

Mozambique — in SADF stranglehold

From the very first moment of its independence, Mozambique was under threat. The mere presence of South Africa on the other side of the Nkomati river dictated that the Mozambique government, led by President Samora Machel, had to take special measures against cross-border destabilization.

In the event, it was from Rhodesia that the first organized anti-Frelimo activity came. Outraged by Frelimo's support of the Zimbabwean liberation movements,

Rhodesia recruited black and white Mozambicans into a small terrorist force to operate against the Frelimo government.

After the fall of the Smith regime, this force was taken over by South Africa, re-trained and

re-armed and built up into a large organization to be infiltrated into Mozambique. There it was supplied by air from the apartheid state and, with this assistance and direct South African intervention, rapidly began to cause havoc in several provinces.

Today, the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR), as the organization is now known, operates virtually throughout the country. Its effect has been to disrupt communications, terrorize villagers, sap already sparse re-

sources and exaggerate the consequences of drought which has afflicted many areas since 1983. By the end of 1983, the situation had become so serious that the Mozambique government decided to try to negotiate with South Africa. The result was the so-called Nkomati Accord on Non-Aggression and Good Neighbourliness, signed in March 1984. Under its terms, South Africa was to withdraw support from the terrorists in return for a Frelimo promise to

National Park located in the country's central highlands. Documents captured at the site demonstrated that high-level South African government officials had authorized supplies for the MNR after the signing of the Nkomati Accord and, indeed had never intended that such supplies should cease. This accounted for the continued ability of the MNR to step up their terrorist actions in spite of a string of military successes against them. It was clearer

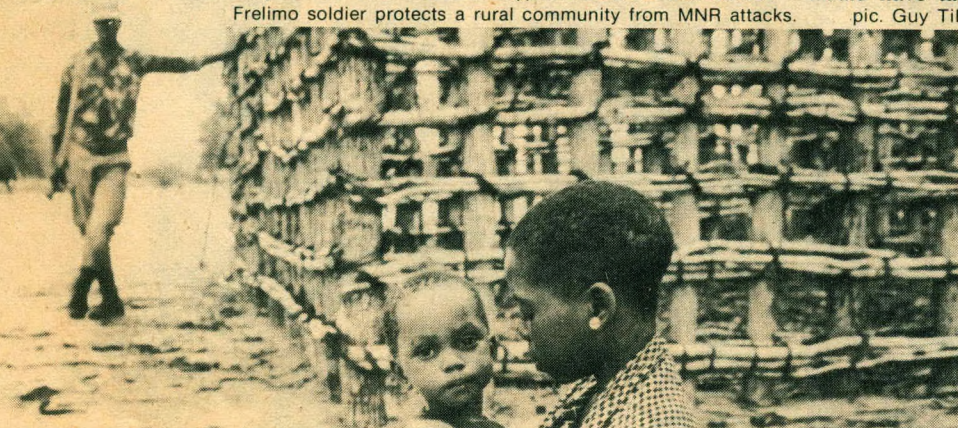
year, it was estimated that four million people risked starvation. In the province of Tete alone, 29 000 tonnes of cereals were needed for the year, but only 5 000 tonnes of maize had been produced. Even the important coal mines at Moatize were affected because the miners were either too weak to work or had to spend their time looking for food for themselves and their families.

Even in peacetime, this situation would have taxed the resources of

any developing country, but the Mozambique government was hampered in its relief efforts by the activities of the terrorists. They attacked relief convoys, destroyed the few remaining stocks of food and prevented those peasants who were still able to

work on their farms from tending their crops. Infiltrating from bases in Malawi, the MNR launched large-scale operations against the rural population, while the poorly supplied Mozambique armed forces remained virtually powerless to repulse them.

The combination of war and MNR activities, natural disasters and the inevitable problems faced by an anti-colonial country have taken their toll on Mozambique.



Frelimo soldier protects a rural community from MNR attacks. pic. Guy Tillem

scale down its support for the South African liberation movement, the African National Congress (ANC).

It was a gamble which was doomed to failure. Pretoria has not only continued supplying the MNR but has stepped up its support, in spite of the fact that Mozambique honoured its side of the bargain completely. Last year a combined Zimbabwean and Mozambique force captured the terrorists' main base — the so-called Casa Banana — in the Gorongosa

than ever that Pretoria had never had any intention of respecting its commitments made at Nkomati.

By the beginning of this year, Maputo had had enough. Terrorist activities were reaching intolerable levels and an estimated 300 000 Mozambicans had been displaced by the war against the bandits.

Meanwhile, the drought, which in the south of the country had abated, worsened in the northern provinces of Tete and Niassa. At the end of last

Release Janet and Dom

The declaration of the State of Emergency has brought changes to the lives of many ECC members. Since June 12, approximately 46 members have been detained, one faces deportation and two others have recently been served with restriction orders.

Janet Cherry, Port Elizabeth ECC chair, has been the focus of much concern in recent months. P.E. is an area notorious for its brutal and intimidatory treatment of political activists. The work of white activists in Eastern Cape is limited. Those who do oppose the government are in a highly vulnerable position.

Janet has played an important role in several political groupings in Eastern Cape. The authorities view her as a dangerous symbol of white resistance, despite the fact that all her work has been in legitimate and respected organisations. She has been subjected to repeated police raids, physical assaults and death threats and has twice had her car tampered with and fire-bombed.

After the declaration of the Emergency, Janet left Port Elizabeth and went to Cape Town, but she was tracked down and detained. She has spent nearly four weeks of her detention in solitary confinement. Janet's case might have seemed extreme before the Emergency, but now lengthy periods of detention and sustained harassment are common occurrences

and could be faced by any member of an organisation such as ECC.

Dominique Souchon from Port Elizabeth is the ECC member who has been in prison for the longest period. He was detained in Port Elizabeth on June 13, and was held in solitary confinement until July 9. On 4 July he was issued with a deportation order to Mauritius. While he does hold a Mauritian passport, for Dominique it is only a place where he has spent a three month holiday. South Africa is his home.

Dominique has had no access to courts and no opportunity to protest against his deportation. His lawyer's attempts to see the Minister of Home Affairs have been repeatedly stalled. Dominique has not been interrogated once since his detention. This seems to indicate that his deportation order is the result of organisational involvement rather than any clearly constructed case against him.

At the moment Dominique's deportation has been delayed while the South African government claim to be negotiating with the Mauritian authorities around the issue of his passport.

Deportation is not something new, though in the past seemed only to be used against very high-profile political figures. Dominique's deportation could be cause for anxiety amongst all activists holding foreign passports.



Janet Cherry, ECC Port Elizabeth chair still in detention.

STOP PRESS: DOMINIQUE SOUCHON WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON ON WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER.

NAMIBIA: The war continues

It is 20 years since the United Nations declared South Africa's occupation of Namibia illegal, and 15 years since the International Court of Justice did the same.

South Africa defied both rulings — and continues to do so today. It has increased the number of troops in Namibia and introduced successive regimes such as the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance and the Multi-Party Conference. None had the support of the majority of Namibians.

Pretoria's rule over Namibia has caused widespread poverty and deprivation, even though the territory is amongst the wealthiest on the continent.

Oxfam — a major Third World relief agency — said only 22% of Namibia's gross national product was left for black people, who form 94.5% of the population.

In a report urging Britain and other European Community countries to press ahead with negotiations on independence for Namibia, Oxfam said: "There is an urgent need to transform the structures which cause and perpetuate poverty for the majority, but these changes can only happen after independence."

In order to secure her control over that territory, Pretoria has deployed over 100 000 troops. The war has had an increasing impact on the population as a whole. Thousands of black Namibian males between the ages of 17 and 55 have already been forced to register for the first time for military conscription.

The continued occupation of the territory serves to secure the systematic exploitation of Namibia's labour force and national resources by transnational corporations based in South Africa and a number of western countries.

The Namibian war claimed 30 members of the security forces last year.

Gen Magnus Malan said these servicemen were killed in actions against guerrillas on the northern borders. In the same period 599 Swapo members were killed in actions against the security forces.

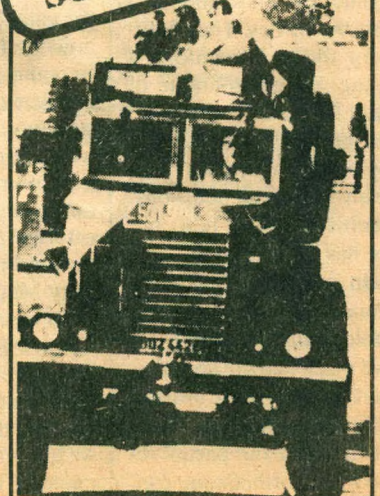
The continued war in Namibia is costing South Africa about R3-million a day (R1.1-billion a year).

Prof Reginald Green of the Institute for Development Studies at Sussex University said in a recent study that the war had cost SA more lives proportionately than the United States lost in Vietnam.

The death toll between 1975 and 1983 was between 2 000 and 2 500 (including accidents and diseases), he said.

support our campaign

WAR IS NO SOLUTION



END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN CANDLELIGHT EVENING
10 DECEMBER 8PM ST GEORGES CATHEDRAL

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THESE EVENTS, PLEASE PHONE THE ECC OFFICE 479170 BETWEEN 12 AND 2PM.

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN WALK TO GUGULETU

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 1PM
MEET AT GREEN ARROW BUS DEPOT KLIPFONTEIN ROAD

NATIONAL SERVICE NEED NOT BE MILITARY SERVICE





Your son & conscription

All white South African parents with teenage sons have to face the question of national service. If you are happy, and your son is happy, fine.

But hundreds of parents are not.

Unfortunately, most parents and their sons are denied the opportunity to approach the issue knowledgeably and openly. At school, your son is encouraged to accept national service as inevitable, and to see it as a positive, maturing experience. But thousands of questions remained unanswered. Questions such as:

- * What are my son's legal rights?
- * Can he get deferment?
- * Should he go to the army straight after school?
- * What if he refuses to register?
- * What are the moral issues?
- * What effect will the army have on my son, and on the family?

All too often, these questions lead to unhappiness and tension in the family because parents do not know how to answer them.

The army is too big for your son to face on his own. We believe that you have the right to be fully informed, so that you can help him.

The ECC and the Conscription Advice Service will be running a workshop in August this year to help parents with sons at school. The programme will include information from legal experts, and will address the moral and emotional dilemmas confronted by families in this situation

It will take a few hours of your time. It could make a world of difference to your son.



END CONSCRIPTION
CAMPAIGN & CONSCRIPTION
ADVICE SERVICE WORKSHOP

Theme: Coping with your son's call-up:
Some of the legal, moral and
emotional issues confronted by
parents with teen-age sons facing
conscription.

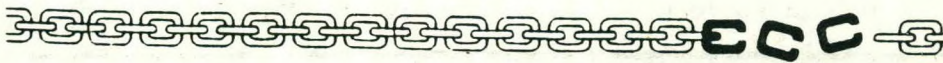
Provisional dates: 24th & 31st August
7pm to 10pm.

If you are interested, please fill in the form
below and return it to:

The E.C.C.
Community House
Salt River Rd
Salt River 7925

For further information, phone 47-8818
We will inform you as soon as possible of the
exact dates and programme.

Name.....
Address.....
.....
Code:..... Phone:.....
Age of son(s)
Particular problems you would like addressed:.....
.....
.....
.....
.....



FRANK & VILLE

MAY 1988 **ECC** NEWSLETTER

ECC CHOWS MSM

On the 28th of April the ECC took on the MSM in a debate on each organisation's view of conscription and the SADF. The venue (Robert Leslie 2A) was packed out and people had to be turned away from the door due to lack of space. Prof Danie Visser of the Roman-Dutch and Private Law Department chaired the debate. The debaters were: Lara Friedman and Gideon Rossouw for ECC, and Rafi Peer and Lance Terry for the MSM.

Lara started the debate. She spoke about the SADF's role in Namibia and in the townships and said how abhorrent this type of action is. She told the crowded lecture theatre that ECC was opposed to conscription into the SADF, and that most South Africans felt the same.

Rafi Peer was next to talk. He used cliched rhetoric to get the crowd on his side. He failed dismally. Rafi made continued attempts to link ECC to the ANC and to communism, using discredited sources.

Gideon was next up and he spoke about the fact that the MSM opposition to conscription was hypocritical. He said that they claimed to support freedom of choice but the MSM also say that all patriotic citizens ought to serve in the SADF. Whereas ECC worked for real alternatives, the MSM supported the role played by the SADF. Gideon rejected the "Total Onslaught" theory as a basis for looking at South African politics.

Lance tried to convince the crowd of the MSM supposed

opposition to conscription. and their version of free - dom of choice.

Questions followed the debate where ECC continued to strengthen their already leading position.

At the end of their summing up, the MSM used a limerick and a small poster. Instead of winning them support, this tacky little gimmick angered the crowd.

ECC won the vote with an overwhelming majority.



EDITORIAL

Well, yes! We are very pleased to bring you our second independent quarterly publication. We had a very good response to our first publication but there was concern expressed about the negative connotations of the name "Tales Grimm". Well, this time we've tried to remedy that!

We've had a very busy and successful term on campus. Our "Campaign for Alternative National Service" started off with a launch in the Leslie cafeteria and on Red Level in April. A week later, we debated with the MSM and won!

Please enter our crossword puzzle and letters to the editors are very welcome. Place them in the ECC pigeonhole or in the ECC Room on Green Level.

Keep well.



LAND OF THE MANY SIZED NOSES

There is a land that is ruled by people with big noses – the “Land of the many-sized nose”.

When they're 18, all the big-nosed young men of the land have to put on blindfolds.

Then, a man with the biggest nose in the whole land forces them to line up in 3's – and to march over the edge of a cliff



No-one is allowed to remove his blindfold – nor is any talking allowed. In fact, most of the big nosed young men would like to do just that! They'd like to decide whether to wear a blindfold or not, and whether to march over the cliff or not. But they remember what happened to the one big-nosed young man who took his blindfold off – and they remember how small the box was that he was locked away in

We, as conscripts are forced to do many things.

We are forced – to take part in an illegal occupation of Namibia and Angola.

We are forced – to take part in cross border raids against an organisation whose views we have never been allowed to hear.

We are forced – to represent an oppressive government in townships created by that very oppression.

We are forced – to wear a uniform that, for most people in the “land of the many-sized nose”, represents not security but decades of repression.

We are forced – to take sides in a situation that needs people to stop taking sides!

So what are our options?

One : exile

Two : prison

The third option is to stay at university so long that eventually, either the conscription law will change, or you can't walk without the help of a walking stick.

Three awkward options. Wouldn't it be great to feel positive about National Service?

Wouldn't it be great to be able to say to the man with the biggest nose in the land (when he hands your your blindfold and rifle): “No thanks – I hear there's an option!”

ROOM VANDALISED

On the weekend of the 23rd April, the room on Green Level shared by ECC and PERSPECTIVE was vandalised,

Yellow and green paint was thrown over pictures on the wall, a filing cabinet and tables and trampled on the floor.

With the Rookies Beerfest on over that weekend, it is not sure whether the damage had political motivation or was the doing of drunk students seeking "fun"



CONSCRIPTION ADVICE SERVICE

Do you have conscription hassles?
 Trouble with your deferment?
 Don't know where to go for help?
 CAS can help you. The Conscription

Advice Service can be contacted at these numbers:

Campus CAS:	650-2827	Anton
	650-3538	Fran
	689-9192	Wayne

The Cape Town branch of the Advice Service now have their office at 28 Selby Road, Mowbray. During the week advisors will be available between 5-30 and 7-30pm
 Phone number: 689-1194

At other times the phone will be linked to an answering machine. If you leave a message, CAS will get back to you.

OUT OF STEP AND PRESS RESTRICTIONS

The Cape Town ECC publication **OUT OF STEP** has joined the progressive newspapers — **THE WEEKLY MAIL**, **THE SOWETAN**, **SAAMSTAAN** and **GRASSROOTS** — who face what amounts to an effective banning under the Emergency Media Regulations which have already closed down the **NEW NATION** and **SOUTH**.

These regulations allow the Minister of Home Affairs, Stoffel Botha, to silence any newspapers with which the government disagrees and which he sees as part of the "present flood of revolutionary propaganda." This is deemed necessary despite the barrage of other censorship regulations which already exist to undermine the freedom of the press in this country.

In terms of the "total strategy" propagated by the Nationalist government, the war in South Africa and Namibia is, in the words of Magnus Malan, Minister of Defence, "only 20 percent military and 80 percent psychological." The government is attempting to win that 80 percent of the battle by closing down that section of the press which has had the courage to speak out against the injustices of the apartheid system in the past and by making other newspapers more wary of publishing criticism of government policies and actions.

The Minister feels that the August and November 1987 editions of **OUT OF STEP** were "calculated to have the effect of stirring up or fermenting feelings of hatred or hostility in members of the public towards a security force or members of a security force." Most of the material to which the Minister objects is information drawn from acknowledged professional experts, such as a Namibian lawyer. Or in



another case the offensive statement is "Our business is killing and business is good" which is a direct quote from a Koevoet t-shirt. **GRASSROOTS** puts it in a nutshell when they say "We believe that the security forces have generated whatever hatred exists against them." It goes on to say: "The government would do better to take heed of how our readers view the security forces than to try and silence the messenger."

Banning sections of the press is not a long-term solution. It may serve to deprive many people of a voice, but it does not remove the fundamental grievances which these people have towards the system of apartheid.

The ECC supports the "Hands Off the Media" campaign, not simply because our own publication is under threat, but more fundamentally because we believe that the existence of a free press is vital in order to build a new South Africa.

SIX YEARS FOR DAVE BRUCE?

As Dr Ivan Toms approaches his fourth month in jail, another objector faces the same punishment for his refusal to serve in the SADF.

DAVE BRUCE, a former Wits student, reported for his national service on August 5 last year, and is now awaiting trial. His trial has been postponed several times while a charge sheet is drawn up, and his next appearance in court will be on May 24th. The sentence for refusing to serve in the SADF is 1 1/2 times the length of service owing to the SADF : for Bruce, who has done neither his initial two years or his two years of camps, this means that he faces six years in prison. His reasons for refusing to serve are based on an opposition to racism and a belief that the SADF is fundamental in upholding the system of apartheid.

SADF IN NAMIBIA

While South Africa has been stalling on independence for Namibia, the people have been suffering. Over the years terrible accounts of atrocities against civilians have emerged. These facts often only became known because of court cases. Many cases involved members of the security forces.

The Shifidi trial could have been very similar, except that it got banned. Immanuel Shifidi was killed when violence broke out at a political rally in Katatura, Windhoek. The pro-government press immediately blamed SWAPO (a legal political party) for his death. This version was discredited when a signed affidavit was given to the Inquest Court. This document said that about 54 members of the army (Batallion 101) had been ferried from Northern Namibia to Windhoek with the express intention of disrupting the SWAPO Rally. The soldiers were armed with knives, pangas, clubs, bows, arrows, spears, knobkieries. Some even wore SWAPO t-shirts.

SMEAR CAMPAIGNS AGAINST ECC

ECC calls for alternative service for conscripts who cannot serve in the SADF because they have moral, religious or political objections. We believe all conscripts should have the right to choose. Through alternative service projects, we hope to show a more constructive national service.

Many of our opponents scribble away on toilet doors, others are more ambitious and print defamatory posters, and illegal stickers. Some even use helicopters to drop pamphlets.

In a recent Court Martial of three national servicemen, the Court President, Colonel Manie Dempers, said in his judgement that Colonel

This group was allegedly responsible for the violence that led to Mr Shifidi's death.

Six Defence Force members were charged with murder. The prosecutor alleged that two colonels were involved in sending the soldiers to the Rally, and that they had deliberately disturbed the peace, violently disrupting the meeting.

On the morning that the trial was due to start, it was announced that P W Botha had instructed the Administrator of Namibia to stop the trial. P W Botha has this power in terms of Section 103ter(4) of



J. Claase (of Communication Operation, W P Command) conceded under cross examination that there was a SADF campaign to discredit the ECC, in order to undermine ECC's goodwill.

In response to this, ECC applied to the Cape Supreme Court for an interdict. An interim order was granted restraining the SADF from unlawfully harrasing and interfering with ECC.

the Defence Act. This clause is supposed to be used where the soldiers had acted in good faith, in combatting terrorism in the operational area.

This banning caused worldwide dismay. Shifidi's family was angered because the murderers would not be found guilty and punished. The Bar Council of Namibia expressed "shock and disbelief", and they concluded that the issuing of the banning certificate was abusing the powers of the Defence Act. The independence of the judiciary is seriously threatened by executive meddling in the legal process.

One of Mr Shifidi's friends said: "He (Botha) has also given a clear indication that not even the law can stop him and his soldiers from killing innocent Namibians."

The occupation of Namibia, which is illegal in terms of International Law, has had a brutalising effect on the people of that country. South African conscripts are fighting there, and we have no freedom of choice whether we want to, or not.

The Aida Parker Newsletter often launches diatribes against ECC, linking us to Moscow and making other spurious claims. The April 8, 1986 edition was found to be grossly inaccurate, and was found to have violated the Media Council Code of Conduct. Despite this, the National Students Federation (to which the MSM is affiliated) have sent copies of the Aida Parker Newsletter to school principals. They often use the discredited stories about ECC themselves.

After the Aida Parker Newsletter was distributed to schools, the Eastern Province Herald Editorial had the following to say:

"It is deplorable . . . to foist the Aida Parker Newsletter on young impressionable minds. We would not read them if they contained disinformation about fish, let alone national affairs."

ECC INFORMATION FORUMS

For those who have any questions concerning the conscription laws, deferment, alternatives to the army and also one's rights in the army, be sure to attend one of ECC's information forums currently being held on campus and in residences.

ECC decided to embark on these forums in response to a growing need amongst conscripts and their families to find out what their rights are with respect to the army. Similar forums are being held throughout the country and no doubt those facing the August call-up will be able to make maximum use of this facility. Needless to say, one need not be a supporter of the End Conscription Campaign to attend these forums. They are intended as a service for both those who are unsure about the alternatives to serving in the SADF, as well as for those going into the army who have questions about what their rights are while serving in the SADF

ROELOF SE RAAR MAAR WAAR
 (translated: Pik says believe it if you * dare
 * can keep a straight face while trying
 * want to meet Rosanne

To buy a ministerial Merc the average worker would have to work for 30 years (at least) and spend no money at all. It's called the protestant work ethic.

Help, it's Here! Every nationalists new silverlining policy: "ECONOMIC REFORM" — double the trouble at 10 times the price.

THIS IS THE END OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, P W! WE DO NOT NEED RACISM.

PIK SE RAAR MAAR NAAR
 ((translated — Pik says puking won't help either)

PW crossed the Rubicon and went up the creek.

Contrary to popular belief, it is not only conscripts who need to know about their rights as regards the army. It is vitally important that a conscript's family and friends are aware of what channels to follow should a conscript require assistance. It must be remembered that conscription is an issue that affects women as well, and the forums should also be of great benefit to women.

Closely linked to the forums is the ECC "Know Your Rights" booklet to be launched soon. You will be informed of it as soon as it is available, and it will no doubt be an invaluable asset to every conscript and his family.

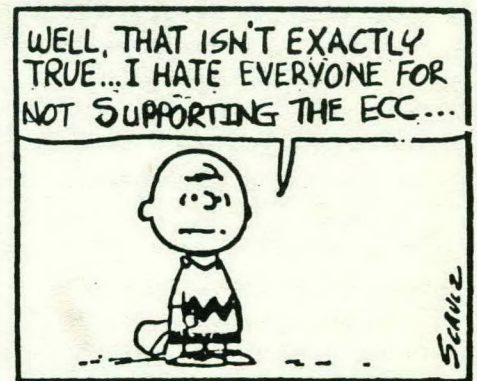
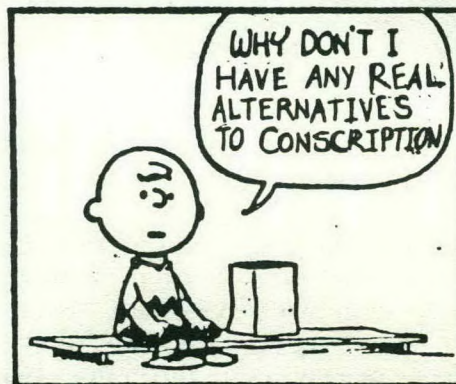
At each forum a member of the Conscription Advice Service will be present and available to answer any question you may have. The forums form part of ECC's national campaign for alternative service and there will of course be members of

UCT-ECC present to answer any questions you may have concerning the campaign and the organisation in general.

The sort of topics raised at the forums to date are perhaps the requirements of the Board for Religious Objection, the laws concerning camps and deferment, the question of eligibility of foreigners for the army, one's right to see a chaplain, township duty and many other issues.

If you have not yet attended one of our forums and you have questions to ask, look out for the posters advertising the date and venue for the next forum and come along next time. If you need conscription advice urgently or you cannot make it to a forum, Conscription Advice Service operates from the SRC Office on Red Level every lunchtime. Otherwise, feel free to pop in at the ECC Office on Green Level and speak to someone.

See you at the next forum!

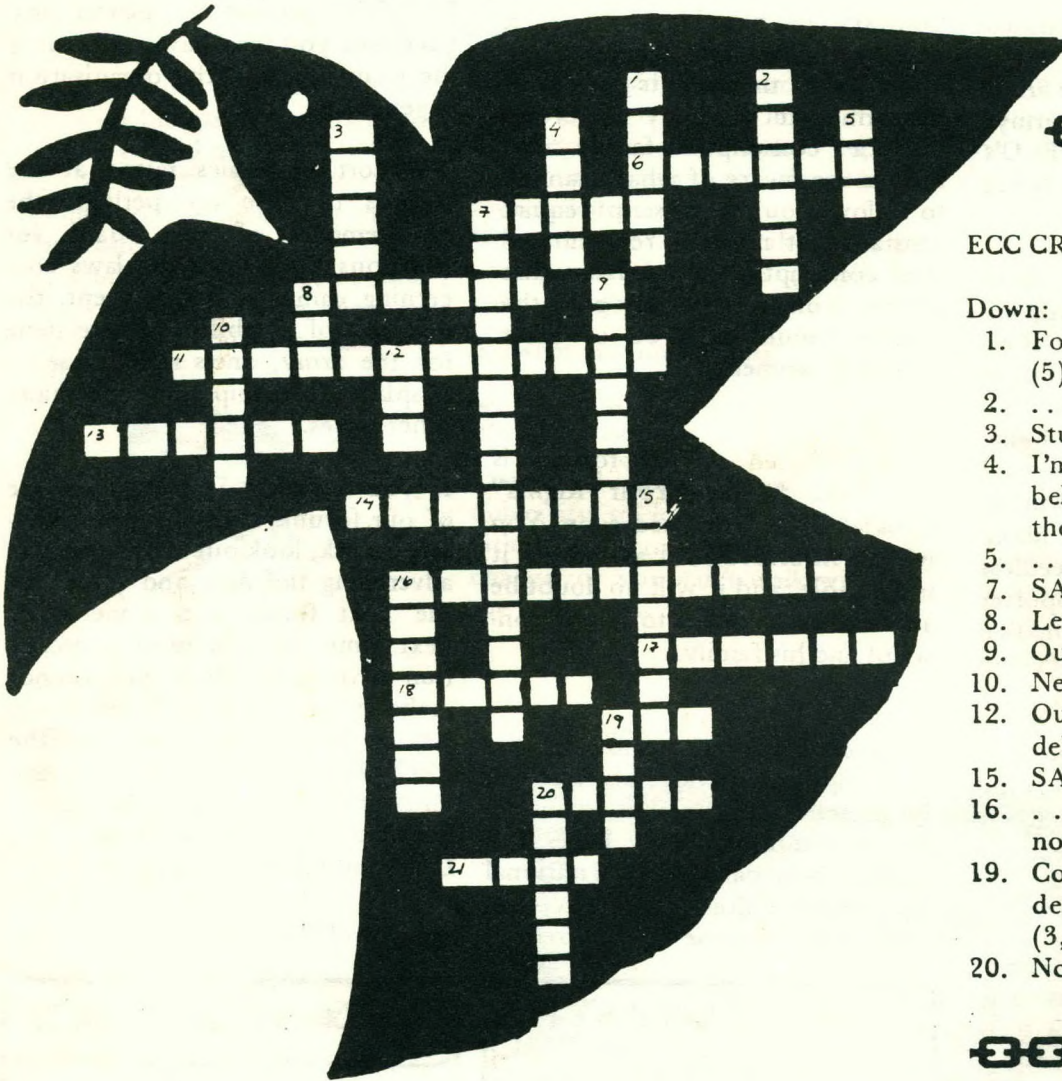


It's not true that P W doesn't know where to lead us — he is trying to get back to 1947 and doesn't know how.

Seriously, the Total Onslaught is TRUE!
 How do I know? I saw it on SABC, of course.

ECC CROSSWORD

WIN TWO ECC
T-SHIRTS



ECC CROSSWORD

Down:

1. Formerly Koevoet in Namibia (5)
2. out the Townships (6)
3. Student Press Group (5)
4. I'm a doctor and I don't believe in conscription into the SADF (4)
5. . . . is no Solution (3)
7. SADF policy in Namibia (15)
8. Leaders in Lusaka (3)
9. Our Angolan hero (6)
10. Newspaper recently banned(5)
12. Our opponents in a recent debate (3)
15. SA's Freedom Fighter Friend
16. belong in the wild, not in the townships (7)
19. Could have caused helicopter death at Rand Easter show (3, no.)
20. Not just a friendly ghost(6)



SHOW OF SOLIDARITY

After the recent SADF cross-border raid into Botswana, in which 3 Botswana civilians and a South African exile were killed, two of our members wrote a letter on behalf of ECC to the Botswana press. In the letter they expressed condolences to the families and friends of the people killed in the raid. They also stated our opposition to the militarisation taking place in South Africa.

We believe the violent response of the South African government to the political crisis of this country, is spreading violence to neighbouring states. This aggression has caused suffering to innocent people.

ECC was pleased to receive a reply from someone in Gaborone:

Dearest Gideon and Pieter

It is with great respect that I write this letter to you. I was well impressed by your article in regard to the South African defence raid into Botswana. It really touched my feelings to know that there are some "white" people concerned about the reactions of the South African government. In any case, I think South Africa needs a lot of people like you who are very concerned about the situation. I believe that you are doing God's work by condemning meaningless deaths, and may the Lord give you more courage, strength and most of all Love. Be Blessed good people and continue your good work.

Yours faithfully
Jacob M

Across:

- 6: where Cliff Saunders spends his holidays
7. American conscription (5)
8. Time for next army call-up (6)
11. Religious objector without a gun (3,9)
13. Five-pointed bastion of the SADF (6)
14. Not a computer language!(6)
16. Venue for recent Angolan talks (11)
17. Military man behind it all(6)
18. Coke, but more like Rag (5)
19. Number of years in jail for refusing to go to the army(6)
20. Holidays for life?! (5)
21. Working for a peace (4)

Leave your entries in the ECC Pigeonhole, or in the ECC Room, Green Level, Students' Union.

WIN TWO ECC T-SHIRTS!

What does the 'Call Up' mean for you?



SADF troops in Sebokeng township October 1984

Early next week, many of you will be packing suitcases in preparation for this January's SADF intake. You'll be half-dreading the last good-byes; tears and excitement at the castle.

But it's something everyone must go through; every family must lose a son, every wife a husband. Basics will be tough, we all know that.... maybe it will be good for him — he'll learn to obey, unquestioningly — he'll learn to accept authority placed above him in the army, he'll learn to submerge his own feelings for that of a greater cause.

But somewhere, maybe, at the back of your mind, there is a doubt. Is this actually what we want? For 2 years young men will be absorbed into a military community; trained to kill, trained to die.

Men who are conscripted are young. Mostly they are 17 or 18 years old — the most impressionable age, the easiest to mould.

As soon as they leave home, there will be no guarantee that the values we have always cherished will be encouraged in them. We will have to stay at home. But we will constantly be worrying:

- where is he now, why haven't we had a letter in so many months?
- will he still be the same person we saw grow up with decent human values?
- will we see him again, whole in mind — and in body?

Should we have to cope with this worry? Should we have to remain in ignorance of the actions of the SADF? Should we have to go through this and still wonder "what are they doing there, why are we fighting a war?"

We are told we are protecting the Namibians from SWAPO terrorists. But if we are honest we will realise that a terrorist is the name we give to anyone "on the other side". Mugabe is no longer a "terrorist", Machel is no longer a "terrorist". If we were Namibians, we would not call SWAPO 'terrorists' but our 'boys', our sons.

We are also told that we are protecting S.A. from an external enemy. How can this be true in light of events of the recent past. In the last three months the SADF was deployed in the African townships of Sebokeng, Sharpeville and Soweto and in the Eastern Cape.

Our sons were used against fellow South Africans who were protesting against rent increases they could not afford. Young white soldiers were used against black schoolchildren who reject their inferior Bantu education.

In Sebokeng the SADF was involved in a house to house search at 3 o'clock in the morning to root out 'agitators'. None were found. Instead, many people were arrested for pass law and migrant labour offences.

Our children are being conscripted to defend apartheid. They are expected to participate in a civil war and use force against the majority of our people who bear the brunt of this evil system. Surely they should have the choice.

This is why we call for an end to conscription. We appeal to you to join the many people who oppose compulsory military service and who are working for a just peace in our land.



PEACE CALL-UP

WAR IS NOT COMPULSORY
-LET'S CHOOSE PEACE!

The ECC believes that war is no solution, and neither is it compulsory. We believe that the real solution to the South African situation is the establishment of a just peace. This campaign is a call for all of us to work together for this peace.



***WHAT WAR?**

We live in a society where basic human rights are denied to the majority of the people. People live in such a way that their human potential and needs can never be realised. The 'unrest' is the increasingly desperate attempts by ordinary people to throw off the yoke of this universally condemned oppression

The Nat's response is clear. Their solution lies in: press curbs, detentions, closure of schools, vigilante, 90000 SADF troops in Namibia, troops in the townships and states of emergency, to name but a few aspects. The costs of this 'defence'? - Lives and social costs immeasurable plus R30million each day in finances.

***WHAT PEACE?**

Clearly the real solution lies in the implementation of a just political order. The unwinnable and unjust war the SADF wages is no answer to our countries' problems.

***THE CAMPAIGN**

We are still able to choose peace. The ECC is set on motivating this alternative. The demands the state makes on us are great, but this campaign is aimed at winning the right to choose in particular areas:

- (1) The right to choose not to serve in the townships.
- (2) The right to choose not to serve in Namibia.
- (3) The right to choose to do non-military alternative service.

WE CALL YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN WORKING FOR A JUST PEACE!!

If you choose peace we call you to join us in implementing your beliefs. Participate in constructive actions

A number of projects have been proposed in which you can benefit the community and so **WORK FOR A JUST PEACE.**

Some possibilities are:

- * clearing ground for a children's park
- * painting a mural
- * decorating a creche

The project is set for the 12th April 1987 but come first to a **PLANNING MEETING** for ALL concerned.

DATE: 9th April 1987, Thurs.
 TIME: 7.30 pm.
 VENUE: Justice Hall, ecumenical Centre.

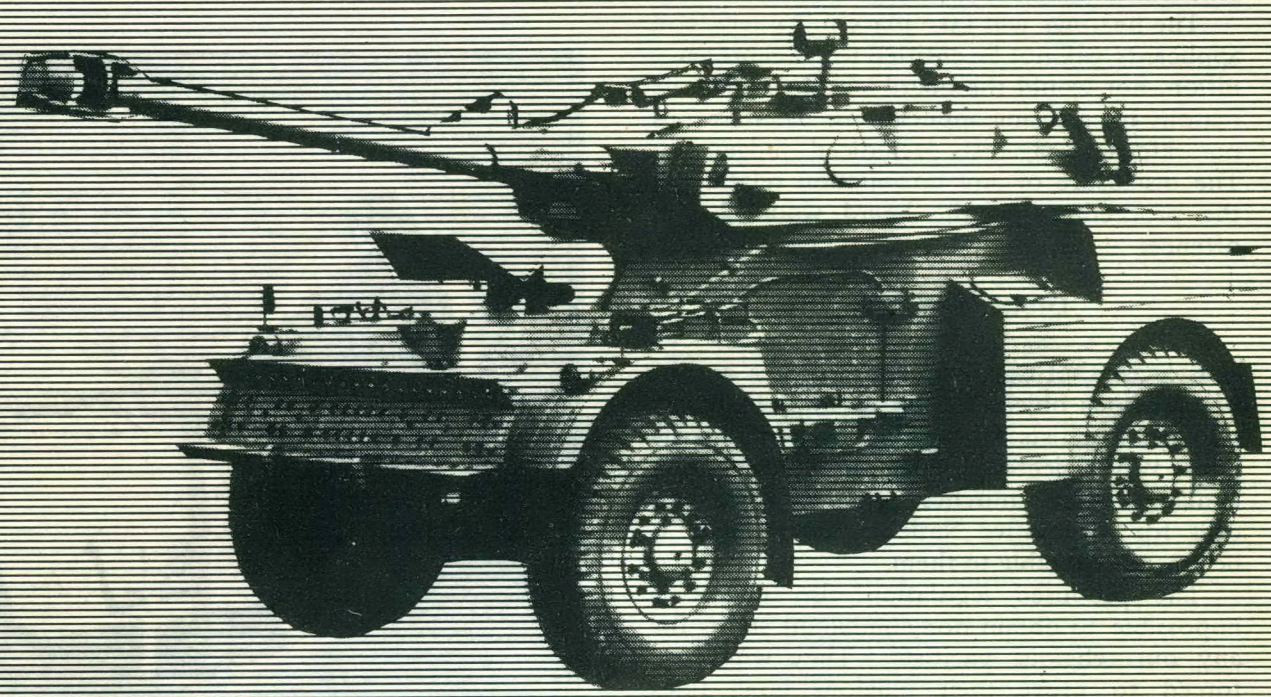
If you can't make it:
 VENUE: meet
 BEREA CENTRE
 TIME: 9.00 am.
 DATE: 12th April, Sunday



ECC Durban



OBJECTION: AN OPTION?



INTRODUCTION

The war on the borders of South Africa and Namibia is escalating. More and more, white South African men are experiencing a crisis of conscience over their call-up to defend apartheid. Thousands are leaving the country each year to live in Europe and America.

Individuals, church and other groups have made repeated calls for the provision of an alternative, non-military form of national service for all people who object to military service, for moral or ethical reasons. The SADF set up a Commission (consisting entirely of military personnel) under an army chaplain, Ds Naudé, to investigate conscientious objection, and their recommendations now form the basis of the Defence Amendment Bill of 1983.

The proposed legislation is obviously intended to squash all forms of conscientious objection.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

(i) Any secular objector, whether on political, moral or pacifist grounds, or any religious objector on non-pacifist or 'Just War' grounds will be eligible for the following:

A prison sentence of twice the length of the total period of sentence still due (eg 8 years for a person who has not done any military service, or 4 years for one who has completed a 2-year period of National Service).

(ii) "Community Service" in a government department or state institution for religious pacifist objectors, for the same period as outlined above.

(iii) A fine paid annually for religious pacifist objectors who refuse to do commando service, until the age of 55. This would be calculated according to salary earned, from a minimum of R470,00 per annum.

(iv) Non-combatant service in the SADF for religious non-combatants, for the same period as military service

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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