

'n Register begin vir beswaardes

Deur Ons
Kerksake-verslaggewer

'N REGISTER vir gewetensbeswaardes wat weier om in die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag te dien, is in verskillende sentrums in die land begin.

Volgens die jongste uitgawe van Seek, amptelike blad van die Anglikaanse Kerk in Suider-Afrika, het die register ten doel om telling te hou van die mans wat gekant is teen militêre diensplig. Altesame 757 mans is reeds geregistreer.

Beskermhare van die register is onder andere biskop Bruce Evans en biskop David Russell van die Anglikaanse Kerk, biskop Peter Storey van die Metodistekerk en aartsbiskop Denis Hurley van die Rooms-Katolieke Kerk.

Seek haal 'n verklaring aan wat uitgereik is deur die organiseerders, waarin

verwys word na die "moed van David Bruce en Charles Bestor, wat op die oomblik ses jaar tronkstraf uitdien omdat hulle geweier het om diens te doen in die Weermag, en Saul Batzofin, wat ook tronkstraf uitdien".

Luidens die verklaring sal "sommige van ons tronk toe gaan".

"Ander sal kies om godsdienstbeswaardes te word. Baie van ons sal kies tussen 'n lewe as uitgewekenes of voortdurende vermyding van oproepe om diensplig te doen.

"Daar is geen rede waarom die doodmakery in Suid-Afrika moet aanhou totdat 'n onderhandelde skikking bereik is nie. Ons is nie bereid om deel te wees van die Regering se oorlog nie," lui die verklaring wat deur die gewetensbeswaardes onderteken word.

Honderde byeen oor besware teen diensplig

Die Burger 22/1/91

GEWETENSBEWAARDES teen diensplig het gister lanwyd op sewe plekke bygeëngkom om 'n nasionale naamregister te begin en protes teen verpligte diensplig aan te teken.

Altesame 780 mense het gisterogend in Kaapstad, Stellenbosch, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Grahamstad, Durban en Bloemfontein op nuuskonferensies hul name op die register geplaas, het die sameroeper van die byeenkoms, mnr. Chris de Villiers, in Johannesburg gesê, berig Sapa.

In Kaapstad het 241 mans hulle gister byeenkomstig op sewe plekke bygeëngkom om 'n nasionale naamregister te begin en protes teen verpligte diensplig aan te teken.

Beskermhare van die register sluit in biskop Reg Ormond van die Rooms-Katolieke Kerk, biskop Peter Storey van die Metodistekerk, dr. Franz Auerbach van Jews for Social Justice en prof. Lourens du Plessis van die fakulteit van regsgeleerdheid van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch.

Ons kantoor op Stellenbosch berig dat 30 beswaardes, van wie 22 Maties, hul name gister by die register gevoeg het.

Onder hulle is 'n dosent, mnr. Victor Honey van die departement van beeldende kunste, en sy twee seuns, Tim en Nathan. Eerw. Luke Stubbs en die skrywer Charl Naudé is ook lede van die groep.

Die studente sluit in mnr. Daniël Malan, Nusas-bestuurslid en voorsitter van die Stellenbosse Aktuele Aangeleenthedskring, Christoff Oosthuizen, redakteur van Kampus Kruis, en Wayne Mudge, voorsitter van Anglikaanse vereniging.

Die Universiteit van Stellenbosch is in 'n verklaring veroordeel vir die steun wat hy in verskeie opsigte aan die Weermag verleen, asook vir die wedersydse betrokkenheid ten opsigte van akademiese opleiding en navorsing oor militêre tegnologie.

Uit Pretoria het 'n woordvoerder van die SA Weermag gewaarsku dat regstappe gedoen sal word teen mense wat teen militêre diensplig gekant is en hulle nie daarvoor aanmeld nie, berig Sapa.

BEELD, WOENSDAG, 11 OKTOBER 1989

Natal
Witness
Oct-5-89



Two of the group who were protesting in Cape Town yesterday against conscription pin flowers on a member of the SADF at the army offices in the Castle. A crowd of about 500 conscientious objectors marched from St George's Cathedral to the Castle to deliver their petition against service in the armed forces.

Conscientious objectors march on Castle

CAPE TOWN — About 350 people joined a Conscientious Objectors Support Group march from the St George's Cathedral in Cape Town to the Castle yesterday, 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. The march was held after an inter-faith service in the cathedral hall which was led by the Anglican dean of Cape Town, the Very Reverend Colin Jones. Dean Jones said that the objectors, who refused to take up arms, were advocating peace. "They are waging peace, not war, and deserve our support... I salute them," he said. — Sapa.

6 The Star Friday September 22 1989



Taking a stand... some of the young men who say the SA Defence Force is an obstinate peaceful change. Picture by Jacobo

Register of objectors launched

rather face jail or exile than serve in the Defence Force. The SADF, they said, was responsible for the maintenance of apartheid and was therefore "an obstacle to peaceful change".

Attorney Mr Chris de Villiers, one of the 145 objectors who last year publicly stated their opposition to compulsory military conscription, said more and more people countrywide were opposed to serving in the SADF and were clamouring for alternative non-military service.

He said the objectors were not hopeful that they would now get a sympathetic hearing from President de Klerk's Government because nothing had changed. The law affecting conscription was still on the statute books, the End Conscription



Anti-conscription demos have fun with a friendly soldier doing guard duty outside Cape Town's Castle this week. The protestors marched through town to the local military headquarters, where they delivered a petition. Picture: MIKE HUTCHINGS

Anti-conscription protest marches to the army's gates

the documents were delivered nevertheless. Permission had earlier been granted for the march, which attracted crowds of bystanders as it snaked through the city.

As the marchers — six abreast and walking with arms linked — moved down Adderley Street, a middle-aged white man said to his companion: "You can see they're all pooliers."

From others the response was friendly. As the march progressed through the city, its numbers swelled with people falling in step.

A police video unit filmed the procession, but otherwise the SAP was conspicuous by its absence.

The march came after an ecumenical service in the St George's Cathedral Hall, where the Anglican Dean of Cape Town, Colin Jones, paid tribute "as a black person" to the courage of the 771 who were "waging peace, not war".

Candles were lit, one by one, for "unwilling conscripts now in the army"; for those forced into exile by their refusal, on political grounds, to serve; and for all those who "have suffered at the hands of the SADF".

Dr Ivan Toms, the first person to be jailed for refusing to serve in the SADF since legislation in 1983 provided for a Religious Board of Objectors, lit candles for "three comrades" now serving jail terms: David Bruce, Charles Bestor and Saul Batzofin.

"Next year I will be joining them in prison myself," said Toms, who served part of his sentence before being released on bail pending appeal.

By GAYE DAVIS, Cape Town

The Dutch East India Company in the 17th century — is now the headquarters of the South African Defence Force's Western Province military command.

The marchers had come to deliver the names of the 771 conscientious objectors countrywide who recently declared their refusal to serve in the SADF, and to hand over demands that conscription be scrapped and that jailed conscientious objectors be released.

Major Johan Reddelinghuys, second in command of WP Command, was "in a conference" and unable to meet them, said Mike Rautenbach, a member of the delegation which disappeared into the Castle's depths. But

the historic fortress — a seat of military power since it was built by

BUSINESS DAY, Friday, September 22 1984 Red Cro.

Nation-wide register against conscription

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION activists around the country yesterday launched a national register to facilitate contact amongst themselves and keep the spotlight focused on action against those refusing to do national service.

Sapa reports that the convener of yesterday's meeting in Johannesburg, Chris de Villiers, said more than 700 people in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, Durban and Bloemfontein had stood up at simultaneous Press conferences.

About 75 objectors attended the Johannesburg conference, attended by a wide range of international and local media.

"We have decided in good conscience and of our own accord that we cannot serve in the defence force," said a statement on behalf of the objectors.

Asked whether their status might change in view of the reconciliatory gesture by President F.W. de Klerk, De Villiers said they held out little hope.

He added that most objectors supported alternative, non-military, non-umtive methods of serving in the army. He rejected accusations that they were a bunch of communists.

saying he had been a lieutenant in the air force when he made his decision. Earlier in the day, four marshalls co-ordinating the gathering of the objectors were detained by police.

It had not been established whether they would face charges. Among them was Bettina von Lieres, a former president of the student representative council at Wits University.

In Grahamstown, a further 48 objectors publicly added their names to the register, including among them Grahamstown Bishop, the Rt Rev David Russell.

Chancery

At a Press conference in Grahamstown yesterday, Russell said it was a "tremendous privilege" to be part of the group of objectors.

Thirty conscientious objectors in Stellenbosch, including Mattie student leaders and one lecturer, also joined the register. The group includes 22 Stellenbosch students.

In Durban, the register was announced at a Press conference at the Diocesan Chancery of Roman Catholic Archbishop of Durban Denis Hurley, who said he was "proud and honoured" the group of objectors had joined.

He first visited the Hanekoms' Tagaliesberg dairy farm early in 1983 "to find out what they were doing in terms of rural development". Soon he became a frequent visitor, and as he put it, "the nature of the relationship changed very quickly".

The initial indictment against the Hanekoms had a secret communications network with an ANC member, and that through these means Hunter had access to a large quantity of stolen military intelligence documents to the Communist movement.

According to Derek Hanekom, the ANC in turn passed this on to Frelimo who used it in their Nkomati negotiations with the South African government.

"The SADF knew Frelimo had a lot of information about its operations. It became clear to them there was a leak and the army's investigations led to Roland's arrest."

On December 13, 1983, about a year after he first met the Hanekoms, Roland Hunter was detained. The following day truckloads of soldiers and police burst into the Hanekoms' bedroom with machine guns. For over nine months the three were each kept in solitary confinement, before beginning their sentences in the white political section of Pretoria Central.

"I was gearing myself up for a 20-year sentence," said the tall 31-year-old. "But then they dropped the treason charges and I got the five-year maximum under the Defence Act for passing on military secrets to unauthorised persons."

From the state's point of view the apparent reason for the lesser charges was their fear of the disclosure of the evidence Hunter had collected about the SADF's role supporting Renamo — especially since there was talk of subpoenaing the state president.

Top cabinet officials met with their advocate, the late Ernie Wentzel, SC, and it was agreed that the trial would be held *in camera* and the three would plead guilty to lesser charges — Hunter under the Defence Act and the Hanekoms for possessing literature of banned organisations.

Because of the *in camera* provision and the Defence Act, Hunter is still not at liberty to say what really happened. This week he was still not prepared to talk about his work in the SADF or the proceedings of his trial.

For the rest of the world the story broke almost as soon as the three were charged. But at home the first legal suggestion of what happened came during a heated parliamentary debate in May 1985 when Graham McIntosh of the Progressive Federal Party accused the SADF of being "a major aggressor in southern Africa".

In the debate McIntosh called for Hunter's release, and described the intelligence corporal as having felt on discovering the SADF's role in supporting Renamo. He said Hunter's tasks "were linked to paying and supplying the INR or Renamo (the rebel Mozambique National Resistance Movement) instructors and insurgents."

"Hunter must have felt the same moral agony that a decent German must have felt when he realised the state was gassing Jews, Slavs and gypsies."

Today Hunter insists there was no moral agony involved. "When I saw what I saw I knew that I had to do and the next step was to find out the best way of doing it. There was no anguish at all."



Conscientious objectors stage their demonstration in Johannesburg yesterday in protest against compulsory military service.

'I would do the same again,' says the spy who exposed Renamo

THE SADF intelligence corporal who first exposed the army's active support for Renamo emerged from nearly six years behind bars on Tuesday saying he had no regrets and was "completely unrehabilitated".

"If such a situation arose again I would do the same thing — only I'd do it better. I wouldn't get caught," said Roland Hunter a day after walking out of Pretoria Central Prison.

Had it not been for the government's sensitivity about information Hunter had passed on to African National Congress members Derek and Trish Hanekom, all three would be in prison for at least the next decade.

Instead the Hanekoms, who served shorter sentences, are now public ANC members based in Harare while Hunter is free to follow a career as an economist.

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Roland Hunter ... free again. Picture: STEVE HILTON-BARBER

Having previously completed a degree in economics and a diploma in planning at Wits University, Hunter used his time in prison to complete a Unisa economics honours degree and is currently finishing off a masters.

"It's possible to sleep your way through prison, but we all had deep instincts against this. It's important to remain disciplined and keep active."

He kept fit running around a tiny concrete courtyard, playing badminton and lifting weights.

Those he left behind are former naval commodore Dieter Gerhardt, who was convicted for spying for the Soviet Union, and ANC members Karl Niehaus, Rob Adam, Steve Marais and Eric Pelsler. In another section are Broederstroom trialists Damien de Lange and Ian Robertson, who are awaiting sentence.

"Every six months the state president's offer that early releases would be considered if we renounce violence was repeated to the prisoners," said Hunter. "This was an attempt to divide us and to break the solidarity of political prisoners and we rejected it."

Hunter intended to remain politically active, "wherever I can be useful". Last Thursday, five days before his release, the names Hunter and Hanekom appeared among the 771 who publicly announced their refusal to serve in the SADF. Hunter was arrested eight days before his two years' national service was due to end, and he is adamant he will not serve if called up for camps.

"I am resolved never again to serve in the apartheid army. But I am not a pacifist and would be prepared to fight in defence of a just order in South Africa."

"But at the moment his priority is to savour his freedom. 'I've been out 24 hours and it's terrific,' he said on Wednesday. 'Things are happening thick and fast and I'm a bit overwhelmed.'"

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.

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 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.

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

THE CITIZEN COMMENT

Conchies

CONSIDERING how things stand, it was inevitable that a new anti-conscription movement would be started, since the End Conscription Campaign itself is restricted. To the radical Left, conscription is a swear word. The presence of the army in the townships is condemned and the withdrawal of the troops is demanded by the ANC and its fronts in South Africa. The SADF is labelled an apartheid force, though it has Blacks, Coloureds and Indians serving in it as well as Whites. However, the SADF, together with the police, has helped to end the unrest in the townships, and both stand in the way of the ANC-SA Communist Party attempt to make South Africa ungovernable through the defiance campaign. It suits the ANC-SACP to have young men refuse national service, since it is another form of defiance of the State and its laws. It suits the ANC-SACP to have morale in the SADF undermined by conscientious objectors questioning the nature of military service and making unfounded allegations against the army, since a weakened SADF would improve the ANC's hopes of defeating the security forces (not that it ever will). It would also suit the ANC-SACP alliance and its fronts if the SADF were no longer in the townships, since they would be able again to set houses on fire, burn or wreck schools, set up street committees, introduce "people's courts", necklace "informers" and set fire to the homes of policemen, and give the impression they were taking over. Furthermore, the campaign against conscription focuses world attention on the army, which is accused of helping to suppress legitimate anti-government activities in the townships. The demands for the army's withdrawal from the townships are fuelled by the accusations of the conchies. Not that all conscientious objectors are aware of the machinations of the ANC-SACP or are willing tools of these revolutionary organisations. Some have genuine religious objections to military services and are given alternative service, including community work. What the law does prevent is the refusal of military service on political grounds — and it is precisely the young men who are imbued with radical ideology who are the biggest group of conscientious objectors. It is they who are trying to put anti-conscription back in the limelight by forming a National Register of objectors. The SADF says legal action will be taken against those who fail to report for service — and whatever the outcry, here or overseas, prosecutions will follow and young men will be jailed. Those who organise or support the National Register must share responsibility for this. The clampdown on objectors does not mean, however, that the authorities should not do anything more than punish those who evade military service. They should be inquiring whether, besides objections on purely religious grounds, there may be other categories in which some form of alternative service would be appropriate. The very harsh sentences that can be imposed — a couple of conscientious objectors are serving six years in jail — should also be reviewed. The whole question of the use of manpower by the SADF, including possible cuts in the two-year period of national service, is being examined by a special committee. In view of the end of the Border War, the pullout from Namibia, and the growing peace initiative in Southern Africa, the SADF does not have the same commitments as it had previously. Perhaps the numbers of men called up as well as the period of service could be reduced. That does not mean the SADF should be less powerful. It is our bulwark against a hostile world; it is also the shield behind which the reforms that can bring about a new South Africa will be

Letters

Treatment of objectors is harshest in world

The six-year jail sentences handed down to conscientious objectors David Bruce and Charles Bester are longer than those handed down to objectors in any other country in the world over the last 15 years. The previous longest sentences to conscientious objectors were handed down in Greece during the reign of the colonels. In Bulgaria, one of the more repressive Eastern European countries, the longest sentence which can be imposed on a conscientious objector at one time is two years. The longest known cumulative sentence, arising from four convictions, is approximately five years. In the Soviet Union the maximum jail sentence applicable to conscientious objectors is three years. There are no known cases in recent years of anyone having served that long a sentence. The Soviet Union provides an alternative, non-military service to conscientious objectors, although it is arranged by the military. At present, the possibility of extending the system of non-military service is being debated. Last year Poland and Hungary extended completely non-military service to conscientious objectors, including political objectors, along the lines of the West German system. Twenty-three countries which practice conscription have alternative service in some form. Alternative service is the longest in South Africa, at six years. Greece is second with a four-year period. The average period of alternative service is 18 months. It should be clear that it is no exaggeration to say that South Africa currently treats its conscientious objectors more harshly than any other country in the world. Whether E.C. Williams' incorrect statements arise from ignorance and reliance on outdated references, or whether they are a deliberate attempt to mislead our readers, we can only guess. It is significant that even in the Soviet Union, the country where the "total onslaught" is supposed to originate, conscientious objectors are treated less harshly than in South Africa and that a more flexible system of alternative service is being debated. Meanwhile, in South Africa, the End Conscription Campaign has effectively been banned, and public debate on this issue has been stifled by state emergency regulations, not to mention the illegal smear campaigns conducted by the SADF itself. Of course, there will be those who argue that it is not relevant what goes on elsewhere in the world, and that our laws must reflect our own standards. Sounds reasonable? Then consider the sentencing of two policemen a few weeks ago, where sentences of five and six years were handed down for robbery and culpable homicide. (The Star, Monday September 1). One of the policemen put his pistol against the head of the victim and fired a shot, killing her. In passing sentence, the judge emphasised that he was imposing what he regarded as a stiff sentence, which should act as a deterrent to others, especially corrupt policemen. Contrast this with the six-year sentences handed down to David Bruce and 18-year-old Charles Bester. The question may then occur to you: Is our law concerning conscientious objectors based on standards of fairness and justice, or standards of brutality and vindictiveness? The harsh treatment of South African conscientious objectors is a disgrace and reflects badly not only on our legal system, as corrupted by decades of self-serving legislation by the Nationalist regime, but also on the South African public who tolerate such injustice. Chris de Villiers for Conscientious Objector Support Group Johannesburg.

WE WILL NOT serve in the SADF



any of the 772 white men who this week publicly refused to serve in the SADF face six years in prison — or a life of three men are already serving jail sentences for refusing to serve. Pic: BONGANI MNGUNI

By CONNIE MOLISI

HUNDREDS of young white South African men have publicly refused to serve in the SADF. Launching a Register of Conscientious Objectors in Johannesburg this week, 772 men liable for call up announced their decision to refuse to serve. The men said they will respond to the call up in different ways. Some will go to jail, others will opt for religious objector status, while many will choose between a life in exile or constant evasion of the call up. Of the 772 conscripts, 130 have completed military service and are liable for six years' imprisonment, 134 have completed some of their initial service, 40 have completed some of their camp allotments and 10 are liable for reserve duties. They could all face between 18 months' and three years' imprisonment for refusing to serve. A total of 49 of the 134 who have completed some service were officers or non-commissioned officers. Many are professionals. Among the 772 were bishops, doctors, lawyers, teachers, dentists, computer scientists, university lecturers and professors, engineers, journalists, musicians, actors, and a company director. A group statement said: "The solutions to the problems of South Africa are political and not military. We are committed to using our skills to serve our country in a positive and constructive way. "We believe this cannot be achieved by participation in the SADF which has consistently been used to uphold apartheid. "Many thousands have already died in South Africa. There is no reason why the killing should continue before a negotiated settlement can be achieved. We are not prepared to be part of the government's war." The conscripts declared their solidarity with jailed objectors David Bruce, Charles Bester and Saul Batzofin, and called for their immediate release. Chairman of the Johannesburg-Pretoria region of the register, Chris de Villiers, said Group Rights — on which the next government's constitutional dispensation is based — is simply apartheid under another label. De Villiers, an Afrikaans speaking lawyer who studied at Pretoria university, said the objectors are drawn from both the English and Afrikaans speaking communities. A statement from church worker Michael Dominix Pothier, said: "The SADF is involved in a range of unchristian and unjustifiable activities. "My understanding of the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, to which I adhere, have made it clear to me that I can have no part in the SADF or its activities." A statement from the National Jewish Conscientious Objectors called for alternatives to conscription to be made available. "We believe that non-punitive, constructive community service provides such a concrete alternative to military service. In this way national service will become beneficial to the entire South African community," said the statement. Trade unionist Jeremy Baskin said: "I cannot support an army which is used to stifle protest and legitimate opposition by the black majority in our country." Vrye Weekblad editor Max Du Preez said: "I believe in a non-racial democracy and will object to any service in the SADF until it becomes the defence force of a new apartheid-free South Africa, where everybody is free and has equal rights and voting power."



Legal action likely against objectors

PRETORIA — The South African Defence Force warned last night that legal action would be taken against military objectors who failed to report for service.

It added, however, 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.

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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.

"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 on the current list responded to their call-ups could be assessed only after the bi-annual intake and the citizen force commitments are made known.

— Sapa

757 whites decide on conscientious objection

HERALD REPORTERS

A TOTAL of 757 whites country-wide publicly announced their refusal yesterday to serve in the South African Defence Force, a figure so far unprecedented in the history of conscientious objection to the SADF.

Of the national figure, 294 have completed their initial period of service and 79 have completed some of their camp.

Many have done active service in Angola, Namibia and in the African townships of South Africa.

More than 300 have done military service, while 68 were doing it or have done "community service".

At a Port Elizabeth Press conference, marking the launch of the Register of Conscientious Objectors, attended by local and foreign journalists, it was announced that 19 of those objecting to serve in the SADF were from the city.

The 19 comprise five who have completed their initial military service and some camps; eight on the Reserve, making them eligible for Dad's Army commitments; and six who have not completed any service.

A Greenbushes youth, Roy Simpson, 17, the youngest objector in the country, due to start his first military camp, is one of a Port Elizabeth group including a captain and five lieutenants.

Others are Mr Peter Dickson, 26, a newspaper reporter; Mr James Fourie, 29, an architecture student; Mr Carel Garish, 30, a librarian; Mr Glenn Goosen, 27, a candidate attorney; Mr Wayne Gray, 26, an attorney; Mr Norman Heath, 45, an accountant; Mr Walter Jackson, 43, a minister of religion; Mr Kobus Pienaar, 32, an attorney; Mr Anthony Rutherford, 22, a law student; Mr Greg Schultz, 22, an

artist; Mr Mark Smith, 30, minister of religion; Mr Philip Wilkinson, 26, a businessman; Mr Howard Varnay, 29, a candidate attorney; Mr Ronald Watson, 39, a businessman; Mr Valance Watson, 37, a university student; Mr Cheeky Watson, 34, a businessman; Mr Keith Watrus, 31, local director of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative in South Africa; and Mr Lawrence Wilmot, 45, a minister of religion.

Numbers of objectors in other areas:

Cape Town 241, Stellenbosch 26, Johannesburg 260, Pretoria 12, Bloemfontein 4, Durban 82, Maritzburg 30, East London 9, Grahamstown 48, other areas 26.

Mr Glenn Goosen, Port Elizabeth co-ordinator of the Register for Conscientious Objectors, said the conscripts "have decided in good conscience and out of our own accord, that we cannot serve in the SADF".

A call was made for the release of imprisoned objectors David Bruce, Charles Bester and Saul Batzofin, with whom the conscripts pledged solidarity.

The Anglican Bishop of Port Elizabeth, the Right Reverend Bruce Evans, was appointed custodian of the Register of Conscientious Objectors in Port Elizabeth.

Seven Grahamstown people liable for Dad's Army military call-up were among a group of 48 local conscientious objectors who registered their refusal to serve in the SADF yesterday.

Rhodes academics Professor Bill Davies, Prof Gavin Stewart, Prof Trevor Letcher and Mr Ron Hall, SRC president Mr Rod Dixon and Anglican Bishop the Right Reverend David Russell, were among Grahamstown objectors.

WE REFUSE TO SERVE IN THE SADF



SADF warns against 'failure to report'

PRETORIA. — The SA Defence Force last night warned that legal action would be taken against military objectors who failed to report for service.

The SADF was responding to the launch of a national register earlier today 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, revealed that only nine of these had failed to turn up for national service or camps. — Sapa

MAKING A STAND ... Pioneering objector Dr Anton Eberhard, an energy researcher at UCT, speaks at the Rondebosch meeting of 152 conscientious objectors yesterday. Similar meetings were held throughout SA in a national campaign against conscription.

Picture: RICHARD BELL

Objectors in public protest against draft

CT 22/9

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

They formed part of a group of 771 objectors countrywide, 241 of them from Cape Town.

At Stellenbosch 30 conscientious objectors announced their refusal to serve in the South African Defence Force.

The annual SADF intake stands at over 40 000 young men, it was reliably learnt yesterday.

The chairman 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.

Mr Schmidt said similar meetings were held yesterday in Port Elizabeth, East London and Grahamstown.

He said that of the national figure of 771 objectors, 294 people had completed their initial service and 79 had also completed some of their camp liabilities. Many had done active service in Angola, Namibia and local townships, while 87 held rank. Another 397 people had done no military service, while 68 were doing or had done "community service" as

"We refuse to serve"

"We a group of 756 South Africans who are liable to be conscripted, have decided in good conscience and of our own accord, that we cannot serve in the SADF."

On Thursday 21 September this statement was made at press conferences all over South Africa as men from different backgrounds and political persuasions told of the reasons they refuse to serve. Amongst the 756 men were lawyers, doctors, teachers, Bishops, university lecturers, scientists, engineers, business people, artists, musicians, activist students.

The Durban press conference held at the Archbishop's Chancery was addressed by Paddy Kearney of Durban who spoke on behalf of the religious objectors, Steve Collins, one of the National Co-ordinators of the stand, Paul Brink an ex-sergeant and Archbishop Hurley.

According to the press statement read by Steve Collins, "the solutions to the problems of South Africa are political, not military". They all said they would be committed to using their skills to serve their country in a constructive or a positive way but said that "this could not be achieved by participation in the SADF which has "consistently been used to uphold apartheid and is an obstacle to peaceful change."

Paul Brink, who was a military intelligence officer in Namibia for 14 months said that when he went to do his military service straight after school "he didn't really think about it" but in Namibia he began to question the integrity of the SADF's actions there. Brink recounted an experience when he first arrived in Namibia. He was shown a 'family album' (as it was called) which contained photos of dead



Paul Brink, Steve Collins, Archbishop Hurley and Paddy Kearney

Swapo and other Namibian people.

On another occasion he was taken to a helicopter pad where there were "bits of bodies peeling in the sun". He also told of one brigadier who bought drinks for soldiers when they "shot kaffirs".

Paddy Kearney, who spoke on behalf of the religious objectors, said that there were two main reasons presented by religious men for refusing to serve.

The first reason is based on universal pacifism. These men feel that they are called to follow the life, teaching and example of Christ and this they see as consistently non-violent. They hold that Christians are asked to

practice non-violence and they would see this as holding true for all situations not only in South Africa.

The second group feel bound to take decisions about military service on the basis of Christian teaching and Christian conscience. They believe that in certain clearly defined circumstances it can be legitimate for a Christian to take up arms, but these conditions are far from fulfilled in South Africa.

The 86 Durban objectors said that they would respond to the calling in different ways. Some had chosen to go to jail. Others opted for religious objector status but the majority said that they would have to choose between "a life of exile or

constant evasion of call-ups".

Of the 756, 185 have completed their initial military service and 70 have also completed some of their camp liabilities. Many had done active service in Angola, Namibia and in the townships. 112 had held rank.

The van Loggenberg Committee which is currently accepting submissions from the public on improvements to the military service system will be notified of the stand and the reasons for it.

The conscientious objector support group (CLSG) has called for a genuine, non-punitive, non-military form of national service for all objectors who for mod, political or

religious reasons cannot in good conscience serve in the SADF

The stand of the 756 follows in the wake of 144 men last year who refused to serve. After the stand, many of the men were arrested, including having firebombs and bricks thrown through their bedroom windows. Some of the men who had not been called up for camps were called up immediately afterwards. In one instance, Tam Alexander who hadn't been called up for ten years was asked to serve for two days and told he did not have to wear a uniform and could sleep at home. He was called up at a time when nobody else was due to report so according to Collins, "it was clearly a deliberate test by the SADF".

When asked why Malan seemed so paranoid about conscientious objection, Collins said that "for the Nationalists the military was their last solution when their could not ... a political solution for peace in South Africa.

According to Laurence Piper, ASRC President the main reason he could not serve was that he found it impossible to be involved in the non-racial alliance with black students and allow himself to be conscripted into an army patrolling a township where these people come from".

After the stand in 1988, the End Conscription Campaign was restricted. It was said that Malan was attacking the messenger bringing him the bad news, rather than dealing with the ... causes of conscripts grievances. According to an ECC member, the latest public stand illustrates that the government has done nothing in the intervening period since the last stand to address the root of the problem.



In Groep van die weletraars in Johannesburg

Jacques Pauw en Anton Steenkamp

DIE weermag het gister voor een van sy grootste krisisse nog te staan gekom toe honderde jong wit Suid-Afrikans aangekondig het dat hulle weier om in die SAW te dien. Tienalle staar langtermyn-tronksraf in die gesig.

Ten gistermiddag druktd het 780 dienspligbare mans uit alle vlakke van die samelewing 'n nuwe nasionale register van dienspligbeswaardes onderricken. Onder hulle is dokters, ingenieurs, regsgeleerdes, ondervysers, predikante, joernaliste, akademië en studente.

Sowa 'n derde van die beswaardes het reeds hul opvoornoms ontvang om vroeg volgende jaar met nasionale diensplig van twee jaar te begin. Indien hul son weier, kan hul ses jaar tronk toe gestuur word.

Die nuwe vliag van gewetensbeswaardes volg net 'n jaar nadat 143 beswaardes in Augustus verledejaar in die openbaar aangekondig het dat hulle weier om in die weermag te dien.

Internasionale televisienetwerke, buitelandse joernalise en uitgesoekte plaaslike koerant-mense het gisteroggend by 'n huis in Johannesburg vergader waar sowat sewentig beswaardes aan die media voorgestel is.

Die hele veldtog en die insameling van verklarings deur beswaardes het die afgelope maande in die grootste geheimhouding fase gevind uit vrees vir moontlike polisie- en weermagoptrede.

Twee van die organisateurs van die veldtog, Wilhelm Liebenberg en Mike Avidan, word ingevolge die noodmaatretis aangehou. Nog vier van die organisateurs is gisteroggend vroeg in hegtenis geneem.

Die beswaardes se 'n gesamenlike verklaring: "Somme van ons sal tronk toe gaan. Ander sal probeer om as godsdiensbeswaardes geklassifiseer te word. Ons staan vandiag hier as gewetensbeswaardes om in hewus van die moontlike gevolge van ons dade.

"Ons is verbind daartoe om ons land op 'n positiewe en konstruktiewe wyse te dien.

Nee vir diensplig: 780 staan op

WV 22/9/89

*Namibia sal binnekort onafhanklik wees

ná 'n oorlog van twee dekades waarin duisende mense dood is. Duitse mense het ook al in Suid-Afrika gestof. Daar is geen rede hoekom die slagting in Suid-Afrika moet voortduur voor 'n onderhandelde skikking bereik kan word nie," se die beswaardes.

Verskeie beswaardes het hulle redes aangevoer oor waarom hulle weier om te dien en vertel van oorlogsondervindings in Namibia en Angola. Weens die noodmaatretis mag dit nie gepubliseer word nie. Die berig is ook ingevolge die noodmaatretis ná regsadvies gesorsor.

Byna 300 van die beswaardes het reeds gedeeltes van hulle nasionale diensplig voltooi. Tussen hulle is daar onder meer twee kapteins, 20 luitenant en 'n gewese sersant van die gevreesde 32 Bataljon.

Die organisateurs kon nie die veldtog adverteer of aankondig nie en die boodskap is mondelings versprei.

Dit was gister nog onduidelik of die veldtog welig is. De Villiers se die Verdedigingswet bepaal dat mense nie aangemoedig mag word om diensplig te weier nie. Onder die noodmaatretis mag diensplig ook nie ondermyn word nie.

De Villiers se dit is moontlik dat die staat stappe teen die organisateurs mag doen, hoewel hulle nooit enigehand aangemoedig het om diensplig te weier nie. Terwyl die persoonlike rense gister gehou is, het polisieamne in private klere in 'n geel polisieuniform voor die huis heen en weer gery.

Die nuwe vliag van gewetensbeswaardes volg na hoogs emosionele hofsake die afgelope jaar waartydens vier weletraars vir vyfperke van tussen agtien maande en ses jaar tronk toe gestuur is. Dié sake het baie publisiteit in die buiteland geniet en uit tallo oorde is die regering hewig gekritiseer.

De Villiers het gister daarop gewys dat die ses jaar tronksraf wat weletraars in Suid-Afrika opgelê kan word, die swaarste straf vir diensweiering ter wêreld is. Tallo drukgroepe het die afgelope tyd druk op die regering uitgesoeten om alternatiewe diens vir gewetensbeswaardes

Women object

MOTHERS, WIVES, SISTERS AND LOVERS are affected by conscription.

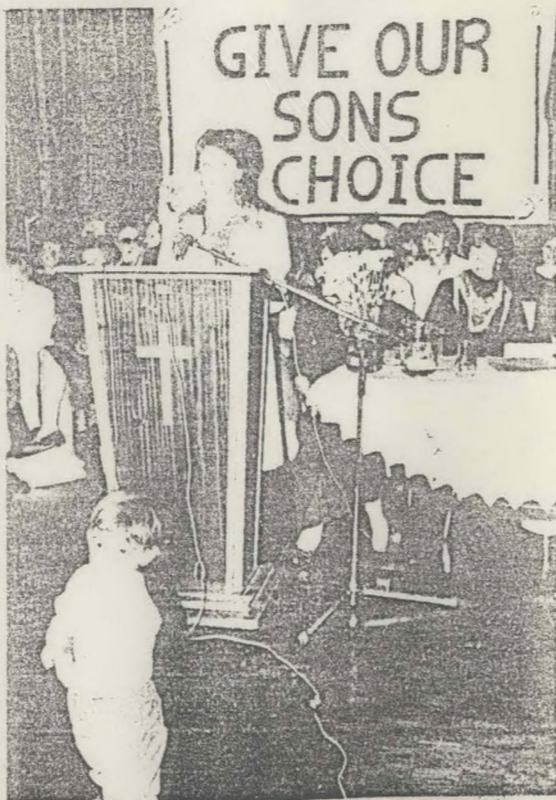
In light of the stand made by 771 men refusing to serve in the SADF and the fact that South Africa is becoming increasingly militarized, conscription is an issue which affects all members of society, women and men.

Women are used by the government and other related institutions to justify the need for conscription, since it is the men who must "go to the army to protect the women and children" (sic). Further, women are seen to be nurturers who can provide a "gentle shoulder" after the horrors of war.

These so-called 'horrors of war' also have a negative affect on society. Violence in South Africa is on the increase, especially assault by men on women in the form of wife beating and rape. The violence experienced in the SADF is internalized, and taken back into society and the family.

The traditional nuclear family can be affected by conscription in another way. It may be broken down when the man is removed, unfairly leaving the responsibility in the hands of one person.

More and more women are therefore supporting their brothers, husbands, sons and lovers in their stand not to serve in the SADF as conscription affects them too.



A mother speaks about conscription.



Two brothers, Glen and Tom Robbins, who refuse to take up arms for the SADF, which they believe upholds the unjust system of apartheid.

MOVE OVER refusal to serve in SADF

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION activists throughout South Africa launched a national register yesterday, containing the names of 756 white South African men who are refusing to serve in the South African Defence Force.

The register was launched in Durban at the Diocesan Chancery of the Catholic Archbishop of Natal, the Most Rev Denis Hurley.



Nicola Cunningham-Brown

The Durban representative of the National Co-ordinating Committee which organised the launch, Mr Steve Collins, said at a Press conference that the register was designed to facilitate contact among conscientious objectors and to ensure the spotlight remained on official harassment of objectors.

Our backgrounds and political persuasions are diverse. Each of us has our own individual reason for objecting to military service," he said.

"We have and will respond to the call-up in different ways. Some have chosen to go to jail. Others will opt for religious status.

Custodians

"Many of us will have to choose between a life in exile or constant evasion of call-ups."

About 40 men were present at the local launch, and 86 Durban men are listed on the register.

Archbishop Hurley and the Dean of the University of Natal's Law Faculty, Prof David McQuoid-Mason, are custodians of the register in Durban.

Archbishop Hurley said the Church was taking a clear stand against war and violence in South Africa.

He said it was a privilege for church leaders to find themselves urged on by young people, who were making a 'magnificent statement of courage'.

One of the objectors who spoke at the Press conference, student Paul Brink, who completed his military training as a lieutenant in Military Intelligence, spent 15 months in northern Namibia.

After a later two-month camp in the Eastern Transvaal, he decided he would not serve in the SADF again.

Most of his experiences could not be related because of the Emergency Regula-

tion and the Official Secrets Act.

There were simultaneous Press conferences in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria, Grahamstown and Bloemfontein.

The convener of Johannesburg's meeting, attorney Chris de Villiers, said most objectors supported alternative, non-military, non-punitive methods of serving in the defence force.

"Among our group are prominent scientists, lawyers, doctors, academics, journalists, professors, engineers, Bishops and priests."

Earlier in the day, four marshalls co-ordinating the gathering of the objectors were detained by police.

Among them was Miss Bettina von Lieres, former president of the Student Representative Council at Wits University. According to police, three of the four students, including Miss von Lieres, were later released.

Cop-out

Included among the Grahamstown objectors was the city's Anglican Bishop, the Rt Rev David Russell.

He said it was a 'tremendous privilege' to be part of the group of objectors.

"We are part of a movement helping to stop war and helping to save lives. We're building peace here, there's no question of a cop-out — its what we believe will be an act of peacemaking and patriotism."

"We're the people who care about this country because we are ready to suffer the costs of our caring."

Sapa reports that the SA Defence Force, in responding last night to the launch of the register, warned that legal action would be taken against military objectors who failed to report for service.

It added, however, that a stated intention to break the law in future did not necessarily constitute a crime.

Unknown

"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 only nine had failed to turn up for national service or camps.

The remaining number had their cases deferred, or their addresses were unknown, or they were classified as reli-

National register of army objectors launched today

21/9/89. Daily News Reporter

A NATIONAL register of conscientious objectors was launched nationwide today, containing the names of 756 white South African men who will not serve in the South African Defence Force.

In Durban, the register was announced at a Press conference at the Diocesan Chancery of the Most Rev Denis Hurley, Catholic Archbishop of Durban.

About 86 of the men on the register are from Durban, about 40 of whom were present at the launch.

Of the 756 men who are on the register, 112 of them have held rank in the SADF, 68 have done, or are doing community service, and 428 have done no military service.

Custodians of the register in Durban are Archbishop Hurley and lawyer Professor David McQuoid-Mason.

Speaking at the launch, Archbishop Hurley said it was a privilege for church leaders to find themselves urged on by these young people.

"We assure them of our prayers and solidarity."

Among the religious leaders whose names are on the register are Benedictine monk Jurgen Bezuidenhout, Anglican priests Ray Horrocks and Charles Barry, and clergyman Nick Kerr.

The register will be delivered to the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan.

The Star Thursday September 21 1989

Objectors' register launched

A national register of the names of 770 conscientious objectors was launched in Johannesburg today.

About 75 of the 265 objectors in the Johannesburg area attended a secret press conference where they declared they would rather face jail or exile than serve in the SADF.

Attorney Mr Chris de Villiers, one of the 143 objectors who last year publicly stated his opposition to military conscription, said an increasing number of

people were unwilling to serve.

Custodians of the register include Bishop Peter Storey of the Methodist Church in Johannesburg, Archbishop Denis Hurley in Durban, Bishop David Russell in Grahamstown, Professor Lourens du Plessis of the University of Stellenbosch, Professor James Lund of the University of Natal in Maritzburg, Bishop Bruce Evans in Port Elizabeth, and the Reverend Douglas Bax in Cape Town. — Staff Reporter.

Objectors warned by SADF

Staff Reporter and Own Correspondent

THE South African Defence Force (SADF) has warned conscientious objectors that it will continue to take legal action against them if they fail to report for service.

A SADF spokesman said if a person were found guilty of refusing to do military service, he faced imprisonment.

The SADF revealed its findings of an investigation launched after reports earlier this year that 142 men were going to refuse to do military service.

A total of 31 had been called up for their two-year national service and had been granted deferment on application, while another 33 were called up in February and would only have become liable for service in August.

The spokesman also said that only seven men who had to complete national service failed to report and cases against them were being investigated.

The rest of the group included religious objectors who rendered community service.

A national register of conscientious objectors, at present comprising more than 770 young South Africans liable to be conscripted, was launched in Johannesburg yesterday.

About 75 of the 265 conscientious objectors in the Johannesburg area attended a secret Press conference where they declared they would rather face jail or life in exile than serve in the SADF.

The SADF, they said, was responsible for the maintenance of apartheid and was therefore "an obstacle to peaceful change".

Attorney Mr Chris de Villiers, who was one of the objectors who last year publicly stated their opposition to compulsory military conscription, said more and more people countrywide were opposed to serving in the SADF and clamoured for alternative non-military service.

Conscription: Wits students speak out

27/9/89
Citizen Reporter

ABOUT 40 men students from Wits University gathered on the stage of the Great Hall and spoke against military conscription at a meeting of the Militarisation Action Committee (MAC) at Wits yesterday.

Speakers told the meeting of about 200 students, that the number of military objectors nationwide

had recently risen from 780 to more than 800.

The speakers, from various student organisations, declared their refusal to serve in the South African Defence Force and gave reasons.

They called for the release of conscientious objectors, David Bruce, Charles Bester and Saul Batzofin, and stressed that each objector had made

individual decisions why they would not serve.

Their demands were for an alternative form of service, and "different from what government called alternative".

"We want to build our South Africa, not destroy it," one said.

A member of the Student Representative's Council, and of MAC, said the sole purpose of the SADF was to uphold White majority rule in South Africa.

"I refuse to serve in such an army and in all likelihood I'll have to serve six years in prison," he said.

9 EL men join stand against conscription

EAST LONDON — Nine East London conscripts, in declaring their abhorrence of apartheid, made a stand here yesterday against serving in the South African Defence Force.

The nine joined forces with 48 objectors in Grahamstown, 18 in Port Elizabeth, 241 in Cape Town, 26 in Stellenbosch, 12 in Pretoria, four in Bloemfontein, 82 in Durban, 30 in Pietermaritzburg and 26 from other centres, expressing their opposition to enforced conscription.

At a regional gathering here, the conscripts added their names to a national register of conscientious objectors designed to facilitate contact among them and ensure the spotlight remained focused on official harassment of such individuals.

In a statement released by the National Co-ordinating Committee for the launch of the Register for Conscientious Objectors, the objectors said that while of different backgrounds and political persuasions each had their own reasons for objecting to military service.

They said they were committed to using their skills to serve the country in a positive and constructive way and believed this couldn't be achieved by participation in the SADF.

The convener of the Johannesburg meeting, Mr Chris de Villiers, said responses to the call-up varied.

"Some will go to jail. Others will opt for religious objector status. Many of us will choose between a life in exile or constant evasion of call-ups."

Mr De Villiers said they held little hope of a change in status in view of the reconciliatory gesture by the state president, Mr F. W. De Klerk.

"Nothing has changed. The laws affecting objectors remain as stiff as ever. There have been no moves for alternative community work for those who want it. Many feel that the initials of the new administration have changed, not the substance."

Included among the Grahamstown objectors was the city's Anglican

Bishop, the Right Reverend David Russell.

Bishop Russell said it was a "tremendous privilege" to be part of the group of objectors.

"We are part of a movement helping to stop war and helping to save lives. We're building peace here, there's no question of a cop-out — its what we believe will be an act of peacemaking and patriotism," he said.

"We're the people who care about this country because we are ready to suffer the costs of our caring."

Referring to his situation regarding the SADF, Bishop Russell said he was "potentially eligible to serve in 'Dad's Army'". If the state wants to take me to task for refusing to serve, they can, and so help me God."

The SADF has 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. — Sapa

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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