

UPDATE ON SOUTH AFRICAN WAR RESISTANCE ISSUES.

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After a meeting between the ANC and the NP, the ANC agrees to suspend "all armed action with immediate effect" and that "No further armed action and related activities by the ANC and MK will take place".

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A creche built by members of Cape Town and UCT ECC in Khayelitsha is officially opened. The building of the creche was part of Cape Town's August call-up focus. *Michael Graaf sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment, suspended on condition he does 2400 hours of unpaid community service at King Edward III hosp in Durban.*

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10 exiled CO's returned to South Africa as part of the ECC/COSAWR "Safe Return Campaign". A press conference was held at Jan Smuts Airport and a large group of friends and supporters were there to welcome the returning group and their partners home. Very good

publicity was given to the return, especially in the Afrikaans press.

#### JANUARY 1991

The new year started off with a bang as three COs publicly refused to serve in the SADF by not reporting for military service. The COs were Alan Story, Francois Krige and Warren Van Rooyen. All of them have officially notified the SADF of their refusal to serve and are now waiting to be charged. Francois Krige was one of the 10 COs who returned from exile at the end of 1990. Two other members of the return group, Fritz Joubert and Gerald O'Sullivan also face call ups in July. Several other COs that COSG and ECC have heard of have also refused to do either initial military service or camps.

#### FEBRUARY

State President FW De Klerk announces that in the following parliamentary session the Population Registration Act as well as other pieces of apartheid legislation are to be repealed. This statement leads to speculation as to how long the system of military conscription is to last, as the eligibility for conscription is defined in terms of the Population Registration Act.

Following the speech of the State President, Deputy Minister of Defence Breytenbach outlines some of the changes that will affect the SADF. He states that in the interim the system of "whites only" conscription is to remain. However, Minister of Defence Malan several days later states in parliament that the system of conscription is being seriously reviewed. It is expected that some clear statement on the future of conscription is to be announced in this session of parliament.

John Pearce, the leader and coordinator of the Johannesburg City Council's <sup>city council</sup> found guilty of misconduct and discharged from the Council's service. Pearce had spearheaded the campaign to spy on organisations in Johannesburg through Council-paid spies. ECC was able to testify at Pearce's hearing giving details on the activities of Tony Bennet, the city council employee paid to spy on ECC.

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Rev Alan Storey called in by the Johannesburg Military Police and charged with refusing to serve in the SADF. Trial date set for April 15

Durban ECC stages a rush-hour picket demanding the removal from office of Defence Minister Magnus Malan. They also have a whole one-day stand in the city centre.

#### APRIL 1991

April 3 Objector Paddy Devine pays a R200 Admission of Guilt fine at Pretoria North Magistrates Court - for failing to report for a camp.

April 6. Johannesburg Methodist Order of Peacemakers organises a placard and pamphlet demo at the Defence Force exhibit at the Rand Show. Some COSG and ECC members also took part.

Demonstration stopped by Military Police who also confiscated the media and threatened prosecution; after lengthy negotiations the demonstrators were escorted outside the showgrounds, the placards returned and the demo continued on the road near the entrance.

April 8. Peter Auf de Heyde appears in the Johannesburg Magistrates Court charged with failing to register. Argument advanced by his lawyer is that Failure to register is not an offence in terms of the Act. Case remanded to May 28.

Two cases of Failure to Report heard on the same day:

Matthys Otto let off with a warning after explaining he had understood that the camp call-up was for standby only, that he runs his own business and couldn't afford to lose a month's income tho willing to do camps! Carlos Barbosa had applied for deferment from his camp - not granted, but he didn't turn up anyway <sup>pleaded</sup> domestic commitments: fined R300.

April 10. Two more cases of Failure to Report in Johannesburg; Clyde Winter and Wayne Brosher - both remanded to June 3

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Mid April. ANC member Garth Damerell-Moss appears in the Port Elizabeth Magistrates Court charged with Failing to report for a camp last year. Case postponed to June 3.

April 25 and 26. Defence budget debate in Parliament. Malan makes various confused statements about the future of the Defence Force, a Better deal for Conscientious Objectors, and Conscription - which will continue as is for the time being

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

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## REVIEW OF SOUTH AFRICAN WAR RESISTANCE ISSUES May 1990 to April 1991

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At the COSG National Conference near Johannesburg, COSG approves a policy statement on Conscientious Objection as a basic human right, to be entrenched in a Bill of Rights for post-Apartheid South Africa. COSG also decided to widen its international contacts and to show solidarity with C.Os in other countries

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Michael Graaf sentenced to one year in jail, suspended on condition that he completes 2400 hours of unpaid community service at King Edward VII Hospital, at the rate of 72 hours per month. While Michael's sentence is welcomed as a breakthrough from the prison-only sentences, it is nevertheless exceptionally heavy compared to other community service sentences.

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SECTION 2 : PRINCIPLES RELATED TO A FUTURE DEFENCE FORCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

INTRO/CONTEXT

\* ECC National Committee suggested the drafting of a paper to reflect ECC thinking on principles related to a future defence force in South Africa.

\* This paper is a draft framework for use in discussion. The questions which follow are intended to facilitate debate.

DRAFT FRAMEWORK

1. NON-RACIALISM

A new defence force must be non-racial in character. However when the creation of a new defence force takes place there can be no semblances of racism with regard to units, structure, or recruitment. The new defence force should be open to all citizens of South Africa.

- should one be talking of non-racialism? what about minority rights ?
- how are all the different elements of the forces and people that will make up a new defence force be accommodated ?
- how will certain units respond to their disbanding ? will the Transvaal highlanders or the June 16 detachment be happy with disbanding in accord with non-racialism ?
- what about recruitment policy ?

2. DEFENCE POLICY

a) The defence forces primary role must be the protection of the territorial integrity of South Africa. The use of the Defence Force in internal operations is unacceptable. Internal security is the responsibility of the police force.

b) SA should be committed to developing a nuclear free zone in Africa (in accordance with the OAU's position) and the surrounding oceans

c) SA should adhere to the Geneva conventions relating to the protocol of war and all related internationally accepted agreements that govern the conduct of warfare

- what about internal security in times of war ? when is the defence force entitled to declare war ?

3. DEMOCRACY AND THE NEW DF

a) The new DF should be fully accountable to an all-party parliamentary committee

b) Principles of internal democracy should be prioritised with special emphasis on the individual rights of soldiers as embodied in a bill of rights

c) Soldiers should be entitled to their own political opinions and the right to vote according to their conscience. However in line with maintaining a defence force that will remain accountable to the elected government of the day the influence of party political agendas within the DF must be discouraged through a number of avenues.

d) No member of the Defence Force should be such a member against his or her will; in the event of universal or partial conscription in times of war provision must be made for conscientious objectors in line with a universally accepted bill of rights.

- how can accountability be ensured with a non-conscripted army ? what avenues can be used from a parliament level down to a grass roots level to ensure accountability ?
- what defines an official secret and what level of disclosure should the public be entitled to ?

4. FURTHER ISSUES

a) what type of army is desirable in South Africa ? A professional army or an army based largely on peoples militias ?

b) should the army be the only agency with military capacity ? What type of firearms policy should exist with regard to civilians and their right to defend themselves ?

ends/

ECC CONFERENCE 9 - 12 May 1991

THURSDAY

8pm Registration  
 7pm Supper  
 8.30pm-10pm Opening session  
 \* Welcome and introductions + agenda review.  
 \* Guest speaker:  
 - Conscription and ECC: analysis of the past, present and future. *Chris - Code of conduct. Chippy Oloer.*

FRIDAY

7.30am Breakfast  
 9am Inputs:  
 \* Assessment of SADF: Malan, CCB, conscription, SADF in townships, etc. *(how?)*  
 \* Assessment of ECC *(Raddy)* on previous inputs.  
 10am Small group discussions:  
 \* What are ECC's priorities? *Questions.*  
 11am Tea (regional treasurers to meet with national treasurer)  
 11.30 Treasurers report  
 12.noon Report backs/panel/plenary discussions;  
 \* Setting ECC's priorities *Question master - limit.*  
 1pm Lunch  
 2pm-4pm Small groups:  
 \* priority action groups: In terms of priorities *Small groups on policy 2-3.* identified in morning session (e.g. Malan, CCB, July Action, C.O., Natal monitoring, end of conscription, etc) one small group per priority to plan activities  
 4pm FREE TIME  
 7pm Super dinner  
 8pm-10pm Report on Natal violence monitoring..  
*war resistors & C.O's.*

SATURDAY

7.30am Breakfast *shab (12 mins)*  
 9am *Hayden's report*  
 A non-military defence force in the future? (input and discussion) *Barbar?*  
 10.30 Tea  
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 11.30 Policy discussions - formulating policy on:  
 \* Conscription and a future army  
 \* a code of conduct for a future army  
 12-1 *inputs* *Setting priorities*  
 1pm Lunch  
 2pm Free Time (Representatives of regions to national committee to meet)  
 5pm *Priority action groups.*  
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 8.30pm The Endless Conscription Campaign entertainers featuring the notorious "Trish Wallner Quartet", back by popular demand "The better activist than singers" and by no means least, at least one act from each Endless Campaign from around sunny South Africa

SUNDAY

7.30am Breakfast  
 9am Planning Plenary: formulating ECC's plan of action  
 \* Reports from priority action groups  
 \* Discussion  
 \* Ratification of National employees/office bearers  
 11am Assessment and Closure

NB: This is a draft agenda. There is lots of room on the agenda for other issues to be discussed, but we felt that there should also be plenty of free time. Please forward suggestions/comments to Nan. If you are suggesting educational type inputs, please consider who could give the inputs and which region could take responsibility for organising it. Each region will be asked to take responsibility for sections of the conference in terms of running sessions, chairing, etc.



First draft.

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**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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