

# This South Africa

There was a deliberate attempt by certain Leftist and Communist organisations to destroy the national service system wherever it was in operation and South Africa would have to combat this, the Minister of Defence, Mr. P.W. Botha, said in the Assembly yesterday.

The Minister, who was replying to the debate on the second reading of the Defence Amendment Bill, said this attempt was being made because the organisations involved realised that if they could succeed in jeopardising the national service system they would shake the foundation of the nation.

In South Africa there were organisations such as the Civil Rights League which had this aim in mind. This organisation was one of the most hypocritical to be found.

South Africa would have to take measures to prevent these people from succeeding in their aims or else the nation could be destroyed.

## OBJECTORS

Referring to conscientious objectors to military training, the

Minister said it was a world-wide phenomena which should not be given an opportunity to gain ground.

**The Jehovah's Witnesses might appear, to be angels but they were not. He had been told that there was only one way to deal with them and that was to act sternly.**

There were members of other faiths who heartily cooperated with the Defence Force and who had declared their willingness to do other non-combatant duties.

He had given the matter serious attention and he was not prepared to relax the provision proposed in the Bill in terms of which a person who refused to undergo training could be sentenced to detention for a period of 12 – 15 months.

*"Daily News" 2/3/72.*

## NOTES ON OUR CONTRIBUTORS

**FATIMA MEER** is a lecturer in Sociology at the University of Natal in Durban. She is the author of "Portrait of Indian South Africans" and "The Apprenticeship of a Mahatma".

**DAVID HEMSON** is an M.A. student in Durban in the African Studies department. He is also engaged in research work into wages. He was editor of S.A.I.R.R. News two years ago.

**ROBERT WYLLIE**, a former civil engineer, lectures in the Department of Philosophy in Pietermaritzburg.

**C. SEWERSHAD** is chairman of the revived Natal Indian Congress.

**EDGAR BROOKES** former Senator in the Union Parliament. He was, until his retirement, Professor in the department of History and Political Science in Pietermaritzburg. He is the author of many well known books.

**JONATHAN CREWE** is a lecturer in the English department in Pietermaritzburg.

### EDITORIAL BOARD:

Chairman: Mr. A. Paton.  
Board: Prof. E.H. Brookes, Mrs. A. Cobden, Mr. J. Corrigan,  
Mrs. M. Corrigan, Mrs. M. Dyer, Prof. C.O. Gardner  
Mr. K. Laue, Miss S.J. Lundie, Mr. L. Marquard,  
Miss F. Robbins, Mr. J. Unterhalter.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: R1,50 (£1; \$3) for 6 issues.

Send to :-  
Reality,  
P.O. Box 1104,  
Pietermaritzburg,  
South Africa.