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A DECLARATION OF CONVICTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MILITARY CALL-UP INTO THE SADF

→ 1. I am a practising Christian. I have been laid <sup>hold</sup> of by Christ and called to follow His example and obey His command. He has summonsed me to a life of discipleship, obedience and service with the words "Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me".

2. In following Him His Word instructs me to be diligent to be found at all times walking in the ways of peace; exercising a love of sacrificial calibre to both enemy and friend; and lifting the yoke of injustice from the poor and oppressed of the earth.

→ 3. I am further taught by the Gospel that the means employed in reaching an end must be consistent with that end. It is my conviction that the use of violence as a means is fundamentally incompatible with the ends of peace, reconciling love and justice as outlined above. Therefore I reject the role of soldier <sup>with</sup> the Christian calling as I understand it. <sup>as incompatible</sup>

→ 4. While being a universal invitation equally applicable to all people, the invitation to receive forgiveness and salvation in Jesus Christ has specific and often differing implications for each individual according to his or her particular situation in life. Similarly, while the Christian pacifist witness has universal application, it also has ~~specific~~ specific and often differing implications for each particular situation in which this witness is exercised by word and deed.

→ 5. The necessary foundation for the peace which <sup>G</sup> God has called me to witness to and ~~to~~ work for, is justice and righteousness. <sup>is</sup> Therefore, of equal concern to my <sup>is</sup> pursuit of peace is the call to witness to the injustices which make true peace unattainable and to strive for the true righteousness which is the only basis for that peace. That God's call to me as a pacifist has political implicatons in the specific context of South Africa is therefore obvious.

6. The fundamental obstacle to achievement of this peace and justice in South Africa is Apartheid, enforced by racist and repressive laws chief amongst which are the Population Registration Act, the Land Act, the Group Areas Act, the Internal Security Act and the State of Emergency. This policy of apartheid has been declared a heresy by most churches since it directly contradicts the heart and central message of the Gospel: that Christ's death on the cross broke down the barriers of race, class and sex and that in Him unity and reconciliation is achieved.

→ 7. The South African Defence Force is the chief pillar which the government is using to support its unjust, evil and unChristian system of apartheid. I therefore refuse to deny <sup>y</sup> my faith by serving in it.

out { 8. Indeed, obedience to God compels me to actively work for the weakening of the South African Defence Force. For as long as the government remains confident in the ability of its military might to detain, harass and kill its opponents there is little incentive for it to negotiate a transition to democracy with the leaders who genuinely represent the various communities.

9. It is with a profound awareness of my own failures and  
→ complicity with violence, alienation, prejudice, greed, injustice  
and all the manifestations of apartheid that I obey God's call to  
→ witness to the sinfulness of these things in our own land and, by  
God's grace, point to the way in which God would have us walk.



R. Goldman  
22.6.88

Commissioner of Oaths .  
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