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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 2, 1991

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DELEGATION OF FAMILIES OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TO COME TO WASHINGTON, D.C. -- OCTOBER 23 - 26, 1991

Join with the families of Marine conscientious objectors imprisoned at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, or facing prosecution for their opposition to participation in the Gulf War. The mothers of Marine Reservists, Erik Larsen and Tahan Jones (both facing court martial and up to 7 years in prison) will be joined by the parents of Marine Reservists, James Summers and Jean Claude Rainey (already serving sentences of 14 months and 8 months, respectively). Other family members will join them in calling for unconditional amnesty for all GI resisters.

Schedule of Events:

- Oct. 15 Erik Larsen Pre-Trial Hearing Continues. Nationwide Call-in to General C.L. Vermilyea (504) 948-1210 (Convening Authority, New Orleans) and General Carl Mundy, USMC Commandant (703) 614-2500. CALL and ask that the charges against Erik Laren and Tahan Jones be dropped and ask for the release of all imprisoned conscientious objectors.
- Oct. 21 Tahan Jones Pre-Trial Hearing begins. Nationwide Call-in to Congress. Call (202) 224-3121 to reach your own Congressperson and Call Rep. Les Aspin (Chairman, House Armed Services Committee) at (202) 225-3031 and ask for an investigation of the military's handling of COs and that amnesty be granted to all GI resisters.
- Oct. 23

 PRESS CONFERENCE 12:15 p.m. at Luther Place Church, 1226 Vermont Avenue, N.W., WDC 20005 (202) 667-1377. Speakers to be announced.
- Oct. 24 25 Congressional Lobbying

Presentation of Amnesty Letters and Petitions at the White House (TBA)

- Oct. 24 FUNDRAISER RECEPTION (site to be announced)
- Oct. 25

 Presentation to Gen. Carl E. Mundy, USMC Commandant of amnesty letters and petitions at Headquarters, Navy Annex.
- Oct. 26 "FREE ALL COS" RALLY at Lafayette Park, The White House, (unconfirmed) at 5 7:30 p.m. Bring candles & flashlights. (Part of national rallies.)

Speaker information and updates will be forthcoming. Please use this for Calendar Events. Press packets available.

We are trying for justice -

Send literation

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537 Kengray 2100 Phone: 836-8423 Fax: 834-3189

8 October 1991

Hans Hartman Kairos Werkgroep Kromme Nieuwegracht 10 3512 H.G. Utrecht Holland.

Dear Hans,

Update on the anti-militarisation movement in S. Africa

I was glad to have the opportunity to come to your office and talk to you while I was in Europe in July. The work that the Kairos Werkgroep has done for us as well as other anti-apartheid bodies has been immeasurable, and it was good to see the source of it all!

Thanks to all the help and support we have had from overseas as well as the work of activists at home, quite remarkable progress has been made both in weakening the system of military conscription in South Africa and in showing up the links between the S.A. Defence Force and the Nationalist government's destabilisation policy both inside and outside the country's borders.

What follows is an update on the latest developments (with regard to anti-militarisation work) as seen from inside the country; once more, you might have better information in Europe than we do at home.

(1) The SADF itself. It seems clear to us that the covert activities of the so-called Reconnaissance Units of the SADF are continuing, and that these include hit-squads which are used either to target certain key people, or to foment the climate of violence by killing at random, e.g. commuters in railway coaches. It would appear that the Nationalist government is making use of the tactics used in the past to destabilise the neighbouring states (notably by helping the Renamo forces in Mozambique and working against SWAPO in Namibia prior to independence) to undermine support for the ANC and to build up its own support and that of Inkatha. However, although information about these activities dribbles out in the alternative press, there is hardly any mention in the mainstream press, and with no analysis. Needless to say, the State-controlled radio and TV manage to avoid or cloud the issue. On the surface, the SADF carries the "good guy" image, helping to quell violence in the townships, but its other face is much more sinister. For some conscripts this is an issue adding a moral element to their opposition to conscription, though many others (both white civilians and conscripts) accept the official "good guy" image of the media. The recently-released Code of Conduct for the SADF is disturbing in that it makes no mention at all of the Special Services, which include the Recce units.

(2) The ongoing violence: You have no doubt heard that there was a huge upsurge in the death toll in the Reef townships early in

September, just before the signing of a national Peace Accord in Johannesburg on September 14. Both COSG and ECC Johannesburg are involved in a group called Peace Action, formed earlier this year from a range of church and human rights organisations, to monitor incidents of violence in this area: so far the monitoring is being done by volunteers and they were stretched to the limit over that period. There seems to be some hope for the Peace Accord holding, though it was pretty depressing to see the hundreds and hundreds of Inkatha supporters in central Johannesburg converging on the venue for the signing of the accord, all armed to the teeth with so-called traditional weapons. In Natal, ECC's full-time Violence Monitor, Haydn Osborn, has collected a wealth of material about the involvement of members of the security forces, especially in the Natal Midlands, where he has been mainly involved; he is currently trying to systematise this material for publication. He has also been subjected to harassment such as threatening phone calls, damage to his car, smear pamphlets and surveillance.

- The ongoing issue of conscription into the SADF. Since the repeal of the Population Registration Act in June, and ECC's July campaign to "End Racist Conscription", which received good press coverage, both ECC and CAS (the Conscription Advice Service) have been inundated with phone calls from reluctant conscripts, trying to find some way out of their obligations to the Defence Force. Most of these people are "campers", i.e. men who have completed their compulsory National Service some time ago, but are still being called-up for short service "camps" of anything up to 60 days' duration. Our very unofficial figures show that in some units the number of men who actually report for such camps is as low as 10-15%, but most white South Africans are so brain-washed by the threat of military discipline that there is a very real fear of reprisals among conscripts; both ECC and CAS counsellors are spending a lot of time explaining the possible consequences of the various courses of action which they might choose, and if necessary referring them to lawyers. The question of whether the call-up of whites only is now illegal (following the repeal of the Population Registration Act) has not yet been tested in court with an actual case, since there have been no prosecutions for the last few months. The SADF has put a hold on prosecutions for most of the serious offences concerned with conscription, since the appointment of the Gleeson committee to investigate Conscientious Objection at the end of May. We are still awaiting the outcome of this investigation, and there are also signs that prosecutions might start again soon.
- (4) The granting of political indemnity to Conscientious Objector Michael Graaf at the end of August is seen as an important step in that the government has at last acknowledged that C.O's are political offenders and that Conscientious Objection to service in the SADF is a political issue.

The present situation therefore with regard to both Conscientious Objection and conscription is that:

* No-one has been prosecuted for Refusal to serve in the SADF, since June this year, though there are signs that the prosecutions may start up again soon.

* Conscription goes on as before. Besides the camps, many people have already had call-up papers for the January intake of National servicemen (one year), and some even for July 1992.

* The End Conscription Campaign is continuing to press for an end to conscription <u>now</u>, by lobbying, by keeping the issue alive in the media, and by targeting the ordinary reluctant conscript and his family. Attempts are also being made to meet the new Minister of Defence, Roelf Meyer. ECC has produced a policy document on the future of Conscription, and is working on others concerned with a future Defence Force, and (voluntary) national civilian service to help rebuild the country.

I enclose the following:

* ECC's Policy document on Conscription in a Post-Apartheid S.A.

* Press-clips on:

- The Natal violence in the Richmond area
- Recent violence on the Witwatersrand

- The SADF's hit squads

- The proposed code of conduct for the SADF
- Letters to the press on "Whites-only" conscription

Once again many thanks to Kairos Werkgroep for the continuing interest and support which you have offered. There's still quite a long and bumpy road ahead before groups like yourselves and us will be able to disband

All good wishes for your work.

Yours sincerely

Nan Cross

National worker.

Man brown

PO Box 100 London SE1 7RT Telephone 071-620 4444

Chair: Lady Fraser Chair of Finance: Alastair Hanton OBE Director: The Rev Michael Taylor

Ref: KON/SA/C

21 October 1991

Nan Cross National worker End Conscription Campaign PO Box 537 Kengray 2100 SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Nan Cross

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of 1st October, giving an update on the anti-militarisation movement, and I apologise for the delay in replying. Anne Hughes has indeed now left, but newsletters will still be sent regularly to our supporters.

I am afraid we would not be in a position to provide financial assistance for your 1992 budget, but would very much like to keep informed about what the ECC is doing.

With best wishes to you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely

Kathryn O'Neill Project Assistant

Africa/Middle East Group

Kothnyn O'Neill.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537 Kengray 2100 Phone: 836-8423 Fax: 834-3189

1 October 1991

Christian Aid Southern Africa Desk P.O.Box 100 London SE 17 RT U.K.

Dear Christian Aid worker,

Update on the anti-militarisation movement in S. Africa

During July when I was in London I spoke to Ann Hughes and her colleague Ross about anti-conscription work in the current S.A. situation. I understand that Ann has now left the office, and am therefore sending this update to whoever her successor might be. At the same time, I should like to thank your organisation for the interest you have shown and the help you have given in the past.

- The SADF itself. It seems obvious that the covert activities of the so-called Reconnaissance Units of the SADF are continuing, and that these include hit-squads which are used either to target certain key people, or to foment the climate of violence by killing at random, e.g. commuters in railway coaches. Information about these activities dribbles out alternative press, but is hardly mentioned in the mainstream press, and completely suppressed in State-controlled radio and TV. It would appear that the Nationalist government is making use of the tactics used in the past to destabilise the neighbouring states (notably by helping the Renamo forces in Mozambique and working against SWAPO in Namibia prior to independence) to undermine support for the ANC and to build up its own support and that of the Inkatha Freedom Party. On the surface, the SADF carries the "good guy" image, helping to quell violence in the townships, but its other face is much more sinister. For some conscripts this is an issue adding a moral element to their opposition to conscription, though many others (both white civilians and conscripts) accept the official "good guy" image. The recently-released Code of Conduct for the SADF is disturbing in that it makes no mention at all of the Special Services.
- (2) The ongoing violence: You have no doubt heard that there was a huge upsurge in the death toll in the Reef townships early in September, just before the signing of a national Peace Accord in Johannesburg on September 14. Both COSG and ECC Johannesburg are involved in a group called Peace Action, formed earlier this year from a range of church and human rights organisations, to monitor the violence. So far the monitoring is being done by volunteers and they were stretched to the limit over that period. There seems to be some hope for the Peace Accord holding, though it was very depressing to see the hundreds and hundreds of Inkatha supporters in central Johannesburg converging on the venue for the signing of the accord, all armed to the teeth with so-called traditional weapons. In Natal, ECC's full-time Violence Monitor, Haydn Osborn, has collected a wealth of material about the

involvement of members of the security forces, especially in the Natal Midlands, where he has been mainly involved; he is currently trying to systematise this material for publication. He has also been subjected to harrassment such as threatening phone calls, damage to his car, smear pamphlets and surveillance.

- The ongoing issue of conscription into the SADF. Since the repeal of the Population Registration Act in June, and ECC's July campaign to "End Racist Conscription", which received good press coverage, both ECC and CAS (the Conscription Advice Servce) have been inundated with phone calls from reluctant conscripts, trying to find some way out of their obligations to the Defence Force. Most of these people are "campers", i.e. men who have completed their compulsory National Service some time ago, but are still being called-up for short service "camps" of anything up to 60 days' duration. Our very unofficial figures show that in some units the number of men who actually report for such camps is as low as 10-15%, but most white South Africans are so brain-washed by the threat of military discipline that there is a very real fear of reprisals among conscripts; both ECC and CAS counsellors are spending a lot of time explaining the possible consequences of the various courses of action which they might choose, and if necessary referring them to lawyers. The question of whether the call-up of whites only is now illegal (following the repeal of the Population Registration Act) has not yet been tested in court with an actual case, since the SADF has put a hold on prosecutions for most of the serious offences concerned with conscription, since the appointment of the Gleeson committee to investigate Conscientious Objection at the end of May. We are still awaiting the outcome of this investigation.
- (4) The granting of political indemnity to Conscientious Objector Michael Graaf at the end of August is seen as an important step in that the government has at last acknowledged that C.O's are political offenders and that Conscientious Objection to service in the SADF is a political issue.

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The End Conscription Campaign is continuing to press for an end to conscription <u>now</u>, by lobbying, by keeping the issue alive in the media, and by targetting the ordinary reluctant conscript and his family. Attempts are also being made to meet the new Minister of Defence, Roelf Meyer. ECC has produced a policy document on the future of Conscription, and is working on others concerned with a future Defence Force, and (voluntary) national civilian service to help rebuild the country.

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- * COSG's latest number of "The Objector"

* Press-clips on:

- The Natal violence
- Recent violence on the Witwatersrand

- The SADF's hit squads

- The proposed code of conduct for the SADF Letters to the press on the "whites-only" call-up

I am not sure whether Christian Aid is in a position to offer financial help to meet our budget for 1992. Probably not, but if there is such a possibility I could send you the funding documents. In any case, it would be useful to us if you could keep the issue of anti-militarisation work alive in your newsletters. As we all know, Apartheid is far from dead and we still have a long road to travel to reach the Utopia of true democracy and peace.

All good wishes.

Yours sincerely

Nan Cross

National worker.



Quaker Peace & Service

A department of London Yearly Meeting and of Ireland Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ Telephone 01-387 3601 Telegrams Enhearten London NW1 Hon. Treasurer John Whatley

Clerk Lorna Paulin

General Secretary Andrew C. Clark

24 October 1991

NOTE: on May 6, our telephone number changes to 071-387 3601

Nan Cross National worker End Conscription Campaign P.O. Box 537 Kengray 2100 South Africa

Dear Nan Cross,

I am grateful for your letter of the 2nd October and enclosures which were most helpful in keeping me up to date on the ECC.

Yes we do try to keep the issue of conscientious objectors before Friends and in our most recent News and Views had a piece on Douglas Torr's sentence of 800 hours of unpaid community service.

The continuing violence in South Africa is of ongoing concern and in spite of the accord little has improved. How desperately one feels for those have to use the trains on the Reef facing the risks each day.

So thank you for your efforts and those of your associates throughout the country.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

John Harding Africa Secretary

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537 Kengray 2100 Phone: 836-8423 Fax: 834-3189

2 October 1991

John Harding, Quaker Peace and Service Friends House Euston Road, London NW1 U.K.

Dear John,

Update on the anti-militarisation movement in S. Africa

Since I visited you in your office in July, various things have happened at home, perhaps the most noteworthy on the anticonscription front being the vast numbers of conscripts who are simply failing to report when called up for camps. So here is an update of the last two months, as seen from inside South Africa. It is of course still possible that you are getting a fuller picture from outside. We always appreciate the concern and interest shown by the Quakers in the work of the antimilitarisation organisations here.

- The SADF itself. It seems clear that the covert activities of the so-called Reconnaissance Units of the SADF are continuing, and that these include hit-squads which are used either to target certain key people, or to foment the climate of violence by killing at random, e.g. commuters in railway coaches. It would appear that the Nationalist government is making use of the tactics used in the past to destabilise the neighbouring states (notably by helping the Renamo forces in Mozambique and working against SWAPO in Namibia prior to independence) to undermine support for the ANC and to build up its own support and that of Inkatha. Information about these activities dribbles out in the alternative press, but is hardly mentioned in the mainstream press, and completely suppressed in State-controlled radio and TV. On the surface, the SADF carries the "good guy" image, helping to quell violence in the townships, but its other face is much more sinister. For some conscripts this is an issue adding a moral element to their opposition to conscription, though many others (both white civilians and conscripts) accept the official "good guy" image. The recently-released Code of Conduct for the SADF is disturbing in that it makes no mention at all of the Special Services, of which the Recce units are a part.
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Find Conscription Compaign

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 - The proposed code of conduct for the SADF
 - Letters to the press on the "whites-only" call-up

Although we have at present no high profile Conscientious Objectors to campaign around, it would be good if you could help to keep the issue of conscription alive in your newsletters and through other contacts. As we all know, Apartheid is far from dead and we still have a long road to travel to reach the Utopia of true democracy and peace.

All good wishes.

Yours sincerely

Mon hon

Nan Cross

National worker.

29/10 '91 15:43

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537 Kengray 2100 Phone: 836-8423 Fax: 834-3189

The Editor Sunday Times

29 October 1991

Dear Sir

In his eagerness to take a cheap shot at the End Conscription Campaign last Sunday, Hogarth missed the point. The figures he quotes were in fact provided to the ECC, inter slie, some months ago by an SADF general, who also stated that the most senior black officers in the SADF were 3 colonels. In other words, the senior officer corps is white, with a large contingent of black cannon fodder. This has proved useful to the SADF in the past, for example when invading Angola, allowing the death toll of white conscripts to be kept relatively low.

The point which Hogarth misses is that the conscription system allows hundreds of thousands of whites who have been processed by the military system to be called up at short notice at the discretion of the hands of whites in the SADE would jump considerably if the present 1 year period of initial service were to be extended to 2 years again. These options remain entirely in the hands of those who ran the CCB, who have waged war around the subcontinent for decades, and who have followed (by the admission of Director General of Foreign Affairs, Neil van Heerden) a deliberate policy of regional destabilisation which has resulted in chaos and economic disaster. Does Hogarth admire these people?

In the meantime, the SADF remains totally intransigent, refusing even to discuss the future of the whites-only call-up, and merely states baldly that it will continue. The Ministry of Defence has so far ignored all attempts by the ECC to arrange a meeting to discuss these issues. However, the call-up system is falling apart, with thousand of conscripts (campers, in particular) simply failing to turn up. Prosecutions of conscientious objectors have been halted, since the SADF dare not risk a court decision confirming the opinion of the ECC's lawyers that the whites-only call-up is legally invalid. Thus, the call-up is unenforceable, and the SADF cannot control its day to day personnel requirements.

If Hogarth thinks that this is the way to build a new defence force, accountable to all South Africans, perhaps he should think again.

Yours faithfully

Chris de Villiers

ECC Chairman (Johannesburg)

Simply out of step

GENERAL KAT LIEBENBURG, Chief of the SADF, this week revealed that 50 percent of serving soldiers are black volunteers, 19 percent coloured volunteers and only 31 percent white conscripts and PF members.

That means South Africa is well down the road to meeting the demands of the anti-conscription lobby for a volunteer, professional army.

And the End Conscription Campaign
was so busy compaigning it did not oven
notice it.

Sunday Times "Hoganth" 27/10/91

#428 PØ1 -----

A Peace Movement in South Africa?

If we want an apple tree to grow, we must plant an apple seed. If we want peace in South Africa in the future, we need to plant it now. It will not miraculously appear fully grown.

Peace is not simply the absence of war or violence - it is the presence of justice and creative harmony in all aspects of personal, social and economic relationships, as well as in our relationship with the environment.

The essence of peace is nonviolence - non-violation.

For centuries South African society has been based on the violation of human rights and human dignity. The most radical thing we can do to change that is to practice nonviolence.

A peace movement in South Africa, based on a commitment to nonviolence and respect for life, could play an important role in lessening violence and in promoting a climate within which democracy can flourish.

A major task of such a movement would be education - education of ourselves and others regarding attitudes and skills with which to build a peaceful society. This would include developing "peace education" modules for school, church, mosque, synagogue and temple curriculums.

Another task would be to research and demonstrate alternatives to existing systems which endanger peace, such as unjust economic systems, pollution, racism, sexism and militarism.

This movement would be capable of mobilising small and large scale nonviolent actions in order to oppose violence and injustice, and to support peace and democracy.

Such a movement would need to be independent of all political parties.

A peace movement in South Africa would link with peace movements in other parts of the world. In this way, our work for peace would be strengthened, and we would contribute to building peace in the world.

288 words

RICHARD STEELE AND ANITA KROMBERG, P 0 BOX 2861, DURBAN 4000 OCTOBER 1991

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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