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Verw. No. P85/6/52
Ref.

22 July 1985

Dear Sir

PUBLICATIONS ACT, 1974 : PUBLICATION "ARE YOU
PREPARED - CALL UP JANUARY 1986" (PAMPHLET)

In response to your telephonic request of 19 July 1985, I have to inform you that the committee's reasons for declaring that the above-mentioned publication is undesirable within the meaning of section 47(2)(e) of the above-mentioned Act were as follows:

The pamphlet is aimed against military service in several of its aspects. In itself, this is not contrary to the Act, but the way in which it is presented, makes it harmful under Section 47(2)(e).

It is directed mainly at children still at school. Many of them lack the maturity to evaluate the arguments for and against military service. The latter are presented in a blatantly one-sided manner. The impression is created that military service in the South African Army is wrong. Military service is a patriotic duty of every citizen and the fact that one does not agree with all aspects thereof, does not mean that such service could be refused at will. What would have happened if, during the last war, Catholics in certain Western Armies had refused the call-up merely on account of the monastery of Monte Cassino having been destroyed by the Allied Forces?

Although the pamphlet ostensibly urges young scholars to make up their own minds about the Army, they are in fact told to approach the E.C.C. Advice Bureau. The E.C.C. has as its main aim opposition to conscription and the evasion of military service.

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By interfering in the system of school cadet training, the pamphlet is also interfering in the running of the country's schools. The evil of pressures on teachers in, for instance, non-White schools, has been amply demonstrated in recent history. At its worst, teaching staff have been assaulted and schools burnt down.

The pamphlet asks the youngsters why they should owe the Army four years of their life. The implied answer is obvious that they do not owe it. This, if generally accepted, would mean the undermining of the defence effort, the destruction of the State and the triumph of SWAPO and the ANC.

The pamphlet asks why 7 589 people failed to report for their army training in January 1984. The Committee in its turn, is entitled to ask - why ask such a question? The answer is obvious and the untutored minds of the readers are not told of the criminal aspects of evasion of military service.

The pamphlet next asks whether cadet training is preparation for going into black townships, presumably to assist the police in quelling riots, preventing arson and saving lives. This question evades the fact that the Army's primary purpose is to defend South Africa against aggression. The latter may be mainly from an exterior source, but internal aggression is also a distinct possibility. Must the Army be denied the right to destroy armed SWAPO units and military caches in Black townships? The use of the Army to assist the police in maintaining law and order is an accepted tradition in Western countries. The activities of the National Guard in the USA and the British Army in Northern Ireland are two of many examples. This may be clear to many adults, but immature minds of school children could be brainwashed by the subtle propaganda in the pamphlet.

This pamphlet serves the interests of the enemies of South Africa and is, for the reasons set out above, harmful to the safety of the State. Only a person who is unaccountably (or deliberately) blind to the terrible dangers facing South Africa, would regard this evil pamphlet as an innocent little tract on the pro's and con's of military and cadet training. It is, in the Committee's view, undesirable within the meaning of section 47(2)(e) of the Act.

Yours faithfully


DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS
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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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