
Conscription of whites males only is illegal.  
Many people are not reporting for national service or camps.

The SADF is still involved in covert action.  
The SADF does not listen to conscripts.  
The SADF has lied in the past and is lying today.

"We believe that it is the moral right of South Africans to exercise freedom of conscience and to choose (whether or) not to serve in the SADF."

2. The key objectives of our campaign to END CONSCRIPTION NOW will be

\* to challenge the State to end conscription now, both by lobbying behind the scenes, and by a public campaign which will bring in sympathetic organisations, VIPs, the mainstream press including magazines, radio and TV.

This challenge might include the demand to remove section 121(c) from the Defence Act.

\* to inform the public, especially conscripts and their families of our Message, by means of articles, a petition, pamphlets and any other media, and to make personal contact with the people we are trying to reach.

\* to use to the best advantage the space that has been provided by the appointment of the Gleeson committee and consequent freeze of prosecutions; and the appointment of a new Minister of Defence.

August 26 1991



*End Conscription Campaign*

## END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

### POLICY ON CONSCRIPTION IN A POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

#### PREAMBLE

The End Conscription Campaign rejects racially-based conscription as part of a broader strategy of militarisation. We believe that this system has resulted in racial polarisation and serious damage to the social fabric of our society. Furthermore, we believe that in a post-apartheid South Africa the coercion and force that has characterised our nation in the past must be done away with. Thus, we believe that conscription, both military and non-military, should not exist.

#### ECC POLICY

It is the ECC's policy that military conscription should not form the basis of the personnel procurement policy of the defence force in a post-apartheid South Africa for the following reasons:

- 1) Military conscription is a violation of the individual's right to choose how he or she defines "service" to his or her country.
- 2) Military conscription results in a serious misuse of manpower, results in the wasting of time and low productivity, and is inefficient as a means of ensuring adequate troop levels or at directing skills where they are needed most.
- 3) While recognising that there may be a need for nation building, particularly among the youth, the ECC believes very firmly that military conscription is an inappropriate vehicle for such a program. Instead, we believe that opportunities should be made available for those who wish to volunteer for military or non-military service.
- 4) South Africa has no need for a large defence force requiring universal conscription. The vast number of conscripts resulting from such a system would place an intolerable burden on state resources, without contributing to the upliftment of disadvantaged communities. While a ballot system could be used to control the numbers of conscripts, such a system nevertheless would require a vast bureaucracy to monitor potential and actual conscripts, and is, in a sense, the worst of both worlds.
- 5) The ECC believes that the effects of racial polarisation in our country will not disappear overnight, and that there will continue to be groups and individuals who resist conscription, for various reasons. Thus, we believe that conscription remains a recipe for ongoing polarisation and conflict, even if carried out on a non-racial basis.

The ECC further believes that a system of non-military conscription is undesirable and should not be introduced. Many of the above objections to military conscription apply equally to non-military conscription. In addition, the portion of the population potentially available for non-military conscription is huge, and could amount to several hundred thousand individuals per annum. Clearly, it is impracticable to introduce a "nation building" program involving so many people. On the other hand, we doubt that it would be possible to find an equitable basis for selectively conscripting people into such a program. Thus, we believe that such a system would simply place great pressure on the State's resources, and would be too large and clumsy for the effective implementation of development programs.

In the event of a democratically elected future government deciding that military conscription should be re-introduced, the ECC believes that the right of individuals to object to military service on grounds of conscience must be recognised. In such a scenario, we believe that conscientious objectors should be offered non-military service on request, on an entirely non-punitive basis, with the option of service in non-governmental bodies. This right should be entrenched in a Bill of Rights.

Our message: Conscription is wrong.  
" — is unreasonable and unnecessary.  
" — is illegal.

- Many people are not reporting.
- +ve message — ~~what we need is a nonracial democratic~~  
professional defence force <sup>the right to choose whether or not to serve</sup>
- Critique — SADF does not listen to conscripts + campers.  
— SADF is involved in covert action.  
— SADF has lied in the past and is lying today.
- \* — Content document — Shb.

## The Campaign.

### 1. State challenge.

- Contact Meyer for meeting — CT.
- Contact organisations in region for comment on conscription to be sent to Meyer.  
— One letter drawn up ~~Non~~  
— Used by all regions — All regions.  
— Range of O's should be contacted.
- Push for articles in 'main stream' newspapers, magazines etc.  
Scope — Durban.  
Penthouse — Shb.  
SABC (Meyer Debate) — Shb.  
etc. Fair lady, Cosmo. — CT.
- Petition / Statement for VIP endorsement.  
— Draw up Petition / statement Shb  
— Regions to collect — All Regions

- e. Media. (National?)
- Poster (street).
  - sticker
  - T Shirt.
  - Pamphlet

## 2. Accessing the 'G' Factor.

- a. Articles (see 1c.)
- Possible for all regions to look but novel areas to push for articles. - All Regions.
  - ie.: P.M.B. Chickenfarmers' News.
- b. Pamphlet for the 'Gs'. (bilingual) Sub.
- Drawn up + circulated for comment.
  - All regions investigate ways of "mass distribution". - All Regions.
  - ie. - Tables in Shopping centers.
  - Professional media drops.
  - etc.
- c. Petition for the 'Gs'.
- Drawn up + circulated for comment
  - All regions investigate ways of collecting (Interfacing with 'Gs' more important than numbers collected).
- d. Media (see 1.e.)

Policy Documents.

Conception Policy Document

CNS Policy Document

Principles of new defense force?

Oct 1

Nov 1

Dec 1

\* Message document to be circulated.

Sep 1

\* Message document to be finalized

Draft petition to be circulated 1.D.

Oct 1

Draft petition finalized 1.D.

If no meeting with Meyer CT blows story.

Nov 1

'G. Factor' circulated.

Dec 1

Jan 1

CALL UP.

Cover letter - 1.B. circulated.

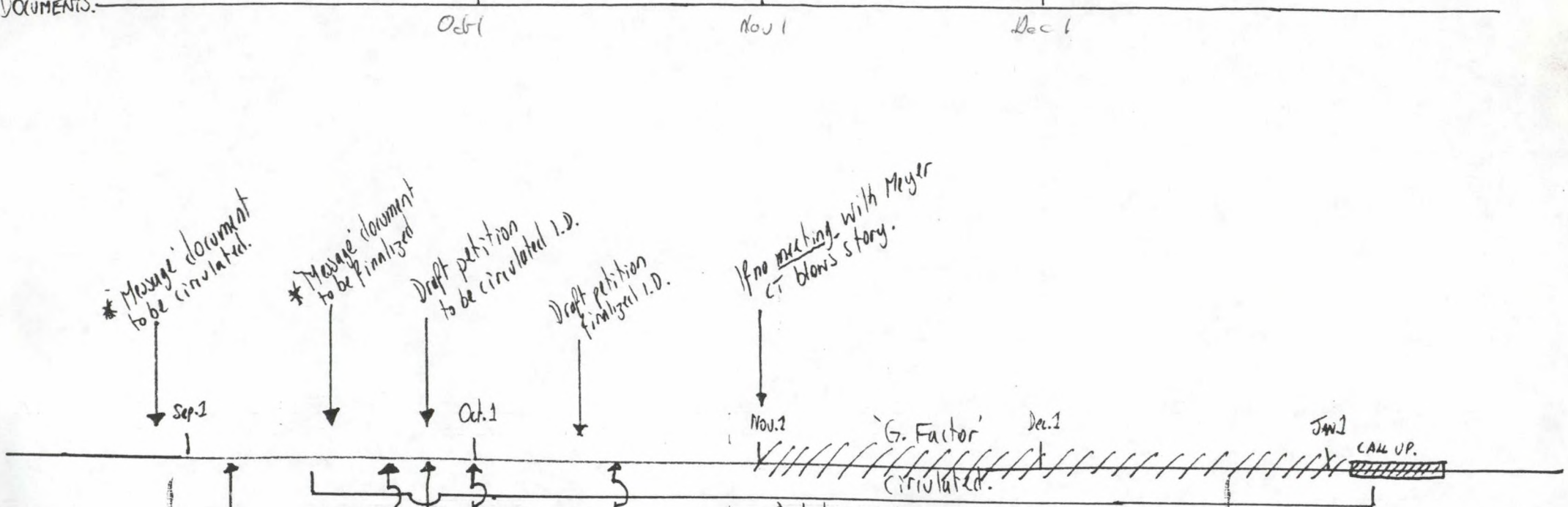
Cover letter - 1.B. finalized.

G'factor pamphlet circulated. 2.C.

Media designs circulated. 1.E + 2.D.

G'factor pamphlet finalized. 2.C.

Articles - 1.C 2.A.





**Collection Number: AG1977**

**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

©2013

**LEGAL NOTICES:**

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.