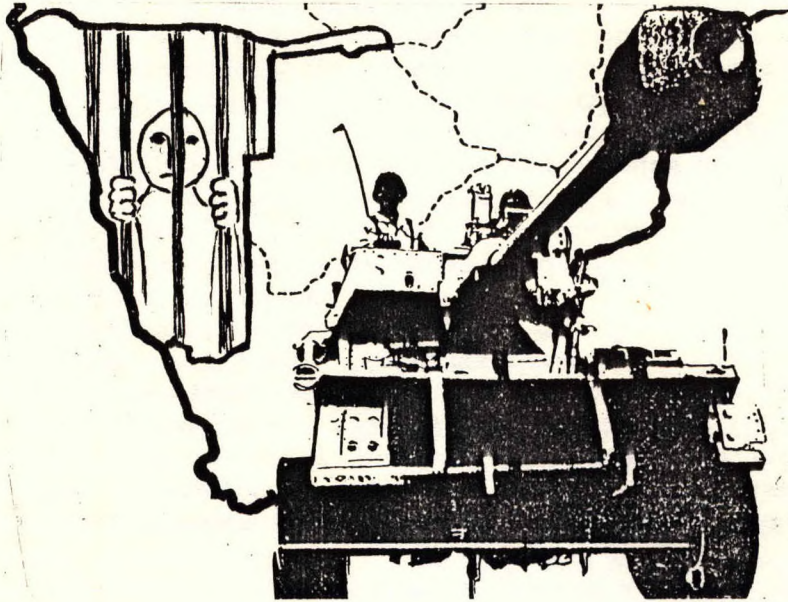


Focus on Namibia /

17.17

A Just Peace Now!



Conscription into the South African Defence Force is an inevitable feature of life for young white South African males. Why, one asks, is conscription necessary? One of the reasons for conscription is South Africa being engaged in a war in Namibia.

Namibia

Namibia was colonized by the Germans in the late 19th Century. During the 2nd world war, the territory, known as German South West Africa, was invaded by South African troops on behalf of the allies. At the conclusion of the war, the Union of South Africa became responsible to the newly formed League of Nations for the administration of the former German colony. South West Africa was designated a Class C Mandate in terms of which she would be administered as an integral part of the mandatory country i.e. South Africa according to the mandate was required inter alia to promote the material and moral wellbeing and social progress of the territory's people, to protect freedom of conscience and religion, not to establish military bases in the territory, and to give reports regularly to the League of Nations.The reports of the Mandates

Commission indicate that the League of Nations, even at this early stage, was severely critical of the Union's administration of South West Africa .

On the dissolution of the League and the establishment of the United Nations after the second World War, the former Mandate system was converted into a trusteeship system by which former mandatory powers were to place the mandated territories under the trusteeship of the United Nations. This South Africa refused to do, arguing that since the inception of the mandate SWA had indeed been administered as an integral part of South Africa. It was therefore proposed that the mandate be terminated and the territory be transferred to the Union. South Africa's relationship with South West Africa amounted to a state of annexation. The International Court of Justice advised against this and the United Nations protested strongly. There was a deadlock and South Africa refused to negotiate, and continued to administer SWA as part of South Africa. Consequently South Africa's apartheid social and economic laws were also enforced on South West Africa - population relocations, forced removals migrant labour, the homeland system, social segregation.....

The next 20 years saw several attempts on the part of the United Nations to intervene in the situation which were consistently thwarted by the intransigence of the South African government. During this time the Ovambo People's organisation, later the South West African People's Organisation, was launched. It focused on making people aware of their rights, resisting forced removals, campaigning against the manifestations of apartheid and by petitioning the United Nations to compel South Africa to withdraw. This liberation movement soon won popular support from the people.

Following the continued failure of international diplomatic means and internal peace resistance, SWAPO decided in August 1966 that these methods would have to be supplemented by military initiatives. "We have no alternative but to rise in arms and bring about our liberation" (Dar Es Salaam Declaration). In 1971 the international Court of Justice declared South Africa's continued presence in Namibia illegal. However, the war continued. The South African Defence Force to all intents and purposes occupied Namibia. Since 1966 nearly 10 000 Namibians have died in the war, and an estimated 100 000 have fled the country. Allegations of atrocities on the part of the SADF are commonplace. South

Africa may claim to carry the burden of Namibia but it is the Namibian people who are really carrying the burden - the burden of military occupation, destabilisation, economic dispossession.

The legacy of the Namibian has been the breakdown of social structures, the erosion of traditional norms and economic activities, the degeneration of health services, an increase in disease, an escalation of crime...the rights of the people are ignored - detention without trial, interrogation, dusk to dawn curfew and military conscriptions of Namibians are features of South Africa's occupation of Namibia.

South Africa has consistently refused to accede to the conditions of Security Council Resolution 435 which calls for the unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia and for United Nations supervised elections. Swapo has frequently restated its willingness to accept the conditions of United Nations Resolution 435. P.W.Botha's recent announcement of South Africa's preparedness to withdraw from Namibia was by no means unconditional. The withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola remained a condition for South African withdrawal. Mr. Botha's announcements implied that Namibia was in need of protection from Swapo and demonstrated his continued refusal to recognise Swapo as the legitimate and popular representative of the Namibian people. Moreover the recent detention of 37 Swapo leaders gives lie to the South African government's carefully cultivated image as the benign guardian of the Namibian people.

South Africa's continued military occupation of Namibia is made possible by the system of compulsory national service in the SADF - conscription. Large numbers of the young men conscripted into the SADF are sent to Namibia to fight a war which is obviously unjust and unwinnable. It is a war to maintain an occupation that has been condemned as illegal by the international community, it is a war which has resulted in heavy casualties and loss of life... Conscription serves to maintain the illegal occupation of Namibia.

We call for an end to conscription
We call for peace with justice in Namibia.

The Campaign to End Conscription

Focus on Namibia

While South Africa makes "peace" with some of her neighbours, the illegal occupation of Namibia continues. The End Conscription Committee (ECC) joins with the Namibian Council of Churches, the SACC, the Anglican and Catholic Churches, the UDF and many other groups in calling for the withdrawal of South African Troops from Namibia. We call for the speedy implementation of UN resolution 435 and the holding of free and fair elections so that Namibians can determine their own future.

TROOPS OUT OF NAMIBIA NOW!

PEACE IN NAMIBIA NOW!



PROGRAM

Saturday 30/6/84

8.00 pm

MULTI-MEDIA CONCERT

Civic Methodist Church

Sunday 1/7/84

7.00 pm

VIGIL

Catholic Cathedral (Saratoga)

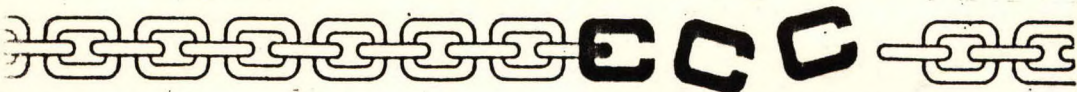
Tuesday 3/7/84

5.30 pm

PUBLIC MEETING

Central Methodist Church Hall

- * Anton Lubowski
- * Pastor Kameeta
- * Sheena Duncan



issued by the Jhb End Conscription Committee

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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