



Business Day

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TELEPHONE (011) 710-9111, TELEX 4-88921 (5 lines). TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS "NEWS"

JUNE 24, 1988

MR CHRIS DE VILLIERS
ECC PUBLICITY SECRETARY
227/9 KHOTSO HOUSE
42 DE VILLIERS STREET
JOHANNESBURG 2001.

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your letter to the Editor. This will be considered for publication in the Business Day in the near future.

Should it not be published for space or other reasons, please feel free to write again on any topic.

Thank you for your interest in the Business Day.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ken Owen', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Nigel Bruce
Editor

11 Diagonal Street
Johannesburg 2001
Telephone (011) 710-9111
Telegrams Investmail
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PO Box 9959
Johannesburg 2000

26th May 1988

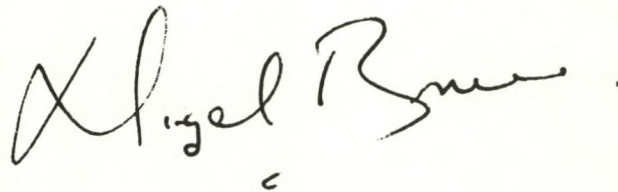
Dear Reader,

Thank you for your letter to the Editor. This will be considered for publication in the Financial Mail in the near future.

Should it not be published for space or other reasons, please feel free to write again.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nigel Bruce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

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ECC-ALISTAIR
JOHANNESBURG AUG 22 SAPA

THE CONSCRIPTION DEBATE IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE NATIONAL PARTY'S DEFENCE POLICY AND THE ROLE OF THE SADF IN ANGOLA, NAMIBIA AND THE TOWNSHIPS, MR ALISTAIR TEELING-SMITH SAID TODAY.

REACTING TO RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN TODAY, THE ECC NATIONAL SECRETARY, SPEAKING IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY, SAID THAT BY BANNING ECC, THE GOVERNMENT WAS IGNORING THE REAL ISSUE:

+THE PROBLEM HAS NOT BEEN ECC, BUT RATHER CONSCRIPTION.

+MANY YOUNG WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS FACE VERY REAL DILEMMA'S ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN THE SADF. THESE DILEMMAS ARE A DIRECT RESULT OF THE NATIONAL PARTY'S DEFENCE POLICY AND THE ROLE OF THE SADF IN ANGOLA, NAMIBIA AND THE TOWNSHIPS.+

HE STRESSED ECC HAD ALWAYS BEEN AN INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION THAT HAD NOT BEEN MANIPULATED OR HAD ITS POLICIES FORMULATED BY ANY OTHER GROUPING, INCLUDING THE ANC AND THE UDF.

+IT HAS BEEN A GROUP THAT HAS OPPOSED CONSCRIPTION AND ARTICULATED THE VERY REAL DILEMMAS THAT CONSCRIPTS FACE ABOUT BEING CONSCRIPTED INTO THE SADF.

+ECC HAS NEVER BEEN AN ORGAN OF OBJECTORS AND HAS REPRESENTED ALL CONSCRIPTS. MANY OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN, ARE, AND WILL GO INTO THE SADF,+ MR TEELING-SMITH SAID.

SAPA /CAW/TOWN

08/22/12-51'88

NNNN

VIGIL OF SUPPORT

SUNDAY 17 JULY 7 PM

ST. ANTONY'S CHURCH

KRAUSE STREET, PAGEVIEW

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
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Tel: 837-6796
Telex: 4-86819 S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

URGENT RELEASE

The News Editor
Business Day
P O Box 1138
JOHANNESBURG
2000

PLEASE BE ADVISED:

We regret to inform you that due to circumstances beyond our control we have been forced to postpone the official launch of our latest publication entitled 'Know your Rights'.

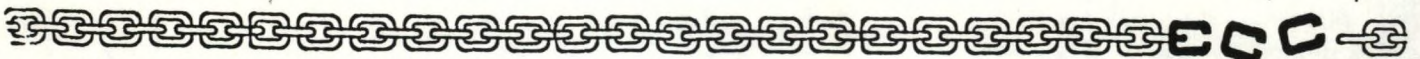
As per our previous release, the publication was scheduled to be launched on Monday, July 11 at the Dawson's Hotel, 117 President Street, Johannesburg.

The new release date will be forwarded to your office as soon as it becomes available.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Allister Teeling-Smith or
Chris de Villiers



End Conscription Campaign

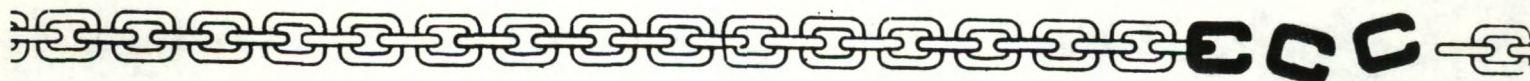
END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

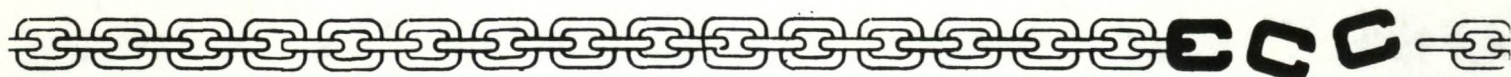
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End Conscription Campaign

INTRODUCTION

The End Conscription Campaign is working for a change in the law regarding compulsory military service in South Africa. We believe that conscripts should be given freedom of choice as to how they are to serve their country. Our focus for 1988 is to campaign for a realistic alternative to national service. In addition we are focussing on the rights of conscripts in the SADF.



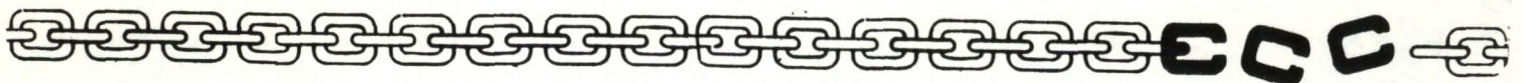
End Conscription Campaign

1. THE SYSTEM OF CONSCRIPTION

Conscription into the SADF was introduced in 1961 in terms of a ballot system. Since then, the number of conscripts and the length of military service has steadily increased.

At present, all white men up to the age of fifty-five are required to complete a period of two years initial service in the SADF. This is followed by Citizen Force camps of a maximum of seven hundred and twenty days spread over twelve years. Provision is also made for all white males up to the age of 55 years to serve 12 days a year in the Commando Force.

The Minister of Defence told parliament in April 1988 that an estimated R705 000 000,00 was spent yearly to maintain the system of national service.



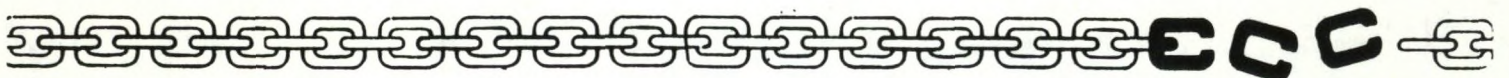
End Conscription Campaign

2. CURRENT ALTERNATIVES TO MILITARY SERVICE

Alternatives are offered to service in the SADF in terms of an amendment to the Defence Act passed in 1983. This amendment broadened the category of persons who could be recognised as conscientious objectors to include all universal religious pacifists.

In terms of this legislation religious objectors can apply to the Board for Religious Objection to do either non-combatant service in the SADF or non-military community service in a government department for one and a half times the length of military service due.

No provision is made for those who object to service in the SADF on moral, ethical, humanitarian or political grounds. Conscripts who object for any one of these reasons face a jail sentence of one and a half times the time owed to the SADF, a six year sentence for those who have not done their initial two years.



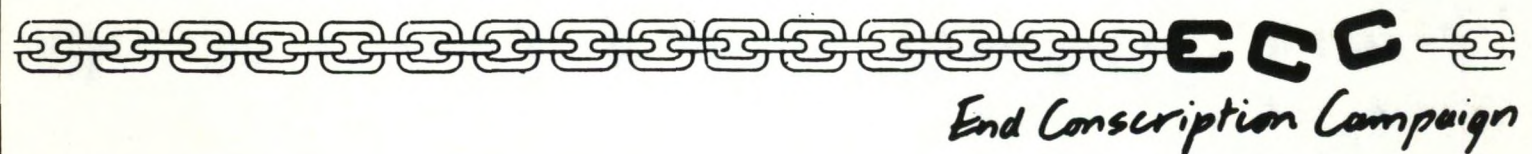
End Conscription Campaign

3. THE MORAL DILEMMA

Many of those conscripted face profound moral, religious, humanitarian and political dilemmas. Trained and skilled people are choosing to leave South Africa rather than serve in the army against their consciences.

Reasons given for failing to render military service include :

- * South Africa's involvement in Angola's civil war and its support for the rebel Unita movement is morally indefensible and wasteful of this country's resources;
 - * In view of South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia no moral justification can be found for the SADF's military rule of the north of Namibia and South Africa's hindering of Namibian independence;
 - * The SADF's involvement in townships in South Africa actively associates it, and the conscripts it uses, with the maintenance of the morally abhorrent system of apartheid, increases polarization between black and white South Africans and deepens the conflict in our country.
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4. THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

Since 1983 there have been a number of conscientious objectors convicted for their refusal to serve in the SADF.

PHILIP WILKINSON

Convicted : Fourteenth of May 1987

For : Failure to report for a camp

Sentence : R600 fine

“The SADF defends apartheid, which in terms of my Christian understanding is a heresy. For me to participate in the SADF would therefore be a betrayal of all that I know to be good and just.”

DR IVAN TOMS

Convicted : Fourth of March 1988

For : Refusal to serve in the SADF

Sentence : 21 months imprisonment

“I refuse to serve in an army that defends apartheid, rather than the whole nation of South Africa. If the SADF was truly a defence force protecting the rights and property of all South Africans, then I would willingly serve.”

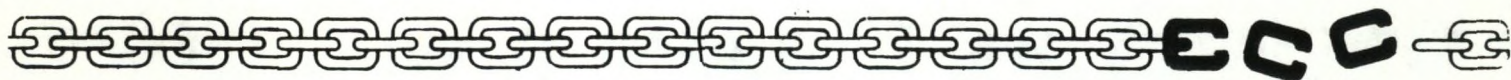
DAVID BRUCE

Convicted : Twenty fifth of July 1988

For : Refusal to serve in the SADF

Sentence : 6 years imprisonment

“I would be willing to serve in an army which is involved in fighting for and defending all the people of this country. I am not prepared to serve in the defence of a racist political system.”



End Conscription Campaign

5. THE "BRAIN DRAIN"

Between 1984 and 1987 South Africa lost 1651 engineers, 329 doctors and dentists and 714 from the accounting profession. In a 1987 survey of Rhodes University students, 57 per cent of those planning to emigrate cited conscription as their major reason for leaving.

The Department of National Education has estimated that the "brain drain" costs the government more than R11 million a year in wasted investments in university training alone.

There is also a growing population of "semi-fugitive nomads". These are people who simply fail to report for military service and evade the SADF for as long as possible. According to evidence in 5 different trials in 1985, an average of 25 per cent of conscripts failed to report for their camps. Many of these men govern their lives by the desire to evade military call-ups. This is both a disruption to our community and an invisible drain on the economy.



End Conscription Campaign

6. ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE

A limited survey conducted in 1986 revealed that a number of bodies involved with rural and urban development, social welfare and conservation would be willing to accommodate people doing alternative service for extended or short-term periods. These bodies included the Urban Foundation, the Rural Foundation and Operation Hunger.

South Africa is a country with many development needs. There is a desperate shortage of housing, rural medical personnel, trained farmers in rural areas ... the list of needs is daunting. Alternative servers could go a long way towards addressing these needs.

The ECC has put forward interim proposals with regard to alternative national service. These are :

1. That all objectors be recognised, and allowed to do community service.
2. That the community service be the same length as military service.
3. That the community service be allowed in non-state organisations as well.

These demands along with argument were submitted as evidence to the Geldenhuys Committee investigating the Defence Act in Cape Town on the 13th of August 1985.

On the 15th of June this year the ECC and the SADF met to discuss the proposals, which were forwarded to General Malan for consideration.



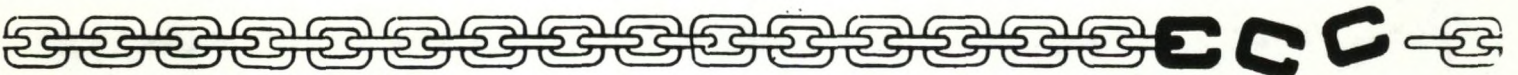
End Conscription Campaign

7. ALTERNATIVE SERVICE PROJECTS

The ECC believes these proposals are practical and achievable. In order to demonstrate this, the ECC has embarked on a number of alternative service projects. Most of these were clustered together in the first quarter of 1986. We entitled these "Working for a Just Peace".

Six hundred volunteers around the country worked on projects that we believe constitute real national service. We helped plant trees, renovate creches, lay water pipes and clear rubbish in black communities. We were welcomed with open arms by township residents at a time when they were strongly demanding the withdrawal of the SADF.

ECC believes that these projects not only showed the viability of a system of alternative national service, but also (in a limited way) the nature of that service.



End Conscription Campaign

8. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICE

Other countries also conscript their youth. Some of them provide alternative service to conscientious objectors.

Listed are the forms of service available in some countries.

AUSTRIA

- General and mental hospitals
- Forestry service
- Social service eg. work with the underprivileged and poor.

BELGIUM

- Hospitals
- Social service eg. with lepers and in prisons
- In human rights organisations
- In peace movements
- Overseas development service.

DENMARK

Objectors attend Peace Schools before placement.

- Forestry service
- Social service eg. work with the handicapped and maladjusted
- Overseas development service.

FINLAND

- Municipal and State institutions eg. fire fighting, repair and maintenance of public property
- In the University Peace Research Bureau.

FRANCE

- Hospitals
 - Forestry service
 - Non-violence training and Peace Education.
-

GERMANY

- In ecological centres and environmental organisations
- Hospitals
- Social services
- Overseas development service
- Peace training.

NETHERLANDS

- Peace movements
- In ecological centres and environmental organisations
- Hospitals
- Social service
- In human rights organisations
- Overseas development service.

NORWAY

Objectors undergo peace training before placement.

- Land reclamation and drainage of farms
- Forestry
- Social service.

POLAND

– Priests and irreplaceable farm workers continue their normal work, supervised by the Ministry of Employment.

SWEDEN

- Forestry service
 - Hospitals
 - Emergency corps work in disaster areas for those technically competent.
-



End Conscription Campaign

9. "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

For those facing a call-up, information around their legal options, and rights in the SADF, is a great need. The ECC has sought to address this need through our 'Know Your Rights' focus, including our Call-up booklet 'Know Your Rights in the SADF'.



PRESS RELEASE: AFRIKANER MEMBERSHIP OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

The growing unease amongst the Afrikaner youth about the use of the Defence Force as a political instrument in the black townships has led to the establishment of ~~three~~ ^{two} mainly Afrikaans groups within the End Conscription Campaign.

The groups gather on a regular basis in Johannesburg, ^{and} Stellenbosch, ~~and Pretoria~~. Discussions are held on ways of bringing to the attention of young Afrikaners their natural right to choose whether they wish to uphold apartheid by active duty in the townships.

The groups consist of between twenty to forty young people. Some of them have already done their national service on the borders of South Africa and in ~~several~~ foreign countries, ~~and include ex-officers of the Defence Force.~~

The consensus is that there is a growing number of young Afrikaners who reject active duty in the townships, as is evidenced by the 7 000 conscripts who have not arrived at Defence Force Bases for their national service stints last year.

The ECC wishes to provide them the opportunity to speak out on their doubts and open up the debate on national conscription.

The Johannesburg group has decided on the name END, Eindig Nasionale Diensplig, but remains an integral part of the End Conscription Campaign.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

New Teachers Body Joins Fast For Just Peace

Members of the steering committee of the newly formed organisation, Education for an Aware South Africa (EDASA), have been fasting on a roster basis since Monday 30 September. They will fast until Monday 7 October in solidarity with Dr Ivan Toms, and the ECC's call for peace in our country.

In a statement a spokesperson for the organization said, "We do so in line with one of EDASA'S specific aims which is to promote a peaceful and just society by discouraging militarisation in our schools and actively supporting the peaceful resolution of conflict."

A spokesperson for the ECC welcomed the development. Said ECC Press Officer Mr David Shandler, "We are heartened by the concerned response we have received so far. We feel that our campaign is striking a sympathetic note amongst South Africans. More than a thousand people from all walks of life have come to spend time with Dr Toms. Well over 200 people have joined in the fasting around the country. And this before the formal day of public fasting on October 7. We feel that we can speak confidently on behalf of many thousands of South Africans in making our calls for an end to conscription, for troops to be withdrawn, and for a just peace."

Please Note: 1) On Thursday 3 October Bishop Charles Albertyn will be joining Dr Toms in fast. Bishop Albertyn is the Bishop of the Eastern Region of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Town.

2) Also on Thursday there will be a Photo call at 4.30pm on the steps of St George's Cathedral. Dr Toms will be sitting on the steps in front of a banner, and next to a sign indicating the number of days he has fasted.

For further information contact David Shandler at 470519

ECC

Anne Marie

Weekly Mail

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→ The End Conscription Campaign writes to express its grave concern at the ^{presence} ~~intrusion~~ of the S.A. Defence Force into yet another area of community life - this time the wards of Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto.

We deplore the use of members of the SADF on a number of grounds: ^{secondly the soldiers} firstly, there is every indication that ~~the army is meddling in the legitimate~~ ^{are undermining the} affairs of workers acting in protection of their legitimate interests.

(2)

^{Firstly} Secondly, at the same time as conscripts of the SADF are being used, often against their will, to suppress the people of Mamelodi and to impose apartheid education in Duduza, it is difficult to believe that they can play any healing role in Soweto hospitals.

(1)

Finally, the psychological effects of the presence of uniformed soldiers in the wards of Baragwanath ^{must surely inhibit good work:} ~~must surely outweigh what little good the unwilling presence of conscripts can achieve~~ ^{doctor-patient relations} carrying out jobs for which they have no particular skills or training and still less inclination.

^{into effectively dealing with the} ~~Once again~~, we call for an end to conscription and ^{for} the withdrawal of troops from the townships - ~~from the streets, schools and now hospitals.~~

^{for} ~~Once again~~ → we call for an end to conscription and the withdrawal of troops from the townships.

Change it as much as you like!

^{Paul} ~~Firstly~~ ^{without choice,} conscripted ~~against their~~ ^{will}

^{Firstly} ~~conscripted~~ ^{are used to play a} ~~are used to~~ ^{healing role at Bara whilst at the} ~~same time~~ ^{concurrently} ~~used~~ ^{to suppress the people of Mamelodi} and to enforce apartheid education in Duduza.

(3) ^{Finally}, the psychological effects of the presence of the uniformed soldiers is another cause for concern because we know that victims of the ^{SADF} ~~army~~ and the police are often unable to go to the hospitals for fear of arrest.

PRESS RELEASE

The End Conscription Campaign committee has invited the Progressive Federal Party to a public debate on the role of the South African Defence Force.

Topic:The SADF;Shielding the Nation or
Defending Apartheid?

Speakers:

Dr. David Webster- ECC

Lecturer in Social Anthropology at Wits University. Dr. Webster is a member of JODAC (the Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee), which is an affiliate of ECC.

Dr. Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert- PFP

Leader of the PFP and party spokesperson on Defence.

Chair:

Mrs. Sheena Duncan.

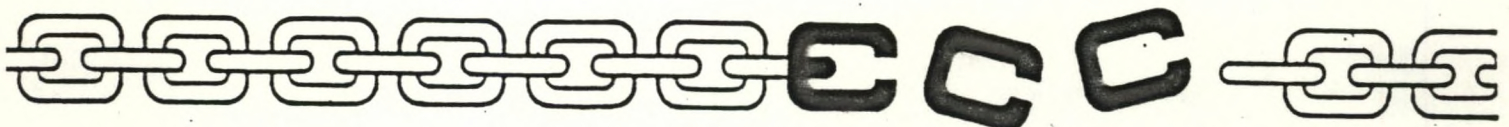
Wednesday, 5th June, 1985 at 8.00pm
Selbourne Hall, President Street, Between Loveday
and Harrison Streets.

The ECC has called for this debate, because, while we are pleased that the PFP have called for a phasing out of conscription, we believe that their adherence to the 'shield' policy is problematic, particularly in the light of recent events.

The PFP'S policy is that the SADF is a shield against foreign aggression. The PFP believes that it is a shield behind which change can take place.

At the moment the SADF is still in Angola (despite the much vaunted pull-out of troops). SADF troops are active in many of our townships, both in the Transvaal and in the Eastern Cape.

We hope that the debate will clarify both the PFP's and the ECC's positions on the role of the military in South Africa.



End Conscription Campaign

WE CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

We note with grave concern that the emergency regulations prohibit the expression of opposition to conscription. This not only bars the End Conscription Campaign from voicing one of its central concerns, but also silences thousands of South Africans who are struggling daily with their consciences.

As this is a matter of crucial importance and drastic consequence to many citizens of this country, especially in these strife-torn times, the manner in which they are prevented from expressing their feelings is a serious violation of the fundamental right to freedom of speech.

It is of special concern that the End Conscription Campaign in the Western Cape has suffered the further prohibition of not being permitted to make any utterance. A further denial of free expression is the ban on ECC meetings in the Eastern Cape.

We call on the government to recognise the right of all South Africans to express their opinion on military conscription. We call for an end to the restrictions placed on the End Conscription Campaign by the government.

End Conscription Campaign

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PRESS RELEASE

ECC COMMENT ON NEW AMMENDMENT TO DEFENCE ACT

The proposed ammendment to the Defence Act tightening up the definition of religious objection is a further erosion on the right to object to military service.

The period of alternative service for religious objectors - and the jail sentence for non-religious objectors - has now been set at six years.

Furthermore, religious objectors who do not accepts the idea of a single deity (such as many Budhists) will now also be liable for six years imprisonment.

A year ago ECC presented evidence to the government's Geldenhuys Committee of Inquiry which examined, among other things, the system of conscription. We called for alternative service to be extended to all those who, for moral, political or religious reasons, felt they were unable to serve in the SADF. We also called for this service to be equal to the duration of military service and for such service to be allowed in non-government organisations.

These recommendations were not accepted by the Geldenhuys Cimmittee. Now it seems that the right to freedom of conscience has been further curtailed.

It is of concern to ECC that these added restrictions come at a time when a growing number of conscripts were applying to the Board for Religious Objection. In the 2½ years of the Board's existence a total of 1059 people have applied to be granted status as non-combatants, non-militarists or non-uniform wearers.

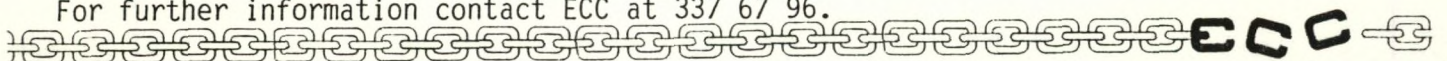
Already 15 conscientious objectors have been refused - meaning that they face the prospect of a possible six years imprisonment. The proposed ammendment to the Defence Act will now make it even more difficult for many objectors to apply to the Board.

It appears that an increasing number of cosncripts are simply not turning up for their military service, many perhaps because their are no viable alternatives. In Febuary this year the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, refused to release to parliament the figures of those failing to report for duty, because, he said, those campaigning for an end to compulsory military service had "misused" these figures in the past. Figures from previous years had shown a steady increase in the number of conscripts failing to report. ECC has also received information showing that, on average, 25 percent of conscripts are not reporting for their annual SADF camps.

Furthermore, ECC believes that the growing number of emigrants is partly related to the fact that in a civil war situation conscripts are liable for a total of four years military service. In the first six months of this years 7 189 people emigrated and the number is rapidly increasing.

We believe that, at this time of heightened conflict, government should be attempting to broaden the scope of conscientious objection. Many young men experience a severe moral dilemma because of conscription and the ammendment makes no attempt to address this.
ENDS

Issued by David Shandler, ECC National Press officer.
For further information contact ECC at 337 67 96.



ECC

End Conscription Campaign

Press Statement

We were very surprised to read Mr. Heisekamp's intrepid attack on Nic Borain and the ECC. We would normally not comment on party politics but the tone & content of Mr L's outburst compels us to make some comments.

Mr. L. implies that ECC has in some way inhibited the practice of freedom of speech at UCT. On this basis he criticises our opposition to the state of emergency and the civil liberties it entails. ECC has never acted or commented on issues relating to freedom of sp internal to UCT. In fact only a very small part of ECC's work takes place at the Univ.

Most of our work is in the community, the schools, the churches & among conscripts.

Mr L. has clearly been denied an election platform at UCT. We understand that it is established Univ. practice to keep the campus free of all party politics. But by attacking UCT and for some reason also ECC Mr L. diverts all attention away from the most fundamental threat to freedom of speech and a host of other freedoms - namely the SOE

We are not implying that Mr L supports the SOE - we just find it strange that he chooses to attack one of the most democratic and libertarian institutions in the country when there are other targets so much more worthy of his attack.

Mr. L adds that NB is misleading the public in saying that ECC enjoys a broad & diverse range of support, and he implies that his own purported program didn't find a place in ECC.

The ECC nationally has over 40 member orgs (including the Soc. of Friends (a largely pacifist org), the PFP youth, the Civil R.L., the B.S., the UDF area committees, the A.D.S.R. & Catholic J x P. It would be hard to find a more diverse range of groupings working tog. & supporting one campaign. There aren't many genuinely forward looking SAs who would be unable to find a place in ECC - it surprises us that Mr L. feels he couldn't fit in.

End Conscription Campaign

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PRESS RELEASE

ECC GIVES NEW EVIDENCE TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The End Conscription Campaign this week gave evidence to the United Nations Commission for Human Rights. The ECC evidence concerned human rights violations with specific respect to the campaign. ECC had been invited to submit the evidence to the Commission's working group sitting in Lusaka, but was unable to do so in person. A document outlining ECC's views was sent to the Commission's Geneva headquarters instead.

A major focus of the document was the denial of ECC's right to express itself fully and freely in terms of the emergency regulations. Fundamental rights to freedom of assembly, association and expression had been eroded by the current emergency said the ECC in the document.

"The general provisions of the emergency regulations create conditions unfavourable to the free expression of our views," reads the document.

"As well as the general constraints there is the specific clause which makes it subversive to incite anyone to discredit or undermine compulsory military service. We see this clause as directly aimed at denying our campaign the space to express our views freely and legally."

These limitations were seen by the ECC as worsening "the denial of freedom associated with the system of conscription. In turn, it is a further denial to many conscripts of their right to exercise freedom of conscience and to freely and fully express their views. It is in this context that the ECC is at present concentrating on a call to the government to recognise our right to oppose conscription."

The document also focussed on the system of conscription as a central denial of human rights in South Africa. "It denies the basic rights to freedom of conscience and to freedom of choice," it said.

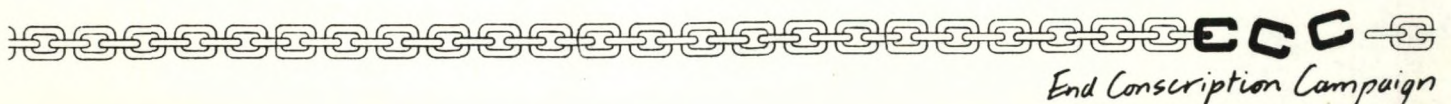
"Conscription into the SADF imposes on conscripts the obligation of implementing and defending the government's apartheid policy. In a South Africa as divided as ours, this causes thousands of conscripts to be forced to side with the government against their consciences."

Detention and harassment of ECC members during the current state of emergency was also highlighted. A total of 48 ECC members have been detained in terms of the emergency regulations. Of these 10 are still being held. Raids on the homes and offices of ECC members are also cited. The ECC describes these incidents as "adding to the denial of our right to express our opposition to the system of conscription."

Earlier this year ECC Executive member Gavin Evans gave evidence on behalf of ECC to a sitting of the UN Special Committee on Apartheid in New York.

ENDS

For further information contact ECC at 337 6796.



End Conscription Campaign

For Parker

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PRESS RELEASE

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The proposed ammendment to the Defence Act tightening up the definition of religious objection is a further erosion on the right to object to military service.

The period of alternative service for religious objectors - and the jail sentence for non-religious objectors - has now been set at six years.

Furthermore, religious objectors who do not accepts the idea of a single deity (such as many Budhists) will now also be liable for six years imprisonment.

A year ago ECC presented evidence to the government's Geldenhuys Committee of Inquiry which examined, among other things, the system of conscription. We called for alternative service to be extended to all those who, for moral, political or religious reasons, felt they were unable to serve in the SADF. We also called for this service to be equal to the duration of military service and for such service to be allowed in non-government organisations.

These recommendations were not accepted by the Geldenhuys Cimmittee. Now it seems that the right to freedom of conscience has been further curtailed.

It is of concern to ECC that these added restrictions come at a time when a growing number of conscripts were applying to the Board for Religious Objection. In the 2½ years of the Board's existence a total of 1059 people have applied to be granted status as non-combatants, non-militarists or non-uniform wearers.

Already 15 conscientious objectors have been refused - meaning that they face the prospect of a possible six years imprisonment. The proposed ammendment to the Defence Act will now make it even more difficult for many objectors to apply to the Board.

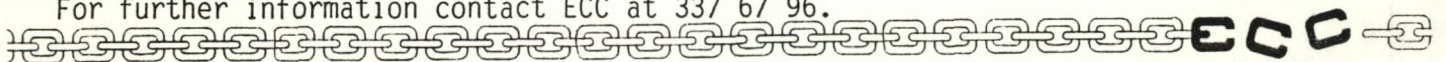
It appears that an increasing number of cosncripts are simply not turning up for their military service, many perhaps because their are no viable alternatives. In Febuary this year the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, refused to release to parliament the figures of those failing to report for duty, because, he said, those campaigning for an end to compulsory military service had "misused" these figures in the past. Figures from previous years had shown a steady increase in the number of conscripts failing to report. ECC has also received information showing that, on average, 25 percent of conscripts are not reporting for their annual SADF camps.

Furthermore, ECC believes that the growing number of emigrants is partly related to the fact that in a civil war situation conscripts are liable for a total of four years military service. In the first six months of this years 7 189 people emigrated and the number is rapidly increasing.

We believe that, at this time of heightened conflict, government should be attempting to broaden the scope of conscientious objection. Many young men experience a severe moral dilemma because of conscription and the ammendment makes no attempt to address this.
ENDS

Issued by David Shandler, ECC National Press officer.

For further information contact ECC at 337 67 96.



ECC
End Conscription Campaign

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

E.C.C. gains support

The month of April brings increased support and activities for the End Conscription Campaign.

"E.C.C. cannot be ignored as a significant public voice after the Peace Rally held in October last year. Over 4000 Capetonians showed their support for E.C.C. and their call for a just peace in South Africa" says E.C.C. press officer Paula Hathorn.

"Many of these same people have shown that they are prepared to take their commitment to peace even further by doing work in the national E.C.C. Working for a Just Peace campaign." says Hathorn.

With already over 300 volunteers E.C.C. will demonstrate that National Service can be used in the interests of peace. Volunteers will take part in a range of peace projects - clearing the grounds of a childrens home, teaching township residents to drive, painting a peace mural, laying a cycle track and painting a pre-school are some of these projects.

The Working for a Just Peace campaign was launched at the E.C.C. fair in Rondebosch this weekend. The fair was given overwhelming public support with over 5000 people attending.

"The fair is an indication of how widely E.C.C. is supported. We were given constant encouragement and feedback by the public. People couldn't stop telling us how important the issues are that we take up and what tremendous work they believe we are doing." said an E.C.C. spokesperson.

E.C.C. is also making significant inroads into Cape Town's cultural life. Yesterday saw the launch of their photographic exhibition at the Baxter Theatre foyer. Images of violence and conflict are harsh and explicit. Those of us who lead protected lives get a glimpse of the reality of the conflict in our society.

Also this last weekend the Cape Town annual film festival was launched. The E.C.C. is hosting this festival in conjunction with the U.C.T. Film Education Unit and there are a number of anti-war films showing that have not previously been available in South Africa.

"We are making our demands known in a range of different areas and in all those areas our support is growing rapidly. We hope - and believe - that it will continue to grow. Many people are unhappy with the types of things that the S.A.D.F. is doing and that makes them take us very seriously" says an E.C.C. spokesperson.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

Anti-War Film Festival 'cancelled'

Many of the ECC posters advertising the Cape Town International Film Festival have had luminous CANCELLED stickers pasted over them.

This is misinformation. The film festival has not been cancelled and films will be screened as advertised in the programme.

The film festival has been organised jointly by the University of Cape Town Film Education Unit and the End Conscription Campaign. Neither of these groups had any part in pasting the 'cancelled' stickers over the posters.

"We object in extremely strong terms to people who are giving the public incorrect information. The films are thought provoking and stimulating and there is no reason why people should be prevented from seeing them. "

"If there are people who do not agree with the sentiments of some of the films they are able to write to the newspaper, or to ECC, or they are welcome to attend ECC public meetings and speak out at them. It is destructive and cowardly of them to sneak out and put stickers on our posters" said an ECC spokesperson.

End Conscription Campaign

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PRESS RELEASE

ECC "Noise and Smoke" Cabaret is held at the Wits Box Theatre
The End Conscription Campaign's "Noise and Smoke" cabaret was held at the Box Theatre at Wits University on Friday night (October 3) without incident.

About 150 people packed out the show which features actors and poets focussing on aspects of militarisation and conscription. A week earlier the cabaret's run at the Oxford Hotel had to be cut short because of right wing intimidation and police harassment.

BUT this Friday elaborate security measures were taken to ensure the safety of the actors and the audience.

"We had an excellent reception from the audience. In fact despite the harassment both shows were sold out and were incredibly well received", said Roz Monat, an ECC member and coordinator of the show.

"All the artists were amazingly supportive. They were completely committed in the face severe harassment and hostility from the state and other right-wingers", she said.

Monat said that invitations from a group at Rand Afrikaans University and from the Cape Town "Towards a People's Culture" festival to put on the show had already been received.

The attempt to disrupt the cabaret started at 3am on Friday September 26, when eight armed men spray painted the Oxford Hotel in Rosebank with slogans attempting to link the ECC with the ANC. They also spray painted the walls with stars of David and hammer and sickles. When a receptionist tried to stop them one of them threatened her with a firearm. Later that day ECC members cleaned the graffiti off the walls.

In a statement on the incident, ECC National Secretary, David Shandler, said: "ECC is appalled at the defacing of a facade of the Oxford Hotel and a shop next door. An attempt has been made to implicate ECC by linking it to banned organisations. We are a legal campaign and do not engage in illegal activities".

During the course of that day the hotel manager, Shimon Gilder, received several threatening phone calls and shortly after the bomb blast at the Devonshire Hotel, his mother, Mina Gilder, was told by an unidentified caller: "You saw what we did at the Devonshire Hotel. The same will happen to you if the show goes on".

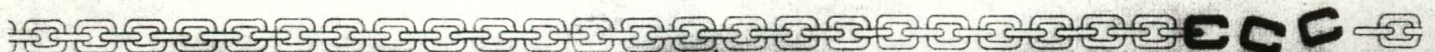
Mr Gilder contacted the police but was told they could not provide the required protection. He was also told they could close the show down under the Emergency regulations.

Later that day an ECC member, Dawn Ingle, was phoned by someone who identified himself as an AWB member who said the AWB had "declared war on the ECC". The home of the ECC Johannesburg chairperson, Clare Verbeek, was also phoned by an unidentified caller who said: "If the show goes ahead the same thing that happened to the JODAC concert will happen to ECC - only worse" (the previous week the JODAC concert had been teargassed by "unknown men").

Also on Friday a journalist who had interviewed Verbeek received a threatening letter from a right winger. "Your precious Clare Verbeek is as good as dead as are your precious crew of ECC and Black Sash nigger-loving Anglo American corporation boot lickers. I give them and other integrationists little more than three years to live before my friends to the north have a field day with them..."

MORE

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At about 9pm that night Mr Gilder received another phone call threatening to blow up the hotel. Nevertheless the show started as scheduled. At about 9.15 pm a group of policemen arrived and spoke to Mr Gilder who then insisted that ECC close the show because he did not want to expose his patrons to risk.

Therefore three quarters of the way through the cabaret ECC was forced to announce that the cabaret had been closed. As the audience was leaving the police intervened. They searched the kitchen and the backstage and then questioned three of the actors, Mathew Krause, Robert Colman and Irene Stephanou. More police arrived and questioned and harassed members of the audience. By this stage there were at least 10 uniformed and plainclothes police present. Krause was held for about an hour and then released.

After these incidents Mr Gilder said he would not allow the show to go ahead on the Saturday or Sunday nights as scheduled, despite the fact that he had signed a contract to this effect. He agreed to pay a proportion of ECC's costs.

The cabaret was then re-scheduled for the following Friday and went ahead without incident. Among the actors who took part were James Whyte, Ryk Hattingh, Andrew Buckland and Irene Stephanou.

* The now-banned satire on the architect of apartheid, Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, called "Famous Dead Man" was not part of the show - either this Friday or the previous Friday. A report in the Sunday Star (September 28) stated incorrectly that one of the acts had been "famous Dead Man". Matthew Krause and Robert Colman performed another act which had no resemblance to "Famous Dead Man".

3 ~~Two~~ MORE ECC MEMBERS ISSUED WITH RESTRICTION ORDERS

3
~~Two~~ ECC members who had been detained under the Emergency Regulations were released from detention on Friday (October 3), but were issued with orders restricting them from organising, attending or addressing any gathering of more than five people, or from holding any office on any ECC committee or taking part in any ECC activity. PHILIP WILKINSON, 23, PE ECC EXEC MEMBER AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR WAS ~~RELEAS~~ RELEASED ON FRIDAY WITH ~~RESTRICTIONS~~ RESTRICTIONS AFTER 111 DAYS IN DETENTION.
Roelien Theron, 22, and Bridget Hilton-Barber, 22, had both been held at Fort Glamorgan in East London under the Emergency Regulations. Hilton-Barber, ECC Grahamstown Executive member, editor of the Grahamstown Voice and legal researcher for the Delmas reason trial, was detained on July 2, held in solitary confinement for 18 days and then held without trial until Friday. Theron, a Rhodes Honours student, ECC Rhodes media coordinator, editor of Rhodoe newspaper and NUSAS executive member, was detained on July 28, held in solitary confinement three weeks and then released without charge.

This brings to four the number of ECC members issued with restriction orders. ECC Port Elizabeth executive members, Mike Loewe, 27, and Sandy Stewart, 30, were also banned from taking part in any ECC activities after having been detained since the start of the Emergency. They were released on September 6.

Two ECC members, Annica van Gylswyk and Scott Doherty, have effectively been deported and ECC Port Elizabeth vice-chairperson, Dominique Souchon, has been issued with a deportation order, but is still being held in detention.

A total of 53 ECC members have been detained under the Emergency regulations since June 12 and ~~six~~ 5 are still being held.

Issued by Clare Verbeek

(ECC Johannesburg Chairperson)

Stop Press

Ian MacKenzie, 24, a Cape Town ECC member was released today (October 5) after 82 days in detention under the Emergency regulations, the last seven weeks of which he spent in isolation as the only white male detainee in Pollsmoor Prison. He was detained on July 12.

End Conscription Campaign

PRESS STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE SENTENCING OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR DAVID BRUCE

The End Conscription Campaign extends its support to David Bruce, his parents, family and friends as they endure the painful first days of their enforced separation. We who have supported David should draw strength from his example. He stood firmly by his moral convictions and has faced the costs with courage.

David stood alone in the dock and will bear the harshness of prison life alone, yet he has spoken for many hundreds of conscripts who feel confronted by the same moral anguish on receiving their call up papers.

David's going to jail is not only a loss to himself and those who will miss him. South Africa as a whole loses. David is a highly educated young man in the prime of his economically productive life who will spend the next six years as a burden on the tax payer rather than as a productive citizen.

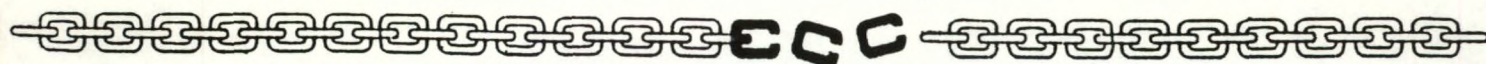
David is only the second person to be sentenced for refusing to serve, yet the ECC is aware that he is only one of many objectors. Recent research by state and private institutions has shown that an alarmingly high number of people are emigrating to avoid the call up. This trend is especially high amongst young men with degrees and diplomas who will be able to find work overseas.

The destructive effect for the country of conscription is enormous though invisible to the general public. Statistical calculations may be able to guess the economic harm being done, but how does one calculate the loss felt by a mother whose son leaves the country as an exile, or the loss suffered by Mrs Bruce.

The losses we suffer through exile need to be stemmed as does the possibility of many more conscripts going to jail. Last August, 23 men in the Western Cape jointly declared their refusal to serve in the SADF, indicating a tendency to face the prospects of a few years in jail rather than an indefinite period in exile. Conscripts who express sincere moral objections to service in the SADF, as well as their equivalent silent majority who go into the army despite their misgivings, need to be accommodated as a matter of urgency.

The absence of any reasonable alternative is obviously designed to coerce conscripts into obeying their call ups. In most cases this policy will work but with increasing destructive effects. One only has to ponder the consequences of the NG Kerk's recent questioning of the moral basis of the SADF's involvement in Angola. If the war is to continue large numbers of Afrikaans young men may find themselves having to choose between obeying the law or their consciences. This is the painful choice which faced David Bruce.

The injustice of imposing such a choice and the futility of David spending six years in jail again raises the point ECC has made for the



past five years. Is it not the governments responsibility. to accomodate conscripts whose sincere moral convictions prevent them from involvement in the SADF?.

ECC wishes to restate its view that a system of non-military alternative service available through government and private bodies should be made available for coscientious objectors.

ECC pledges to ensure that the public is not allowed to forget David Bruce as he languishes under the extremely harsh six year sentence. We hope that in time our efforts will result in amendments to the Defence Act which will ensure David's early release, allowing him to take his rightful place as a free citizen of South Africa.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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