

ECC DRAFT POLICY GUIDELINE (1990-03-25) WITH AMENDMENTS.

- 3.1.3. It is unlikely in a post-apartheid South Africa that the southern African sub-continent will be characterised by the conflict that we have witnessed in the last 20 years. The national priority of defence which has characterised the National Party's rule will more than likely be altered to a priority of reconstruction and social, political and economic upliftment. In this context a large Defence Force, swelled by conscripted soldiers may well prove unnecessary.
- 3.1.4. A volunteer army made up of career soldiers with a volunteer reserve (such as the Territorial Force of the United Kingdom), is a more effective use of manpower than an army primarily made up of conscripted soldiers serving for a limited time period.
- 3.2. To protect the individual in the event of conscription being re-introduced, ECC insists that the right to be a conscientious objector be guaranteed in the constitution of a post-apartheid South Africa.

The following is an example of a clause that could be included in a future bill of rights.

"The right of a person to conscientiously object to military service shall be recognised, provided that such a person may be required to render community service for a period identical with that of compulsory military service."

ECC believes that the present system of compulsory military conscription into the SADF whereby conscripts are forced to participate in the defence of Apartheid is unjustifiable.

AN IMMEDIATE END TO CONSCRIPTION

1. ECC therefore calls for:

- 1.1 An immediate end to conscription and the restructuring of the SADF into a professional army with a volunteer reserve force;
- 1.2 The unconditional release of jailed conscientious objectors;
- 1.3 The dropping of all charges pending against objectors in terms of the Defence Act;
- 1.4 The granting of amnesty to exiles who have left the country to avoid military service, in order that they may be allowed to return home without fear of prosecution;
- 1.5 The dropping of all charges, in terms of the Defence Act, against those conscripts evading military service within the country;

THE PROVISION OF AN INTERIM ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE

2. ECC further proposes that while conscription remains, a system of reasonable alternative national service open to all objectors be introduced. Such a system should be available for all those who in conscience refuse to render military service; it should be of the same duration as military service and it should be available in government and non-government institutions.

NO MILITARY CONSCRIPTION IN A POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

- 3.1. ECC believes that conscription will be both unnecessary and undesirable in a post-apartheid South Africa, for the following reasons:
 - 3.1.1. Military conscription is an economically costly form of military recruitment.
 - 3.1.2. Military Conscription will be a miss direction of skills and resources in a society where a key priority will be redressing the damage that the system of apartheid has had on our country and its people.

- 3.1.3. It is unlikely in a post-apartheid South Africa that the southern African sub-continent will be characterised by the conflict that we have witnessed in the last 20 years. The national priority of defence which has characterised the National Party's rule will more that likely be altered to a priority of reconstruction and social, political and economic upliftment. In this context a large Defence Force, swelled by conscripted soldiers may well prove unnecessary.
- 3.1.4. A volunteer army made up of career soldiers with a volunteer reserve (such as the Territorial Force of the United Kingdom), is a more effective use of manpower than an army primarily made up of conscripted soldiers serving for a limited time period.
- 3.2. To protect the individual in the event of conscription being re-introduced, ECC insists that the right to be a conscientious objector be guaranteed in the constitution of a post-apartheid South Africa.

The following is an example of a clause that could be included in a future bill of rights.

"The right of a person to conscientiously object to military service shall be recognised, provided that such a person may be required to render community service for a period identical with that of compulsory military service."

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.