

AA.7.8

Sent by Fax

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423
Fax: 834-3189

November 11 1991

ANC Office,
Landgreven 7, Third floor,
1301 Copenhagen K
Denmark

4 pages.

Fax No: 0945 33159111
For attention John Hansen

Dear John,

Herewith an update on the current conscription situation, and a bit about ECC.

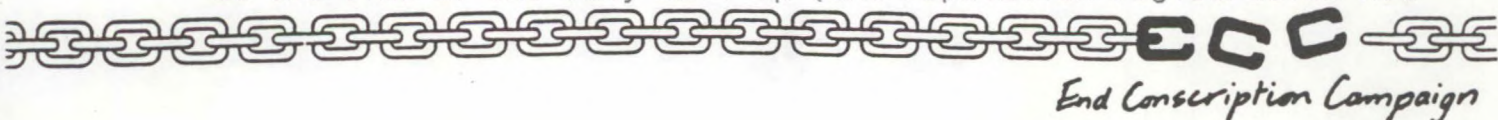
1. The call-up continues unchanged. The next National Service intake starts on about January 7, and some men have already received call-ups for the July 1992 intake. At this time of the year there are also many camp call-ups for December and January.

2. More and more conscripts are getting angry about conscription, especially those called up for camps; and those who did two years' national service as opposed to the current one year feel particularly aggrieved. Reasons vary: interference with career, financial hardship, domestic obligations, waste of time, "political" - which quite often boils down to "Why are they still calling up only whites?" and some (few) with genuine moral or ethical conscientious objections. Anyway, the number of people ignoring the call-up is now enormous - in the region of 80% staying away from camps and about 50% from national Service. Both the ECC office and the Conscription Advice Service in Johannesburg have been inundated with calls from angry conscripts ever since July. Durban CAS also reports a sharp rise in calls.

3. In spite of threats to individuals, the SADF is in fact not taking action against non-attenders, at any rate in the main centres. This may be as a result of a policy decision not to prosecute COs until the Gleeson committee's recommendations are accepted. This was an internal SADF committee set up at the end of May specifically to look at Conscientious Objection. Its report is said to be in the hands of the new Minister, Roelf Meyer, but nothing has been made public. The second reason for the SADF shying away from prosecutions may be that it does not want to fight a case which raises the question of continued call-up of whites only in spite of the repeal of the Population Registration Act.

4. One conscript, Michael Graaf of Durban, has been granted political indemnity in terms of the Pretoria minute. This was the result of a long hard battle started by his lawyer at the time of his sentence (to 2400 hours part-time unpaid work in a hospital) in October last year; the indemnity finally came through in August.

5. ECC ran a fairly low-key "End Racist Conscription" campaign at the time of the July call-up (the Population registration Act



was repealed in June). This is currently being revitalised into "End Conscription Now" with pamphlets aimed mainly at the disgruntled conscripts.

6. At the ECC National Conference in May this year, a resolution was passed affirming ECC's opposition to conscription both now and in a future defence force. The idea of constructive voluntary non-military national service was floated, with a small professional defence force to replace the present system of conscription.

7. ECC continues to be a "dirty word" in establishment SADF circles. Attempts to meet the minister (over a very long period) have been met with rebuff. ECC's full-time fieldworker, monitoring violence in Natal over the past year, has had difficulty in trying to get information or co-operation from the SADF in the region. Nevertheless he has acquired a very good overall picture of SADF involvement in the situation (both covert and overt) and is currently getting his material ready for publication.

8. The Conscientious Objector Support Group (COSG) has submitted a recommendation to the ANC constitutional committee for the right to Conscientious Objection to be included in the ANC's Draft Bill of Rights.

In summary then: Conscription is crumbling and almost becoming unenforceable, but is still very much in operation. This means that for conscripts the situation is murky rather than clearcut. ECC continues to operate, but on a very much smaller scale, and I think we're all longing for the day when we can fold up the organisation having achieved our aim!

Press-clips attached about the "racist conscription" issue, and President de Klerk's latest pronouncements at the Transvaal Nat congress last week.

All good luck to the ANC and to the Anti-Apartheid Movement in Denmark for continuing to slog away in a very much more difficult situation than pre-1990. A luta continua.

Yours sincerely



Nan Cross
National worker.

Sunday Star

FW echoes the past

PRESIDENT de Klerk's dogmatic statement that the NP is not prepared to allow the ANC or any other movement to take over power was badly timed, coming just weeks before the start of multi-party talks.

The conference is supposed to prepare the way for negotiations towards a non-racial constitution, and the Government has said repeatedly that its own constitutional proposals are negotiable. But now Mr de Klerk's prospective negotiating partners could, with justification, question his bona fides if he has already excluded the possibility of any other party taking over power.

Mr de Klerk was clearly trying to reassure worried Nats who fear the ANC is about to take over the country. But to all other parties and movements his assertion sounded suspiciously like that of other African leaders who have refused to relinquish power.

What he was really driving at was that his party will insist on its own plan for minority influence over a future government with minor concessions after negotiations, but that no other constitutional plan will be considered seriously.

The NP plan for what it calls "power-sharing" is well-known, and Mr de Klerk has every right to promote it with all the vigour at his disposal. But, instead, he went much further in ruling out even the possibility of a majority government on the eve of negotiations.

The NP's constitutional plan has now been endorsed unanimously by all Nat party congresses, and Mr de Klerk has all the backing from his constituency that he needs.

There was therefore no need for him to indulge in rhetorical over-kill to play to a gallery that has already signalled its support for his leadership.

Perhaps Mr de Klerk also has an eye on this month's Virginia by-election, and on the Potchefstroom by-election next year. But the fate of the vital negotiation process should not be subject to by-elections in a Parliament that is due to be replaced anyway — or is Mr de Klerk now more worried about the white right-wing backlash than he has admitted?

Mr de Klerk should instead have taken his cue from the many Transvaal NP congress delegates who voiced their eagerness for rapid progress, such as the Nat who said, to applause, that people should stop calling themselves Afrikaners and become South Africans instead.

STAR 8/11/91

FW warns of crackdown

Political Staff

President de Klerk said last night that it was becoming clearer by the day that the ANC could not be trusted in its present guise.

He warned that he would be obliged to take "serious" steps to combat violence if the National Peace Accord did not succeed.

He was addressing about 1 500 delegates while opening the Transvaal's National Party congress in Pretoria.

The president said he did not wish to elaborate on the steps but they would entail "serious implications".

He pledged that the NP would continue to seek understanding through discussion and negotiation.

In a strong attack on the ANC, Mr de Klerk said: "The reality is that the ANC's financial support is drying up, it is disorganised and is losing support as a result of its

inability to contribute towards ending violence.

"Now that the ANC is no longer able to hide behind apartheid and the image of a disadvantaged and banned organisation, it stands exposed to the glaring spotlight of public attention. By the day it is becoming clearer the ANC cannot be trusted in its present guise," he said.

Responding today the ANC took strong exception to President de Klerk's criticism and said he had acted "irresponsibly".

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said in an interview it was "outrageous" that President de Klerk, whose Government had used taxpayers' money to fund the Inkatha Freedom Party and whose security forces were failing to curb violence in the country, was now saying the ANC could not be trusted.

He added that the State President was

"playing politics" to consolidate his conservative Transvaal constituency, and was therefore acting "irresponsibly".

His accusations had not contributed to a climate of peace in the country, but had further heightened tensions.

At last night's meeting five people were forcibly removed from the congress by police after disrupting his address. The five, who claimed to be members of the AWB and the Organisasie met Weerstand teen Kommuniste, handed out leaflets calling for a whites-only police force.

Mr de Klerk said there was a mood of despair and insecurity in the country because of a widespread perception the ANC, with its "irresponsible utterances and actions", would take over South Africa; and because of the violence, crime rate and the recession.

● Honours and 18 holes for FW — Page 10

No more whites-only troopies

STAR 11/7/91

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.

(Mrs) Sheena Duncan
Peter Soal, MP
Rabbi Ady E Assabi
Bishop Duncan Buchanan
Johannesburg

This letter was sent to several papers as part of the 'End Racist Conscription' campaign run by ECC

Whites only
conscription

is illegal

7/8/91 South.

Dear Sir
THERE has recently been a lot of debate about the validity of whites-only conscription in the "new" South Africa.

Some lawyers are stating that a race-based call-up is in fact illegal, since the repeal of the Population Registration Act. Yet you have stated that whites-only conscription will remain until a new constitution is established.

We believe that conscription is illegal coercion and we challenge the SADF to prove the call-up's legality by actually prosecuting us. One of us refused our call-up in January, the other more recently in June: we have not been prosecuted.

We believe the SADF is not an appropriate peace-keeping force in South Africa and that whites-only conscription can only contribute to the violence.

For these reasons, and because of the actions of the Civil Cooperation Bureau and other such units (for example their alleged links with the train massacres and their threats to members of the ANC) we will never serve in the SADF.

If we refuse our call-ups and are not prosecuted, is there any reason for other white South African men to do their military service?

We challenge the Minister of Defence to actually enforce the racist call-up or to end conscription now!

FRANCOIS KRIGE AND
FRITZ JOUBERT
WYNNBERG

Also appeared in the Cape Town dailies.

End Conscription Campaign

National Office
P.O. Box 537
2100 Kengray

Tel (011) 836-8423
Fax (011) 834-3189

REF: Min DEF1

Durban Office
56 Ecimencal Centre
20 St Andrew's St.
4001 Durban

Tel (031) 304-5883
Fax (031) 301-6611

12 November 1991

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
PRIVATE BAG X 427
PRETORIA
0001

Dear Sir

~~~~~ URGENT REQUEST FOR MEETING: NOVEMBER 1991 ~~~~~

In the first place, the ECC wishes to congratulate you on your appointment to the Defence portfolio. We are encouraged by the sentiments you have voiced, your reputation as a fair negotiator (as displayed during the recent Peace Accord negotiations) and news of an enlightened new approach by your ministry and department (apparently encapsulated in the SADF Code of Conduct, yet to be released).

We welcome these changes and their implications, and hope accordingly, that the government has softened its previously antagonistic regard for the ECC. Recognition of the ECC (and its legitimate support base) by the Department of Defence is long overdue, and we hereby wish to register our desire to commence constructive dialogue with you and your representatives. We submit that such engagement is not only appropriate in this era of negotiation, but also necessary and mutually beneficial.

For instance the ECC has created the position of Natal Fieldworker, whose brief it is to monitor SADF activity in the violence-wracked townships of Natal. Regular reports have been published - and we have posted our latest report to your office for your perusal - and a number of disclosures leading to criminal prosecutions have resulted. We wish to point out that we are not blind to the positive role that is so often played by the SADF in these situations (see Pg 2. of the October report), but simply stand by the public's right to know exactly how conscripts - who are after all, members of the public themselves - are utilised in their present internal role.



ECC
End Conscription Campaign

We also believe that the conduct of non-conscripts, ie. Permanent Force members of the SADF, has a direct bearing on the conscription issue, since young men are currently being compelled by the Defence Act to associate themselves with the SADF, and therefore all its other employees. Thus we believe that the activities of the SADF's Special Forces for example, are entirely relevant to the conscription issue.

On the basis of the new era of tolerance and the imminent changes within the South African Defence Force itself, the End Conscription Campaign wishes to meet with you personally to discuss inter alia, the following points:

1. VIOLENCE AND THE ROLE OF THE SADF

- 1.1 Our perceptions on the successes and failures of the SADF in its domestic law-enforcement capacity,
- 1.2 The possibility of the ECC playing a facilitative role between SADF personnel and representatives from (specifically Natal) communities where the former are deployed, in line with the National Peace Accord or otherwise, including representation of the SADF on Local Dispute Resolution Committees, and the content and application of the proposed Code of Conduct for Defence Force members, and
- 1.3 Our concerns about (possibly unsanctioned) actions on the part of certain individuals and elements within the SADF, especially so-called "covert" units such as Special Forces, and their accountability (or otherwise) to DMI and your office.

2. COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE:

- 2.1 The progress or otherwise of the Gleeson Committee on Conscientious Objection,
- 2.2 The report of the Van Loggerengerg Committee on SADF Manpower policy,
- 2.3 The anomalous nature of racially based conscription at the present time,

We acknowledge the sensitivity of aspects of this proposed agenda, but urge your office in turn to recognise both our bona fides and our potential contribution to your information network. We intend to approach any discussions emanating herefrom, in a spirit of frankness and openness, and sincerely hope that you will do the same.

We must emphasise that we regard this proposed meeting as a matter of the utmost urgency and accordingly request that you respond to this letter (fax) by Friday 22 November, with a proposed time and venue for the meeting to take place within ten (9) days from that date, ie. before the end of November 1991. Our delegation, which will consist of 4 representatives, will be prepared to travel to Pretoria.

For the sake of convenience, we recommend that your office deal with the ECC's National Office [tel + fax nos. SUPRA] who will in turn liaise with other branches and the Natal Fieldworker in particular.

We anxiously await your reply.

Yours Faithfully

H B OSBORN
NATAL FIELDWORKER

pp ECC NATIONAL

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423
Fax: 834-3189

12 November 1991

Erich Deil
Jassminweg 16
D 4030 Ratingen
Deutschland.

Dear Erich,


I have been asked to send a message of support from ECC to DFG-VK for your 100th anniversary next year. ECC and the Conscientious Objector Support Group are very grateful for the support from your organisation over the years of apartheid militarisation and oppression. It is thanks to both internal and external pressure that we seem to have almost reached our goal of ending military conscription in South Africa - though we are not there yet!

I hope that the following message will be adequate:

The End Conscription Campaign of South Africa sends greetings to DFG-VK on the occasion of your 100th birthday. From our country, torn by violence and militarisation at all levels, we send a hope for peaceful solutions to conflicts whether in Europe or Africa or elsewhere in the world. As fellow-workers against the militarisation of society we stand by you and wish you success in your work. May you go from strength to strength.

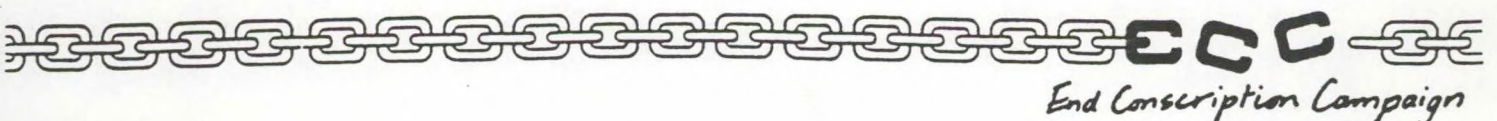
We look forward to hearing how you plan to celebrate your centenary next year; I take it that there will be reports in "Peace News".

Yours sincerely



Nan Cross
National Worker.

copy: Rob Goldman



End Conscription Campaign

National Office

P.O. Box 537
2100 Kengray

Tel (011) 836-8423
Fax (011) 834-3189

Durban Office

56 Ecimencal Centre
20 St Andrew's St.
4001 Durban

Tel (031) 304-5883
Fax (031) 301-6611

28 August 1991

Ms N. Cross
ECC National Secretary

Dear Nan

Welcome back from your travels! We've had an informal report-back from Andrew and Sue. They say you did a good job in representing COSG. I hope your other activities went smoothly.

I'm writing in connection with an ECC matter. The CO movement in Germany, DFG-VK (Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft - Vereinigte Kriegsdienstgegner), celebrates its 100th anniversary next year. They would like a message of support from us. This seems appropriate, not least because they organised the 1989 ECC speaking tour to Germany which Mandy, Ali and I went on. Durban ECC felt it would 'carry more weight' if the letter came from you on behalf of ECC National, rather than just from one branch. Would you be able to oblige?

The request reads as follows: "Next year the DFG-VK will celebrate its 100th anniversary (founded in 1892 by Bertha von Suttner, the first Nobel Peace Prize winner). I would like to get some letters from friends of foreign countries about the theme 'If there are not 100 years DFG-VK, there would be more militarism all over the world' or similar. Such letters would raise the prestige of the anti-militarism in Germany".

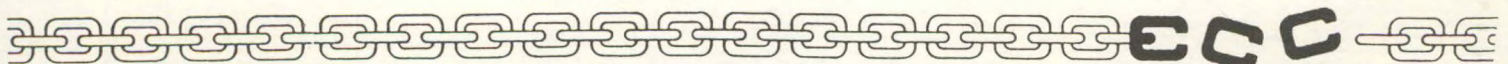
The message should be sent to Erich Deil
Jasminweg 16
D 4030 Ratingen
B.R. Deutschland

Many thanks Nan.

In peace,



Rob Goldman



End Conscription Campaign

National Office

P.O. Box 537
2100 Kengray

Tel (011) 836-8423

Fax (011) 834-3189

ref: Min DF1.

Durban Office

56 Ecimencal Centre
20 St Andrew's St.
4001 Durban

Tel (031) 304-5883

Fax (031) 301-6611

12 November 1991

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
PRIVATE BAG X 427
PRETORIA
0001

Dear Sir

URGENT REQUEST FOR MEETING: NOVEMBER 1991
~~~~~

In the first place, the ECC wishes to congratulate you on your appointment to the Defence portfolio. We are encouraged by the sentiments you have voiced, your reputation as a fair negotiator (as displayed during the recent Peace Accord negotiations) and news of an enlightened new approach by your ministry and department (apparently encapsulated in the SADF Code of Conduct, yet to be released).

We welcome these changes and their implications, and hope accordingly, that the government has softened its previously antagonistic regard for the ECC. Recognition of the ECC (and its legitimate support base) by the Department of Defence is long overdue, and we hereby wish to register our desire to commence constructive dialogue with you and your representatives. We submit that such engagement is not only appropriate in this era of negotiation, but also necessary and mutually beneficial.

For instance the ECC has created the position of Natal Fieldworker, whose brief it is to monitor SADF activity in the violence-wracked townships of Natal. Regular reports have been published - and we have posted our latest report to your office for your perusal - and a number of disclosures leading to criminal prosecutions have resulted. We wish to point out that we are not blind to the positive role that is so often played by the SADF in these situations (see Pg 2. of the October report), but simply stand by the public's right to know exactly how conscripts - who are after all, members of the public themselves - are utilised in their present internal role.



End Conscription Campaign

We also believe that the conduct of non-conscripts, ie. Permanent Force members of the SADF, has a direct bearing on the conscription issue, since young men are currently being compelled by the Defence Act to associate themselves with the SADF, and therefore all its other employees. Thus we believe that the activities of the SADF's Special Forces for example, are entirely relevant to the conscription issue.

On the basis of the new era of tolerance and the imminent changes within the South African Defence Force itself, the End Conscription Campaign wishes to meet with you personally to discuss inter alia, the following points:

#### 1. VIOLENCE AND THE ROLE OF THE SADF

- 1.1 Our perceptions on the successes and failures of the SADF in its domestic/law-enforcement capacity,
- 1.2 The possibility of the ECC playing a facilitative role between SADF personnel and representatives from (specifically Natal) communities where the former are deployed, in line with the National Peace Accord or otherwise, including representation of the SADF on Local Dispute Resolution Committees, and the content and application of the proposed Code of Conduct for Defence Force members, and
- 1.3 Our concerns about (possibly unsanctioned) actions on the part of certain individuals and elements within the SADF, especially so-called "covert" units such as Special Forces, and their accountability (or otherwise) to DMI and your office.

#### 2. COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE:

- 2.1 The progress or otherwise of the Gleeson Committee on Conscientious Objection,
- 2.2 The report of the Van Loggerengerg Committee on SADF Manpower policy,
- 2.3 The anomalous nature of racially based conscription at the present time,

We acknowledge the sensitivity of aspects of this proposed agenda, but urge your office in turn to recognise both our bona fides and our potential contribution to your information network. We intend to approach any discussions emanating herefrom, in a spirit of frankness and openness, and sincerely hope that you will do the same.

We must emphasise that we regard this proposed meeting as a matter of the utmost urgency and accordingly request that you respond to this letter (fax) by Friday 22 November, with a proposed time and venue for the meeting to take place within ten (9) days from that date, ie. before the end of November 1991. Our delegation, which will consist of 4 representatives, will be prepared to travel to Pretoria.

For the sake of convenience, we recommend that your office deal with the ECC's National Office [tel + fax nos. SUPRA] who will in turn liase with other branches and the Natal Fieldworker in particular.

We anxiously await your reply,

Yours Faithfully

H B OSBORN  
NATAL FIELDWORKER

pp ECC NATIONAL

# End Conscription Campaign

National Office  
P.O. Box 537  
2100 Kengray

Tel (011) 836-8423  
Fax (011) 834-3189

ref: Min DF1.

Durban Office  
56 Ecimencal Centre  
20 St Andrew's St.  
4001 Durban

Tel (031) 304-5883  
Fax (031) 301-6611

12 November 1991

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE  
PRIVATE BAG X 427  
PRETORIA  
0001

Dear Sir

## URGENT REQUEST FOR MEETING: NOVEMBER 1991

In the first place, the ECC wishes to congratulate you on your appointment to the Defence portfolio. We are encouraged by the sentiments you have voiced, your reputation as a fair negotiator (as displayed during the recent Peace Accord negotiations) and news of an enlightened new approach by your ministry and department (apparently encapsulated in the SADF Code of Conduct, yet to be released)

We welcome these changes and their implications, and hope accordingly, that the government has softened its previously antagonistic regard for the ECC. Recognition of the ECC (and its legitimate support base) by the Department of Defence is long overdue, and we hereby wish to register our desire to commence constructive dialogue with you and your representatives. We submit that such engagement is not only appropriate in this era of negotiation, but also necessary and mutually beneficial.

For instance the ECC has created the position of Natal Fieldworker, whose brief it is to monitor SADF activity in the violence-wracked townships of Natal. Regular reports have been published - and we have posted our latest report to your office for your perusal - and a number of disclosures leading to criminal prosecutions have resulted. We wish to point out that we are not blind to the positive role that is so often played by the SADF in these situations (see Pg 2. of the October report), but simply stand by the public's right to know exactly how conscripts - who are after all, members of the public themselves - are utilised in their present internal role.

**ECC**

End Conscription Campaign

We also believe that the conduct of non-conscripts, ie. Permanent Force members of the SADF, has a direct bearing on the conscription issue, since young men are currently being compelled by the Defence Act to associate themselves with the SADF, and therefore all its other employees. Thus we believe that the activities of the SADF's Special Forces for example, are entirely relevant to the conscription issue.

On the basis of the new era of tolerance and the imminent changes within the South African Defence Force itself, the End Conscription Campaign wishes to meet with you personally to discuss inter alia, the following points:

#### 1. VIOLENCE AND THE ROLE OF THE SADF

- 1.1 Our perceptions on the successes and failures of the SADF in its domestic/law-enforcement capacity,
- 1.2 The possibility of the ECC playing a facilitative role between SADF personnel and representatives from (specifically Natal) communities where the former are deployed, in line with the National Peace Accord or otherwise, including representation of the SADF on Local Dispute Resolution Committees, and the content and application of the proposed Code of Conduct for Defence Force members, and
- 1.3 Our concerns about (possibly unsanctioned) actions on the part of certain individuals and elements within the SADF, especially so-called "covert" units such as Special Forces, and their accountability (or otherwise) to DMI and your office.

#### 2. COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE:

- 2.1 The progress or otherwise of the Gleeson Committee on Conscientious Objection,
- 2.2 The report of the Van Loggerengerg Committee on SADF Manpower policy,
- 2.3 The anomalous nature of racially based conscription at the present time,

We acknowledge the sensitivity of aspects of this proposed agenda, but urge your office in turn to recognise both our bona fides and our potential contribution to your information network. We intend to approach any discussions emanating herefrom, in a spirit of frankness and openness, and sincerely hope that you will do the same.

We must emphasise that we regard this proposed meeting as a matter of the utmost urgency and accordingly request that you respond to this letter (fax) by Friday 22 November, with a proposed time and venue for the meeting to take place within ten (9) days from that date, ie. before the end of November 1991. Our delegation, which will consist of 4 representatives, will be prepared to travel to Pretoria.

For the sake of convenience, we recommend that your office deal with the ECC's National Office [tel + fax nos. SUPRA] who will in turn liaise with other branches and the Natal Fieldworker in particular.

We anxiously await your reply.

Yours Faithfully

H B OSBORN  
NATAL FIELDWORKER

pp ECC NATIONAL

# LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## NATIONAL DIRECTORATE

713 Van Erkom Building  
Pretorius St., Pretoria 0002

Telefax: (012) 325-6318  
Telephone: (012) 21-2135

Our ref.:

Your ref.:

Date: 14 November 1990

Mr Laurie Nathan  
National Organizer  
End Conscription Campaign  
P.O. Box 537  
KENGRAM  
2100

Dear Mr Nathan

### THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Human Sciences Research Council together with Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) is in the process of documenting the human rights debate in South Africa. This document is scheduled to be published before the middle of next year.

The idea is to draw together in a book representative opinion on those values South Africans would like to see protected in a Bill of Rights.

Although it is true that constitutional changes and a Bill of Rights are ultimately thrashed out in hard negotiations among the different parties, such a Bill nonetheless becomes binding on all the people of a nation. A Bill of Rights achieves the ideal of becoming more than just a political and legal document only when people come to see such a charter as an expression of their most cherished values.

It is for this reason, and as a contribution to the realization of this ideal, that the exercise to canvass informed opinion is being undertaken. The aim is to represent accurately what South Africans feel should be part of a document that is being born out of South African struggles and that will address the South African context.

2/ . . . . .



Since we consider your opinions to be both valuable and indispensable to this debate we would like to include them in our book. A member of Lawyers for Human Rights or a researcher from the Human Sciences Research Council will shortly contact either you or your secretary with more information and, if possible, to arrange an appointment with you.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Currin". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Currin  
LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Received  
15/11/91

#### SAP POLICE CALL UP 1991

The S A Police call up White ex-policemen every year for one to two months for compulsory police duty, for 12 years. Failing to report for duty carries a gaol sentence. Black ex-policemen are not called up like their White colleagues. The anti-White Nationalist government is still practising racial discrimination!

A self-employed, married, White ex-policeman on call-up gets paid a net Police salary of R680 per month. He can no longer operate his business and is forced to close it down. Neither is he able to pay his monthly general living expenses. He is forced into bankruptcy.

#### FIRMS REFUSING TO EMPLOY WHITES

Afrox  
Development Bank of Southern Africa (will now only promote Blacks)  
Eskom  
Post Office  
Safmarine  
Spoornet/Transnet  
S A Airways (Employees must be 80% Black)  
Supermarkets  
Woolworths  
Metal Box of SA (Pty) Ltd  
Operation Hunger (Run by Jews) donates funds to Nelson and Winnie Mandela.

Any organisation practising discrimination against Whites should be boycotted!

END CONSCRIPTION  
P.O. Box 537  
KENGRAV  
2100



# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

29 November 1991

Dear

## YOUR ORGANISATION'S POLICY ON MILITARY CONSCRIPTION

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) has been involved in the campaign to end compulsory military service since 1984. In this time, and particularly in the last two years, we have seen dramatic changes in the political life of our country. One of the issues that has not changed is that only white males are still forced to serve in the SADF. Alternatives to such service are available to universal religious pacifists only, and are punitive.

With the appointment of Mr R Meyer as Minister of Defence, the ECC believes that it is an opportune time to expand the debate around military conscription in South Africa. To this end we are writing to you in the hope that your organisation will contribute to this growing and vital debate. It would be greatly appreciated if you could furnish the Minister of Defence with a copy of your organisation's position on military conscription in South Africa, now and in the future. If your organisation has no position or policy on this issue, it is hoped that our request may act as some sort of catalyst in your deliberations.

The ECC believes that decisions on the issue of military conscription should not simply rest with the SADF and the South African Government, but that a far wider range of interest groups, organisations and individuals should feel free to participate in discussing and deciding upon South Africa's future policy in this regard.

If your organisation decides to send a position/policy/opinion on military conscription to Minister Meyer, the ECC would greatly appreciate it if a duplicate copy could be sent to us for our records. We would in any case appreciate hearing from you on this topic, before the end of February 1992, if at all possible. For your interest, we enclose a copy of the ECC's policy on conscription.



The address of the Minister of Defence is:

Private Bag X427  
Pretoria  
0001

or

P O Box 47  
Cape Town  
8000

Thanking you in anticipation,

*Chris de Villiers*

Chris de Villiers  
ECC CHAIRPERSON, JOHANNESBURG

## 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.

**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.