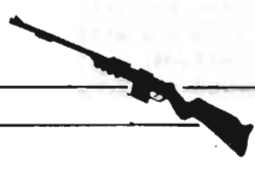




WAR AND PEACE



PACSA FACTSHEET

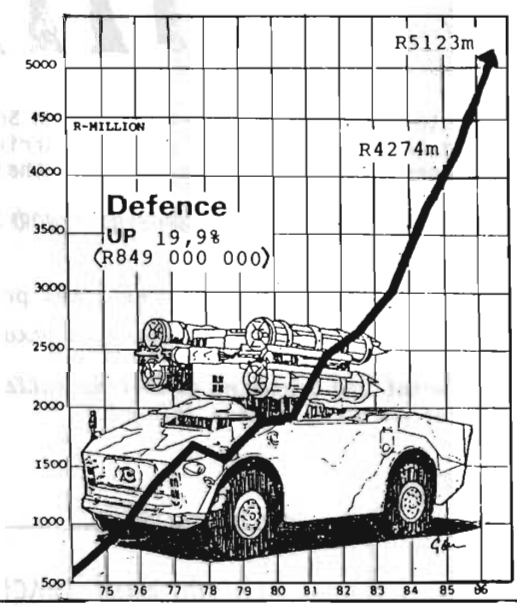


CONSCRIPTION AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENCE FORCE

- 1899 Boer War. Transvaal Englishmen were not conscripted by President Kruger.
- 1914 World War I. The Botha-Smuts government decided to go to war against Germany, but there was no conscription.
- 1939 World War II. The Smuts government did not apply conscription, recognising that 'people do not fight for causes which are not perceived as their own.' Military service was voluntary, and those who fought wore orange flashes. They were often beaten up; and some dominees refused them communion. Many members of the current ruling party were pro-Nazi, and so did not fight.
- 1961 Ballot system of conscription introduced. 7 000 men conscripted for a period of 9 months. Non-combatant status was granted to members of 'peace churches.'
- 1964 Number of conscripts increased. A number of Jehovas Witnesses went into Detention Barracks for refusing to serve at all. They were sentenced to three months (repeatable). Defence Budget increased from R44 million to R210 million.
- 1967 Universal military conscription introduced for all white males of 17 years for 9 months' service.
- 1970 Maximum sentence for Conscientious Objectors (C.O.s) increased to 15 months.
- 1972 National service extended to 12 months, plus annual 19-day camps for 5 years. Defence Budget - R350 million.
- 1974 The SADF took over from the SAP in North Namibia. Non-'peace churches' take up the issue of objection to military service for reasons of conscience.
- 1976 Defence Budget - R1 350 million.
- 1977 Conscription extended to 2 years, plus annual 30-day camps for 8 years.
- 1978 Peace Church C.O.s became liable for up to 36 months in D.B. For other objectors, 2 years or R2 000, or both.
- 1979 Defence Budget - R1 680 million. SADF intake: 30 000.
- 1982 Conscription extended to 2 years, plus 60 day camps over 12 years, plus 12 day camps up to the age of 55 years.
- 1983 The new law provided 6 years in alternative service for religious (pacifist) objectors and 6 years in prison for others.
- April 83 - March 84. 27 000 troops helped the SAP operate road blocks.
- Aug/Sept 1984. 'Exercise Thunder Chariot', a military exercise, cost R24,6 million.
- Oct.1984. 7 000 police and army were deployed in townships in the Vaal triangle.
- Mar.1985. Defence Budget - R4 274 million.
- Mar.1986. Defence Budget - R5 123 million.

Defence Budget

1975 - 1986



OPTIONS FOR CONSCRIPTIBLES

1. Normal service in the SADF.
2. Non-combatant service: may be granted to a person who has religious beliefs that will not allow him to carry or use a weapon. He will serve the normal call-up period doing non-combatant duties in military uniform.
3. Non-uniformed non-combatant service: may be granted to a person who has religious beliefs that will not allow him to carry or use a weapon, wear a military uniform or do anything that will aid the army. He will serve 1½ times the length of each call-up doing non-combatant duties in a non-military uniform.
4. Non-military service: may be granted to a person whose religious beliefs will not allow him to do any kind of service in the army. He will serve 1½ times the length of all SADF service outstanding, in one continuous period, in a government or municipal department.
5. Prison: A person who refuses to serve may be imprisoned for 1½ times the length of all SADF service outstanding.
6. Exile.

BOARD FOR RELIGIOUS OBJECTORS

Members: a Chair (a Judge or retired Judge)
3 "theologians"
2 members of the SADF, one a chaplain
possibly a theologian of the applicant's denomination.

From late 1983 to the end of 1985, out of 758 applicants (most of them Jehovahs Witnesses) 11 were refused objector status. The existing law fails to accommodate C.O.s who are Christians but not pacifists. The Board cannot cater for those who find that serving in the SADF is in conflict with their religious or moral convictions for reasons other than total pacifism.

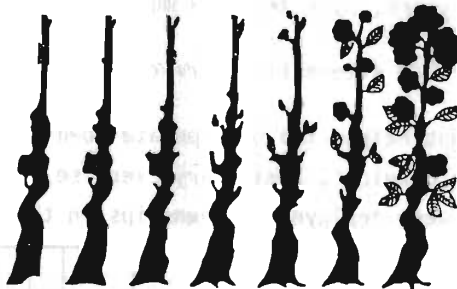
THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN



ECC was formed at the end of 1983 after the Black Sash called for an end to conscription. Since its formation, branches have been set up in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Members are motivated by anger at the grief and suffering experienced by the South African and Namibian people under apartheid and at the hands of the SADF; and are committed to working for a JUST PEACE, knowing that it is possible for all people to enjoy full lives as equals and at peace with one another in a democratic society.

Short term demands are that:

* conscripts be given the right to refuse to enter the townships or neighbouring states;



* viable forms of alternate service be made available to all objectors;
* alternate community service to be reduced to 4 years.

ECC is committed to solutions to the conflict in South Africa which do not involve military intervention. ECC is opposed to the militarisation of South African society. ECC believes in constructive community service that crosses racial barriers, building bridges to a better future. ECC has embarked on a country-wide campaign: *WORKING FOR A JUST PEACE.*

Pietermaritzburg ECC is involved in three local projects:

- (i) Planting trees and sedge, and building a bridge at Compensation Farm, which is a resettlement area. They are working with the community.
- (ii) Painting a mural and painting dormitory walls at Hilltops Children's Home.
- (iii) Repairing and painting broken tricycles.

"IF YOU WANT PEACE WORK FOR JUSTICE"

Pope Paul VI

