A4·54

# THE NATIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION'S STAND ON NATIONAL SERVICE

## *Reasonable or Treasonable?*

*A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY RADICAL LEFTWING GROUPS IN SOUTH AFRICA TO DISCREDIT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR S.A. DEFENCE FORCE. SLOGANS LIKE — DON'T FIGHT FOR BOTHA'S ARMY — ARE BEING BANDIED AROUND: EVEN WORDS LIKE 'DESERT', WHICH WERE CONSIDERED TREASONOUS HAVE BECOME VIRTUALLY INOFFENSIVE IN CERTAIN CIRCLES — EVEN PRAISEWORTHY.*

### Loyalty

South Africa is a country where we have grown up, where we have received our education, where we live, where we wish to see justice, peace and harmony — the country where our children will be raised. Our loyalty to our country should be above all reproach, should be sincere and true. Any attitude other than this is not only reprehensible but treasonous. Political affiliation on the other hand, are the democratic right of every citizen. Anyone working for change according to his or her views — as long as it is legal and decent can only be praised if they are sincere, but a destruction of law and order by violence and subversion never begets harmony, in fact a reactionary elite class always emerges.

South Africa, as our motherland, has given us life and all that we have. For this we must show our gratitude.

Further, there must be certain institutions which are part or the infrastructure of the country, which are necessary, irrespective of the party in power. They are essentially a-political and are really for the benefit of all.

### Questions

Is it not logical that a defence force is such an institution? It would be naive in the world in which we live to suggest that a country should not have a defence force to protect the country as a whole. Without debating the correctness of policies, it is obvious that South Africa's borders must be protected. Should such an obligation not be met by all citizens, hereby facilitating the process of necessary internal reform.

Or a question closer to home — do our parents, brothers, sisters, boy or girl friends not deserve to be protected? Can we demand of others to do so while we do not? Terrorism assumes significance only when it directly affects our lives. Ask the families of those killed or injured in recent ANC bombing incidents, if they feel there should not be a defence force and whether terrorists should be allowed to "express" themselves.

### Dialogue

There are many people who talk against national service, and profess 'political' or religious reasons for their stand, whereas in fact they are hiding their fear of discipline, physical training and discomfort. But in fact national service is a way of serving one's country and getting to know one's fellow citizens — is that detrimental to the common good?

In the operations area, when the 'chips are down', blacks and whites rub shoulders; no put their lives on the line for each other. The example of understanding between groups in the SADF should be a starting point for all citizens, rather than be dismissed. To take up the cause of any group, whether black or white, at the expense of the other would be immoral. To appreciate the developments that have eventuated and to encourage them, requires maturity and honesty.

south african history archive SAHA

## *SOUTH AFRICA IS OUR COUNTRY - AND IS WORTH DEFENDING!!*

Issued by the National Student Federation, P.O. Box 67926, Bryanston 2021. Student Moderate Alliance (University of Witwatersrand), Student Action Front, Moderate Student Movement (University of Cape Town). The views and opinions expressed do not purport to be those of the above university Councils or S.R.C.'s
Printed by Print Centre, Cor. Susanna & Waldron Sts., Florentia, Alberton.

# DIE NATIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION
## SE STANDPUNT OOR
# NASIONALE DIENSPLIG

## *Redelik of Verraderlik?*

***'N INTENSIEWE VELDTOG IS VAN STAPEL GESTUUR DEUR RADIKALE LINKSGESINDES IN S.A. OM DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE WEERMAG SE INTEGRITEIT TE BEVRAAGTEKEN. "DON'T FIGHT FOR BOTHA'S ARMY!"***
***HIERDIE EN BAIE ANDER SOORTGELYKE SLAGSPREUKE WORD VRYLIK OP KAMPUSSE EN ANDER PLEKKE ROND GESLINGER. 'N WOORD SOOS "DROS", WAT AS VERRADERLIK BESKOU WAS, WORD ARGELOOS GEBRUIK EN IN SEKERE KRINGE SELF PRYSINGSWAARDIG.***

**Lojaliteit**

Suid-Afrika is die land waarin ons groot geword het, waar ons ons opvoeding gekry het en waar ons leef. Suid-Afrika is ook die land waar ons geregtheid, vrede en harmonie wil sien, en bovenal is dit dié land waarin ons ons kinders wil grootmaak.

Ons lojaliteit vir ons land moet bo alle verdenking staan en eerlik, opreg en suiwer wees. Enige ander houdingsgesteldheid is nie net breukbaar nie maar wel verraderlik. Politiese affiliasie is die demokratiese reg van elke landsburger. Enige een wat werk vir verandering in gevolge sy of haar oortuiging verdien ondersteuning, mits die poging wettig en eties is, en hulle opreg met die poging bedoel. Vernietiging van wet en orde deur geweld en ondermyning sal nooit dat harmonie lei nie slegs die totstandkoming van 'n reaksionêre elite. Ons vaderland Suid-Afrika het ons lewe gegee en alles wat ons besit en hiervoor moet ons innig dankbaar wees en ons waardering betuig.

Daar moet verdere sekere instellings as deel van die land se infra-struktuur wees en wat noodsaaklik is, afgesien van watter party in bewind is. Hulle is hoofsaaklik a-polities en word daargestel tot die voordeel van almal.

**Vrae**

Is dit dan nie logies nie dat die verdedigingsmag — ook so 'n instelling is nie? Dit sal naïf wees om, in die wêreld waarin ons vandag lewe, te verwat dat 'n land nie 'n verdedigingsmag moet hê om die land as 'n geheel te beskerm nie. Sonder om die juistheid van die beleid te bespreek, is dit duidelik dat die grense van Suid-Afrika bedreig word en moet dit verdedig word, terwyl daar ter selfdetyd gepoog word om oplossings te kry. Moet so 'n verpligting dus nie deur elke burger nagekom word om sodoende 'n proses van interne verandering te vergemaklik nie?

'n Vraag nader aan die hart — verdien ons ouers, broers, susters, kêrels en meisies nie beskerming nie? Mag ons eis van adere dit wat ons self nie wil doen nie? Dikwels word terrorisme uit 'n meer realisties hoek gesien sodra dit onsself affekteer. Vra maar vir die families van die slagoffers van die onlangse ANC bomaanvalle of hulle dink dat daar wel 'n verdedigingsmag moet wees al dan nie en of die terroris toegelaat moet word om homself geweldadig uit te druk!"

**Dialoog**

Baie mense praat teen diensplig kwansuis op die grond van geloof of 'politieke' redes. Die werklike redes is ver hiervan verwyder, naamlik die vrees vir dissipline, fisiese oefening en ongerief. Diensplig is in werklikheid die manier om jou land te dien en ook om jou mede landsburger te leer ken — is dit dan nou skadelik vir die welsyn van almal?

In die operasionele gebied waar die kastaiings uit die vuur gekrap word staan wit en swart skouer aan skouer — hulle offer hulle lewens vir mekaar op. Dié voorbeeld van die verstandhouding tussen die verskeie groepe in die S.A.V. moet die beginpunt vir alle burgers wees en nie summier verwerp word nie.

Om die saak van een groep te bevorder, hetsy wit of swart, tot nadeel van die ander, is immoreel. Om die ontwikkeling tot nou toe te waardeer en aan te moedig vereis rypheid en eerlikheid.

south african history archive
SAHA

## *SUID-AFRIKA IS ONS LAND -*
## *EN VERDIEN OM VERDEDIG TE WORD!!*