

CIRCULAR TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CONSCRIPTION WORKING GROUP IN ADVANCE
OF A FULL MEETING, TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER, 6pm.

Dear Comrades!

The idea behind these notes is most certainly NOT to introduce an element of bureaucratic verbosity into our work; on the contrary, the idea is to stimulate debate, and subsequently an ever deeper understanding of the issues we deal with, as well as to help us generate activities that will forward our struggle to create a truly free and democratic South Africa.

The contents of this circular is as follows:

1. Apologies (re Tuesday meeting)
2. Assessment of Workshop and Conscription Working Group (CWG) in General
3. Workshop
4. Representation on the Co-ordinating Committee
5. International Year of the Youth (IYY, 1985)
6. ECC and its Sub-committees
7. UDF's Anti-Conscription Committee (ACC)
8. Where to Now?
9. A proposed agenda

APOLOGIES

Jim B. is preoccupied with work and professional exams - but will be available for tasks etc. quite soon!

ASSESSMENT OF WORKSHOP AND CONSCRIPTION WORKING GROUP IN GENERAL

- ① Integrally connected to such an assessment should be a general reflection on (i) our direction, on (ii) the work we are engaged in, and (iii) on the work we could (or should) be involved in.
- ② This assessment should STIMULATE CRITICAL REFLECTION of ALL the ASPECTS of the ACTIVITIES of our working group, so that we can SECURE AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT of our STRENGTHS and our DRAWBACKS.

WORKSHOP

- ① The audience that we reached:
 - (i) Was it tactically correct to advertise so widely - did we want that audience?
 - (ii) Where do those people come from?
 - (iii) How do we build on that response (what do we DO with that group of people)?
 - (iv) How did the audience respond to our CONTENT?
- ② Our Content:
 - (i) Was our focus correct?
 - (ii) Did we leave things "hanging"?
 - (iii) What did it achieve?
- ③ Our Organisation: criticism, suggestions, etc. on the technical arrangements.
- ④ Why did we fail to draw people into the working group?
- ⑤ Other problems, questions, criticism, etc.
- ⑥ Is there a NEED for another workshop?

REPRESENTATION ON THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

- ① The Area committee's Co-ordinating Committee wants a Rep. from our group to play a (i) liaison role, and
(ii) a general co-ordinating role (w.r.t. Area work - i.e. slot into the general functions of the Co-ord. Com.)
- ② In terms of the present structure of this co-ord. com., all existing members are FIRSTLY COMMITTED to General Area- and Regionally-based work.
NOW:
 - ③ Would the idea of a Rep. be acceptable to the group?
 - ④ If so, how do we define the role of this Rep?
 - (i) to exercise a general co-ordinating role within our group?
 - (ii) to continue prioritising CWG activities - and to make that clear to other members of the Co-ord. com.?
 - (iii) to render all possible assistance to general co-ordinating activities - but on the basis that CWG activities come first?
 - (iv) to generally facilitate the acceptance of militarisation/ conscription issues as a major focus of work for our Area com.?
 - (v) to ensure that pressure is maintained at Regional level w.r.t. these issues?

(vi) to ensure that the CWG is seen as an integral part of the Area Committee: How do we overcome the perceived split between Western Cape and Regionally-based work (e.g. the bus boycott) and so-called ECC and Area-based work (conscription)?

⑤ Nominations / volunteers.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE YOUTH (IYY) 1985

① As a constituent member of the ECC (Obs Area Com), it is our duty (and our pleasure!) to help chart the direction of the campaign, and to help generate particular campaigns. A recent ECC assessment identified the forthcoming 1985 International Year of the Youth (IYY) focus as something that we should take up next year. Youth organisations within the UDF, such as COSAS, AZASO, CAYCO, NUSAS, etc., will also be taking up the campaign. So will the state - presumably exploiting the militarisation of our society (through parades, cadet rallies, etc.). The need will therefore arise to strongly challenge the state's distorted interpretation of the United Nations' IYY call, as well as to vigorously assert a progressive approach to issues affecting youth. Work around this call is likely to involve our activists in the End Conscription campaign, rather than (albeit not exclusively) UDF activities (as it seems that particular UDF-organisations with youth- or student constituencies will be handling the UDF campaign).

② The last World Youth and Student festival (Havana, 1978) drew 18 500 representatives from two thousand youth and student organisations from 145 countries. Some past festivals have accommodated close on forty thousand delegates. The 12th festival will be held next year to coincide with the IYY-call. South African delegations will also attend. One such youth delegation identified the following as issues to agitate and organise around:

1. Next year will herald the 40th anniversary of the victory over Fascism;
2. locally, the Congress Youth League was founded 40 years ago - the CYL went on to generate many of SA's real leaders;
3. the history of the World Youth and Student Festival movement - in particular South African participation

n it;

4. the relationship between National Liberation struggles (such as ours) and struggles for peace; and
5. general solidarity activities.

③ The slogan of the Festival (its "banner") will be FOR ANTI-IMPERIALIST SOLIDARITY, PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. Essay competitions on this slogan (and, in particular, its significance for our struggle) have been launched. Delegations furthermore prepare themselves for the festival by various means such as the creative designing of visual propaganda (posters, stickers, etc.), and cultural and sporting activities.

④ IYY work goes well beyond the festival. But it is still useful to look at the festival and its slogan as a guide in how we take up our campaign:

- (i) PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP is also a demand of the Freedom Charter (possibly the historically most important anniversary for us next year is that of the Charter - its 30th); while
- (ii) ANTI-IMPERIALIST SOLIDARITY is integral to the way we operate as democrats with an understanding of the international context of struggle. With "anti-imperialist solidarity" we mean, for example, that we "Pledge our full and unqualified support to the heroic struggle of the Namibian people under the gallant leadership of SWAPO", as an August 1983 UDF National Conference put it.

⑤ Most of the provisions of the Freedom Charter are applicable to all age groups. But the Charter contains a number of provisions with particular importance to youth, such as the following:

- "All people shall have equal rights... to enter all trades, crafts and professions.
- "The law shall guarantee to all their right to... educate their children. (Think about the significance of this clause to a migrant labourer.)
- "Child labour... shall be abolished.
- "The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace.
- "Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children.
- "Free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for

all, with special care for mothers and young children.

- ⑥ The simple questions remain:
 - (i) How can we rally around the IYY call, so as to best advance our general struggle for democratic rights, which remains the prerequisite for real advances for the youth of SA?
 - (ii) With state-organised orgies of militarised youth likely to be the "official" interpretation of IYY, how could ECC best take up the IYY focus?
 - (iii) What positive suggestions could our reps take back to the next ECC meeting?

ECC AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEES

- ① A need remains for more members of the group to attend ECC meetings as Obs Area reps. Besides being part of a highly dynamic front agitating around conscription, participation in ECC also exposes one to a wide range of progressives, from CAL-inclined activists to the Civil Rights League and Black Sash, from NUSAS and UDF Area Committees to highly committed Christians from SUCA, the WPCC, etc. Meetings take place the third-last and last Thursdays of each month (8pm, Rondebosch Congregational Church). There is no limitation on the number of reps per organisation.
- ② The following sub-committees exist (contact person in brackets):
 - (i) Media com (Chippy, 65-4987) - from banners and displays to pamphlets and posters, buttons, t-shirts, booklets, etc., etc. (This is a massive field!);
 - (ii) Cultural Roadshow (Penny, 47-7407);
 - (iii) Concert com (Vaun, 47-6726) - concerts (inclusive of multi-cultural foci) are being planned for the 21st and 28th.
- ③ Work inevitably snowballs around particular campaigns, meetings, etc. A youth subcom is likely to be set up quite soon.
- ④ The ECC concerts: Obs has pledged activists to help with a skit at the two concerts (a number of skits are planned) - we need volunteers!

UDF'S ANTI-CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE (ACC)

- ① Informal feelers have gone out as to the possibility of Obs and / or the Region sending a rep to ACC meetings. The aim of such a rep would be to help strengthen ACC through active involvement and a clear understanding of the issues involved.

NOW:
- ② How useful would it be for ACC to have a rep from Obs and/or Cape Town Region?
- ③ Could a Regional rep - realistically speaking - come from an area other than Obs, or (possibly) Gardens?
- ④ How should we respond?

*NOTE: We could make recommendations; the final decision would rest with the Area and Region.

WHERE TO NOW?

"...political life as a whole is an endless chain consisting of an infinite number of links. The whole art of politics lies in finding and taking as firm a grip as we can of the link that is least likely to be struck from our hands, the one that is most important at the given moment, the one that most of all guarantees its possessor the possession of the whole chain." - Lenin

- ① Is the conscription issue (at present) that link?
 - (i) w.r.t. the liberal (white) community? Why / why not?
 - (ii) w.r.t. the community at large? Why / why not?
- ② If so, how firm is our grip upon it?
- ③ Dissent is present within every strata of our population. For that very reason, our propaganda reaches potentially fertile ground wherever we make it available. How do we draw the links between conscription and SADF involvement, on the one hand, and, on the other, an entire political system rotten to the core that must be displaced in order to build a democratic state, keeping in mind the particular constituency that we work within?
- ④ Can we offer a positive path forward to those that are accessible to our political work? Or can we offer no more than Willem Steenkamp's vacuum as opposed to a conscripted army (i.e., what is the nature of the task that demands of us to respond dynamically and actively to those that are sympathetic, yet continues to think within the narrow confines of a Steenkamp?

⑤ Our political agitation often takes on the form of political exposures (e.g. the recent UDF meeting in Claremont). Work around that meeting showed us the increasing polarisation within the Southern Suburbs liberal community. To react energetically to the increasing support that we are getting from within that community, we need to build our own political consciousness; we need to take the initiative on a broad range of issues (particularly those concerning conscription / militarisation); we need to continuously initiate aggressive (but not adventuresome) attacks on the state. If agreement exists about these premises, the question remains: How?

⑥ What is the effect of our initiatives around conscription upon UDF work-at-large (e.g. the bus boycott)?

- (i) Do we neglect general UDF initiatives?
- (ii) Do we manage to relate our CWG work to issues such as the bus boycott and other "non-conscription" issues? Should we?

⑦ The Resource Package is an essential research- and compilation project whereby we will, presumably, provide activists with a tool to use in our conduct of political agitation. It is a vital part of our activities. So is propaganda and agitation. When we agitate, we take a single idea (such as the contradiction between a so-called DEFENCE force and an army that invades the homes of our fellow South Africans) and we evoke anger or whatever reaction to our target from our audience. When we propagandise, we situate this contradiction within the relations between the state and the people; we show why the Apartheid regime needs an army to stay in power; we point to the necessity of transforming our society (on the basis of, say, the Freedom Charter) so as to rid ourselves of this contradiction. Propaganda represents a clearer explanation of the simple truths upon which agitational material is build. We look at the interrelationship between aspects of our society. NOW:

- (i) Are we paying sufficient attention to propaganda and agitation?
- (ii) Should (or could) we?
- (iii) Does the space (concrete conditions) exist for agitational and propaganda work, and if so, how do we best exploit such space?
- (iv) Do real problems exist around conscription / militarisation that agitate strata of our society - and, presuming they do, do we know enough about them to take up agitational

arms (so to speak); do we understand the mood of our "constituencies"? (Think about the incorrect assessments we made around issues such as the bus boycott, and the liberal response to the Vaal unrest.)

- ⑧ So... Where to Now - in terms of
- (i) our constituency;
 - (ii) the type of work we do;
 - (iii) issues that we can take up;
 - (iv) new initiatives; and
 - (v) developing ourselves as activists?

A PROPOSED AGENDA

1. The Workshop
2. Representation on the Co-ordinating Committee
3. IYY
4. The Road ahead
5. Resource Package report (Harry)
6. January call-up action (Mike E)
7. Resource Package / SA Outlook (Janet)
8. Questionnaire (Mike E)
9. Agitational work in Obs leading to a meeting (Janet)
10. Other initiatives
11. ECC
12. ACC
13. Observatory News
14. The Magic Climactic orgasmic Conscription Playing Group Jorl (Mike A)
15. General
16. Timetable. Our next meeting, time, date, venue.

"...we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won."

- FREEDOM CHARTER OF SOUTH AFRICA

CONSCRIPTS GROUP

We have recently been through an in-depth and exciting conceptual discussion in ECC. We have also started to plan a programme of our activities for 1988. Now we need to give some attention to our structures and processes. The following questions are designed to kick off this assessment, and we hope that the answers will provide valuable pointers as to where we should take things from here.

Please could subcomms discuss these questions and bring their notes to the next exec meeting. This will give the group planning the weekend away a chance to pull together all the different subcomm discussions and plan the session at the weekend.

1. Does your subcomm have a clearly defined and worthwhile role?
Is your subcomm the most appropriate structure in ECC to fulfil that role?
2. Does your subcomm / organisation feel part of ECC in that they:
 - * are part of decision-making
 - * understand the conceptual direction of ECC
 - * are socially integrated
3. Does your subcomm have an ambitious but realistic programme for 1988?
Do you plan, implement and assess projects?
4. Does your subcomm address questions of recruitment, training, education, motivation and excitement?

undoubtedly

2a) attend GB yes (but see this)

can input RB for GB

can circulate resources

b) yay

c) yes - matter of choice

don't have RB so okay / don't over-emph

3.

formulating

ambition

need process

tasks / action

bal

4.

recruitment - size

training + educ

- resource change

// think

more

P.T.O.

Question 1

Our subcommittee is in the process of defining its goals. This has been an exciting process for us and we feel ~~we~~ we are making progress rapidly.

Our sub-comm is the most appropriate to play the role of involving and reaching campers (and other concepts)

Question 2

- a) decision making: ^{members} will only feel fully involved if attending GB's - this is encouraged; can improve our AB's from GB; should circulate GB minutes in sub-comm.
- b) understand conceptual issues: absolutely - feel proud of sub-comm's contribution; obviously need to integrate newest members.
- c) socially integrated: no problems expressed; should be matter of choice i.e. people shouldn't feel pressure to 'join the gang'.

Question 3

Our sub-comm is in the process of formulating a programme of action which includes both realistic and ambitious projects. Need to ensure that a balance exists between conceptualising / strategising and doing. Do plan, implement and assess properly projects (eg Know Your Rights meetings)

Question 4

recruitment: going very well

education + training: still needs to be thought through

motivation + excitement: high and rising

STRUCTURES SURVEY - SCHOOLS GROUP

- ① We're in the midst of a big assessment & not in a position to answer this yet.
- ② Decision making:-
- Yes - if the exec rep is operating effectively sub-comms have a big part to play in decision making.
 - A lot of the more important decisions get made in ad-hoc groups, not sub-comms. This is not a problem.
 - ● Schools group is part of decision making as much as it can be. The level of discussion around decision is good - we take them seriously and think about them.

Conceptual direction:-

- Only those who are more broadly involved in Ecc have a good understanding of the conceptual direction (through attending eg. G.Bs. conference) and those who have confined themselves to
 - the subcomm do not
- We need to filter such info. back to all subcomm members - it is very important that everyone in the subcomm understands the conceptual direction
- We need to incorporate into our assessment the question of what the ~~conceptual~~ conception focus means for us.

Social integration:-

- Depends on the individual, but a number of us experience problems with social integration

- Problems with social integration affects political work - often if one feels alienated socially it's difficult to contribute politically
- There is the problem of a social hierarchy in ECC
- Some people have a lot of time to put into ECC and because they spend a lot of time working together they also are close socially. If one doesn't have so much time to give it is difficult to get at all socially integrated. Some of this is unavoidable, but it is a problem that in broader meetings the people who work and ~~on~~ job together a lot still stick together. This is very alienating. (Passing notes around in GB was a specific thing mentioned which can make those not receiving/passing notes feel very out of it)
- Those who are at the "centre" must take the responsibility of making others feel integrated if we want to keep members.

③ We are in the process of drawing one up. We plan & assess, but we don't implement (only joking!)

④ We can't talk about recruitment in the abstract i.e. outside of the work that we are doing

- We have not addressed training/education in our subcomm
- We do sometimes address motivation etc, but not in a consistent way

END CONSCRIPTION - SCHOOLS COMMITTEE.

* SPADE WORK PHASE *

The schools group is at present in a tentative, exploratory stage.

After to Concert held in Observatory and a Workshop planned during the school holidays, we realized that we were very out of touch with school children.

One of our aims is to make school children face up to the whole military issue in the context of a broader awareness of South African politics. We have therefore approached S.I.G. to learn from them how they have worked their way into schools - what strategies and structures they have used.

We are learning from SIG's successes and failures as well as contacting pupils and teachers in an attempt to gauge their feelings, commitments + priorities.

Out of this 'spade work' or research phase we will come up with a plan and both long term strategies and short term plans, including the possibilities of :-

- a) WORKSHOPS.
- b) CONCERT - AIMED SOLELY AT SCHOOL CHILDREN.
- c) TALKING AT SCHOOL CLUB + SOCIETY MEETINGS.
- d) Working through Church YOUTH GROUPS.

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History of activities

School Comm's activities since its formation have included: a 'cadets campaign' which involved posters, stickers, timetables, a concert and an open forum; speaking at schools during the WJP campaign; consolidating contact with pupils through PAAG and GAYP and reaching others through housemeetings; participating in the interorganisational education forum; three weekly educational and skills workshops with PAAG and GAYP.

Schools Comm has made important gains in raising issues of militarisation in white schools and assisting with the organisational development of schools organisations. In the course of its work, schools comm changed its approach from attempting to mobilise 'the white schools' to working through the established schools groups.

The schools constituency

One of the most exciting developments in the white community in Cape Town over the last two years has been the politicisation of white school pupils and the formation of schools organisations. Teachers are organised in Edasa and have run two campaigns. Many headmasters are becoming more liberal and receptive to political activity in their schools. These developments obviously facilitate ECC's ability to reach pupils.

There are however several limitations to working in white schools: pupils are in an environment, at home and at school, that is still fairly conservative; pupils are vulnerable to harrassment, many teachers and headmasters are anti-ECC; PAAG is still limited to the more liberal schools; school vacations and exams are disruptive. Also, the Department of Education doesn't much like us, but then we don't much like it.

Despite these limitations, there is great potential for Schools Comm to advance. The schools constituency is made up of young people at a formative stage of their development and being prepared by the system to go into the army. This puts Schools Comm right where its at!

Looking to the future

Lank exciting but heavy. On the verge of a great breakthrough in the schools. But repression high. And not likely to drop. State could well be preparing to deliver us another "blikksemse big klap on the head". White elections will raise political consciousness in white community and offer ECC an opportunity to insert its position.

Aims of Schools Comm

- to advance the general aims of ECC
- to develop amongst white pupils an understanding of the role of the SADF, the effects of militarisation and positive alternatives.
- to strengthen relations with progressive schools and teachers organisations, and assist in their development

How Schools Comm should work

We have neither the capacity nor the understanding to reach the mass of school pupils directly. We must rather attempt to reach them through our work with PAAG, GAYP and EDASA. Broadly, our role is:

- to inject ECC issues into campaigns run by these orgs
- to involve these orgs in ECC campaigns
- to assist in the organisational development of school groups
- to always be alert to 'the gap' and go for it!

Areas of work

- regular workshops with PAAG and GAYP
- house meetings with school pupils
- public campaigning where appropriate
- promote advice bureaux
- participate in inter-organisational forum
- gapping in

Cape Town End Conscription Campaign: Schools Sub-Committee

Mid-year Report

The schools subcom has been active and has met regularly throughout the first half of 1988. The membership has ranged between 4 and 10.

A school timetable with the insignia 'Cadets and Conscripts need Alternatives' was produced. About 2000 copies were distributed to pupils outside various Cape Town schools on the first day of the school term in January.

The schools subcom brought together a group of concerned people with the aim of working towards the implementation of alternatives to the cadets system. Unfortunately this broader grouping could not sustain itself. Nevertheless, as a result of this drive a number of parents of pupils sympathetic to our cause are holding house meetings where they are discussing ways to pressurise schools to introduce alternatives to their cadet programs.

The subcom has striven to strengthen links with PUPA, a local pupils organisation. Possible alternatives to cadets have been discussed with them.

An exam timetable giving a brief motivation for introducing alternatives to cadets in schools was distributed outside Cape Town schools during May. The pupils' reaction was positive. Many of the timetables have been passed on to other regions.

The subcom prepared a brochure on cadets. In it we included our reasons for opposing the cadets system and proposed alternatives to cadets. The brochures were given to interested people and were also handed to other regions.

Other activities undertaken by members of the subcom include writing a humorous article on cadets for the Black Sash magazine and visiting a cadets competition. The subcom has also provided information to a group that is making a film on militarisation.

Pamphlets aimed at pupils advertising the Alternative Service Projects have been produced and will be distributed to scholars soon.

At present a workshop for parents of school-going sons is being prepared. It is hoped to inform these parents of the rights and obligations of conscripts and enable them to counsel their sons on matters related to conscription.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN - CAPE TOWN

CONSCRIPTS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Cape Town ECC Conscripts Subcommittee was formed in the middle of last year at a time when the ECC felt it wasn't addressing what should have been one of its most important constituencies, this being conscripts themselves.

After a number of house meetings the conscripts subcommittee was formed with the intention of focusing on conscripts and the issues that directly affected them. It was also hoped that people who had previously felt alienated because of previous SADF Service and continuing service through the system of camps would be able to feel comfortable in this Subcom. and then be able to participate in ECC. This seems to have worked given the numbers and types of people who have joined the Subcom.

As it is not possible to have access to conscripts while they are serving in the military we have concentrated on people liable for military service and those who have completed their initial two years but are still liable for camps.

One of our first projects was the holding of what we called A Know Your Rights Forum. This was held in Rondebosch and although there was very little publicity, (excluding about 20 street posters) roughly forty people arrived (This exceeded our expectations.) The aim of the forum was to advise people on rights and options concerning the SADF. The forum consists of a panel, which was made up as follows: A Lawyer, somebody who had served in the Defence Force as a legal officer, A representative from conscription advice service, a conscript who had served and a chairperson. Very short inputs were given by the panel after which they opened for questioning from the floor. A lot of questions were asked and the meeting was a success.

The first phase of the campaign this year was made up of similar, "know your rights" forums for which the conscripts subcom. did a lot of work.

We have also run a number of house meetings explaining the ECC and our campaigns and have hosted what we have termed "Rap Groups". These were for people who had served to get together and discuss their experiences in the military and how they felt about them.

The group itself has been keen and excited about its work over the last ten months and at one stage consisted of 15 members. We are now down to nine but have four new members joining shortly.

We feel that we have an important role to play in furthering the cause of the end conscription campaign, and are gearing ourselves for a lot more work.

ANTHONY CASEY
CONSCRIPTS SUBCOMMITTEE CO-ORDINATOR

DISCUSSION PAPER ON ECC'S NEW FOCUS ON THE CONSCRIPT

- Cape Town Conscripts Group, Oct 1987

1) INTRODUCTION:

In the course of recent intensive discussion about its effectiveness under the State of Emergency, Cape Town ECC felt that its future lay in a new focus on the conscript. This will have major implications for the organisations activities and public image. The Conscripts Group has prepared this paper for ECC to begin working through the implications.

The paper covers: the thinking behind the new focus; camper's perceptions of ECC and the SADF; short and medium term tasks to put the focus into practise; and some larger unsolved issues.

The paper will be distributed to all regions as the basis for discussion on the conscript at National Conference.

2) THE THINKING BEHIND THE NEW FOCUS:

The new focus on conscripts emerged out of a Commission of Enquiry and weekend workshop to assess the reasons for ECC's limited effectiveness under the Emergency, and to make suggestions for its future direction.

For the purposes of this paper, the following points emerged:

- a) The Emergency restriction on "undermining or discrediting" military service has caused ECC to move away from its predominantly single issue focus on conscription to a broader focus on militarisation and "just peace".
- b) The focus on militarisation and "just peace", however, was relatively vague and woolly; it lacked clear demands.
- c) ECC also gave up the initiative by running defensive campaigns asserting its right to speak, the public's right to know, etc.
- d) Although the white community seems to be becoming more supportive of "national security" options, conscription remains a major issue of concern. For many young people it is the issue.
- e) The above all point to ECC returning to conscription as its main thrust. In terms of ECC's established objectives, conscripts are obviously the most important constituency.

What is new about this position? The Troops Out campaign, the Working for a Just Peace campaign and ECC's interim demands focussed on the conscripts dilemma and attempted to project his concerns and demands. In an on-going way ECC reaches conscripts through its work with pupils, students, youth culture, the church etc.

What is new about the current initiative is that ECC is now saying: "let us talk directly to conscripts, soldiers and campers as constituencies in their own right", "let us for the first time try to understand where they are at", "let us discover how different types of conscripts see things, and how best to reach them", "and let us reorientate our entire organisation to address conscripts and speak for them".

A Conscripts Group was set up to further ECC's work in this direction. The group, which meets weekly as an ECC sub-committee, consists of four campers and three "long standing" ECC members.

Before proceeding, there is the question of definitions. ECC needs a common vocabulary to describe different categories of conscripts:

- * "conscripts" describes white men who face "national service" or camp call-ups into the SADF
- * "soldiers" describes conscripts currently in the army
- * "campers" describes conscripts who face camp call-ups. Note though that "campers" will not use this word to describe themselves unless they are actually on a camp. Some might refer to themselves as "ou manne"
- * "veterans" describes men who served in the United States Army.

3) CAMPER'S PERCEPTIONS OF ECC AND THE ARMY:

The Conscripts Group has organised two house meetings with conscripts who have done their military service. Our approach at the meetings was to get them to talk about their perceptions of ECC and the army. Much of what we heard seems obvious now but came as a real surprise at the time. We realised that we know very little about conscripts, and especially soldiers. We were naive to think we could easily and quickly begin talking to them.

What follows are some of the thoughts expressed at the housemeetings. They are not by any means definitive. They represent the views of only a small and particular grouping of campers. The campers were generally liberal and sympathetic to ECC's views, but not necessarily supportive of ECC as an organisation.

a) Soldiers perceptions of ECC:

ECC has a very negative image amongst soldiers, partly as a result of intensive army propaganda that portrays it as part of the "total onslaught". In addition, even amongst the small number of soldiers who share ECC's views, there are several negative perceptions of the organisation:

- * It has a very radical image and is seen as part of the "UDF/ANC/SACP alliance". The distance that ECC attempts to keep between itself and UDF is not noticed.

- * ECC is seen as studenty, cliquish and elitist, "a bunch of politicians out of touch with ordinary people".

- * A most serious factor undermining ECC is its "arrogance" in commenting on the army when so many of its publically identified members have not done military service. This applies as much to men who haven't served as it does to women and older folk who don't face call-ups. Those with most credibility in ECC are the campers and the objectors who have been to jail.

ECC needs to be represented publically by a greater number of campers to avoid the perception amongst soldiers that "it doesn't know what the fuck it's talking about".

Women and older folk who speak on ECC's behalf should talk about how they are effected by militarisation and conscription.

- * Many soldiers believe that ECC sees them as "the enemy". ECC's efforts to counter this perception are not really noticed.

- * Some soldiers have the attitude that "ECC has done/can do nothing for me" and "hasn't really achieved anything".

b) ECC's ability to recruit members:

Campers sympathetic to ECC are reluctant to become members unless they have decided not to do further camps. Otherwise they fear

being victimised and ostracised on their camps. They also expect ECC to be critical of them.

c) Whether ECC should use political or material arguments:

ECC should not abandon political arguments against conscription in favour of material arguments (eg. physical and psychological harrassment, career jeopardy, waste of time, etc.). There is a high level of material dissatisfaction with army life amongst most soldiers but this is not easily converted into political opposition. Sometimes the dissatisfaction in fact leads to greater aggression and conservatism, where the soldier sees township residents as responsible for his being in the army and having a hard time.

As much as soldiers resent the physical and psychological pressure, they take pride in "making it" through the army, and especially through basic training. ECC would be seen as "a bunch of moffies" if it focussed on these issues. Soldiers will also think "ECC can't actually change these conditions, so why try?"

ECC should stick to political issues. The presence of troops in the townships is the most important issue, and "troops out" the most appealing of ECC's demands. ECC's interim demands about alternative service will also have some support amongst soldiers who are politically receptive.

ECC should publicize soldiers rights, especially amongst conscripts about to go into the army. Soldiers believe they don't have any rights. If they know their rights, some would take a further stand against abuses. The army is likely to back away from soldiers who assert their rights.

d) ECC's ability to address serving soldiers:

ECC has either no chance or a very small chance of reaching most soldiers. Army life is geared to isolating them from civil society and conditioning them not to think. ECC is likely to get through only to those who already have political doubts.

ECC should not talk about addressing "the soldier". It needs to identify which soldiers to address. Amongst soldiers there is the widest variety of values, predominantly conservative, depending on age, family, school, etc. Attitudes to ECC and the SADF are also radically effected by the soldiers type and place of military service. For example, a soldiers experience in Namibia, Angola or a township may significantly effect him psychologically and influence his political outlook, positively or negatively. There is also an important difference in serving in a town unit (like Wits Command or the Castle) and an infantry unit (like Upington or Grootfontein). Soldiers in town units are likely to be most receptive to ECC.

e) Problems experienced in the army:

Most soldiers' experience in the army includes many negative aspects: an acute sense of isolation and loneliness; emotional and psychological battering and numbing; physical brutality and resentment at being bullied by "intellectually inferior officers"; difficulty in adjusting to civilian life and relating to friends

when on leave; frustration at job opportunities and careers being jeopardised; moral/political tension; waste of time; boredom.

Army life is contradictory, however. Even soldiers who hate it have positive experiences and feelings. These include: pride in being a soldier, wearing a uniform and carrying a gun; being regarded by white society as a hero; learning skills; developing strong bonds of comradeship with other soldiers; pride in making it through the army; not having any responsibilities; becoming more mature between leaving school and starting a career; "excitement of combat".

4) TASKS:

The Conscripts Group has identified the following tasks to put the new focus on the conscript into practice:

- a) The most important task is to continue gathering information about conscripts and how best to approach them. This will be done mainly through house meetings that involve different types of conscripts talking freely about ECC and the army. We still need to work out creative ways of following up the house meetings.
- b) More campers need to be recruited into the Conscripts Group and other sub-committees.
- c) The Conscripts Group must share its understanding of conscripts with ECC as a whole. ECC must work out the implications of the new focus on conscripts for its political positions and its image as an organisation.
- d) ECC must continuously and energetically integrate the new focus into all its activities. This will mean addressing conscripts, speaking on their behalf or involving campers in every activity—house meetings, public meetings, press statements, actions, publications, etc.
- e) A medium term task is to inform conscripts of their rights as soldiers before they go into the army. This can be done through "know your rights" public meetings, house meetings with campers and school pupils, pamphlets aimed at matric pupils, newspaper adverts, etc.
- f) Another medium term task is to set up "rap groups" in which campers can talk amongst themselves about their experiences in the army.

5) THE UNRESOLVED ISSUES:

The new focus on conscripts and the house meetings with campers have thrown up some big and difficult questions for ECC. Although the process of resolving them will take many months, ECC needs to start working out some tentative answers to the following:

- a) Bearing in mind all of ECC's objectives, what are the implications of the new focus for:
 - 1) ECC's political stance and links to UDF;
 - 11) the composition of ECC's executive, public spokespeople and national employees;
 - 111) ECC's overall image as an organisation;
 - 1V) the work of each ECC sub-committee?
- b) How do we make it easier for campers to join and participate in ECC? What should ECC's position on its members doing camps be?
- c) Around what issues and in what forms can ECC address conscripts who have not served, soldiers and campers?
- d) Should ECC be working in the long run towards helping to set up an independent conscripts organisation?

Cape Town ECC

Research Group report to National Committee

August 1988

We have a small, but active Research Group. It is not a formal ECC sub-committee although it meets regularly and has an ongoing programme of work.

Activities include:

1) The formulation and initiation of a national research project for ECC. We also took responsibility for various aspects of establishing this research project outside of ECC.

2) The initiation and encouragement of research projects outside of ECC. These include:

a paper at present being prepared on military spending;

a survey by the UCT Graduate School of Business on the attitudes of the Top 100 businesses to issues of militarisation and conscription. This is an exciting project which could be of great use to us in our work;

we are also at present trying to find a law student willing to research aspects of procedural law with respect to the sentencing of offenders to community service, as against prison sentences.

3) A thorough pressclip service which is coordinated and administered via a computer cataloguing system. We wish this service to be made available to other branches and organisations. If you are interested, please let us know.

We have also started producing pressclip packages on topical issues for the use of ECC members.

4) A monitoring function, whereby we watch for important publications, articles etc. to distribute to ECC members. We have done so a number of times.

5) We have produced a research package of vital information for ECC activists. The package includes our submission to the SADF; the law with respect to conscription; facts and figures on military spending; facts and figures on the brain drain; documents on international provisions for conscientious objection.

6) We are at present writing a paper on the effect of the SADF on race relations which is likely to be published by an outside body.

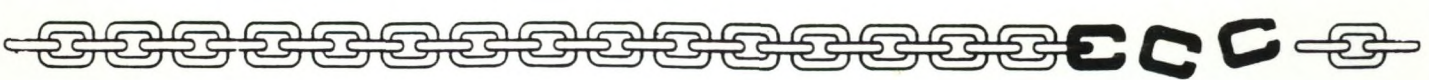
7) We have assisted people doing military/conscription related research.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PO Box 208
Woodstock
7915

INTRODUCTORY RESOURCE PACKAGE
ECC CAPE TOWN RESEARCH GROUP
JULY 1988

- A Legislation on Conscription and Conscientious Objection
- B ECC Policy Proposals - 1988 Submission to SADF
- C A brief analysis of Current Military Expenditure
- D Brain Drain Figures
- E International Provisions for Conscientious Objectors
 - 1983 UNESCO Document
 - 1985 Quaker UN Document



LIABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE

1. CADETS

Q. Do I Have To Do Cadets At School ?

A. School pupils and their parents do have a choice about learning to fight. Cadet training is not compulsory. Section 57 of the Defence Act 1957 states:

"Every person domiciled in the Republic, may if he is a scholar or student at a school or other educational institution be required between his 12th and 17th year, both included, to undergo training as a cadet in accordance with the regulations, unless: (a) his parent or guardian has objected thereto in writing"

2. REGISTRATION

Q. Who Is Required To Register And When ?

A. By law every white male South African citizen must apply to the SADF registering officer for registration for military service. This must be done

(a) during the period from the first day of January to the last day of February of the year in which the person will attain the age of sixteen years; or

(b) where the person was outside South Africa and Namibia during the entire period or for any other reason failed to apply for registration during that period, within thirty days after his return to South Africa or Namibia or after the disappearance of the reason, unless the person is then over the age of fifty-five years.

With regard to the Amendment of the Defence Act No.103 of 1982, all white South African males under the age of 55 years who have not previously been registered shall now be liable for service. Certain categories of persons who

are not South African citizens may also be required to undergo military service.

Q. What If I Am Not In The Country When I Become 16 Years Of Age ?

A. You are then required to register within thirty days of your return to South Africa unless you are then over fifty-five years of age.

Q. What If I Do Not Register ?

A. The registering officer must issue a registration certificate to every registrant. Any person between the ages of sixteen and fifty-five years, who without lawful excuse, refuses or fails on demand by a Permanent Force Officer, or a Policeman, to produce the registration certificate, is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred rand or imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months.

Note that if a person refuses to register, the SADF is entitled to register him without his consent.

3. LENGTH OF SERVICE AND CAMP CYCLES

Q. How Long Is The Compulsory Service ?

A. The Defence Act requires active service in the Citizen Force over a period of fourteen years, commencing with an initial period of full-time service of 24 months. On completion of this period, you are liable to render subsequent periods of service during six cycles of two years each, of which none shall exceed 90 days and which shall not exceed 120 days per cycle in total. This amounts to 720 days of camps over a 12 year period. Should the above mentioned service not be rendered prior to the expiration of ten years, you shall remain a member of the Citizen Force, until such time as you have rendered such service, even if this period should exceed the required fourteen years. (This is being interpreted inconsistently at present)

Thereafter, you are transferred to the Active Citizen Force Reserve for five years, where you will be called up as the security situation requires. After that you can be transferred to the Commandos and be compelled to serve a maximum of 12 days per year until the age of fifty-five, when you will be transferred to a controlled national reserve until the age of 65.

Persons who are currently members of one or other of the Reserves may also be allocated to the Commandos, the country's new regional force, where their military commitment would not exceed 12 days a year up to the age of 55. Men who have never done military service will be required to do 30 days training in their first year of allotment to the Commandos, followed by a maximum of 12 days a year until the age of 55.

4. EXEMPTION

Q. Who Can Be Exempted From National Service ?

A. Certain categories of persons, such as members of the House of Assembly are automatically exempted from compulsory National Service.

In addition, persons who have been pronounced as medically unfit are granted exemption by the Act. Such exemption is rarely granted.

Certain persons may be granted exemption by virtue of their profession, eg. certain farmers and businessmen, but such exemption is also not readily granted. More recently, ballet dancers and jockeys have received exemption conditional on their continued pursuance of these occupations for ten years.

5. DEFERMENT

Q. Who Can Apply For Deferment ?

A. Any person who has received notification of a call-up, or any interested person acting on his behalf - family member, guardian or legal advisor, inter alia - may apply for deferment or exemption.

Q. On What Grounds Can One Apply For Deferment ?

Section 70 bis (1) of the Defence Act provides that an exemption board may grant deferment or exemption on the following grounds:

- (a) To prevent the interruption of educational studies;
- (b) On the grounds of a person's domestic or business / professional obligations;
- (c) On the grounds of physical defects, ill-health or mental incapacity;
- (d) On the ground that the person is detained in an institution;
- (e) On any other ground.

An application on these grounds can only be granted if the board is satisfied: that undue hardship would otherwise be caused; or that it would be in the public interest.

Thus, when applying for deferment or exemption, it is important to specify clearly the ground(s) on which you are applying, and to show that the call-up would cause you undue hardship or be contrary to the public interest.

Q. How Can One Apply For Deferment Of A Call-up ?

- (a) If you are liable for initial national service, apply directly to the Exemption Board in Pretoria (Registering Officer, Private Bag X281, Pretoria 0001). If you are a camper, make the application to the OC of the unit.
- (b) The Act obliges you to apply for deferment on affidavit. This means: (i) You must set out your grounds in a statement sworn before a Commissioner of Oaths (police officers, lawyers, most ministers of religion, etc.) (ii) The statement should be a comprehensive one where you set out your grounds in full and precise detail. Remember that you yourself cannot appear before the Exemption Board. Thus all the facts, grounds and submissions you wish to make must be contained in that document. Note that your unit is given an opportunity by the Board to respond to what you have argued.
- (c) It is desirable to submit statements from, for example, a lecturer, employer or minister of religion, in support of your applica-

tions. Such statements should ideally also be on affidavit. If this is not possible, you could attach a letter to your affidavit, but then your own affidavit must specifically refer to it and you should preferably initial it.

- (d) You should apply for deferment as soon as possible after receiving a call-up. The fact that you have sent in an application does not exempt you from reporting. But the sooner you send it in, the greater are your chances of getting a reply before you have to report.
- (e) Send your application by registered post and keep a copy of it together with details of the date on which it was sent. You can even call your unit to ensure they have received it.
- (f) If you are refused deferment before the camp begins, you can send in another application. It is submitted in exactly the same manner as your initial application. There is no legal limitation on the number of applications you can submit. In addition, you could try again when you report for service. Often the unit may have over-subscribed the camp and at that stage they may willingly support your application.

6. MILITARY SERVICE REQUIRED

Q. What Service May I Be Required To Do In The SADF ?

A. The Defence Act provides that a member of the Citizen Force, or Reserve, who is undergoing military service, may at any time be employed -

- (a) on service in defence of the Republic;
- (b) on service for the prevention of suppression of terrorism;
- (c) on service in the prevention or suppression of internal disorder in the Republic;
- (d) on service in the preservation of life, health or property or the maintenance of essential services; and
- (e) on such police duties as may be prescribed.

(South West Africa / Namibia is included in the definition of "Republic".)

In time of war the State President may call out the whole or any portion of the Citizen Force, the Reserve or any Commando "for mobilization for service in the defence of the Republic", and if this is done Parliament must be informed of the reasons therefor.

In addition, the State President may at any time call out the whole or any portion of the Citizen Force, or the Reserve or of any Commando for "service for the prevention or suppression of terrorism or in the prevention or suppression of internal disorder in the Republic or in the preservation of life, health or property or the maintenance of essential services."

The Act also provides that: "A member of the South African Defence Force may in time of war be required to perform service against an enemy at any place outside the Republic"

Q. "Dad's Army" - who is Required To Enlist ?

A. All white males between the ages of 18 and 54 who are citizens of the RSA may be called-up for commando service (dads' army). This is irrespective of previous national service. Permanent residents of other nationalities may also be called-up if the Minister gazettes specific nationalities which are to be included in the call up.

Under current provisions your service commitments will total up to a maximum of 30 days in the first year, and thereafter 12 days annually up to the age of 55.

Commandos are usually deployed locally and current practice is that many commandos are used to police black townships.

Q. What if One Does Not Fill In The Questionnaire They Send Out ?

A. If you fail to return questionnaire forms you will be liable to a fine not exceeding R200 or a period of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months.

7. FOREIGN CITIZENS

7.1 Permanent residents

Q. I am a foreign citizen living in South Africa on a permanent residence permit. Am I liable for national service ?

A. In brief, male foreign citizens between the ages of 15 years 6 months and 25 automatically become South African citizens by naturalization when they have been permanently resident in South Africa for 5 years. (Section 11A of the Citizenship Act)

In terms of the Defence Act (44 of 1957) these new male citizens will be liable for National Service. They are also obliged to register for National Service within 30 days of becoming citizens.

In more detail, three groups are affected; .

1) Persons to whom permanent resident permits were issued before 19th April 1978.

In terms of Section 11A of the South African Citizenship Act 1949 (Act 44 of 1949), amended by the South African Citizenship Act (Act 44 of 1984), as published in the Government Gazette of 11th April 1984, those persons who on 11th October 1984:

- a) are in the age group 15 years 6 months to 25 years
- b) received their permanent residence before 19th April 1978
- c) have been ordinarily resident in the Republic of South Africa for a period of at least five years.

automatically become South African citizens by naturalization on that date.

2) Persons to whom permanent residence permits were issued between the period 19th April 1978 to 10th April 1982

Persons in this category fall within the provisions of Section 11A of Act 44 of 1949 as it existed immediately prior to the amendment

which came into force on 11th April 1984. They automatically became South African citizens before or on 10th April 1984 if on that date they were not older than 23 years and had been ordinarily resident in the Republic of South Africa for at least two years.

3) Persons to whom permanent residence permits have been issued since 11th April 1982

Persons in this category will automatically become South African citizens by naturalization if they are not younger than 15 years 6 months and are not older than 25 years on the day they have been ordinarily resident in South Africa for five years.

Further questions on automatic citizenship by naturalization:

Q. What choice faces foreign citizens who qualify for citizenship automatically in terms of section 11A of the Citizenship Act, but who do not wish to become citizens (and so become liable for military service) ?

A. They must declare timeously in the prescribed manner (if the person is a minor his responsible parent must make the statement on his behalf) that they do not wish to become South African citizens, whereupon they will forfeit their right to permanent residence in South Africa. These persons will then be subject to the restrictions and provisions of the Aliens Act, (Act 1 of 1937) and be regarded as temporary residents who must apply for work, study and temporary residence permits. Every application for renewal of such permits will be considered on merit and no guarantee can be given that such permits will be renewed.

Q. What is the case of persons previously exempted from National Service before the amendment of the Citizenship Act, on the grounds of a statement when registering for National Service that they did not intend becoming South African citizens ?

A. The exemption will fall away when they become citizens in terms of the amended Act. They will have to register for National Service within 30 days of becoming South African citizens.

Q. Are new citizens who have completed National Service in another country, liable for National Service or Citizen Force or Commando Camps ?

A. Upon presenting documentary proof, such a person may receive credit for National Service

in another country, but remains liable for military service until the age of 55.

Q. Will a person who qualifies for South African citizenship lose his original citizenship ?

A. Such a person will have a dual citizenship if his country of origin allows it. Most countries do allow dual citizenship.

Q. How is the five year period of permanent residence calculated where a person interrupts his residence in South Africa ?

A. If he leaves South Africa temporarily (e.g. for study or vacation) and he retains his permanent residence permit, the five years residence period is calculated from the date on which he has been ordinarily resident with a permanent residence permit. The periods of absence are included.

7.2 Ex South Africans

Q. If I leave South Africa, acquire citizenship of another country and later return to South Africa, am I liable for National Service ?

In short - it appears that you would not be liable.

In the light of the Appellate Division decision in *Keeley vs Minister of Defence* 1981 (3) SA904 (A), the legal effect of acquiring citizenship of another country which results in the loss of one's South African citizenship, one's military obligation appears to be as follows:

- a) A South African citizen who loses his South African citizenship before reaching the age of 16 years, when he is obliged to register with the Defence Force in terms of section 63 of the Act, is not liable for military service.
- b) A South African citizen who has registered in terms of section 63 and who loses his South African citizenship before commencing actual military training, is a member of the Citizen Force because of the provisions of section 16(1)(c) of the Act, and must therefore be discharged from the Citizen Force upon proof of the termination of his South African citizenship.

- c) A South African citizen who has commenced or completed military training but who has not completed the full cycle of camps required by section 21(1) of the Act must also be discharged from the Citizen Force upon production of proof that his South African citizenship has terminated.

It is submitted that these rules apply to all South African citizens, whether they be citizens by birth, voluntary naturalization or the naturalization created by section 11A of the South African citizenship Act.

NB.(1) There is some doubt about the effect of the *Keeley* case. This is because the Appellate Division gave no reasons for its judgment, and the reasons of the Transvaal Provincial Division, which held that *Keeley* was indeed liable for military service despite his loss of citizenship, may not have been destroyed for the purposes of precedent.

NB.(2) The process of acquiring foreign citizenship is a long and difficult one and there is no guarantee that, given the circumstances, you will be granted permanent residence.

RELIGIOUS OBJECTION

The Defence Amendment Act of 1983 gives people who are unwilling on religious grounds to be combatants in the SADF a choice of three legal alternatives.

(1) Non-Combatant Service in the SADF

This may be granted if you are accepted as a person who has religious beliefs that will not allow you to carry or use a weapon in any army:

"a religious objector with whose religious convictions it is in conflict to render service in a combatant capacity in any armed force" Sect. 72D(1)(a)(i)

(2) Non-Uniformed Non-Combatant Service

This may be granted if you are accepted as a person who has religious beliefs that will not allow you to carry or use a weapon, wear military uniform or do anything that will help any army to fight:

"a religious objector with whose religious convictions it is in conflict to render service in a combatant capacity in any armed force, to perform any maintenance tasks of a combatant nature therein and to be clothed in a military uniform" Sect. 72D(a)(ii)

(3) Non-Military Community Service

This may be granted if you are accepted as a person who has religious beliefs that will not allow you to do service of any kind in any army:

"a religious objector with whose religious convictions it is in conflict to render any military service or to undergo any military training or to perform any task in or in connection with any armed force" Sect. 72D(1)(a)(iii)

Application for such alternatives is made to the Board for Religious Objection, which is appointed by the Minister of Manpower. It consists of a judge or retired judge in the chair, three theologians of different denominations, one military chaplain and one SADF representative. The Board may co-opt a theologian of the applicant's own denomination if none of the ap-

pointed theologians or the chaplain are of that denomination.

If you apply to the Board you have to prove two things:

- *that your convictions are religious in nature;*
- *that there is an element of universality in your objection, i.e. that you are able to say "at this time I cannot serve in any armed force."*

This excludes political objections to the SADF and the non-religious pacifist position. In order to prove these points, you need only show that it is more probable than not that your convictions are as stated.

You may re-apply to the Board at a later stage if there has been a change in your convictions or in the facts upon which you based your application.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF EACH CATEGORY

(1) Non-Combatant Service

You will have to perform normal military service in a non-combatant role (e.g. cook, driver, medical orderly, clerk, etc). This may include military service in an operational area. The length of service is the same as that for combatant military service. Because you have chosen to be different from others in the SADF, you must be prepared to face some antagonism (although you may not face any).

(2) Non-Uniformed Non-Military Service

You will have to perform "prescribed maintenance tasks of a non-combatant nature in the SADF" in non-military uniform. The length of each call-up period is extended by a half (i.e. three years initial service, followed by a maximum of 1080 days of camps). Very few people apply for this classification.

(3) Non-military Community Service

Non-military service may be performed in any government, provincial or municipal department.

The Minister of Manpower determines the **nature of non-military service** to be performed according to the objector's qualifications and potential. The work should not be degrading and if possible near to his home. Housing and transport will be provided. The salary will be that of a national serviceman. The **period of non-military service** required is a continuous period of one and a half times the total length of military service still owed by the objector (i.e. for someone objecting to their initial service, it would be six years; for someone refusing camps only, it would be three years if they have not done any camps yet.)

The Minister of Defence may decide to **reduce the length** of non-military service in any particular case. While doing non-military service, an objector is not allowed to participate in any political activities, other than voting, and may not publish anything of a political nature.

The Board may refuse any application or classify you in a category other than the one you applied for. If you are refused or are unhappy with the category in which the Board has placed you, you then have to decide either to do the service you have been called up for, or face imprisonment or emigrate. If you decide you cannot apply to the Board, you also have to make the same choices.

IMPRISONMENT

The day that you fail to appear for your call-up, you commit an offence and face the possibility of a prison sentence. You should contact a lawyer before you do this. If you do not have a lawyer or cannot afford one, the military will appoint an SADF lawyer to defend you.

If you are charged with failing to report, you will be liable on conviction to a fine or imprisonment (or detention) of up to 18 months, which is not regarded as service completed. First offenders will normally receive a fine or suspended sentence.

If you are charged with refusing to report, you will be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period one and a half times your outstanding service (i.e. six years if you have not done any initial service) or 18 months, whichever is the longer. If when charged with refusing to report, the State proves that you failed to report, the onus is on you to prove that you did not refuse to report. This is a civilian prison sentence. Once it is completed,

the SADF may not call you up again.

HOW TO APPLY TO THE BOARD FOR RELIGIOUS OBJECTION

An application to the Board must include the following:

- **what category** of religious objection you are applying for;
- the **"facts and grounds"** upon which the application is based. The inclusion of political statements is likely to prejudice your case. It is useful to include a curriculum vitae.
- the **"books of revelation** and the articles of faith" of the applicant;
- **affidavits of witnesses** in support of your application, preferably including a minister from your denomination. Witnesses can be subpoenaed by the Board.

The Board's address is:

*The Board for Religious Objection,
Private Bag X20521
9300 Bloemfontein*

Tel. 051-47 6096/7

Your application must be within 30 days of receiving a call-up. (If the SADF has not informed you of this, or you have some other reason why you are unable to apply in time, you may apply later although the Board may refuse to hear a late application.) If you are already doing military service when you decide to apply to the Board, you must apply through your Commanding Officer, and request to be sent home on unrecorded leave pending your hearing.

Once you have received an acknowledgement from the Board that they have received your application, you need not report for national or community service until the Board has decided on your application and you have been advised of their decision.

No one may apply on someone else's behalf. The Board may approve an application without hearing the case. It must hear the objector before it can dismiss an application or classify the applicant into a category other than that for which he applied.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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