

SACBC STATEMENT

ON

LATEST WAVE OF DETENTIONS (3/12/86)

The latest wave of detentions and restriction orders served on 18 members of the End Conscription Campaign prompts the Southern African catholic Bishops' Conference to question, yet again, the motives of the South African government in silencing voices of peace.

The SACBC fully supports the end Conscription Campaign's aim to demilitarise our society. We know and respect this latest group – four of whom were detained at John Vorster Square (on 2/12/1986) and 14 others restricted. Seven of this group are Catholics, guided like all the group in their work for the End Conscription Campaign, by Christian motives which the State President led us to believe he too respects.

We are particularly saddened by the detention of the SACBC field worker, in our Peace Project, Stephen Lowry, whose work for the End Conscription Campaign was commissioned and sanctioned by the Bishops' Conference.

Why then should we, Catholic Bishops of Southern Africa, not be the next to be detained and restricted? This is no way to further the cause for peace. We cannot take this lightly.

Those detained are: Stephen Lowry, Annemarie Rademeyer, Sue Jobson and Clare Verbeeck.