

# 6000 SAY NO

The Star Tuesday October 3 1989

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A VETERAN of the battle of Cuito Cuanavale and a man whose brother was posthumously awarded the Pro Patria medal are among more than 600 men throughout the country who this week publicly declared their refusal to serve in the SADF.

Dr Mark Ellison Patrick, whose brother Timothy was awarded the Pro Patria medal after he died in Angola, was one of several men due to speak at a press conference in Cape Town to launch a register for conscientious objectors.

Patrick said that at the time of his brother's death, he was wearing a Union uniform and his face was painted black.

"I spent two years in the SADF and my brother died in the SADF," Patrick's statement says.

Another of the objectors, minister John Atkinson, was a chaplain in Raukana in 1984.

Atkinson's statement says that he believes involvement with the SADF would be "contrary to the will of God in this country."

Also due to speak at the Cape Town press conference is energy researcher Dr A Eberhard, 44.

Eberhard first refused to do military service in 1977 when he did not report for an army camp. He received a 12-month sentence, part of which was suspended.

His statement says: "What seemed extraordinary events in 1977 have now become commonplace.

"There have been countless cross-border raids and it is openly admitted that the SADF supported rebels in neighbouring countries.

"The direct deployment of army units in townships is also an everyday occurrence."

The Cuito Cuanavale veteran is one of several speakers who will address a simultaneous press conference in Johannesburg.

Press conferences are also due to take place in Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London, Pietermaritzburg, Grahamstown and Stellenbosch.

The 600 men who are taking the stand against conscription include lawyers, doctors, teachers, ministers of religion, bishops, lecturers, scientists, engineers, businessmen, musicians, students, professors, dentists, journalists and a company director.

They include men who have completed their initial period of service, men who have done active service in Angola, Namibia and townships, as well as men who have not yet been called up and those who are currently doing community service.

A statement issued by the national co-ordinating committee said that the group would respond to the call-up in a variety of ways.

Last year 143 men similarly refused to do military service. Three men are currently serving jail sentences because of their refusal.

## Govt should let objectors do community service

In April this year, Saul Batzofin began an 18-month prison term for refusing to serve in the South African Defence Force.

I, like the majority of South Africans, have come to regard the Defence Force as a necessity. I also know that if those who refused to serve were not punished, that most young men would develop sensitive natures overnight.

What I don't understand is why those who refuse to serve in the SADF should be sent to jail. This is the kind of solution I would expect from an uneducated and narrow-minded institution, but not from a sophisticated Government such as ours.

Who would have stood to lose if the sentence had been 18 months community service instead of 18 months in prison? Certainly not Batzofin, or the community, and not the taxpayer either.

Would there suddenly be hordes of young men refusing to serve if the option to serve a somewhat longer period of, say, hospital service was offered? Would allowing community service suddenly afford objectors hero status? Is the reputation of the SADF so bad that they cannot be seen to be in the least

concessionary? I think not.

History has proved that men of moral courage are prepared to die for their convictions, so let it not be foolishly imagined that a jail term will sway those who are truly convinced.

So there the matter rests: a qualified man performs menial tasks in prison, and it is assumed that nothing further can be done. The tragedy is that there have been a number of other Batzofins and there will be many more. That community service must be offered is a foregone conclusion; the only question remaining is how many martyrs the Government wishes to create until then.

Anyone who doubts the senselessness of the current system should wait for the trial of the next objector and go and see for themselves. Alternatively, they should wait until someone personally known to them as a normal, sane and reasonable young man finds himself unable to wear the uniform of the SADF, at which time the point I am making will become glaringly obvious. Either way, I have no doubt the wait will not be long.

Thane Haarhoff

Johannesburg

the call-up!



Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

OBJECTORS MARCH: Bearing banners promoting their cause, conscientious objectors march to the Castle.

## 350 objectors hand in petition at Castle

By JOHN YELD  
Staff Reporter

A NATIONAL delegation of the Conscientious Objectors Support Group handed a petition calling for an end to conscription to the SADF after a march through the city by about 350 people to the Castle.

Yesterday's lunchtime march, held with the permission of Cape Town's Chief Magistrate, followed an inter-faith service attended by several hundred people at St George's Cathedral Hall.

Leading the march under a big yellow banner proclaiming "Support Objectors! Stop the Call-Up!" were eight national leaders, including prominent anti-conscription activist Dr Ivan Toms, of the recent group

of 771 publicly announced objectors.

Earlier, Dr Toms announced that the "second-in-command" at the Castle, a Major Redlinghuys, would be waiting to receive the group's delegation. He would be handed a list of objectors from each region and a list of demands calling for an end to conscription and the release from prison of objectors to military service.

The march stopped at the SADF barrier outside the entrance to the Castle and the leaders were asked to accompany a sentry inside one at a time. Mr Mike Rautenbach, leader of the Cape Town delegation, and the group's legal adviser, Mr Justin Harcastle, were escorted into the

guardroom.

On their return Mr Rautenbach said he had been told Major Redlinghuys was "in conference" and was not available. The petition had then been handed to the duty officer.

"The major wouldn't see us. We are a bit disappointed because we had an appointment," Mr Rautenbach told journalists.

The other leaders were escorted as a group into the Castle where they handed over their lists.

At the service, the Dean of Cape Town, the Very Rev Colin Jones, saluted the "great act of conscience" of the 771 objectors.

"The way to peace in South Africa is that we must stop

waging war against South Africans. You have done that... It is this kind of action which holds hope for South Africa," he said.

● The Argus Foreign Service reports from Melbourne that two South African men, who have moved to Australia because they did not want to serve in the South African military, criticised the Australian government for not encouraging others in their situation also to leave.

The two, Bruno Rolando and Andrew Backwell, pointed to a United Nations resolution co-sponsored by Australia which called on member countries to give political asylum to conscientious objectors such as themselves.

**Sunday Tribune  
COMMENT**

**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.

**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 Uduisa (Tukkies) — Staff Reporter-Sapa.

**Dad and son both object**

By Georgina Hamilton

A FATHER and his son, both committed to non-violence, have found a new way of sharing their objection to compulsory 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 mid-day 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 with the 143 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."

**Genuine aggressor**

Speaking of his objection to compulsory 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 the country "against a genuine, external, hostile aggressor."

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

**Enjoyed stint**

Robin agreed he had 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 focussed 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."

**Coward**

"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.



Robin and Meridy Harris with son Dallas, all against violence.

**780 men object to service in SADF**

Witness Reporters  
THIRTY city men joined more than 750 other conscientious objectors countrywide in establishing a national register of men who refuse to serve in the SADF.

At a press conference yesterday the past president of the Methodist Church in southern Africa, Bishop Khoza Mgojo, praised the men's stand.

"I believe that this kind of initiative by young whites is a source of hope for South Africans and for Pietermaritzburg as a region. We don't want soldiers in our townships. It takes more courage to resist the army than to go into it," Bishop Mgojo said.

The local member of the national co-ordinating committee, Mr Timothy Mosdell, read to the conference a statement issued simultaneously at various centres.

"We have decided in good conscience and of our own accord that we cannot serve in the defence force. Our backgrounds and political persuasions are diverse. Each of us has our own individual

reasons for objecting to military service which are recorded in the register of conscientious objectors.

"We will respond to the call-up in different ways. Some will go to jail. Others will opt for religious objector status. Many of us will choose between a life in exile or constant evasion of call-ups."

"We stand here today as objectors, aware of the possible consequences of our action."

It was stressed that none of the objectors represented political organisations and that the conference was in no way connected to the peace march, nor was it organised by the restricted End Conscription Campaign or the result of an ECC initiative.

The dean of law at the city campus, Professor James Lund, is the local custodian of the register.

The 780 names on the register, together with any others submitted in the next few days, are to be handed to Defence Minister General Magnus Malan when the committee sees him next week.

Durban committee member Mr Steve Collins said it was hoped that if they saw the Minister to hand over the names it would prevent the "panic and confusion" of the state's response to a similar stand by 143 men last year.

Soon afterwards the End Conscription Campaign, blamed by the Government for the protest, was effectively hanned.

The Durban news conference was attended by dozens of the 86 Durban objectors, one of them a robed Benedictine monk.

It was addressed by Archbishop Denis Hurley, who said it was a moving experience to be present at an expression of courage, especially when it was "the outcome of very noble motives".

Archbishop Hurley has been asked to keep the register of Durban objectors.

He said he and many other church leaders and members were impressed and inspired by "the great lead our young people are giving us in our reflections on peace and war".

**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.

**Anti-conscription**

MORE than 780 anti-conscription activists in SA's major centres yesterday launched a national register designed to facilitate contact among them and ensure the spotlight remained focused on official action against individuals. Page 3

# Groups 'do the dirty work for ANC'

ESTHER WAUGH  
Staff Reporter

PN 15/8/89

THE Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, has attacked the Mass Democratic Movement, saying it appeared to be a front for the African National Congress.

Addressing a National Party meeting of 38 people in Voortrekkerhoogte last night, he said extra-parliamentary organisations such as the MDM, Idasa and the UDF supported the "ANC/SACP alliance" morally and financially.

Gen Malan said internal acts of terror were committed not only by the ANC but by internal organisations such as "the MDM, UDF, Jodac, Idasa and the ECC".

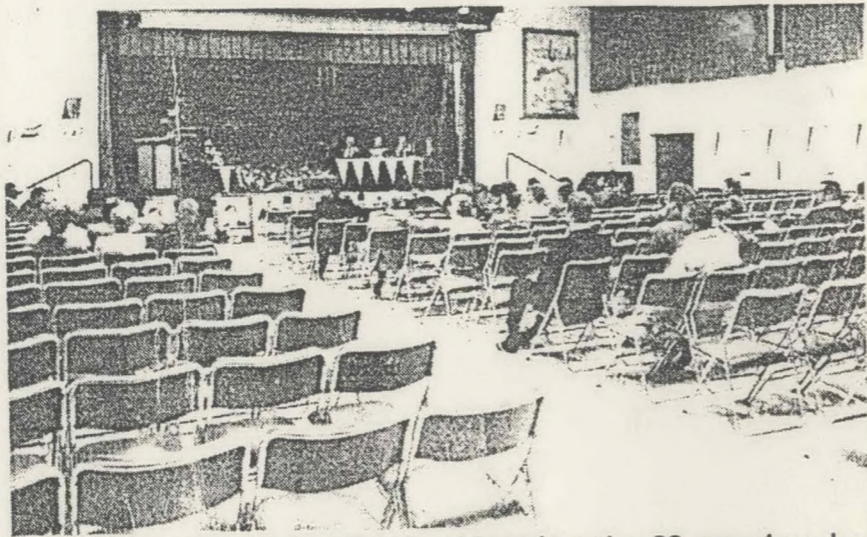
According to Gen Malan, these organisations did the ANC's "dirty work" in South Africa and wanted to take over the country with violence.

He said the ANC's goal was to establish a people's democracy which would mean a one-party state and a country governed by a small elite.

Gen Malan said the security forces had crippled the ANC's plans to take over the government at the end of 1986. The ANC had failed because of the opportunity the state of emergency afforded the security forces to maintain law and order.

Referring to frontline states which aided the ANC, Gen Malan reiterated the government's viewpoint that it would not interfere in the internal matters of other countries and expected the same in return.

Report by: Esther Waugh, 216 Vermeulen Street, Pretoria.



Seats to spare: General Magnus Malan (left) addressing the 38 people who attended a National Party meeting in Voortrekkerhoogte last night.

6 The Star Monday September 25 1989

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## 'n Register begin vir beswaardes

Deur Ons Kerksake-verslaggewer

'N REGISTER vir gewetensbeswaardes wat weier om in die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag te dien, is in verskillende sentrums in die land begin.

Volgens die jongste uitgawe van Seek, amptelike blad van die Anglikaanse Kerk in Suider-Afrika, het die register ten doel om telling te hou van die mans wat gekant is teen militêre diensplig. Altesame 757 mans is reeds geregistreer.

Beskermhere van die register is onder andere biskop Bruce Evans en biskop David Russell van die Anglikaanse Kerk, biskop Peter Storey van die Metodistekerk en aartsbiskop Denis Hurley van die Rooms-Katolieke Kerk.

Seek haal 'n verklaring aan wat uitgeroep is deur die organiseerders, waarin

verwys word na die "moed van David Bruce en Charles Bester, wat op die oomblik ses jaar tronkstraf uitdien omdat hulle geweier het om diens te doen in die Weermag, en Saul Batzofin, wat ook tronkstraf uitdien".

Luidens die verklaring sal "sommige van ons tronk toe gaan".

"Ander sal kies om goddiensbeswaardes te word. Baie van ons sal kies tussen 'n lewe as uitgewekenes of voortdurende vermyding van oproepe om diensplig te doen.

"Daar is geen rede waarom die doodmakery in Suid-Afrika moet aanhou totdat 'n onderhandelde skikking bereik is nie. Ons is nie bereid om deel te wees van die Regering se oorlog nie," lui die verklaring wat deur die gewetensbeswaardes onderteken word.

## Honderde byeen oor besware teen diensplig

Die Bygelyk 22/1/89

GEWETENSBEWAARDES teen diensplig het gister lanwyd op sewe plekke byeengekoms 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 op die register geplaas, het die sameroeper van die byeenkoms, mnr. Chris de Villiers, in Johannesburg gesê, berig Sapa.

In Kaapstad het 241 mans hulle gister by 'n etensuurbyeenkoms by die groep gevoeg, terwyl 75 beswaardes die konferensie in Johannesburg bygewoon het. Die register is onder meer begin sodat gewetensbeswaardes kontak met mekaar kan hê.

Beskermhere van die register sluit in biskop Reg Orsmond van die Rooms-Katolieke Kerk, biskop Peter Storey van die Metodistekerk, dr. Franz Auerbach van Jews for Social Justice en prof. Lourens du Plessis van die fakulteit van regsgeleerdheid van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch.

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

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

Die studente sluit in mnr. Daniël Malan, Nusas-bestuurslid en voorsitter van die Stellenbosse Aktuele Aangeleentheidskring, Christoff Oosthuizen, redakteur van Kampus Kruis, en Wayne Mudge, voorsitter van Anglikaanse vereniging.

Die Universiteit van Stellenbosch is in 'n verklaring veroordeel vir die steun wat hy in verskeie opsigte aan die Weermag verleen, asook vir die wedersydse betrokkenheid ten opsigte van akademiese opleiding en navorsing oor militêre tegnologie.

● Uit Pretoria het 'n woordvoerder van die SA Weermag gewaarsku dat regstappe gedoen sal word teen mense wat teen militêre diensplig gekant is en hulle nie daarvoor aannemend nie, berig Sapa.

BEELD, WOENSDAG, 11 OKTOBER 1989

Natal witness  
↓  
Oct-5-89



Two of the group who were protesting in Cape Town yesterday against conscription pin flowers on a member of the SADF at the army offices in the Castle. A crowd of about 500 conscientious objectors marched from St George's Cathedral to the Castle to deliver their petition against service in the armed forces. AP Wirephoto

## Conscientious objectors march on Castle

CAPE TOWN — About 350 people joined a Conscientious Objectors Support Group march from the St George's Cathedral in Cape Town to the Castle yesterday, 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.

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

Dean Jones said that the objectors, who refused to take up arms, were advocating peace.

"They are waging peace, not war, and deserve our support... I salute them," he said. — Sapa.

# SACBC supports objectors

By ISMAIL  
LAGARDIEN

THE South African Catholic Bishops' Conference yesterday came out in support of the more than 700 white men who last week refused to take up arms for the SADF.

The SACBC said it commended the 771 young South Africans for following their consciences in the matter of conscription.

Refusing to take up arms on the grounds of conscience is a right acknowledged by the church, and it was consistent for the church to support "those who, guided by an informed conscience, refuse to bear arms, but are prepared to do alternative community service," the SACBC said.

The SACBC added that the State President, Mr F W de Klerk, has an ideal opportunity "by exercising greater flexibility in a sensitive area such as conscription, to show how the new spirit of readiness to engage in creating the new South Africa, can be put to constructive use".

Citing the Namibian settlement as an example, the SACBC stressed that the military option was not the best way to peace.

"For our part we continue to pray that the Lord will bestow love and generosity on these young men, their families and all committed to working for peace, so that they may make the sacrifices necessary to build a new South Africa," they concluded.

Daily Despatch

30 Sept 89

FOR SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES — TELEPHONE EAST LONDON 26141

## Coverage criticised

**Daily Dispatch Reporter EAST LONDON** — The East London branch of Give our Sons a Choice (Gosac) has voiced its dissatisfaction with what it called limited coverage in the Daily Dispatch to the launch of a national anti-conscription campaign last week.

Nine East London conscripts joined the national stand against conscription in the South African Defence Force (SADF).

Gosac said that while the launch featured prominently in other newspapers around the country, the Daily Dispatch had played down the "significant event".

"We, the mothers and wives — supported by the various members of our families — pledge

our support for all the young men who have signed the national protest list against conscription and state our abhorrence for an arrogant, wasteful and recalcitrant system which allows no alternatives to compulsory military service other than six years in jail, exile or religious exemption," they said.

It was an accepted fact that twice a year hundreds of South African families were economically, emotionally and psychologically adversely affected by the SADF call-up. Gosac said.

Many young men affected by the call-up viewed the role of the SADF as being adversarial and hostile towards black South Africans and saw the militarisation of society as a divisive and negative factor

in human, race and family relations.

"We strongly feel that it is time for those who hold positions of power in this country to take a proper note of the feelings of increasing numbers of loyal South Africans to discontinue with their platitudes and propaganda regarding the SADF and to start now to give our sons a choice," they said.

The Daily Dispatch published the 37cm long report under a heading across three columns on the centre main, the premier inside news page, which was less than the coverage given in Business Day, the EP Herald and the Weekly Mail, but more than that given in the Cape Times, the Natal Witness and the Weekend Post. No report could be found in The Citizen.

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NN 6/10/89

**The Johannesburg mothers of "GIVE OUR SONS A CHOICE" pledge support for the courageous stand taken by over 800 conscientious objectors in their refusal to serve in the SA Defence Force.**

**We reaffirm their call for avenues of non-punitive and constructive service in which they may serve the country they love.**

● 400 members of the Conscientious Objectors' Support Group (COSG) march from St George's Cathedral in Cape Town to the SADF headquarters at the Castle to hand over a petition calling for an end to conscription and the release of jailed objectors. NN 6/10/89



NN 6/10/89

## Objectors march to deliver petition to SADF

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Over 100 conscientious objectors and about 200 supporters "marched" in distinctly non-military fashion through the city yesterday to present a petition to the SADF.

soldiers, handed some of them yellow flowers, adorned others with them, and put flowers into the barrels of two cannons.

And on arriving at the Castle from St George's Cathedral, they bantered with

Permission for the march was granted by a magistrate and the city council.

BUSINESS DAY, Thursday, October 5 1989

3

Thursday 5 October 1989

THE CITIZEN

# Conchie supporters march in Cape Town

CAPE TOWN. — About 350 people joined a Conscientious Objectors Support Group (COSG) march from the St George's Cathedral in Cape Town to the Castle yesterday 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 HQ.

The march was held after an interfaith service in the Cathedral Hall which was led by the Anglican Dean of Cape Town, the Very Rev Col-in Jones.

Dean Jones said the objectors, who refused to take up arms, were advocating peace.

"They are waging peace, not war, and deserve our support... I salute them," he said.

The march was to the Castle as it symbolises the SADF, it was stated.

Meanwhile a picket held in Johannesburg early yesterday morning by the Co-ordination Committee against Welfare Policies was dubbed a success by a spokesperson.

The picket — held in Harrison Street and on the corner of Jan Smuts Ave and Jorrison Street

— drew a total of 65 welfare workers.

According to Ms Rayna Caback, a spokeswoman for the committee, the picket was held to highlight racial disparity within the welfare sector as well as privatisation of welfare services.

Placards held by picketers read: "One equal welfare system", "Away with apartheid in Welfare", "Fourteen Welfare Departments — What a Waste" and "Apartheid Welfare Unjust".

Ms Caback said there were no security police present and only a small contingent of traffic police. — Sapa.

# Conchie group gets support from Leon

By Erik Larsen

THE Democratic Party Member of Parliament for Houghton, Mr Tony Leon, said yesterday he identified with the sentiments of the Conscientious Objectors Support Group (COSG).

The group yesterday placed an advertisement in a Sunday newspaper in which it expressed New Year greetings and blessings for Rosh Hashanah to two conscientious objectors who are presently serving jail sentences for their beliefs.

David Bruce is serving a six-year sentence in the Pretoria Central Prison for refusing to do his national service and Saul Batzofin is serving an 18-month sentence in Zonderwater Prison.

The COSG placed the advert on behalf of more

than 100 organisations and individuals.

Among the people who have identified with the advert are Mr Leon, Mrs Sheena Duncan, a commissioner of the Human Rights Commission; former Johannesburg city councillors Molly and Monty Sklaar, editor of the Business Day, Mr Ken Owen and Johannesburg city councillor Mr Carl Stein and his wife, Philippa.

Organisations which have lent their support include Idasa (Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa), Dave Bruce Support Group, National Jewish Conscientious Objectors, Concerned Social Workers and International Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Mr Leon stressed yesterday that he was not a member of COSG, but he identified with its beliefs.

"I believe there should be alternatives for con-

scientious objectors other than a jail sentence."

He said that jailing someone for six years for having the courage of his convictions was an incredible waste of talent, energy and resources.

"As this is Jewish New Year one should remember those less fortunate than oneself."

Citizen Reporter

A SERVICEMEN'S organisation, Veterans for Victory, has slammed the announcement that several hundred young men called up for national service will refuse to report for duty, saying it is part of a nationwide campaign by radicals to discredit the national service system.

The planned refusal to report for duty was announced at a number of Press conferences throughout the country recently when it was disclosed that a national register of young men refusing to do national service was to be maintained by so-called "custodians", including several well-known clergymen.

# Anti-conscription moves criticised

A Veterans for Victory spokesman said yesterday that he was aware of an anti-national service campaign which has been launched by an organisation calling itself Alternative National Service (ANS) Forum.

He said the recent announcements about refusal to report for duty appeared to be the first phase of a well-planned strategy.

"We're not sure of the details of their

plans, but they're sure to be headline grabbers.

"But we are sure that we will have some of the regular clerics making similar calls, supported by extra-parliamentary bodies.

It will also be interesting to see whether the call for alternative civilian national service is supported by any of the political parties in parliament."

He said Veterans for Victory felt that only a minority of people were trying to slow down re-

form by refusing to serve in the SADF.

"The majority of South Africans who understand the need to defend their country do not support this view."

He believed that only a handful of the hundreds who had announced that they would refuse to report for duty were likely to "have the courage of their so-called convictions" and be prepared to face criminal charges and possible imprisonment.

"In order for South Africa to stand strong against her enemies, it is imperative that the defence umbrella creates an efficient deterrent against incursions from within and without, and Veterans for Victory feel that conscientious objection is a luxury which we cannot be afforded at present."

# 30pc of Whites back open areas — poll

Citizen Reporter

SUPPORT for opening White group areas to all races is gradually increasing, but the majority of Whites are still opposed to it, according to an opinion poll published in Rapport newspaper yesterday.

The Market & Opinion Surveys poll asked respondents: "Suppose a referendum was held among residents in your residential area to establish how they felt about opening the area to all race groups (including Blacks) how would you

creased from 32 percent in 1988 to 52 percent.

Support for open group

areas was the strongest in the Cape (37 percent), followed by the Transvaal

(28 percent), Natal (26 percent) and the Orange Free State (20 percent).

## STAX

Spring Specials

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**PENTAX PC 303 35 mm CAMERA**



- ★ Built-in flash Auto focus
- ★ Complete with carry pouch and strap

# Thousands remember



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.

September 21  
 September 1989, Steven  
 Greenberg (21), a BA  
 student at Wits and an  
 SADF veteran of the  
 wars in Angola and  
 Namibia who fought at  
 Cuito Cuinavale,  
 publicly refused to do  
 further service in the  
 SADF.

Wits Student spoke to  
 Greenberg and asked  
 him about his two years  
 experience in the  
 SADF.

WS: What prompted you  
 to go to the SADF after  
 Matric?

SG: At school I  
 was kind of liberal,  
 and went to the  
 SADF with a  
 negative attitude.  
 I didn't think people  
 should be  
 conscripted. But I  
 didn't know what I  
 wanted to study at  
 University, so I  
 went.

WS: What were  
 your first  
 impressions of  
 the SADF?  
 SG: Racism is  
 entrenched in the  
 army. When I  
 started to

BA  
 student  
 Stephen  
 Greenberg  
 won't be  
 going  
 back to  
 the SADF

# "I won't serve apartheid"

understand what the army was  
 really doing, I realised there was  
 nothing I could do, but convince  
 myself nothing was happening.

WS: What happened in  
 Angola?

SG: I arrived in Angola on 23  
 November 1987 - I remember the  
 date so clearly.

My unit was positioned just  
 before the town of Cuito  
 Cuinavale.

We were told that the reason we  
 were there, was to place as much  
 territory as possible under the  
 control of Unita and South Africa.

We were about 30 km from the  
 front and all we did was shoot  
 night and day. We were supposed  
 to provide as support to the  
 infantry.

We didn't know what we were  
 firing at - We fired at targets,  
 identified by computers.

WS: How was the morale  
 of the troops?

SG: The morale of the unit was  
 low - we had a lot of arguments.  
 A couple of us felt it wasn't right  
 but if you're there you can't do too  
 much about when you're going  
 home or how many people you've  
 killed - it makes you looney.

On several occasions when we  
 received the figures of how many  
 people had died, people were quite  
 happy when the death toll was

high. They felt that since an  
 artillery shell costs R1800, they  
 might as well kill someone if  
 they were shooting.

WS: What were facilities  
 like?

SG: Terrible - we obtained our  
 water from swamps, it obviously  
 wasn't clean. We bathed in the  
 rain and toilets consisted of dug-  
 out holes. We received fresh  
 vegetables and tinned food about  
 once a month.

WS: Did you experience  
 or witness racism?

SG: Even though Unita was on  
 the side of the SADF their  
 soldiers weren't allowed into our  
 area. Unita soldiers were often  
 beaten up by SADF soldiers.

WS: You were also sent  
 to Namibia, was it very  
 different from Angola?

SG: We were told that Namibia  
 was much more dangerous and  
 that Swapo was everywhere.  
 There were many red alerts and  
 landmine explosions. We slept in  
 trenches every night in case

Swapo attacked us.

Kooxvoet a counter insurgency  
 movement, was the hero of the  
 SADF.

WS: While you were in  
 the SADF, did you receive  
 any 'political' education?

SG: We were once asked if we  
 knew or heard of the End  
 Conscription Campaign. Six or  
 seven of us were taken to the  
 commanding officer, and were  
 questioned about who had told us  
 about the ECC - we were supposed  
 to tell them everything.

WS: Why did you decide  
 to make the stand and  
 refuse to serve in the  
 SADF again?

SG: It's so obvious that the  
 army supports apartheid. They  
 claim to protect people from  
 radical elements but the "radical  
 element" is the majority of  
 people, and not just an "element"

In Angola and Namibia, the  
 SADF just continues with a  
 policy of regional distribution.

The SADF causes conflict their  
 repression people in townships. If  
 they stopped, this, there would be  
 more freedom to find a solution to  
 South Africa's problems.

I'm now liable for one and a half  
 times the duration of the service I  
 still owed.

Eighteen months in jail isn't  
 funny. It's quite scary but it's  
 better than serving in the army.

I can't see how I can serve in the  
 army again.

## Solidarity with objectors

Dear editor

I know how insecure and misera-  
 ble your lives are in a country  
 where "apart-hate" has been legal-  
 ised.

I clearly understand your demo-  
 cratic stand and I have a vision of  
 how satanic it is to uphold apart-  
 heid.

I therefore fully support your  
 Christian action in refusing to  
 serve in the apartheid army.

I wish those lunatics who are  
 waving swastikas, those who are  
 conservative and those who call  
 themselves the De La Reys and  
 claim that "Wolve slaan dood"  
 would follow your example.

I think even De Klerk will realise  
 that "apart-hate" has no room in  
 this changing South Africa.

I regard the 771 martyrs in the  
 same light as Lieutenant Gregory  
 Rockman who recently complained  
 about the police's "misuse and  
 abuse" of their power.

I also do not forget David Bruce,  
 Charles Bester and Saul Batzofin  
 who are incarcerated for their be-  
 liefs.

It is very distressing to note that  
 you are not going to differ from  
 our brothers and sisters who have  
 suffered under the evil state of  
 emergency in detention without  
 trial, brutal torture and restrictions,  
 hundreds on the death row valiant-  
 ly waiting their turn to go to the  
 gallows of execution, our brothers  
 and sisters who were ruthlessly  
 mowed down in the streets of Pre-  
 toria by Barend Strydom, a most  
 vivid example of the total inner  
 corruption that the sin of "apart-  
 hate" can achieve in a person's  
 soul, so that a person becomes less



than a person.

Just like all the other freedom  
 fighters and all those who have  
 committed themselves to a free  
 South Africa with justice for all its  
 citizens, your lives are also value-  
 less under the "apart-hate" govern-  
 ment.

You are going to be subjected to  
 all sorts of humiliations.

But, my brothers in Christ, the  
 771 martyrs, I ask you to stick to  
 your democratic principles.

Whilst I am angry and I deplore  
 the ruthless acts of tyranny and  
 repression, I none the less salute  
 you as matyrs and heroes.

May God bless you

Your brother in Christ  
 Manelisi Dubase  
 MADIKWE

The Johannesburg mothers of  
 WM  
 5/10/89 "GIVE  
 OUR SONS  
 A CHOICE"

pledge support for the  
 courageous stand taken  
 by the over 800 Con-  
 scientious Objectors in  
 their refusal to serve in  
 the S.A. Defence Force.  
 We reaffirm their call for  
 avenues of non-punitive  
 and constructive service.

## 771 reject call-up

ON TUESDAY 21 September,  
 at seven different centres around  
 the country, 771 men announced  
 that they refused to serve in the  
 South African Defence Force.  
 The stand was made to coincide  
 with the launch of a National  
 Register of Conscientious  
 Objectors.

At the largest ever demonstration  
 of opposition to SADF  
 conscription, it was stated that the  
 SADF has "consistently been used  
 to uphold apartheid and is an  
 obstacle to peaceful change."

In Johannesburg about 75 of the  
 more than 280 objectors who  
 gathered to announce their  
 decision to the press, stood under  
 a banner declaring, "We will not  
 serve in the apartheid army."

Chris de Villiers, ECC acting  
 chair, said that the ECC had met  
 with the SADF in June 1988 and  
 two months later the ECC was  
 banned.

De Villiers said, "The  
 government has forced us to this  
 stand. We are not prepared to  
 serve a racist government."

De Villiers also called on Magnus  
 Malan to hold a referendum to  
 gauge public opinion on  
 conscription into the SADF.  
 "The solutions to the problems of  
 South Africa are political, not  
 military" he stated.

Ivan Stein, a 25 year old Wits  
 student who has completed his  
 two years initial service, read out  
 a statement on behalf of the 33  
 Jewish conscientious objectors in  
 Cape Town and Johannesburg.

"South African society is founded  
 on a system of racial inequality  
 and discrimination, rejected by the  
 majority of its people. The  
 SADF plays a role in maintaining

the universally condemned system  
 of apartheid. We call for  
 alternatives to be made available.  
 We believe that non-punitive,  
 constructive community service  
 provides such a concrete  
 alternative to military service. In  
 this way, national service will  
 become beneficial to the entire  
 South African community."

The reasons and backgrounds of  
 the 771 men are diverse and range  
 from students to ministers to  
 professional businesspersons. But  
 the common thread which unites  
 them all, claimed de Villiers, was  
 their "opposition to apartheid" and  
 the role of the SADF.

Of the more than 280 objectors in  
 the Johannesburg and Pretoria  
 area, there are 93 students, 23  
 lecturers and academic researchers,  
 15 journalists, 14 artists and  
 musicians, 13 religious workers  
 and priests, 10 medical doctors, 10  
 teachers, 10 film and video  
 producers, nine businessmen and  
 managers, nine voluntary  
 organisation workers, eight  
 engineers, seven architects and  
 town planners, seven trade  
 unionists, five actors, five  
 lawyers, four scientists and  
 geologists and four accountants.  
 Of these, about 130 of the  
 objectors have rendered no  
 military service and are liable for a

six year jail sentence.

Stephen Greenberg (21) who has  
 completed his initial two year  
 service cited his experiences in  
 Mamelodi, Namibia and Angola  
 (Cuito Cuinavale) as reasons for  
 his stand. He said that during his  
 service, he experienced, "Racism  
 and disrespect for the local  
 inhabitants of Mamelodi and  
 Namibia."

The National Register has a  
 custodian in each area to  
 administer and co-ordinate the  
 registration of objectors. They are  
 Bishop Peter Storey (Tvl), Bishop  
 Denis Hurlley (Durban), Bishop  
 David Russell (Grahamstown),  
 Professor Laurens du Plessis  
 (Stellenbosch), Professor James  
 Lund (Pietermaritzburg) and  
 Reverend Douglas Bax (Cape  
 Town).

Four marshals for the  
 Johannesburg press conference  
 were arrested by police in the early  
 hours of Thursday morning and  
 held for questioning. The four  
 were Ginger Payne, Sarah and  
 Judy Klipin and past SRC  
 president Bettina von Lieres.

Von Lieres and Sarah and Judy  
 Klipin were released after about  
 four hours. Ginger Payne was  
 released on Friday morning on  
 R400 bail. She was charged for  
 possession of banned literature.



Some of the 771

### 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. WM 27/10

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 Febru-  
 ary 1989 about 900 mothers of conscripts  
 made a stand under the banner "Give Our  
 Sons a Choice".

Between 1978 and 1983 13 conscripts ob-  
 jected 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 sus-  
 pended jail sentences for failing to report for  
 military service.

### Racist army

IT WAS with great trepidation  
 that I read the call made  
 by the Veterans for Victory  
 (Sunday Times, October 1)  
 emphasising national service  
 as the only way to ensure  
 peace in South Africa.

Firstly, it was a well-writ-  
 ten advert, the content of  
 which many white South Af-  
 ricans would agree with. Not  
 being a universal pacifist or  
 a religious objector, I agree  
 that "a system of national  
 service allows South Africa  
 to maintain a strong and  
 credible defence". But this  
 defence should be carried out  
 by all of those who live in  
 South Africa and not just by a  
 select few.

By making military ser-  
 vice compulsory for white  
 men only, the Government,  
 besides being racist, is saying  
 that black people are not part  
 of the nation. Is this an effec-  
 tive way of breaking down  
 barriers? Who are the Veter-  
 ans for Victory anyway? —  
 BRETT CARNEGIE, Mow-  
 bray.

□□□□ BD 17/10/89

Dear Sir,  
 MORE than 700 young men may face  
 a six-year prison sentence for refusing  
 to join the SADF. They are not pre-  
 pared to support a regime which goes  
 against their moral principles. Such  
 punishment is outrageous, but when  
 compared with the light sentence giv-  
 en to a murderer it makes a mockery  
 of our legal system.

The question is often asked — what  
 do mothers feel about their sons being  
 in danger in the army while these  
 conscientious objectors are in prison?  
 The implication is that prison is an  
 easy way out. As a mother whose sons  
 have all done or are doing military  
 service, I still have tremendous sym-  
 pathy for men like Bruce and Bester  
 and their families. I am appalled that  
 a six-year sentence is mandatory for a  
 man who will not uphold a govern-  
 ment policy he sees as wrong.

Some time ago when people's pock-  
 ets were affected — the high fee on  
 toll roads, the new telephone charges  
 — there were loud protests, and offi-  
 cial thinking was changed. We should  
 try to have it changed for humane  
 reasons, too. Let conscientious objec-  
 tors do something worthwhile instead  
 of suffering a prison sentence that is  
 out of all proportion to their so-called  
 crime.

IRENE VERMEULEN  
 Craighall Park

□□□□

Wits Student is edited by Kenneth Coombes and Katherine McKinnon.

# 'We refuse to serve'

A YEAR ago the government effectively banned the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) and supposedly put a halt to any activity opposing conscription into the SADF. However, the ECC recently declared itself and the call to end conscription mobbed while last week more than 750 men declared their refusal to serve in the SADF.

The reasons why the movement against conscription has grown lie in the history of opposition to the SADF and the effect that conscription into an apartheid army has on white men and women. This growth has occurred despite the vicious response to any attempt to undermine the SADF and conscription.

Conscientious objection began in 1979 and 1980 when several men were placed in detention barracks for refusing to serve. Despite its small size, the group put conscription and the impact of the SADF in the spotlight for the first time.

Until then most men who were unhappy with the role of the SADF had either been given non-combatant status or were left alone rather than making an issue out of their refusal. There were quite a number of men who applied for this status and many still do.

**Opposing**  
Previous to these stands there existed only one organisation opposing conscription: the Committee on South African War Resistance (Coswar).

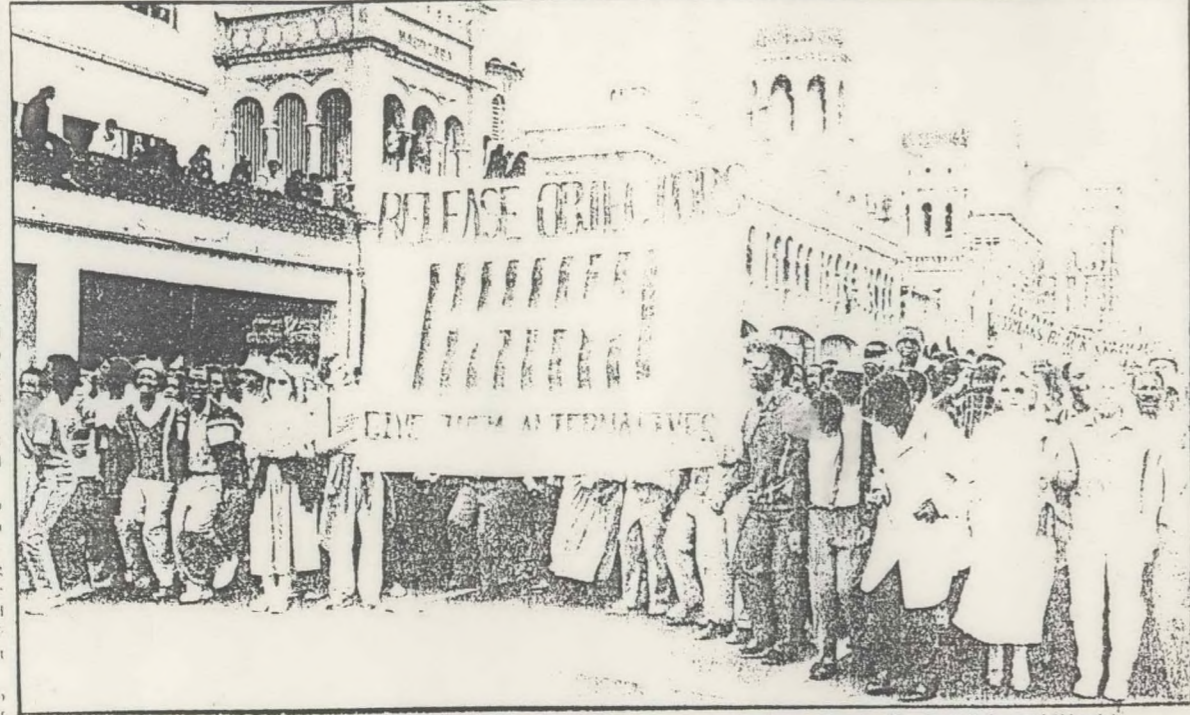
Coswar - which helps South African exiles - is banned in South Africa, as are its publications. However, it has remained an important organisation for the building of external support for the anti-war movement and for securing material support for exiles.

The state response at the time of the imprisonment of the individual objectors was to portray them as cowards who were not prepared to defend their country against "communist" forces intent on crossing our borders. The "leader" was actually the Namibia's northern border and the "communists" were Namibians fighting for the removal of South African forces from their country.

This "foreign threat" became the government's all pervasive argument and the myth of the total onslaught became a cliché. According to the SADF, the objectors were part of this "onslaught".

If they were a part of the onslaught, then what of the thousands of men who simply did not report for duty each year.

According to the Minister of Defence Magnus Malan, in 1985, 7 589 men did not report for their January call up. He refused to release the figures for later years as he claimed these would be misused "by those campaigning for the



Supporters of the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) demand the release of conscientious objectors. Pic: Jeeva Rajgopal (Afrapix)

mination of compulsory military service". The figure of those not reporting rose substantially after the SADF entered the townships in late 1984. The argument about the total onslaught did not convince most and many conscripts began to ask where exactly was 'the border', and why they were being used against fellow South Africans. This discontent gave a boost to the popularity of the ECC, which had been formed in 1983.

**End conscription**  
The ECC - initially a front of organisations demanding the end to conscription into the SADF - soon won the support of conscripts and non-conscripts alike. It also won the wrath of the National Party who began to undermine it as soon as it came into being. The campaign the ECC embarked on included "Troops out of the townships" and "Working for a just peace" which sought to campaign for an end to conscription and for viable alternatives.

ECC organisers faced constant detention, harassment and the threat of deportation by the state, who saw it as possibly the greatest threat to support for conscription. It is conscripts who make up the vast majority of the SADF and its reserve forces.

With the "winning" to the townships the need to maintain their fighting capability became the SADF's main concern. This meant undermining the credibility of any organisation that opposed conscription and the ECC bore the brunt of this "informal war".

The ECC took the SADF to court over revelations that it was conducting a well-orchestrated smear campaign against the ECC.

The SADF responded by saying that the smears were

**LAST week more than 750 white South Africans publicly announced their refusal to serve in the SADF, while the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) recently unbanned itself as part of the Mass Democratic Movement's defiance campaign. STEVE COLLINS, a member of the national co-ordinating committee for objectors, looks at the growing resistance to serving in the apartheid army.**

justified because they regarded the situation as martial law and could use whatever tactics they saw fit. The courts ruled in the ECC's favour and stated that the SADF had acted outside the bounds of the law and had misused its power.

Another reason why the state reacted so harshly to the ECC was its ability to capture the imagination of the white community with exciting and creative campaigns. This was evidenced by the support the ECC obtained from school



Part of the 750 white South Africans who have publicly refused to serve in the SADF

students who until then had only come into contact with Christian National Education. This work against the compulsory cadet system in the schools was a serious threat to the support for conscription that existed in white schools.

Last year it became clear to the state that its reform initiatives had failed and that it needed the SADF to maintain apartheid. It then effectively banned the ECC after banning

'Know your rights campaign' forward. The Conscientious Objectors Support Group (COSG) has also taken on a higher profile role as the objector movement grows. Their campaigns have involved the first real action around International Objector Day - which this year focussed on South African objectors - and the collection of signatures of support for imprisoned objectors. This campaign had both national and international aspects.

The pressure from the anti-war movement and the changing internal and international climate have effected the state's attitude to conscription. It has now begun to look at changing the law to suit the new situation. In light of the fact that the SADF has reduced its force in Namibia and the mass poli-

tics of the early 1980s has abated, they can look at reducing the time spent by conscripts in the SADF.

There is also no denying that the cost of maintaining the SADF while sanctions take their effect has become a millstone on the economy.

The defence budget in 1988 - officially R8,190 billion - does not account for other expenditure such as housing personnel and the cost of the police

force. If these are included the figure is as high as R15 billion or close to 30 percent of the national budget.

Another 'hidden' expense of conscription and the war is the number of skilled men who leave the country to escape the SADF. Since 1983 the figure has steadily risen until in 1987, 11174 people emigrated from South Africa.

But, observers suspected, its calm exterior, suggesting that the conscientious objectors were beneath contempt, masked anxiety and anger.

Judging from the SADF's past responses to conscientious objection, it saw the men as the harbingers of wider resistance to conscription or as malingers parading cowardice as principle.

# SADF's new stance on conscientious objectors



Taking a stand... young men who say the SADF is an obstacle to reform in South Africa and refuse to do military service.

**PATRICK LAURENCE** examines the question of the refusal of many young South Africans to serve in the armed forces.

dismissing it - by inference - as a bravado of little significance.

An investigation had shown, the SADF said, that only nine men had failed to report for service; the remaining 134 men, it added, had either obtained deferment of their service, or had moved without informing the authorities of their addresses, or had been classified as religious objectors (meaning that they were already exempt from military service).

The unstated postulate was that the register of objectors would prove to be similarly lacking in substance.

The SADF's new, outwardly non-chalant stance towards conscientious objectors was in marked contrast to its reaction at the time to the statement of the 143 men.

An angry Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan said: "Those who support and propagate campaigns against national service have overplayed their hands."

Two weeks later the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) - the main anti-conscription organisation - was prohibited under the state of emergency from "carrying on or performing any activities or acts whatsoever".

Indeed, as Mr Laurie Nathan, a former national organiser of the ECC, argued in "War and Society, The Militarisation of South Africa", the growth of resistance to conscription over the years has been marked by vigorous counter-action from the SADF and the Defence Ministry.

These developments highlighted, on the face of it, a reluctance by the SADF to come to terms with conscientious objection. There has, however, been movement over the years.

South Africa's powerful military establishment was surprisingly cool in face of the public refusal of more than 750 white men to serve in the South African Defence Force (SADF) on grounds of conscience.

But, observers suspected, its calm exterior, suggesting that the conscientious objectors were beneath contempt, masked anxiety and anger.

Judging from the SADF's past responses to conscientious objection, it saw the men as the harbingers of wider resistance to conscription or as malingers parading cowardice as principle.

## Pledged

The declaration by the conscientious objectors came in the form of a "Register of Conscientious Objectors", the register was initially signed by 756 men who thereby pledged themselves to defy conscription into what their slogans called "the apartheid army".

In its first reaction, the SADF noted that a stated intention to break the law did not necessarily constitute a crime but warned, however, that objectors who failed to report for military service would be prosecuted.

It then referred to a similar public declaration by 143 men last year,

recognised the religious objections of members of the "peace churches", offering them non-combatant service in the SADF.

Jehovah's Witnesses were especially prominent in their opposition to conscription. Their stand helped pave the way for the next concession: the 1983 amendment to the Defence Act.

It accommodated, as noted already, religious objectors of all churches - provided they satisfied the Board for Religious Objection - offering them alternative service in government departments.

## Prohibitive

But as Mr Nathan observed pertinently: "(It) represented an attempt to defuse and minimise conscientious objection as a political issue by offering a significant concession to religious pacifists, while making objection by non-religious or non-pacifist objectors prohibitively costly."

The SADF, the 1986 Defence White Paper noted, was heavily dependent on conscripts; they constituted 70 percent of its manpower. Small wonder, then, that resistance to conscription has generally been

In the past few months thousands of South African troops have been withdrawn from Namibia in terms of the UN peace plan.

Theoretically that has relieved the SADF of responsibility for protecting - or, as Swapo would put it, occupying - Namibia; and perhaps this may in the future make it possible for SADF generals to adopt a slightly more accommodating attitude to non-religious conscientious objection.

But white hegemony in South Africa itself has come under greater threat in the corresponding period, increasing the potential demand on the SADF at home where stretched police force against the increasingly restless black majority.

It was in that knowledge that the signatories to the Register of Conscientious Objectors signed up, hoping for the best but bracing themselves for the worst.

At best it could result in the SADF meeting - or partially meeting - their demand for alternative service in non-government agencies for religious objectors; at worst it could mean imprisonment for six years, a fate already suffered by

# 'Bravo to conscientious objectors'

CT 22/11  
THE pros and cons of conscientious objection were discussed in Teleletters yesterday.

Ms J Nicol, Observatory: "Bravo to the conscripts who have refused to serve in the SADF and thereby act as accomplices in the violence of apartheid. At least, I assume this is why they have taken their stand, as coverage of the event has been so minimal that I cannot be sure."

Mr D Holgate, Claremont: "In light of the SADF's hollow comment about the stand taken by the 771 conscientious objectors that we need to be aware of the consequences — it is the despicability of the SADF and the consequences they offer to people making moral decisions that we are objecting to."

Mr J A Pannewitz, Somerset West: "The conscientious objectors should hang their heads in shame. What kind of men are they? I feel our country doesn't need them and I hope their campaign doesn't succeed."

Mr M Blatchford, Observatory: "Banning

peaceful protest because some protesters have broken a window and overturned a barrow makes as much sense as disbanding the army because some soldiers went on AWOL."

## March planned against call-up

CAPE TOWN. — Lawyers acting on behalf of the Conscientious Objectors Support Group have applied to the Chief Magistrate of Cape Town for permission to march to the Castle today.

The Castle — one of the oldest buildings in the mother city — is Cape Town's military headquarters.

The march, which lawyers estimate will attract

300 to 400 people, is due to follow an inter-faith service at St George's Cathedral.

According to the lawyers' letter to the Chief Magistrate, the group represents the interests of a "significant number" of young men who, for reasons of conscience, do not wish to serve in the South African Defence Force. — Sapa.

## Objectors take a stand on call-up

By JACQUELYN SWARTZ  
Staff Reporter

SIX hundred conscientious objectors have jointly announced their plans to refuse national service.

They include lawyers, doctors, teachers and engineers who believe that the solutions to South Africa's problems are not military but political and have committed themselves to using their skills to serve in a positive and constructive way.

"We believe this cannot be achieved by participation in the SADF, which has consistently been used to uphold apartheid and is an obstacle to peaceful change. We will not be conscripted into this army," said a statement issued by the group.

The group also expressed support for imprisoned objectors David Bruce, Charles Bester and Saul Batzofin and called for their immediate release.

### "IRRECONCILABLE"

In a separate statement 29-year-old objector Dr Mark Ellison Patrick said his further participation in the SADF was irreconcilable with his vision for what South Africa should and will be one day, and refused to serve in the Defence Force again.

In other statements objectors said that obeying call-ups was defending apartheid and objected to being called up not to fight a foreign enemy, but fellow-South Africans.

Cape Town objectors were due to make an announcement at a media conference at Rondebosch Congregational Church today. A similar, smaller event is scheduled for Stellenbosch's Sanlam Hall.

## Four Wits students detained by police

JOHANNESBURG — Four Wits students, including the niece of the Attorney-General of the Witwatersrand, were detained under emergency regulations yesterday.

They are the former president of the Students' Representative Council Ms Bettina von Lieres (25), who was taken from her home in Yeoville, Ms Beatrix "Ginger" Payne (20) who was arrested at her home in Berea, Ms Sarah Klippen (23) who was detained at her Yeoville flat and her sister Ms Judy Klippen (19) who was taken from her parents' home in Parktown.

Ms von Lieres is the niece of Attorney-General Klaus von Lieres und Wilkau.

According to police, three of the four students were later released and only Ms Payne is now in detention.

Ms Judy Klippen is a joint co-ordinator of the Student Community Action Group, Ms Sarah Klippen is a former co-ordinator of the Wits Women's Movement and Ms Payne is involved in the Wits Labour Committee.

Wits SRC president Mr Anton Roskam said: "The Wits University community will not stand for it."  
Last Thursday, Wits medical student Mr Michael Avridan was detained. — Sapa.

## Beswaardes stel naamarregister op

GEWETENSBERWAARDES teen diensplig het gister op se we plekke in die land byengekom om 'n rasionale 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 samevoer van die byeenkoms in Johannesburg, mnr. Chris de Villiers, aan Sapa gesê.

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

In Kaapstad alleen het 211 mans hulle gister by 'n elensuurbuycensoms tot die groep gevoeg, terwyl 75 bywaardes die konferensie in Johannesburg bygewoon het.

Beskermer van die register is onder andere biskop Reg Orsmund van die Rooms-Katolieke Kerk, biskop Peter Storey van die Metodistiese Kerk, d. Franz Auerbach van Jews for Social Justice, prof. Lourens du Plessis van die f. kultuur van Regsegeleerdheid van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch en cew. Deris Hurley, Rooms-Katolieke aartsbiskop van Durban.

"Ons misdaad nie," "Soos in die verlede sal registreer 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 weerspiegeling nie van die persentasie dienspligtes wat werklik weier om diensplig te verrig of wat hulle nie vir diensplig aanmeld nie," lui die Weernag se verklaring.

Ons kantoor op Stellenbosch bring dat 30 beswaardes, van wie 22 Mafes, hul name gister op die register gevoeg het. Een van hulle is 'n dosent, mnr. Victor Honey van die departement van beelde- en kunst, en sy twee seuns, Tim en Nathan. Eerw. Luke Stubbs en die skrywer Charl Naudé is ook in die groep.

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

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

## SADF warns of action against COS

PRETORIA — The SA Defence Force has warned that legal action would be taken against military objectors who failed to report for service, but added that a stated intention to break the law in the future did not necessarily constitute a crime.

The SADF was responding to the launch of a national register of conscientious objectors yesterday, which lists the names of more than 780 men.

The SADF said that last year "reports were published that 142 men were going to refuse to render military service". But an investigation into the claims had revealed that only nine had failed to turn up for national service or camps. The remaining number had their cases either deferred, their addresses were unknown or were classified as religious objectors which entitled them to render community service.

A statement read by the objectors yesterday said: "We will respond to the call-up in different ways. Some will go to jail. Others will opt for religious objector status. Many of us will choose between a life in exile or constant evasion of call-ups. We stand here today as objectors, aware of the possible consequences of our action." — Sapa.

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Part of the 400 anti-conscription demos who marched on Cape Town Castle this week decorate a soldier on duty with yellow chrysanthemums "in the name of peace". He seemed amused.



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## **END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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