

Nation-wide register against conscription

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION activists around the country yesterday launched a national register to facilitate contact amongst themselves and keep the spotlight focused on action against those refusing to do national service.

Sapa reports that the convener of yesterday's meeting in Johannesburg, lawyer Chris de Villiers, said more than 780 people in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria, Grahamstown, Durban and Bloemfontein had stood up at simultaneous Press conferences.

About 75 objectors attended the Johannesburg conference, attended by a wide range of international and local media.

"We have decided in good conscience and of our own accord that we cannot serve in the defence force," said a statement on behalf of the objectors.

Asked whether their status might change in view of the reconciliatory gesture by President F W de Klerk, De Villiers said they held out little hope.

He added that most objectors supported alternative, non-military, non-punitive methods of serving in the army. He rejected accusations that they were "a bunch of communists",

saying he had been a lieutenant in the air force when he made his decision.

Earlier in the day, four marshalls co-ordinating the gathering of the objectors were detained by police.

It had not been established whether they would face charges. Among them was Bettina von Lieres, a former president of the student representative council at Wits University.

In Grahamstown, a further 48 objectors publicly added their names to the register. Included among the Grahamstown objectors is the city's Anglican Bishop, the Rt Rev David Russell.

Chancery

At a Press conference in Grahamstown yesterday, Russell said it was a "tremendous privilege" to be part of the group of objectors.

Thirty conscientious objectors in Stellenbosch, including Matie student leaders and one lecturer, also joined the register. The group includes 22 Stellenbosch students.

In Durban, the register was announced at a Press conference at the Diocesan Chancery of Roman Catholic Archbishop of Durban Denis Hurley, who said he was "proud and honoured" the group of objectors had

chosen his premises to make their statement.

About 86 of the men on the register are from Durban, approximately 40 of whom were present at the launch.

Custodians of the register include Bishop Reg Orsmond of the Roman Catholic Church, Bishop Peter Storey of the Methodist Church, Franz Auerbach of Jews for Social Justice, and Prof Lourens du Plessis of the University of Stellenbosch.

The register will be delivered to Defence Minister Magnus Malan by a national delegation next week.

EDYTH BULBRING reports that the Five Freedoms Forum said in a statement yesterday that it saw it as an encouraging sign that so many SA men were prepared to state their opposition to upholding apartheid.

MANDY JEAN WOODS reports that the SADF refused to comment on the announcement of the register.

It said a "stated intention to break the law in the future does not necessarily constitute a crime. In fact, it normally does not constitute an offence".

The SADF said only seven conscientious objectors of 142 who last year publicly announced they would not do their two-year compulsory military service actually failed to report for duty.



Conscientious objectors stage their demonstration in Johannesburg yesterday in protest against compulsory military service.

Picture: REUTERS.

Father and son say why they are objectors

Georgina Hamilton

A FATHER and his son, both committed to non-violence, have found a new way of sharing their objection to military service in the SADF.

The register of conscientious objectors, launched nationwide on Thursday, shows the names of Dallas Harris (21), and his father Robin Harris (44), one beneath the other.

The other four members of the family would put their names on the roll, too, but three are women and the fourth is seven years old.

Archbishop Denis Hurley, custodian of the Durban register of conscientious objectors, hailed the stand of the 756 signatories throughout the country as a "magnificent statement of courage".

The number of signatories swelled to more than a thousand by midday on Friday.

Mother of four children, Meridy Harris, said that each of the six members of her family has been seriously affected by the issue of conscription since her son, Dallas, became eligible for national service and, more especially, since his stand as a conscientious objector along with 143 others last year.

"Dad has always been fully supportive of my stand," said Dallas.

"This year the suggestion of age limits came up. When I found out that all men up to the age of 55 are eligible for call-up he was happy to sign the register."

Speaking of his objection to military service, Robin, who is chairman of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Church in Natal, said he would serve in a defence force if he were defending a just country "against a genuine, external, hostile aggressor.

"There is no way I would take up arms against fellow South Africans."

Dallas said: "There was a time when I also thought I might serve in the defence force of a legitimate government. Now I have an abhorrence of violence in any form.

"I feel anger a lot of the time at the violence I see here and that leads me to feel there may be something like a 'just war', but when I think rationally I don't believe that any war can bring true peace."

Robin admitted to having enjoyed his nine-month stint in the navy in 1964 which consisted of "playing rugby and being a sailing instructor.

"It is only more recently when, as a family, we've focused on Dallas's particular dilemma that I've made a conscious decision that there's no way I'd go back."

He added: "I've been thinking about Dallas's belief that no lasting peace can come about as a result of war. I tend to agree with him."

Meridy said: "The issue of conscientious objection has been the single most damaging element in our family life as it has seriously threatened the equilibrium of each one of us.

"We see our two youngest children struggling to understand their brother's position amid the prevailing attitudes projected by their teachers, other parents and their peers, that any boy who doesn't want to fight for his country is a coward," she said.

"We face enormous dilemmas because of my little brother," Dallas said.

"This society is so militarised that even at his age, the school is likely to have an outing to an SADF base.

"Do we make a stand and not allow him to go on the outing knowing that this means blatant hostility and alienation from his peers?"

Robin said he was concerned about the long term prospects. "They are really quite bleak. Does Dallas go to jail for six years? Do we leave South Africa? We have been here for generations."

The family agreed that a period of community service for men and women, as long as it was not confined to Government departments or defined by SADF strategies, would be good for the development of a more just and peaceful country.

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Dad and son both anti army

Sunday Tribune
24/9/88

By Georgina
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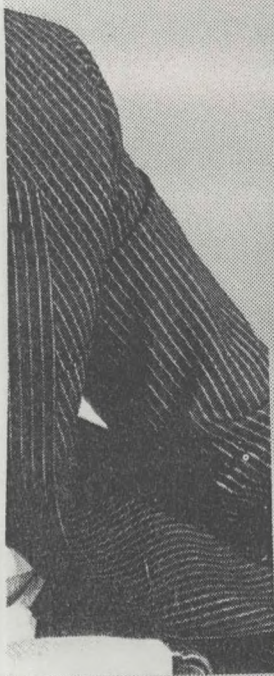
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■ Robin and Meridy Harris with son Dallas . . . all against violence.



Chris is bringing flare to affairs of state

to one

"The reasons are the multiplicity of decisions that have to be taken and statements that have to be made on a day to day basis. The logistic problems of involving three people in each one of these are simply too great to continue to bear."

He did not believe the leadership issue would damage the party. "I believe the party will be very reasonable and abide by whatever decision is taken."

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Chief's remains will be reburied

By Yogin Devan

THE remains of a king who died and was buried three years ago in a cemetery reserved for women near Umtata will be exhumed tomorrow and reburied after an elaborate funeral ceremony next Sunday.

The late King of the



□ Chief Dalindyebo

the reputation of the then Transkeian President, Chief Kaiser Matanzima.

After his death his body was brought back to Transkei for burial.

The Government imposed restrictions on the funeral and the family successfully applied to the Supreme Court for an interdict postponing it.

As soon as the court's decision was made public, the paramount chief's body was allegedly seized at the mortuary by a group of security police, hurried to the royal Great Palace burial ground at Bumbane and buried in a section reserved for women.

It is believed that Chief Matanzima had feared the funeral would be held on an ANC platform. Nelson Mandela was Chief Dalindyebo's uncle.

k-up was mistake policeman

Lembede

Warrant Officer Mangosuthu in.

ve the body of his 20-year-old d from a grave in Molweni g a bizarre mix-up of corpses, r being buried by the wrong

lezi finally obtained permits for his slain son, after a ed an order on Monday for l. Vusumuzi was re-buried in morning.

bitter about this stupid mess, m of it," said W/O Buthelezi. helezi — no relation to his ef Minister and Inkatha lead-thelezi — said he only learned had released the body of his minutes before his son's fu-start.

ad spent over R2 000 in prep- "I paid for buses to transport the traditional goats and ed about 150 people."

son was stabbed and shot to in the township by an angry being a police informer.

At President De Klerk's London meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, it was Mrs De Klerk, resplendent in a black and white miniature check pure silk Chris Levin original, who looked devastating.

That same frock-coat appeared again at the induction of the new Cabinet.

When FW de Klerk was sworn in as South Africa's acting State President, his wife looked coolly elegant in a white and black Chris Levin creation.

And, at the State President's Inauguration ceremony on Wednesday, Mrs de Klerk almost stole the show in her exquisite white-collared platinum iridescent chiffon dress and the stunning hat with hand-made lilies from Paris cascading gracefully down her back.

So who is the man who has added a touch of sartorial class to official occasions?

Chris Levin was born in Pietersburg 42 years ago. His father owned asbestos mines, while his mother, Kitty, now 83, brought up her three little Levins, Chris and his older brother and sister.

"I was lucky to have a country upbringing," says the tall, dark, athletic-looking couturier. "Those huge mountains, the quiet bush, it gives you a kind of equilibrium, and that's stood me in good stead. Because I have that base, I find it easy to digest problems."

Ever since he can remember, Chris wanted to make dresses. "I was lucky, my parents were liberated in their thinking and they encouraged me."

The first garment he ever designed was a charming dusky pink doll's dress with lace, unevenly sewn, which was only to be expected for a boy of six. That dress is proudly displayed on a bookcase in Chris's office.

He modestly admits he was good at rugby and even today he plays a mean game of tennis.

But his favourite sport is skiing and given half the chance, he'll spirit his wife Alexandra and daughters Daniella, 12, and Oriana, 9, away to the snow before you can say "haute couture".

Chris attended a fashion academy in Cape Town, where "quality was the norm" and then came stints at various factories.

During this time, he designed clothes for his sister, Marla, who was "tall, slim and lovely to dress". And from that came greater things. "Everyone wanted me to design for them," he says. "So I was working in the factory during the day and designing clothes at night."

He opened his first little salon in down-town Johannesburg in 1967, in a "small early-20's building with wonderful leafy acanthus balconies and a mirrored and brass lift".

"In those days, I had a few seamstresses, but I did almost everything myself. My own beading ... everything."

Chris Levin was firmly launched on the South African fashion scene and he has never looked back.

Interviewed by a well-known fashion editor in 1973, he turned the interview around, asked the interviewer to dinner and married her a few months later.

Today, Alexandra Levin is known as one of South Africa's best-dressed women. And naturally, most of her wardrobe is designed by her husband.

reject violence

22/9/89

NEWS 3

National objectors' register launched

Own Correspondent

Johannesburg

A NATIONAL register of conscientious objectors, at present comprising more than 770 young South Africans liable to be conscripted, was launched here yesterday.

About 75 of the 265 conscientious objectors in the Johannesburg area attended a secret Press conference where they declared they would rather face jail or life in exile than serve in the South African Defence Force.

The SADF, they said, was responsible for the maintenance of apartheid and was therefore "an obstacle to peaceful change".

Attorney Mr Chris de Villiers, who was one of the 143 objectors who last year publicly stated their opposition to compulsory military conscription, said more and more people countrywide were opposed to serving in the SADF and clamoured for alternative non-military service.

After last year's public stand by the 143 objectors, many people demanded to get involved. A national co-ordinating committee, and now the national register, was set up, Mr de Villiers said.

He said the conscientious objectors were not hopeful that they would now get a sympathetic hearing from President de Klerk's government because "nothing has changed as far as we are concerned".

The law affecting conscription was still in the Statute Book, the End Conscription Campaign was still restricted and conscientious objectors like David Bruce, Charles Bester and Saul Batzofin were still imprisoned, Mr de Villiers said.

"The general indication is that many people in South Africa support the system of alternative service. We are not prepared to serve in a racist military."

Conscientious dilemma

Sunday Tribune
24/9/89

MILITARY might in the country has grown in direct proportion to the Government's propagation of an ideology dependent on the notion of a "total onslaught."

The ideology is no longer sustainable even by the Government. At the global level glasnost and perestroika, though they may be as vulnerable and unpredictable as local initiatives toward reform, negotiation and regional accord, make nonsense of a communist onslaught. Regionally, economic necessities and political promises cannot possibly be met by an ideology which depends on fostering suspicion of all opposition within the country, and threatening all without. It would be surprising if FW de Klerk ever again mentions the "total onslaught" except as a reference to the misguided fanaticism of the past decade. It would be encouraging if the change of style could be met with a change of practice in military spheres.

As attested by those who signed the Register of Conscientious Objectors this week, conscription is the cause of a major moral dilemma to many in the white community. The dilemma exists for pacifists wherever there is conscription without the possibility of non-military forms of national service. Here, it is exacerbated because there are those who see service in the SADF as servicing apartheid and white domination.

At the very least there is a need for a form of national service, neither military nor punitive, for those who for reasons of political, moral or religious conscience object to serving in the SADF.

By allowing this, FW could signal that the best is still possible — a future in which an aggressive, conscripted defence force becomes the source of a voluntary service which protects a civil order respected by the majority.

Beeld 22/9/89

Beswaardes stel naamregister op

GEWETENSBESWAARDES teen diensplig het gister op sewe plekke in die land byeengekom om 'n nasionale naamregister te begin en protes teen verpligte diensplig aan te teken.

Altesame 780 mense het gisteroggend in Kaapstad, Stellenbosch, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Grahamstad, Durban en Bloemfontein op nuuskonferensies hul name in die register gevoeg, het die sameroeper van die byeenkoms in Johannesburg, mnr. Chris de Villiers, aan Sapa gesê.

Die register sal aanstaande week aan genl. Magnus Malan, Minister van Verdediging, oorhandig word.

In Kaapstad alleen het 241 mans hulle gister by 'n etensuurbyeenkoms tot die groep gevoeg, terwyl 75 beswaardes die konferensie in Johannesburg bygewoon het.

Beskermhare van die register is onder andere biskop Reg Orsmond van die Rooms-Katolieke Kerk, biskop Peter Storey van die Metodistekerk, dr. Franz Auerbach van Jews for Social Justice, prof. Lourens du Plessis van die fakulteit van regsgeleerdheid van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch en eerw. Denis Hurley, Rooms-Katolieke aartsbiskop van Durban.

● Die Weermag het gistermiddag in 'n verklaring gesê "die voorneme om 'n wet in die toekoms te oortree, is nie noodwen-

dig 'n misdaad nie".

"Soos in die verlede sal regstappe gedoen word sodra die mans hulle nie vir diens aanmeld nie."

Altesame 142 mans het ook vroeër vanjaar gesê hulle gaan hulle nie vir diens aanmeld nie. Dit het intussen aan die lig gekom dat min van hulle hul woord gestand gedoen het.

"Die getal mense wat 'n verklaring onderteken, is nie 'n ware weerspieëling nie van die persentasie dienspligtiges wat werklik weier om diensplig te verrig of wat hulle nie vir diensplig aanmeld nie," lui die Weermag se verklaring.

● Ons kantoor op Stellenbosch berig dat 30 beswaardes, van wie 22 Maties, hul name gister op die register gevoeg het.

Een van hulle is 'n dosent, mnr. Victor Honey van die departement van beelde-kunste, en sy twee seuns, Tim en Nathan. Eerw. Luke Stubbs en die skrywer Charl Naudé is ook in die groep.

Van die studente is mnre. Daniel Malan, Nusas-bestuurslid en voorsitter van die Stellenbosse Aktuele Aangeleentheidskring, Christoff Oosthuizen, redakteur van Kampus Kruis, en Wayne Mudge, voorsitter van die Anglikaanse vereniging.

Die Universiteit van Stellenbosch is in 'n verklaring veroordeel vir die steun wat hy in verskeie opsigte aan die Weermag verleen.

Objectors' numbers rise to 800

The number of names on the national register of conscientious objectors launched last Thursday has reached 800, according to Mr Chris de Villiers, an attorney and conscientious objector. The register, containing the names of those objecting to serving in the SADF, is to be delivered to the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, by a national delegation this week.

"We also call on Magnus Malan to hold a public referendum for all men asking them whether they are prepared to do national service in the SADF. We believe he may be surprised by the result.

"Although students and post-graduate students are in the forefront of the public objection to military service we believe there are thousands of ordinary citizens who object to serving in the SADF," said Mr de Villiers, a former lieutenant in the air

force. Most objectors supported alternative, non-combatant methods of serving.

● The Pretoria Co-ordinating Body supports the actions taken by conscripts refusing to be conscripted, a statement from the PCB said today.

"We believe that the solution of the problem in South Africa lies in a negotiated process involving all legitimate leaders of South Africa, and not in the maintenance of the apartheid system, inter-alia, through the repressive actions of SADF."

At a meeting on September 3 the following organisations in Pretoria formed the PCB: Black Sash, Conscientious Objector Support Group (COSG), Idasa (Pta), Koinoinia/PIR, Pretoria Urban Group (PSG), Studente vir 'n Demokratiese Samelewing (Students for a Democratic Society) and Udusa (Tukkies) — Staff Reporter-Sapa.

The Star 25/9/89

BIGGEST EVER CHALLENGE TO CONSCRIPTION AS 771 SPEAK OUT

Nights of gunfire in Angola, by a man who said 'No' to it

STEPHEN GREENBERG, a 21-year-old veteran of Cuito Cuanavale, described this week how his experiences in the battle for the strategic town helped him to join the 771 objectors who declared yesterday they would never again serve in the SADF.

"We fired all night and we fired every night; the target was a number on a computer screen," said Greenberg, a former member of an artillery battalion which besieged the town in south-western Angola.

A serious young man who read his statement in a low monotonous voice, Greenberg told journalists he was not sure to this day why the battle was fought or who really won it.

His senior officers told him the town itself was worthless, but that they needed to hold onto the high ground nearby.

But Greenberg's instincts told him they lost the war as the morale of the

soldiers plunged with every report of yet another enemy tank destroyed.

The SADF was reluctant to discuss its operations inside Angola, leaving Greenberg and his comrades wondering what it was they firing at and whom they were killing.

He said their targets were numbers in a computer and there was no way of telling what target number 101 was, for example.

A computer determined this according to a master plan designed to penetrate further into Angola, he said.

"There was no way of determining whether we were shooting at civilian

"We fired all night, and we fired every night" ... a veteran of Cuito Cuanavale tells why he won't fight for the SADF any longer
By **THANDEKA GQUBULE**

institutions or military institutions.

"I still do not know what happened there but by the thousands who died we must have been firing at civilian institutions."

Greenberg, who was in Angola from November 1987 to March 1988, described how soldiers in his group became demoralised by the

fighting and the bad water supplies.

They had to get water from a swamp in the spent cartridges of artillery shells, he said.

"We would use these containers to fetch water water and drink from them. We were ill and very unhealthy.

"When some soldiers went to hospital they said people there told them they were acting strange. But we did not think that we were strange. After four months there (in Angola) you are not aware that your behaviour is changing.

"The worst was that when we start-

ed to withdraw from Angola. They told us we would go for a short pass and then we would go to South West Africa.

"This further demoralised us. South West Africa is a whole different war.

"I am still not sure what the truth about Cuito Cuanavale is. I do not think it was all that important to the SADF."

He also told the press conference in Johannesburg of brutalities committed by the SADF in Namibia.

He described how a black interpreter employed by the SADF was assaulted by soldiers, while senior officers treated it as a joke.

In his declaration never to serve the SADF, Greenberg said he was willing to do alternative service of the same length as national service, provided it was outside a military or government institution and for the good of the whole community.

The 771 who won't serve

By **PHIL MOLEFE**

THE 771 white male South Africans, some of whom could face a maximum of six years imprisonment for refusing to serve in the army, include lecturers, professors, priests, journalists, students and other professional people.

Of the more than 280 Johannesburg and Pretoria objectors included in the national register 93 are students, 23 lecturers and academic researchers, 15 journalists, 14 artists and musicians, 13 priests and religious workers, 10 medical doctors, 10 teachers, 10 film and video producers, nine businessmen and managers, nine voluntary organisation employees, eight engineers, seven architects and town planners, seven trade unionists, five actors, five lawyers, four scientists and geologists and four accountants.

About 130 people in the register have not yet undergone military service and are potentially liable for six years imprisonment; 134 have completed their two years' national service but still face camps, while 40 have completed their national service and attended some of their camps.

Another 10 have completed all their national service obligations but are liable for reserve duties.

Grahamstown objectors comprise seven Rhodes University professors, four academics; seven clerics; a clinical psychologist; 29 students and lawyer Peter Hathorne, who served a year in prison in 1983 for refusing to serve in the army.

Military intelligence officer joins conscription protest

A FORMER lieutenant in military intelligence who served in northern Namibia says he decided after an alleged atrocity was hushed up that he could never again serve in the South African Defence Force.

Paul Brink, one of 86 Durban objectors who registered their refusal to serve at a news conference yesterday, says this incident was the last straw.

He joined the SADF fresh from school, without asking any questions, but while in Namibia began to see things differently.

Brink, who spoke cautiously because he is bound by the Official Secrets Act, said that after "visits to Angola", he was struck by the fact that the SADF was "supposed to be a Christian army."

"But at the same time they regard the International Red Cross as the enemy and thought them to be collaborators with the communist forces in Angola.

"They (the SADF) hampered their (IRC) movements in the Kunene region, crossing the Kunene River (where) these Red Cross nuns were bringing medical and food supplies through into the region.

"My first real experience of war in Namibia was the introduction to the 'family album'. This is a black and white photograph album which is a collection of dead Swapo and I'm sure some non-Swapo members. It is

By CARMEL RICKARD, Durban

a grotesque album as you can imagine."

"At that stage I realised there was something wrong. These people aren't my enemy. What the hell am I doing here?

"I realised this was cowboys and crooks. This isn't my business."

He said he was not aware of any alternatives, and it was not until a two-month camp in 1986 that he decided he would never again serve in the SADF.

"At the time there was a State of Emergency. An atrocity occurred on a low-level water bridge. A senior staff officer was brought in to lead the inquest and the press and other media sources weren't informed of the atrocity and the whole thing was hushed up.

"The legal officer was a colleague and friend ... who told me that under the Emergency the whole thing had been quashed.

"Not a week later a very near incident happened at a road block with this same group of commando members.

"I wasn't aware at the time of any (anti-war) movements, but I vowed then that I would never again serve in the SADF. And I think this is a fine time to stand up now and refuse to serve."



Some of the 280 conscientious objectors from Johannesburg and Pretoria who gathered at a secret press conference yesterday

Picture: STEVE HILTON-BARBER, Afrapix

Conscientious dilemma

MILITARY might in the country has grown in direct proportion to the Government's propagation of an ideology dependent on the notion of a "total onslaught."

The ideology is no longer sustainable even by the Government. At the global level glasnost and perestroika, though they may be as vulnerable and unpredictable as local initiatives toward reform, negotiation and regional accord, make nonsense of a communist onslaught. Regionally, economic necessities and political promises cannot possibly be met by an ideology which depends on fostering suspicion of all opposition within the country, and threatening all without. It would be surprising if FW de Klerk ever again mentions the "total onslaught" except as a reference to the misguided fanaticism of the past decade. It would be encouraging if the change of style could be met with a change of practice in military spheres.

As attested by those who signed the Register of Conscientious Objectors this week, conscription is the cause of a major moral dilemma to many in the white community. The dilemma exists for pacifists wherever there is conscription without the possibility of non-military forms of national service. Here, it is exacerbated because there are those who see service in the SADF as servicing apartheid and white domination.

At the very least there is a need for a form of national service, neither military nor punitive, for those who for reasons of political, moral or religious conscience object to serving in the SADF.

By allowing this, FW could signal that the best is still possible — a future in which an aggressive, conscripted defence force becomes the source of a voluntary service which protects a civil order respected by the majority.

Sunday Tribune

WEEKLY MAIL, October 27 to November 2 1989

APARTHEID BAROMETER

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

A TOTAL of nearly 900 conscripts have publicly refused to serve in the SADF, according to the objector's representative Paul Boule. He said the National Register of Conscientious Objectors included the names of over 880 conscripts.

Several public stands by objectors have taken place over the past four years. In 1985 about 100 potential "Dad's Army" recruits publicly refused to register for commando service and a similar stand was taken by 50 Grahamstown "Dad's Army" conscripts. In July 1987 23 Cape Town and Stellenbosch conscripts publicly refused to serve and in July 1988 143 conscripts from seven centres declared their objection. In September 1989 771 conscripts from 12 centres objected. Earlier this month 350 of them handed in the register of their names to the SADF after a march to the Cape Town castle. In February 1989 about 900 mothers of conscripts made a stand under the banner "Give Our Sons a Choice".

Between 1978 and 1983 13 conscripts objected individually to military service and were sentenced to periods of imprisonment in jail and/or detention barracks of up to two years. Three objectors David Bruce, 27 (six years), Charles Bester, 19 (six years) and Saul Batzofin, 30 (18 months) are currently in prison while Dr Ivan Toms is on bail, having served half of a 21 month sentence. Over the past four years at least six political objectors have been fined or received suspended jail sentences for failing to report for military service.

5 MAR



Flower power . . . a rifleman standing guard outside the Cape Town headquarters of the SA Defence Force accepts a flower from conscientious objectors. More than 100 objectors marched through Cape Town to the headquarters and demanded an end to conscription and the release of several objectors currently serving jail terms.

350 join march of objectors to the Castle

CAPE TOWN — About 350 people yesterday joined a Conscientious Objectors Support Group march from St George's Cathedral in Cape Town to the Castle where a petition was handed to the watch commander calling for the end of conscription and the release from prison of objectors to military service.

Permission for the march was granted on Tuesday and there was no noticeable police presence during the peaceful demonstration.

Traffic police regulated the march from the cathedral in Wale Street, up Adderley Street and down Darling Street to the Castle, one of the Mother City's oldest buildings, which also serves as a military headquarters.

The march was held after an inter-faith service in the cathedral hall led by the Anglican Dean of Cape Town, the Very Rev Colin Jones.

The march was to the Castle as it symbolised the SADF, it was stated. — Sapa.



Taking a stand ... some of the young men who say the SA Defence Force is an obstacle to peaceful change. ● Picture by Jacob Rylkiff.

Register of objectors launched

By Kaizer Nyatumba

A national register of conscientious objectors, currently consisting of more than 770 young South Africans liable to be conscripted, was yesterday launched in Johannesburg.

About 75 of the 265 conscientious objectors in the Johannesburg area declared at a press conference that they would

rather face jail or exile than serve in the Defence Force.

The SADF, they said, was responsible for the maintenance of apartheid and was therefore "an obstacle to peaceful change".

Attorney Mr Chris de Villiers, one of the 143 objectors who last year publicly stated their opposition to compulsory military conscription, said more and more people countrywide were opposed to serving in the SADF and were clamouring for alternative non-military service.

He said the objectors were not hopeful that they would now get a sympathetic hearing from President de Klerk's Government because nothing had changed. The law affecting conscription was still on the statute books, the End Conscription

Campaign was still restricted and conscientious objectors were still imprisoned.

The SA Defence Force warned last night that legal action would be taken against those who failed to report for service, but said a stated intention to break the law in the future did not necessarily constitute a crime, Sapa reports.

The SADF said: "Earlier this year, similar reports were published that 142 men were going to refuse to render military service." But an investigation had revealed that only nine had failed to turn up for national service or camps.

Others had their cases either deferred, their addresses were unknown or they were classified as religious objectors.

Objectors' register launched

A national register of the names of 770 conscientious objectors was launched in Johannesburg today.

About 75 of the 265 objectors in the Johannesburg area attended a secret press conference where they declared they would rather face jail or exile than serve in the SADF.

Attorney Mr Chris de Villiers, one of the 143 objectors who last year publicly stated his opposition to military conscription, said an increasing number of

people were unwilling to serve.

Custodians of the register include Bishop Peter Storey of the Methodist Church in Johannesburg, Archbishop Denis Hurley in Durban, Bishop David Russell in Grahamstown, Professor Lourens du Plessis of the University of Stellenbosch, Professor James Lund of the University of Natal in Maritzburg, Bishop Bruce Evans in Port Elizabeth, and the Reverend Douglas Bax in Cape Town. — Staff Reporter.

Bus. Day 31/7/90



Staff at the SA Embassy in London yesterday thwarted attempts by Anti-Apartheid Movement president Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, centre, to hand over a memorandum signed by SA conscientious objectors. The petition contains the names of 198 men living in about 12 countries who "refuse to serve in the SADF because of its role in upholding the apartheid system". The list, destined for President F W de Klerk, was later sent to the Embassy by registered mail.

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