

A257-10-11416

31 January 1979

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

To: Department of Defence, Pretoria
From: Ad Hoc Committee on Voluntary and Alternative National Service
Subject: Proposal for an ambulance unit at Rundu, South West Africa/Namibia

The Proposal

1. To create the possibility of an alternative to military service for men who are classified Conscientious Nonmilitarists but who desire to give national service, we propose to attach a civilian ambulance unit of three vehicles and seven driver/mechanics to the State Hospital at Rundu, South West Africa/Namibia. The unit will also be open to men and women of different population groups who are not conscripts.
2. Should this unit prove acceptable to the Department of Defence as a recognized form of alternative service, either on the basis of the present proposal or after a trial period of up to one year, then we would continue to operate the Ambulance Unit for as long as there is a clear need for the services.
3. Should the first unit prove successful then we would bring forward proposals for additional units for other areas. These could be ambulance units or they could have other appropriate tasks. The units in combination might constitute a South African Service Corps.

Background of the Proposal

4. In 1974 a proposal for a special service corps for non-military service for conscientious objectors was made to the Department of Defence through Brigadier Cyrus Smith. Brigadier Smith advised that it was not feasible for the Department of Defence to initiate such a corps, but that if some non-governmental organizations were to establish a corps there was the possibility that it might be accepted as an alternative form of service.
5. In 1977 an ad hoc committee was formed with participation open to representatives of churches and other organizations concerned. At present Quakers and Unitarians, amongst others, have designated representatives or observers for the planning committee. Others are expected when the first unit is established.
6. A preliminary visit to South West Africa was made by Paul and Sharon Hare in January 1979 on behalf of the ad hoc committee. The Kavango territory was suggested as an area to be served by the first unit by Bishop J M Koppmann of the Roman Catholic Church of Windhoek. Details of the present proposal were developed in consultation with Dr B Potshka, Nyangana Hospital, Dr L Pretorius, Rundu State Hospital, and Col G J Nel, Officer Commanding for the 1st Military Area. The three persons represent the main sources of medical treatment in the area: the Missions, the State, and the Military. Each of them endorses the project.

Selection, length of service, and training of volunteers

7. Volunteers for the service corps who are conscientious objectors would in the first instance follow specified "call up" procedures. From those who qualify as conscientious objectors a selection would be made jointly by a committee formed of representatives of the Department of Defence and the

Administrators of the Service Corps of those men qualified and suitable for service in the Ambulance Unit or other units that may be established.

8. Men or women volunteers who are not subject to the call up would also be screened by the joint military/civilian administrator committee.

9. Conscientious objectors serving in the corps as an alternative to military service would serve at least three years. If the present term of military service is increased beyond two years and eight months (including camps) then the length of service in the South African Service Corps would also be increased so that it would be longer than military service. Should a conscientious objector fail to perform effectively, he will be discharged from the Service Corps and once again be subject to the normal provisions of the Defence Act. The decision to discharge a volunteer will be taken by the joint military/civilian administrator committee.

10. The training of the volunteers will be approximately the same number of weeks as that of normal military service. Most of the training will be conducted at the project site so that volunteers can become familiar with the area while undergoing training. The following subjects or activities will be included in the training for the Ambulance Unit:

- a. Vehicle operation and the transport of patients.
- b. Automobile and truck maintenance.
- c. First aid.
- d. General orientation by the military similar to that of the Army Civic Action Units.
- e. Specific area orientation by local military instructors on the peoples and problems of the area.
- f. Orientation to hospital and clinic service by staff of mission, state, and military hospitals.
- g. Public health, sanitation, and other subjects related to the incidence of illness in the Kavango population.
- h. Physical fitness and personal health.

Operation of the Rundu Ambulance Unit

11. The initial unit of seven volunteers and three vehicles will be under the immediate control of a Unit Leader. The State Hospital Superintendent will have the responsibility for coordinating the work of the volunteers in the Ambulance Unit with the other hospital services. Administrative problems that cannot be solved by the Unit Leader will be referred to the Secretary of the South African Service Corps.

12. The ambulances will be used primarily to transport patients to and from their villages and the State and Mission hospitals and clinics. Drivers may also take patients to and from the hospitals in Windhoek.

13. In addition to driving and repairing vehicles, volunteers will be expected to assist the staffs of the hospitals and clinics according to their special skills or training and to assist in public health projects.

14. Every three months the volunteers will spend up to one week in project evaluation and in-service training.

15. Volunteers will receive room and board and a small allowance which will be less than military pay. The cost of medical, accident, a minimum life insurance for each volunteer will be borne by the Service Corps.

16. Male volunteers in Rundu will be housed in a mobile home supplied by the Service Corps. It is expected that the State will supply a housing site with

connections for water and electricity.

17. Rules governing leave and absence from post will be similar to those of the military.

Steps required for an operational ambulance unit

18. We will need the approval of the Department of Defence that the Ambulance Unit can provide suitable service for conscientious objectors.

- a. If the Department of Defence is able to give approval without a field trial then we will proceed to select volunteers, including some of those men accepted as conscientious objectors.
- b. If a field trial is judged to be necessary then we will operate a model unit for a minimum period of one year to allow time for evaluation.

19. As a next step we will send a second team to Rundu to work out final details with representatives of the Missions, State Hospitals, and Military. We will also discuss the proposal with representatives of the Kavango people and other groups or organizations who have an interest in the area.

20. Once the detailed plan is in hand we will raise the necessary funds from churches and other donors. The initial one-year period can cost as little as R22 000 or as much as R40 000 in cash depending upon how much of the equipment is donated. The vehicles and the mobile home will, of course, be useful for much longer than three months.

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee:

Leon Fay, Minister, Free Protestant Unitarian Church.

Paul Hare, Cape Western Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

Mark Povall, Cape Western Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

H W van der Merwe, Clerk, South African General Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

Bob Steyn, Trustee, Free Protestant Unitarian Church.

RUNDU AMBULANCE UNIT

(Budget for one year of operation - 3 vehicles and 7 volunteers)

INITIAL EXPENSES FOR EQUIPMENT (expected use 3-5 years or more)

Vehicles (used)

1 Toyota Hiace van	R3 000	
1 CPLA ambulance	5 000	
1 4-wheel drive truck	<u>5 000</u>	R13 000

Vehicle equipment

3 paint and outfit vehicle for passengers and stretchers at R250 each	R750	
1 special stretcher	300	
3 field stretchers at R65	195	
3 first-aid kits, replacements, splints, water bottles, flash-lights, at R60	180	
3 resuscitators and special equipment at R100	300	
3 klaxons and lights at R60	180	
3 sets blankets at R60	<u>180</u>	2 085

Mobile home for volunteers

3 000

R18 085

ANNUAL EXPENSES

Vehicle operation

Petrol, oil, maintenance (6c per km for 75 000 km per year) at R4 500	R13 500	
Registration, comprehensive and third-party insurance at R250	<u>750</u>	R14 250

Volunteers (7 persons)

Work clothes at R30	R210	
Accident insurance (with R10 000 death benefit) at R20	140	
Allowance at R35 per month per volunteer	2 940	
Food and household expenses at R250 per month for the unit	<u>3 000</u>	6 290

Administration

Training program	R400	
Telephone, office expenses	<u>600</u>	<u>1 000</u>

R21 540

Total initial budget

R39 625

23 January 1979

Rundu Ambulance Unit

(Budget for one year of operation; 3 vehicles and 7 volunteers)

INITIAL EXPENSES FOR EQUIPMENT (expected use 3-5 years or more)

Vehicles (used)	1 Toyota Hiace Van	3 000	
	1 CPLA Ambulance	5 000	
	1 4 wheel drive truck	5 000	
			13 000

Vehicle equipment

3 Paint and outfit vehicle for passengers and stretchers @ 250	750	
1 Special stretcher	300	
3 Field stretchers @ 65	195	
3 First aid kits, replacements, splints, water bottles, flashlights @ 60	180	
3 Resucitators & special equip @ 100	300	
3 Klaxons and lights @ 60	180	
3 Sets blankets @ 60	180	
		2 085

Mobile home for volunteers

3 000
18 085

ANNUAL EXPENSES

Vehicle operation

Petról, oil, maintenance (6 cents per km for 75 000 km per year) @ 4 500	13 500	
Registration; comprehensive and 3rd party insurance @ 250	750	
		14 250

Volunteers (Seven persons)

Work clothes @ 30	210	
Accident insurance (with 10 000 death benefit) @ 20	140	
Allowance @ 35 per month per volunteer	2 940	
Food and household expense @ 250 per month for unit	3 000	
		6 290

Administration

Training program	400	
Telephone, office expense	600	
		<u>1 000</u>
		21 540

Total initial budget

R 39 625

11 May 1979

To: Coordinating Committee of Operation Hand-up, St John Ambulance Committee, and Dr J A Smith, Day Hospitals Organization

From: Voluntary Service Committee, Religious Society of Friends, Quaker House, Rye Road, 7700 Mowbray

The Proposal

We propose to initiate a Voluntary Service Corps composed of men and women, black and white, who are willing to devote from six months to three years to national service as ambulance drivers, community health educators, hospital attendants, or work in other essential fields. It is our hope that this work will be recognized as an alternative to military service for men who are classified by the Department of Defence as conscientious non-militarists. While the Department of Defence is considering the feasibility of this form of alternative service we wish to establish a Cape Town unit of the Voluntary Service Corp that can serve areas in the Cape Peninsula and provide a model for future units in other areas.

The Cape Town Unit

The Cape Town unit would be based in Elsie's River and in its first phase provide an extension in the health field of the work of the Coordinating Committee of Operation Hand-up. As more funds become available in the second phase the work would be extended beyond Elsie's River to include support of the Day Hospitals in other black areas and to provide medical transportation and other health related services for squatter areas. In each phase the Unit will coordinate its programs with those of the St John Ambulance. In the third phase of the work we would hope to provide porters, orderlies, and nurses aids for the major hospitals in the area.

In the first phase we would expect to have two full time volunteers and four or more part time volunteers, depending upon how much time they could devote to the project. Half of the volunteers would be selected from residents of Elsie's River and half would come from other areas. A selection committee formed of representatives of the Coordinating Committee of Operation Hand-up and the Voluntary Service Committee would select the volunteers for a minimum commitment of six months.

Training in First Aid and Community Health will be provided by the St John Ambulance, orientation to the community and its problems by members of the Coordinating Committee of Operation Hand-up, and a background of the aims of voluntary service by the Voluntary Service Committee of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

For the transportation of disabled children, the elderly, and occasional emergency cases the unit will have three ambulances, two provided by the Voluntary Service Committee and one available during the week from the St John Ambulance. During the initial period of six months all expenses for vehicles and personnel will be born by the Voluntary Service Committee although a provision will be made to receive donations from members of the Elsie's River community or from other sources. Some of the volunteers will be primarily involved in medical transportation, some in community health education and related community activities, and some in both. A full time volunteer will receive R135 a month, a sum intended to cover food and

housing with approximately R35 left for personal expense. Accident, health, and life insurance will be covered by the project. Two sets of work clothes will be provided for each volunteer. The unit will be stationed at some suitable location in Elsie's River where there is an office, a telephone, and a place to park the vehicles.

The proposed budget for the first six month phase is as follows:

Allowances for volunteers @ R135 (2 full time, 4 part time)	R3 240
Equipment for ambulances	100
Clothing	210
Accident, health, and life insurance	140
Office supplies and telephone	120
Petrol and repairs @ R500 per vehicle	<u>1 500</u>
	R5 310

The initial purpose of the Cape Town unit is to help the community of Elsie's River realize some of its goals for self-help projects in the health area. Thus the volunteers will only serve on an interim basis while the community, through the Coordinating Committee of Operation Hand-up is developing its own plans. It will be part of the task of the volunteers to help train community members to take over their work. We hope that the volunteers will be able to withdraw by the end of one year, or sooner if possible, and turn over the community work to residents of the area. Volunteers would then move on to new projects. In later phases, in the case of hospital work, for example, where community "self help" may not be such an important objective the volunteers may remain for a longer period.

Next Steps

The vehicles and the funds for the first phase of the project are in hand. Once the various groups involved have suggested additions or changes in the proposal we will prepare a final draft. At that point we will be ready to begin operation. The work of the unit should be evaluated at least every three months by a committee formed of representatives of all of the agencies involved.

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee:

Leon Fay, Minister, Free Protestant Unitarian Church

Paul Hare, Cape Western Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers)

Bob Steyn, Trustee, Free Protestant Unitarian Church

H W van der Merwe, Clerk, South African General Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends (Quakers)

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- Wits
→ Court

1 Weymouth Road
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23 January 1979

Secretary
Quaker Service Fund
Quaker House
Rye Road, Mowbray 7700

Re: An ambulance unit as alternative service for conscientious objectors.

Dear Friends,

Enclosed are four copies of a draft proposal addressed to the Department of Defence concerning the formation of an ambulance unit at Rundu, South West Africa, which might serve as alternative service for men who are conscientious objectors. The unit would be open to men and women, Black and White. Also enclosed are copies of a one year budget for the complete unit that would have three vehicles and seven driver/mechanics and a six month budget for one vehicle and two volunteers.

Both the Cape Town Monthly Meeting and the South Africa General Meeting of Friends have endorsed the proposal. Although we hope that eventually a number of churches will join in sponsoring the unit and the proposed National Service Corps, at this time the Unitarians are the only church that has designated official representatives to the Ad Hoc Committee that has been doing the planning.

Since our survey of medical facilities in the Kavango Territory of South West Africa reveals a pressing present need for ambulance services we hope that the Quaker Service Fund will be able to make funds available to place at least one vehicle and two volunteers in the Territory for six months. Our estimated expenses for the period are given in the enclosed budget. With luck we might be able to launch the project with a donation of R 7 000 although a figure nearer R 10 000 would give us more assurance.

For the Ad Hoc Committee on Voluntary and *Nos. moral.*
Alternative National Service, *alt.*

Paul Hare
A. Paul Hare

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12 February 1979

To: Member churches of SACC
From: Ad Hoc Committee on Voluntary And Alternative National Service
Subject: South African Service Corps

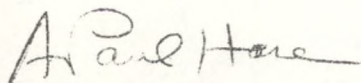
Enclosed is a copy of draft proposal for the Department of Defence describing an ambulance unit at Rundu, South West Africa/Namibia, that would be part of a South African Service Corps. We would like to provide an opportunity for national service for men and women, black and white, but especially for conscientious objectors who wish an alternative to military service.

There is a clear need for a volunteer ambulance unit at Rundu even if no conscientious objectors were involved. There is no public transportation in the Kavango Territory. Clinics are at best 30 km apart. Thus a person who is ill or injured must walk up to 15 km for medical aid, unless some mission or military vehicle offers a ride. Both mission and state hospital usually have more patients than beds. At the State Hospital 4 or 5 patients are discharged each day who then may have to wait up to a week for transportation back to their villages. Each week the ambulance from the State Hospital makes a round trip run to Windhoek, an 8 hour drive each way. At present they have only one reliable driver so that having additional drivers on the scene will help, even without additional vehicles.

Would your church be interested in supporting this project? In addition to the Quakers and Unitarians who are already active in the Ad Hoc Committee we are looking for representatives of other churches who will join us in the management and fundraising for the Rundu Unit and in the development of additional service units. Even if your church would not be interested in formal participation you might be able to help us locate potential volunteers, both men and women, black and white, especially those who are conscientious nonmilitarists.

The Quaker Service Fund has already donated 5 000 rands for the project. Thus if we can obtain a donation of two used vehicles we expect to place a small unit of three volunteers and two vehicles at Rundu for a period of six months as a pilot project. This will give time for the Department of Defence to observe the actual operation of the unit and for them to give advice on the feasibility of the draft proposal that has already been submitted.

We would very much appreciate your support for this project.



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