

CHIEFS' COACH,  
JEFF BUTLER,  
EXPLAINS WHY  
HE WON'T BACK  
DOWN  
**PAGE 32**

# THE WEEKLY MAIL

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771 conscientious objectors tell  
the South African Defence Force ...



Objectors say  
No' at  
yesterday's  
Jo'burg press  
conference

# 'We will not serve'

By PHIL MOLEFE and  
THANDEKA GQUBULE

A TOTAL of 771 men yesterday publicly declared — at the launch of a national register of conscientious objectors — that they would not serve in the South African Defence Force.

The event was the biggest-ever demonstration of anti-conscription sentiment in South Africa. It comes a year after the banning of the End Conscription Campaign, and after three years of Emergency regulations which make it illegal to undermine the system of military conscription.

Thus part of what was said at the various press conferences around the country cannot be reported in terms of Emergency regulations.

The objectors — who made their declaration simultaneously in seven cities — include 30 Stellenbosch University students, a veteran of the crucial battle for Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola, a lieutenant in military intelligence, businessmen, clerics, senior advocate Wim Trengove, author Andre Brink, and 33 members of the National Jewish Conscientious Objectors.

The 771 cited religious, moral and political grounds for refusing to do any SADF service, saying "the Defence Force is used to uphold the system of apartheid". Some of them cited disturbing experiences during their national service as reasons.

"We have decided in good conscience and of our own accord that we cannot serve in the defence force despite possible prosecution and imprisonment.

"We object to serving in the racist defence force that upholds a racist government and we are not prepared to defend apartheid." ECC branch chairman Chris de Villiers said.

Conscientious objectors face up to six years' imprisonment, depending on the service they owe.

The objectors called for non-punitive and constructive community service as an alternative to military service.

The national co-ordinating committee of yesterday's event plan to hand the national register to Defence Minister Magnus Malan at a meeting next week.

Durban committee member Steve Collins said it was hoped that if they saw him to hand over the names it would prevent the "panic and confusion" of the state response to last year's action in which 143 conscripts declared they would not serve in the SADF. The ECC was blamed and banned soon afterwards.

In Johannesburg, about 70 conscientious objectors gathered at a secret press conference yesterday morning to announce their refusal to

● To PAGE 3

**BIGGEST EVER CHALLENGE TO CONSCRIPTION AS 771 SPEAK OUT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By THANDEKA GQUBULE

institutions or military institutions.

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

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

fighting and the bad water supplies.

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

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

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

"The worst was that when we start-

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 'We will not serve,' say 771

• From PAGE 1

go to the army. More than 280 conscripts from Johannesburg and Pretoria have signed the register.

Four marshals co-ordinating the Johannesburg meeting were detained by security police in an early raid on their homes. They are former University of the Witwatersrand SRC president Bettina von Lieres and fellow students Judy and Sarah Klipin and Ginger Payne.

Three of them were later released. Payne is expected to appear in court this morning on charges of possession of banned literature.

Addressing the Johannesburg press conference, De Villiers said (cut to comply with Emergency regulations)

He challenged Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan to hold a referendum and test how many young South Africans object to doing any service in his army.

He said many of the objectors would face intense pressure both in their communities and work places for yesterday's public stance.

De Villiers announced there will be custodians of the register in each region for people who wanted to add their names to the objection list.

The register for the Johannesburg region will be administered by Reverend Peter Storey of the Methodist Church, former South African Council of Churches general secretary Dr Beyers Naude, Bishop Reg Ormsmond of the Catholic Church and Professor Philip Tobias of the Wits University Medical School.

Some of the objectors, who had already done the two-year initial service, described their experiences in the army which led to their disenchantment with the SADF.

The National Jewish Conscientious Objectors cited the SADF's ongoing destabilisation of the frontline states and role in the townships as well as the general militarisation of South African society as their concerns.

"We see our objection to serving in the SADF as an expression of our Jewish faith and heritage, and as loyal to the majority of South Africans," they said in a statement.

The Durban news conference was attended by dozens of the 86 Durban objectors, one of them a Benedictine monk wearing long black robes. It was addressed by Archbishop Denis Hurley, Catholic archbishop of Durban, 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".

In Port Elizabeth, 19 objectors, who included three ministers of religion and three businessmen, publicly stated they would not serve in the SADF.

"We will respond to the call-up in different ways. Some will go to jail, others will opt for religious objection status (cut to comply with Emergency regulations)," said the objectors.



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

Picture: STEVE HILTON-BARBER, Afrapix

## Military intelligence officer joins conscription protest

By CARMEL RICKARD, Durban

a grotesque album as you can imagine."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Stellenbosch joins anti-military protest

BY GAYE DAVIS In Cape Town

forms an integral part of the university and its activities. SADF-subsidised research into military technology is promoted among students."

The SADF "played an oppressive role in maintaining an unjust and exploitative system", they said.

"We find this involvement of the SADF in our community unacceptable and symptomatic of the militarisation of our environment," the statement said.

In Cape Town, Patrick described his becoming a national serviceman in 1978 as a "natural progression from 12 years of Christian National Education."

"I did not question why I should be so brutalised for two years. I did not question why I should brutalise others."

Later, he kept on being confronted by questions for which he had no answer.

"Ultimately, I came up with a startlingly simple realisation: that South Africa should be governed according to the fundamental principle that all South Africans should be able to participate freely in making the decisions that affect their lives."

"This is the principle on which I base my vision for a future South Africa ... this is why I can never again serve in the SADF."

Another Cape Town objector was

Dr Anton Eberhard, 37, an energy researcher who in 1977 was the first to be imprisoned for refusing to do military service on political grounds.

"Today I am more convinced than ever that to obey a call-up is to accept a call to defend apartheid," he said.

Military obligations had increased "more than five-fold" from when he was first called up from nine months' national service to the current two years, "plus 720 days of camps plus a further 12 days a year commando service until the age of 55."

By refusing to serve, he could face another jail sentence.

"Conscription is one issue which I as a white South African cannot ignore, for it forces me to make a choice," he said.

"Will I defend apartheid, or will I pay the price for refusing to do so?"

"I do not wish these choices for my son and am committed to helping to fight for an end to conscription and an end to apartheid."

Martin Duys, 23, a fourth-year architecture student at the University of Cape Town, described his difficulty in deciding to break the law and his parents' unhappiness and concern about his decision.

"I do not want them to be angry with me," Duys said. "But at the same time I am relieved to be making this stand. My conscience is clear, although my future is very uncertain."

## The 771 who won't serve

By PHIL MOLEFE

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

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

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

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

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

The Star 5/10/89



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.

*The Star* 30/10/90

## ECC bid to safeguard returning objectors

Political Reporter

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) has started a campaign to ensure that conscientious objectors who return to South Africa soon after years in exile will not be prosecuted for refusing to serve in the SADF.

In an open letter, ECC spokesman Chris de Villiers urges people to join the campaign by appealing directly to President

de Klerk to prevent the prosecution of returning objectors, to end all objector trials, and to replace the system of "apartheid conscription" with an interim system of non-punitive alternative national service.

In co-operation with the Committee on South African War Resistance, the ECC is distributing postcards containing these demands, urging South Africans to sign

them and send them to Mr de Klerk's office.

An accompanying letter says the first group of objectors will return on December 1.

"The return of this 'advance party' of COs and their decision to risk prosecution in the name of ending conscription and building a democratic South Africa is a brave and bold challenge to the Government," says

the letter.

"In this present climate, can the National Party justify jailing loyal South Africans who want to return... or will the Government make a contribution to the reversal of the 'brain drain' by recognising the right of conscientious objection and take seriously the call to end military service and develop a nonracial professional defence force?"

## **CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS**

THE Register of Conscientious Objectors currently stands at 1 289, according to End Conscription Campaign spokesman Roddy Payne.

The number of South Africans refusing conscription into the SA Defence Force has increased rapidly since the first group of 23 took a stand in 1987. In 1988, the figure rose to 143, in 1989 to 771, and this year to 1 289.

Although the figures are difficult to determine because conscientious objectors leave the country under different guises, the Committee on South African War Resistance estimates that about 10 000 people have emigrated to avoid conscription since 1978. Most are now in Britain, Holland, the United States and New Zealand. Others are in Botswana, Zimbabwe and around Europe.

WM 1/12/89

## Exiled resisters launch campaign

EXILED conscientious objectors in Europe have launched an international register of war resisters to demonstrate their support for the 771 people in South Africa who have publicly refused to serve in the Defence Force.

Based in London, the Huddleston International Register aims to indicate to the South African government that those men leaving the country are making a political statement of defiance, according to an organiser.

Organisers will collect declarations from war resisters living in Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia and the frontline states.

The register is sponsored by the president of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, Trevor Huddleston.

"At a time when young men are courageously rejecting military service in defence of apartheid we should seek all possible means to support their stand," he said.

Mervyn Malan, the former Recce who is asking for political asylum in the Netherlands, this week added his name to the Huddleston International Register.

## THE HUDDLESTON INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN WAR RESISTERS

The launch of the National Register of Conscientious Objectors in September has prompted those of us living outside South Africa to establish an International Register. This will draw together declarations by conscripts who have left South Africa because of their refusal to serve in the SADF. Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, who has sponsored this register said: '*Clearly the time has come for those that have left South Africa because of a refusal to serve to make clear their stand.*'

If you are in a position to sign this register, or if you would like to sign a declaration of support, or if you would like to become a sponsor, please fill in the application form below. On receipt a registration form will be sent to you.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please post to: Archbishop Trevor Huddleston  
Huddleston International Register, BM Box 7660  
London WC1N 3XX, United Kingdom

WM 8/12/89

# 'conchie' campaign gets under way

THE SA Defence Force last night 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 earlier yesterday at which more than 780 objectors nationwide simultaneously rejected military conscription.

"Earlier this year, similar reports were published that 142 men were going to refuse to render military service."

But an investigation into the claims, the SADF said, 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.

"It is, therefore, clear that the number of people who signed that statement is not a true reflection of the percentage of servicemen who actually refused to render service or failed to report for service."

The SADF went on to say that a meaningful analysis of how the people of the current list responded to their call-ups could only be assessed after the bi-annual intake and the citizen force commitment are made known.

The object of the national register was to ensure that the spotlight remained focused on any official harassment of objectors, to facilitate contact among them.

Police confirmed that four people had been questioned in connection with the campaign.

They were not named by the police, who said three had been released but the fourth was still being held late yesterday.

The names were given in a pamphlet circulated at Wits University by Bettina von Lieres, former president of the Wits Student Representative Council; Sarah and Judy Klipin, and "Ginger" Payne.

At the Johannesburg launch of the anti-conscription register, a lawyer, Mr Chris de Villiers, said more than 780 anti-conscription activists had "stood up" at Press conferences simultaneously in the major centres.

In a statement issued by him, he said 294 of these were people who had completed their initial periods of national service and 79 had completed a portion of their citizen force camp liabilities.

He said the objectors' group included scientists, lawyers, journalists, doctors, academics, professors, engineers, bishops and priests.

Named as custodians of the register were Bishop Reg Ormond (Catholic); the Rev Peter Storey (Methodist); Dr Franz Auerbach, of Jews for Social Justice; Prof Lourens du Plessis, of the University of Stellenbosch; the Catholic Archbishop of Durban, Archbishop Denis Hurley; and a legal academic, Prof David McQuoid-Mason.

About 75 objectors attended the Johannesburg Press conference, and

about 40 of a reported 89 signatories attended in Durban, which was held at Archbishop Hurley's diocesan chancery.

The anti-conscription campaign also spread to Port Elizabeth where 19 activists announced their refusal to serve in the army or join citizen force camps.

Among them was 17-year-old Roy Simpson, who is the youngest military objector out of the more than 780 protesters.

In a joint statement, the Black Sash, the National Medical and Dental Association and the Human Rights Trust said an increasing number of taxpayers were expressing alarm at the high spending on military hardware and its maintenance.

"Such a wasteful use of our limited resources could be used on scarce resources such as housing, health and education," said the statement.

A group of 152 Cape Town conscientious objectors made a public stand in Rondebosch yesterday as part of a national campaign. The oldest objector present was 52.

At Stellenbosch 30 conscientious objectors announced their refusal.

Chairperson of the Rondebosch meeting, Mr David Schmidt, said the banning of the End Conscription Campaign by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, had done nothing to reduce the "intense moral pressure" felt by objectors.

Among the objectors named at the Durban meeting were a former lieutenant in military intelligence, Mr Paul Brink, while churchmen named as having put their name on the register included Benedictine Monk, Jurgen Bezuidenhout, Anglican priests Ray Horracks and Charles Parry, and clergyman Nick Kerr.

The register is to be delivered next week to the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, according to the organisers.

Archbishop Hurley was quoted as saying he was "proud and honoured" that his premises had been chosen as the venue by the objectors to make their statement, and assured them of "our prayers and solidarity".

A statement supporting the objectors was also issued by the Five Freedom Forum.

# Boxing asked to stop Mitchell's US title defence

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tion on the Roman Cath-

olic Church, owners of

the fight venue.

This follows the Lewiston City Council's refusal earlier in the week to act on behalf of the anti-apartheid campaign by not granting fight promoter, Johnny Bos, the use of the facility.

## Press aims upt tour

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The council viewed it as a private matter and did not wish to get involved in a political row.

"The groups have now decided to put pressure on the Catholic Church, which owns the hall in which the fight is scheduled to take place.

"Bos is a worried man. He is anxiously awaiting the outcome of the church's answer to the anti-apartheid groups," the spokesman said.

The groups are also urging those with tickets to demand refunds and instead attend an arts performance featuring Black women from South Africa the same evening at the local Bates College.

Mitchell said the protest was "totally unfair".

"All I'm doing is giving a Black American a chance to fight for my title," he said. "I can't help the country I was born in."

One of the protest organisers, Mr Neville Knowles, president of the Maine chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, said, "I'm just coming from the side of equal justice. If a Black athlete can go to South Africa and fight openly... I'd have no qualms".

"It is really the political system (apartheid) that is the issue here, and it has produced the boxer that we reject because he is a representative of that system," said another organiser, Mr Ivan Suzman, of the Maine Project on Southern Africa.

Mitchell said he had applied

for American citizenship and was "as much against apartheid as everyone else".

"It is totally unfair that they want to stop this fight," he said.

Mitchell has not fought

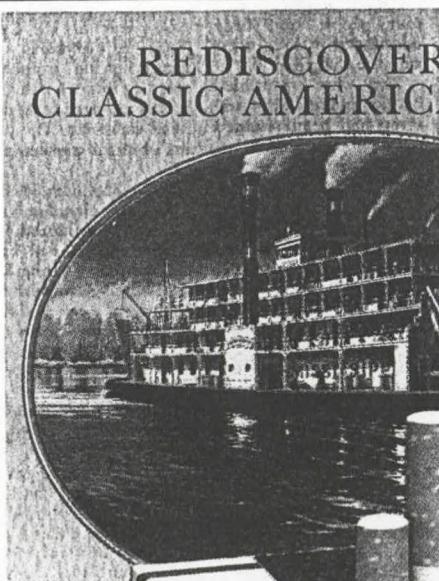
in South Africa since he won the WBA title nearly three years ago. Last November, after several postponements, he fought British challenger, Jim McDonnell, in London.

Mitchell has been peppered with political questions since his arrival in Lewiston from New York on Tuesday, and virtually forced each time to publicly air his views on apartheid.

The situation, according to his spokesman, is still making daily front page headlines in local Maine newspapers.

With only a few more days to go to fight night, Mitchell is on edge and, relieved at being asked his first "boxing question" at a Press conference yesterday, he thanked the journalist.

It will be Mitchell's ninth defence of the junior lightweight crown he won from Alfredo Layne, of Panama, at Sun City in



# SA's batons and tear gas conquered with flowers

FLOWER-POWER continues to impose its will on the mighty South African Police. A confrontation between more than 1,000 student protesters and a squad of riot-police in Johannesburg yesterday teetered on the brink of violence, but ended in smiles after nervous negotiations, without an arrest made or a baton lifted in anger.

The demonstration came in the context of the largest challenge yet to compulsory military service, with 780 white men standing up in various places around the country to declare their refusal to be conscripted into an army which they described as an instrument of apartheid.

Four organisers — all women — of the End Conscription Campaign were detained by police at their homes yesterday morning, prompting the demonstration at Witwatersrand University. Some 2,000 students, aiming to march on the local police-station to demand the release of the four, set off from the campus, but at 2pm riot-police cut them off and the students returned to the university. An hour later, the students, not now so numerous, reappeared on the campus steps. One group held flowers and a banner proclaiming: "We refuse to serve in the apartheid army." Blacks, whites, Indians and Coloureds were all well represented: they danced, sang and taunted the police drawn up before them, who

**From John Carlin  
in Johannesburg**

were armed with tear-gas guns, pistols, clubs and rifles.

At 3.30 the students advanced across the five-yard no man's land, pushing the police off the pavement. The students were given five minutes to leave or be forcefully dispersed. The commander of the riot-squad, clearly aware that President FW de Klerk is eager to avert a repetition of the police excesses of recent weeks, approached a group of clerics and university professors acting as unofficial mediators and implored them to persuade the students to prevent "an unfortunate conflict".

A compromise was reached: the students agreed to withdraw to their earlier position, five yards back, if the police agreed to cross to the other side of the road. "Police first, Police first," chanted the students. The police moved first. "Left, right! Left, right!" jeered the students, who then kept their part of the bargain.

A student leader addressed the crowd, saying it had been the most successful demonstration at the university that anyone could remember. The students stood, raised their fists and sang "Nkosi Sikelele i'Afrika", the anthem of black Africa. The riot-police squad dispersed, and so did the students.



A USAir Boeing 737 lies in New York's East Ri-

## Plane vict

THE blackened bodies and charred wreckage contrasted bleakly with the white Saharan sands across which they were strewn.

Dozens of passengers from UTA's flight 772, which broke up at 35,000ft over the remote south-eastern corner of this vast desert country on Tuesday, still lay — some grossly disfigured — where they had fallen when it flew low over the crash site yesterday afternoon. Two large areas of sand were scorched where flaming pieces of the aircraft had hit the ground before burning up.

The wreckage — chunks of the DC-10's twisted blue and white fuselage, a section of the cockpit, part of a wing and the tailplane — was spread over an area of about 80 square metres.

The tall section was still attached to a small piece of debris.

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## Glemp converted to new view of convent

CARDINAL Józef Glemp yesterday appeared to change radically his attitude to the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz, writes Andrew Brown. In a letter to a prominent Jewish businessman he agreed that "it is essential not only to move the convent outside the perimeter of the site but also to set up the new cultural centre. This will help us to continue the tra-

ditional Carmelite tradition of dialogue and mutual respect between Christians and Jews."

by Wilhelm Mohnke, a former SS general ..... Page 2

## £15m Tory 'mystery'

Labour said the source of the Conservative Party's estimated £15m income was a "sordid and shabby mystery" ..... Page 3

## Ward skull

Kenyan police arrived one evening at John Ward's hotel and handed him a plastic carrier bag containing his daughter's skull, Mr Ward told the inquest into her death. .... Page 3

## Satellite porn

The Government plans to take powers to prosecute anyone in Britain who profits from foreign satellite television pornography channels ..... Page 6

## Clearer roads

Motorists should pay a daily charge of £3 to £4 to drive in central London, the recently-formed left-of-centre Institute for Public Policy Research says in its first report ..... Page 10

## Journalist held

A correspondent of the *Observer* is being held in Iraq after trying to follow up an *Independent* report of a huge explosion at an arms factory near Baghdad ..... Page 16

## Draft protest

White South Africans staged the country's biggest-ever protest against conscription, declaring they would not serve in "the apartheid army" ..... Page 18

## Ferranti to sell

The troubled Ferranti International has agreed to raise cash through the sale of businesses peripheral to its main electronics activities ..... Page 26  
Lawrence Freedman, page 25

## Thatcher backs Ford

Independent 22 September 1989

their techniques.

In the keynote opening speech to the party's annual conference in Wolverhampton Ms Parkin said that Green parties in other countries — notably Australia and New Zealand — had found that their open style of party organisation left them vulnerable.

Her remarks were plainly directed principally at the small "red-green" faction within the Green Party. One vocal member of that group, Penny Kemp, was asked to resign as a party co-chair during the past year. But another, Derek Wall, has just been elected to the party council in a postal ballot of the full membership.

However, Greens are also alarmed at the possibility that extreme right-wing groups might enrol as members and take over local parties. The National Front has in recent years adopted a "green" programme of its own, based on the principle that nationalism includes protection of the nation's natural heritage.

Ms Parkin said the only way of dealing with such "parasites" was not to launch aggressive counter-attacks, but to be "open and hon-



Members of the Green Party on the opening day of their annual conference at Wolverhampton yesterday

est about their existence, and to sideline them".

She strongly advocated at a press conference after her speech that the party make at least one major change to its organisation to protect itself from the risk of derailment. The Greens have prided themselves on the fact that any party member can register for the party conference and enjoy equal voting rights. Ms Parkin

said that would have to change: next year she expects that local parties will elect delegates to the conference.

Membership of the Green Party has increased from a little more than 9,000 to about 15,000 during the past year, with a particularly strong surge during the successes of the May local elections and the June European elections. But the party has no

idea who the new members are or where they are coming from, and has therefore launched a study of its membership.

Ms Parkin also said at the press conference that the party should consider hiring professional strategists and additional administrative staff to take advantage of its enhanced political status. The "red-green" group sees that approach as a sell-out on the party's

committisation of party.

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## Gorbachev and Bush inch towards summit

From Peter Pringle  
in Washington

THE US and the Soviet Union are expected to agree this weekend on a "general time frame" for the first Bush-Gorbachev summit. President George Bush and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, met for more than an hour — twice as long as expected — at the White House yesterday, after which both sides appeared upbeat about a summit, though unwilling to fix a date.

Mr Shevardnadze, who will discuss the summit further with the Secretary of State, James Baker, in Wyoming today and Saturday,

# New York air crash 'highl

From Leonard Doyle  
in New York

THE ACCIDENT at New York's La Guardia airport in which a USAir Boeing 737 crashed on take-off into the East River on Wednesday night may have been caused by lax safety standards in the certification of aircraft, America's foremost authority on such incidents said yesterday.

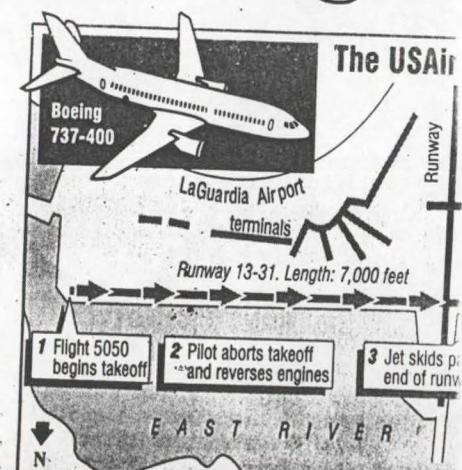
Two people were killed and 51 injured when the pilot of the jet airliner aborted take-off and attempted an "accelerate stop" at La Guardia, one of America's busiest and oldest airports. The plane was travelling at an estimated 130mph when it skidded off the end of a slick runway, ending up in the river with the nose-cone resting on a pier. It was bound for Charlotte, North Carolina.

La Guardia is known as La Garbage to pilots because its runways are built on poorly-settled landfill. The runways extend out into the bay to accommo-

tated from the tide by 15-foot dikes. One of New York's three major airports, La Guardia, which is 50 years old, handles about 1,000 domestic flights a day, nearly one a minute.

The 737-400 airliner which crashed is the newest in a long series of 737s made by Boeing and is almost identical to the British Midland Airways plane which crashed on a motorway in Leicestershire last January. It has a capacity for 150 passengers and was less than half full with 55 people and a flight crew of seven.

Experts from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) interviewed the flight crew yesterday to determine the reason for abandoning take-off.



convinced that pilots should be given a greater margin of error in the certification process.

Jim Henderson, a former com-

Federal Avi leading aut "accelerate view with T/

# SADF warning as 'conchie' campaign gets under way

THE SA Defence Force last night 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 earlier yesterday at which more than 780 objectors nationwide simultaneously rejected military conscription.

"Earlier this year, similar reports were published that 142 men were going to refuse to render military service."

But an investigation into the claims, the SADF said, 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.

"It is, therefore, clear that the number of people who signed that statement is not a true reflection of the percentage of servicemen who actually refused to render service or failed to report for service."

The SADF went on to say that a meaningful analysis of how the people of the current list responded to their call-ups could only be assessed after the bi-annual intake and the citizen force commitment are made known.

The object of the national register was to ensure that the spotlight remained focused on any official harassment of objectors, to facilitate contact among them.

Police confirmed that four people had been questioned in connection with the campaign.

They were not named by the police, who said three had been released but the fourth was still being held late yesterday.

The names were given in a pamphlet circulated at Wits University by Bettina von Lieres, former president of the Wits Student Representative Council; Sarah and Judy Klipin, and "Ginger" Payne.

At the Johannesburg launch of the anti-conscription register, a lawyer, Mr Chris de Villiers, said more than 780 anti-conscription activists had "stood up" at Press conferences simultaneously in the major centres.

In a statement issued by him, he said 294 of these were people who had completed their initial periods of national service and 79 had completed a portion of their citizen force camp liability.

He said the objectors' group included scientists, lawyers, journalists, doctors, academics, professors, engineers, bishops and priests.

about 40 of a reported 89 signatories attended that in Durban, which was held at Archbishop Hurley's diocesan chancery.

The anti-conscription campaign also spread to Port Elizabeth where 19 activists announced their refusal to serve in the army or join citizen force camps.

Among them was 17-year-old Roy Simpson, who is the youngest military objector out of the more than 780 protesters.

In a joint statement, the Black Sash, the National Medical and Dental Association and the Human Rights Trust said an increasing number of taxpayers were expressing alarm at the high spending on military hardware and its maintenance.

"Such a wasteful use of our limited resources could be used on scarce resources such as housing, health and education," said the statement.

A group of 152 Cape Town conscientious objectors made a public stand in Rondebosch yesterday as part of a national campaign. The oldest objector present was 52.

At Stellenbosch 30 conscientious objectors announced their refusal.

Chairperson of the Rondebosch meeting, Mr David Schmidt, said the banning of the End Conscription Campaign by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, had done nothing to reduce the "intense moral pressure" felt by objectors.

Among the objectors named at the Durban meeting were a former lieutenant in military intelligence, Mr Paul Brink, while churchmen named as having put their name on the register included Benedictine Monk, Jurgen Bezuidenhout, Anglican priests Ray Horracks and Charles Parry, and clergyman Nick Kerr.

The register is to be delivered next week to the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, according to the organisers.

Archbishop Hurley was quoted as saying he was "proud and honoured" that his premises had been chosen as the venue by the objectors to make their statement, and assured them of "our prayers and solidarity".

A statement supporting the objectors was also issued by the Five Freedom Forum.

Named as custodians of the register were Bishop Reg Orsmond (Catholic); the Rev Peter Storey (Methodist); Dr Franz Auerbach, of Jews for Social Justice; Prof Lourens du Plessis, of the University of Stellenbosch; the Catholic Archbishop of Durban, Archbishop Denis Hurley; and a legal academic, Prof David McQuoid-Mason.

About 75 objectors attended the Johannesburg Press conference, and

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