

End Conscription Campaign

15.63.2

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MILITARISATION FACTS AND FIGURES

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

The following figures were released by the Board for Religious Objection and by the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan:

Between the beginning of 1984 when the Board for Religious Objection came into existence and August 1986 a total of 1059 people had applied to the Board to become religious objectors. 123 of these applications were subsequently withdrawn. By September 1986 a total of 16 applicants had been refused by the Board, either because their religious views did not conform with the Board's criteria, or because they were found to be politically motivated. So far no-one has been charged with refusing to serve in the SADF, but ECC Port Elizabeth member, Philip Wilkenson, 23, is currently facing charges for failing to report for a camp. Wilkenson, who was turned down by the Board because they found that he was not a universal religious pacifist, has completed his national service and three camps and now faces a possible three years in jail.

The following are figures for those granted full objector status (category 3);

1984: 155

1985: 266

1986: 342

Of those granted full objector status last year 227 were Jehovah's Witnesses and 115 belonged to other denominations.

Prior to 1983, when the Defence Act was amended to create the Board for Religious Objection, a total of 13 people who fell outside of the accepted "Peace Churches" had been charged with failing to/refusing to report for military service. All of them were conscientious objectors whose stands were politically-related. 12 of them were sentenced and served jail/detention barracks sentences of up to two years. Today those falling outside of the Board's definition of a "bona fide religious pacifist" are liable to serve a sentence of up to six years imprisonment.

EMIGRATION/IMMIGRATION

The End Conscription Campaign believes that one of the main reasons why the number of people emigrating from South Africa is increasing and the number immigrating decreasing is because of military conscription. This is also the view of many independent observers of the South African situation. For example, the superintendent of the hospital settlement of Nqutu in KwaZulu, Dr Kenneth MacDonald, said that conscription was one of the main factors discouraging doctors from staying in South Africa.

The following figures from the Central Statistical Services show the numbers of people emigrating and immigrating since 1983:

Emigration

1983: 8247 (687 per month)
1984: 8550 (713 per month)
1985: 11401 (950 per month)
Jan - Oct 1986: 11835 (1184 per month)

Immigration

30483 (2540 per month)
28793 (2399 per month)
17284 (1440 per month)
5983 (598 per month)

*FAILING TO REPORT FOR DUTY

According to figures released in parliament by the Minister of Defence, General Magnus

ECC

Malan, the following numbers of conscripts failed to report for their national service:

1984: 1 596

1985 (just January call-up): 7 589

(Malan later stressed that over 6 000 of those who failed to report in January 1985 were students, most of whom were later deferred).

In 1986 Malan refused to release the figures of those failing to report for national service, claiming that in the past these figures had been misused "by those campaigning for the termination of compulsory military service. Since then no such figures have been released.

According to the Commanding Officers in several units in the Witwatersrand, in 1985 an average of 25 percent of conscripts failed to turn up for their SADF camps. This figure was released in the trials of five conscripts, all from different units, by their commanding officers, in the Johannesburg Magistrates Court in April 1985.

PERMISSION NOT TO DO TOWNSHIP DUTY

According to the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, 3 national servicemen who asked not to do duty in the townships were employed in "infrastructural posts" in 1986. Malan did not say how many such requests were made by national servicemen.

SADF DETENTION BARRACKS

The SADF has 5 detention barracks capable of accommodating 429 offenders as at February 9 1987, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said in parliament. Malan said it was not possible to give the average number of offenders held in military detention barracks last year.

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE

The following figures show the increase in the Defence budget from 1960 to 1986:

1960: R44 million

1964: R210 million

1972: R300 million

1976: R1,3 billion (1 300 million)

1984: R3,755 billion

1985: R4,274 billion

1986: R5,230 billion

The figure of R5,230 billion is the official Defence budget for 1986. The budget only represents an estimate of defence expenditure and defence spending invariably exceeds the defence budget and is supplemented by the "mini budget" later in the financial year. This figure also does not include several "hidden" items of defence spending. For example in 1986 R323 million from the budget surplus was placed in the Special Defence Account, the size of which is not disclosed, in 1985 R57.577 million was spent on the defence budgets of the "independent" homelands according to Professor Reg Green of the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University South Africa spends about R1,2 billion on the war in Namibia - the money budgeted for the SWA Territorial Force falls under the Finance vote, the amount spent on defence housing and buildings falls under the Department of Public Works vote. It is therefore estimated that real defence expenditure for 1986 was over 7,5 billion. If to this is added the 1986 police budget (R1,0722 billion), "homeland" police expenditure (1985 - R334,4 million) and spending on other security or auxiliary forces, total expenditure on the security forces last year is estimated at being between R9 and R10 billion.

SIZE OF THE SADF/SECURITY FORCES

According to the 1986 report of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, South Africa has 106 400 people in its armed forces, including 64 000 national servicemen. In addition it has a further 167 000 active reserves and 150 000 people serving in its national reserve, meaning that South Africa has a total of 423 000 people in its armed forces or reserves. In addition, by the end of this year the South African Police will have 94 000 people (including the Railway Police which now fall under the SAP), according to the Minister of Law and Order 1 750 "special" constables were trained last year. This does not

include the number of people serving in the defence and police forces of the "independent homelands". It is therefore estimated that South Africa's total security force potential is around 550 000.

TROOPS IN THE TOWNSHIPS

According to the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, a total of 35 372 troops were used in 96 black townships in 1985. Temporary bases were set up in five of these townships as of April 18 1986. He also said that 198 coloured and 120 Indian SADF troops were deployed in the black townships in 1985.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE SADF

The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said in parliament that in 1985 33 official complaints were lodged with the SADF regarding the actions of the troops in the townships and a further 72 civil actions were instituted against the SADF for actions allegedly committed by SADF members while serving in the black townships.

Malan said in parliament that in 1986 26 official complaints were lodged with the SADF regarding the actions of troops in the black townships. In addition, he said, "about 24" SADF members were tried and 17 convicted for "exceeding the bounds of duty while serving in the black townships". One SADF member convicted for raping a township woman was sentenced to a fine of R80. A further 168 civil actions against the SADF were instituted in 1986.

BORDER TOLL

The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said in parliament that in 1986 761 people were killed and injured by the SADF in the operational area last year. He said that 645 of these people were "terrorists". He did not say who the other 116 were.

SADF DEATHS

The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said in parliament that between March 31 1985 and March 31 1986 6 SADF members were killed and 44 injured when "performing duty" in the black townships.

The Deputy Minister of Defence, Wynand Breytenbach, said in parliament that a total of 115 SADF members were killed in military operations and training accidents in 1986.

The former head of SWA Command, Maj-Gen Georg Meiring, said that 32 members of the security forces were killed in Namibia in 1986. 30 were killed in 1985, according to Malan. In addition, 18 members of the South African Police were killed and 192 injured in the "township unrest" last year, the Minister of Law and Order, Adriaan Vlok, said in parliament.

DEATHS IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE

According to figures released by the South African Institute of Race Relations the following numbers of people were killed in political violence over the last three years:

1984: 176
1985: 879
1986: 1298

ANC GUERILLA ATTACKS

According to figures released by the Institute of Strategic Studies at Pretoria University, the following numbers of guerilla attacks took place over the last three years:

1984: 284 (23.6 per month)
1985: 136 (11.3 per month)
1986: (January - November) 228 (20.7 per month)

GUN LICENSES

According to figures released in parliament by the Minister of Law and Order, Adriaan Vlok, a total of 1 061 281 South Africans owned guns in 1986. He did not say how many guns these South Africans owned. He also said that 10 111 guns were reported lost or stolen last year.

DEFENCE WASTE

According to the Auditor General's report to parliament for the 1985/6 tax year a total of R58 million was written off through losses, deficiencies, fruitless expenditure and the cost of repairs. A further R197 486 was listed as unauthorised expenditure. The SADF was singled out by the Auditor General as the main culprit in this wasted expenditure. Units recorded a total of R30 million in stock surplusses and at the same time R20 million in deficiencies. The Auditor General, Joep de Loor, reported the SADF had undertaken 2 007 internal reports which had resulted in 61 adverse gradings, 147 unsatisfactory, 951 satisfactory and 848 favourable gradings.

Last year the Auditor General reported that loss, damage and avoidable expense in the SADF cost more than R32 million in the 1984/5 financial year.

SADF SUICIDES

According to figures released in parliament by the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, a total of 453 SADF members committed suicide or attempted to do so last year. This figure included 24 successful suicides. 362 of these incidents involved attempted suicides by national servicemen and 18 involved successful suicides by national servicemen. In 1985 a total of 260 national servicemen attempted to commit suicide and a further 16 were successful. In the 40 months prior to January 1 1987 a total of 98 SADF members successfully committed suicide. Of last year's attempted suicides by national servicemen 272 took drug overdoses, 58 slashed their wrists, 10 shot themselves, 4 swallowed glass, 4 stabbed themselves, 3 swallowed razor blades, one jumped from a building and one drank poison.

SADF PUBLICATIONS

According to figures released in parliament by the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, the SADF released 83 publications in the 1986/7 financial year, 16 of which cost R717 844. Malan said the 67 publications for which production costs were not listed were indirectly financed by using existing SADF personnel and facilities. The most expensive directly financed publications were the Warrior (R300 000) and Contact (250 000). Others included Militaria (R45 000), Ultima Ratio Regum (R40 000), Cadet (R35 000), SA Defence Force (R20 000), Zipfel (R3 000), and Indaba (R6 500). Among the publications indirectly financed were Paratus, Uniform; AD Astra, Bataleur 44 Bulletin, Chiroptera, Sophist, Strelitzia, Reveille, Supero, Vier Zero, Vigilantia and Wingfo.

TOWNSHIP OPINIONS ON THE SADF

A survey of the opinions of township residents conducted by the Women for Peace in August last year reached, among others, the following conclusions: the presence of the SADF in the townships was seen by residents as the major cause of the continuing "unrest" and the army presence in the schools was the single thing most bitterly resented. A total of 312 residents of Soweto, Alexandra and Daveyton were questioned for the survey. An earlier survey showed that 90 percent of township residents opposed the presence of the troops in the townships.

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