The issue of conscription was flung into the eyes of the world in March this year and the ECC reacted to the situation taken by 143 young men who had refused to serve in the SA Defence Force and who demanded that the government allow the option of alternative service. Their stand came a week after conscientious objector David Bruce was jailed for 6 years.

General Malan announced he had "broken off relations with the ECC". Malan also rejected the ECC's alternative service proposals, formally presented at a meeting between the two. He accused the ECC of threatening State security and described it as "the vanguard of those forces that are intent on wrecking the present dispensation and its renewal".

ECC national secretary, Mr Alistair Teeling Smith, said in response: "Instead of attacking our organisation, we believe it would be more constructive for Magnus Malan to debate his differences with the ECC". He said that "the stand of the 143, taken completely independent of the ECC, was an indication of the growing resistance to conscription and the demand for alternatives".

Although the ECC is already restricted by the emergency regulations, pro-government newspapers predicted that the government would take action against the organisation.

The 143 who made their statements simultaneously in 4 separate groups in Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and Grahamstown included Afrikaans as well as English speakers. One is the grandson of a former cabinet minister, another a Rhodes scholar, another a nuclear physicist. Some are students, others are doctors, lawyers, journalists, engineers, architects, academics, clergy and teachers. There are social workers, a dentist, an energy researcher, computer consultants, a film-maker, a librarian, a botanist, artists and musicians among them.

"As loyal South Africans, we wish to contribute to the building of a peaceful and just society. The SADF violently maintains and propagates a fundamentally unjust and oppressive system. We cannot make a contribution to justice and peace and at the same time be part of the SADF," they said in a joint statement.

Some of the 143 had already served in the SADF. Their military ranks ranged from rifleman to Captain. Andre Zaalman, a former infantry Captain and graduate of the University of the Orange Free State said that the SADF had "become an instrument of deliberate and large-scale repression, serving narrow political ends.... I, and many other young South Africans are not prepared to sacrifice our lives in the defence of tyranny."

David Bruce
conscientious objector
jailed for 6 years

I am prepared to fight in defence of the people of South Africa. Going to jail is like reporting for service. By taking this stand I am trying to say I am prepared to shoulder the responsibility of young men who sacrifice their lives. I have no contempt for the job that soldiers do. I am prepared to serve in defence of the people of the country but not in defence of a racist system of government.

We call on the government to recognise the right of conscientious objectors to refuse to render military service on moral, political and religious grounds.
What is ECC’s viewpoint on violence?

After a recent public meeting it became apparent that very few people had any understanding of ECC’s clearly stated policy on violence.

(1) What does ECC think of atrocities committed in this civil war eg. bomb blasts?

ECC condemns all violence directed against civilians regardless of who commits the atrocities.

(2) What does ECC see as the cause of this violence?

We believe it is important to look at the root cause of such violence rather than to blindly criticize isolated incidents. The cause is the system of apartheid and the injustices that it forces on the majority of our population. Such injustices include forced removals, detention without trial, the ban on the national language, the Group Areas Act and a host of other measures that prevent most South Africans from participating peacefully in the struggle for change.

The Angola Drainpipe

The Angolan war is costing South Africa a crippling R4 billion a year.

The tottering South African economy could be placed under considerable more strain should the war in Angola escalate. Dr Azar Jammine, director of Econometrix recently outlined the massive costs to the economy of continuing warfare. He maintains that if the Government spends billions a year on fighting the war in Angola, a spectre of increased taxation, higher interest rates, hyper inflation and an ever weakening economy looms.

Despite the fact that salary increases for policeman and soldiers have been frozen, there has still been a 20% increase in Defence and Prisons spending. This is to a large degree a reflection of the SADF actions in Angola.

Other economists such as Ulrich Joubert of the Trust Bank, have echoed this prediction by stating that in the long term the country would be unable to afford a war because of constraints on the balance of payments.

Senior economist at Nedbank: “We have previously warned that if the war in Angola increases, South Africa must avoid a full scale war.”

Reality dictates that Angola is the war nobody has lost and nobody can win. Signatories to the recent plan were driven to negotiate by the spectre of stalemate. South Africa has much to gain from a settlement. We would be able to divert spending from defence up 22 percent this year - to educational and social upliftment schemes that are crucial to the countries future.

NGK ON ANGOLA

The fact that Die Kerkbode, mouthpiece of the Dutch Reformed Church, has begun to question the presence of S.A.’s military forces in Angola is surely a reflection of the concern with which the public views events in that troubled region.

Die Kerkbode suggests that it may be morally and ethically correct for S.A. to withdraw her forces on them.

The booklet Is available from Fogarty’s In Main street; The Bookshelf, Rink street; van Schaik House, Main street North End. The booklet retails at R4.99. For mail order enclose R5.50 to ECC, P.O. Box 947, P.E. 6000.

"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" BOOKLET LAUNCHED

A booklet containing hints to assist conscripts was launched at a cocktail party in the foyer of the Port Elizabeth City Hall in July. City councilor, Graham Richards, who addressed the launch, said that the ECC was dedicated to demystifying military service, to providing information and assistance to those who are faced with the decisions that the prospect of conscription forces on them.

He said that there were “a multitude of different issues which raise themselves and have to be considered by young people, who are not always aware of all issues, let alone the solutions.”

The booklet covers 3 areas of military service:

- Your rights in the SADF covers pay and allowances; leave and travel; medical rights; language rights; uniforms; religious rights; physical and verbal abuse and study rights.

- Contravention of Military law outlines the nature of offences under the Military Discipline Code and possible punishment for such offences.

- What is military service really like? offers personal accounts of life in the SADF from former conscripts, covering the full spectrum from "basics" to the psychological effects of serving in the townships and Angola.

The booklet is available from Fogarty’s in Main street. The Bookshelf, Rink street; Van Schaik at UPE, and Frontier Publications at 501 Alfie House, Main street, North End. The booklet retails at R4.99. For mail order enclose R5.50 and write to ECC, P.O. Box 947, P.E. 6000.
Five members of the ECC met with two senior officers acting under the directive of the Minister of Defence in June.

The Agenda was confined to ECC's request, to extremely civil, and mutual commitments were made. The meeting was described as extremely cordial. Previously all requests made by the ECC to meet with the SADF had been turned down.

Below is a summarised version of the Memorandum handed to the SADF on 15 June 1987:

**INTRODUCTION**

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) is grateful for this opportunity to make representations to the South African Defence Force (SADF). We sincerely hope that this communication can lead to greater understanding of these reasons face a jail sentence of one and a half times the time owed to the SADF, a six year sentence for those who have not done military service.

**QUESTIONS**

Due to the limited agenda of the meeting between ECC and the SADF, ECC was unable to ask the questions that they felt were important to the general public. The questions below reflect urgent issues in South Africa today that the SADF refuses to address. As concerned South Africans we should be asking these questions as we have a right to know about what is going on in our country and Southern Africa as a whole.

1. In the light of the recent large scale call up of Citizen Force members for duty in Namibia/Angola, what provision is made to accommodate those who object to service in these countries?

2. How many SADF African, Coloured and Indian soldiers, and members of the Special Forces and SWATI have been killed or injured in Angola since May 1987?

3. What is the total financial cost of SA’s intervention in Angola since May 1987?

4. What is/was the SADF's role in the formation of the National Security Management System?

5. What is the SADF's position on the problems of conscription leading to a "brain drain" and placing a burden on the economy?

6. Can the SADF comment on the numbers of conscripts failing to report for initial 2 years service and camps?

7. Is the SADF satisfied with the recent stoppage of the trial of SADF members accused of murder of a volunteer military force?

8. What does the SADF see as the drawbacks of a volunteer military force?

9. Are servicemen lectured about the ECC, and, if so, what is the aim and content of such lectures?

10. Is it the policy of the SADF to discredit and, if so, what is the aim and content of such lectures?

11. Is the SADF prepared to debate publicly the issue of conscription with the ECC?

A significant number of conscripts, unhappy with the government's defence policy and the role of the SADF in South Africa and outside the country, find themselves with little option but to serve in the SADF. Unwillingly being forced to serve can cause profound psychological and moral problems for these conscripts.
During the past month the P.E. ECC has been involved in several projects aimed at making the campaign a reality.

This started in July with a cocktail party launch of the "Know your rights" booklet. A week later a "Know your rights" public meeting was held at which two legal experts were on hand to answer questions relating to conscription. Seventy interested people attended the meeting and lively discussions took place.

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Seventy Interested people attended the meet answer questions relating to conscription. This started In July with a cocktail party launch at which two legal experts were on hand to a "Know your rights" public meeting was held ttve service.

During the past month the P.E. ECC has been the public aware of the campaign for alterma

LOCAL NEWS

What other sus­
pension system
can handle the
rigours of driving
ever grave stones
and squatter
shacks whilst pro-
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surface adhesion
and an eminently
comfortable drive.

The fine tuning of
the new "sjambok"
class has produced
an engine so
smooth that even
the quietest pedes-
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ing, and with its
900 litre fuel tank,
the casspir's range
is impressive:
Soweto, Laman-
tville, Langa,
Lusaka...

In Casspir's new "sjambok" class
NO-ONE CAN TOUCH YOU

The sheer authority of the casspir has placed it in a class of its own giving the driver a sense of control unmatched by any other vehicle on the local market. In these times of sanctions and double standards, local designers have come up with the definitive South African vehicle, a vehicle engineered to the unique requirements of South African motoring.

An ample sun roof gives the passen-
gers 360° vi-
sion and it is here that the casspir's unmatched range of accessories come into their own. What family vehicle offers 30mm armour plat-
ing, bullet resistant glass, unlimited tear gas, flame throwers, rifles, machine guns, shotguns and enough ammuni-
tion to last from Pretoria to Crossroads and back.

What other sus-
pension system

If these are the qualities you seek in a vehicle, contact your nearest dealer.
END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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