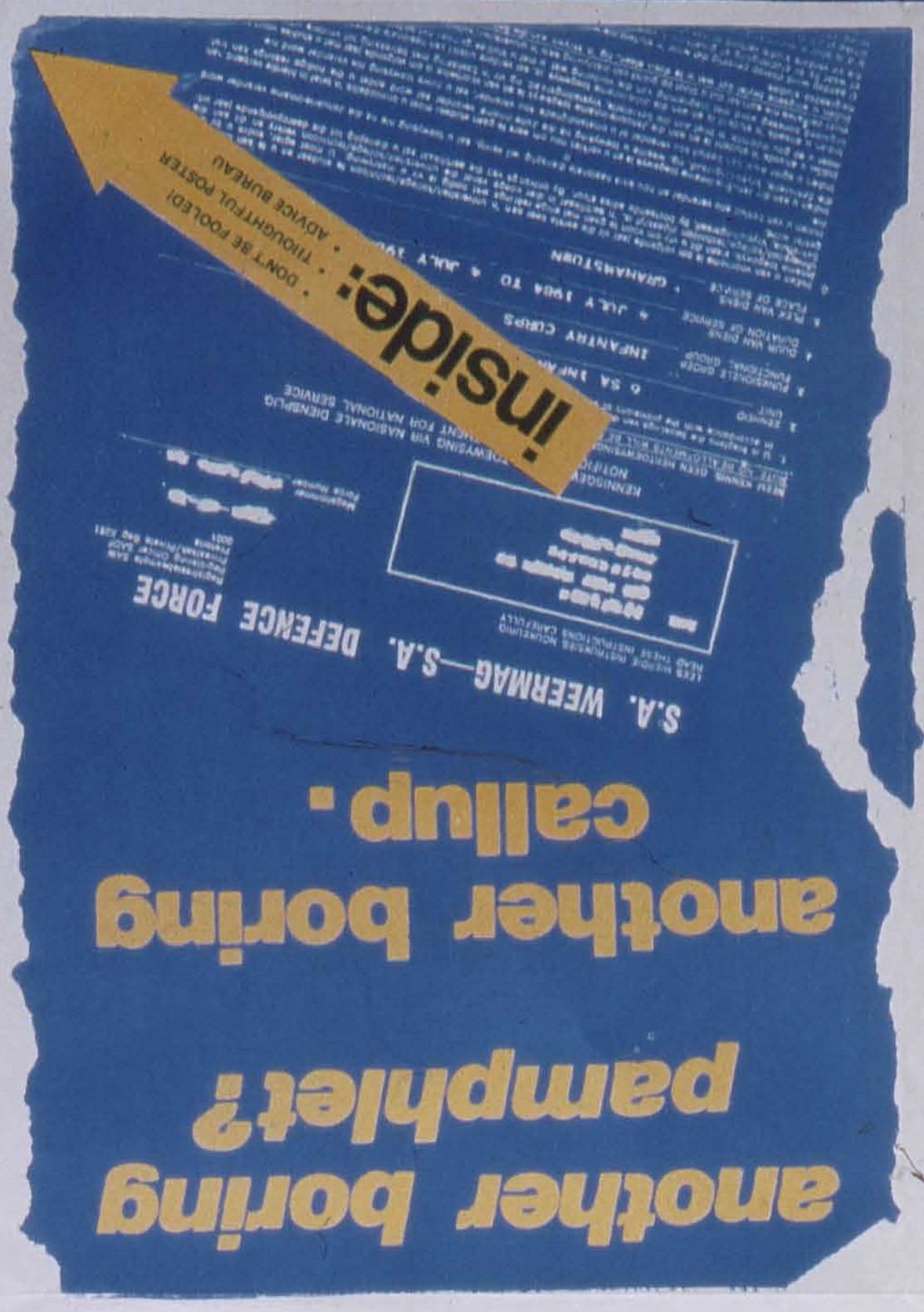

DON'T BE Fooled!

another boring pamphlet?

another boring callup.

THE TROUBLE STARTS WITH A CALLUP...

A few weeks from now, many of us, our friends, classmates, brothers or lovers, will be called up to spend two years fighting in the SADF. Others are being called up for month-long camps.

"CALLED UP" means we have no choice, we are legally compelled to do two years of army, whether we like it or not.

We know that people have always considered the army a bust: Two years away from home, heavy P.T., short hair, discipline ... a bit "inconvenient", maybe, but, things are much heavier now, and many of us are terrified at the thought of finding ourselves shooting fellow South Africans in the townships and suburbs of our cities.

As members of the SA "Defence Force" we're told that we'll be defending our country from "foreign invaders" and "terrorists", but if you've read your newspapers recently, you'll know that the SADF has been assisting the police in enforcing apartheid laws throughout the country. It seems that because its apartheid constitution has been rejected by the people of this land, the government has decided to use its State of Emergency to force its will on the people. So we are being called up to help enforce these unjust laws...

The resistance of the people has been so determined, that more & more national servicemen are being used to help the police. And the government is trying to hide the actions of its forces by banning photo and press coverage in "unrest" areas... so now it becomes increasingly difficult for the public to know exactly what sort of role the SADF is playing. In recent weeks, Kilometer's worth of SADF convoys have been operating in Crossroads, Guguletu and Athlone

Many of us feel concerned and worried about what is happening. We feel alienated from friends and parents in the white community, where life goes on as normal, but does that mean that we have to passively accept the situation? ECC believes not... as young people, we've got to challenge our elders. We have got to join the fight towards a peaceful, non-racial South Africa ... and our fight against the conscription law is an important one.

Those of us working on ECC believe that it is the RIGHT of each individual to decide if they are prepared to fight, and to put themself in a position where they could be forced to kill. We demand an end to conscription, and a right to choose.

With our country sliding deeper and deeper into civil war, it's not surprising that more and more people feel shaky about the future: wealthier friends check out options of emigration, College and Varsity graduates leave daily. But are these the best options???

Most of us want to Stay in South Africa, to be able to contribute and build up a better society. Our education, whether at school or varsity, has been paid for by the taxes of the working people of our land, and as young people we want to be able to put our new-found skills to work for the benefit of all. We don't want to "run away" to America or Australia, but we want the choice, to be able to do true "National Service" which can be of benefit to all South Africans.

ADVICE BUREAU ON MILITARY CONSCRIPTION...

Are you worried about your callup? Having hassles with camps? Dont rely on rumours before you make any decisions.

There are people to talk to at the Advice Bureau on Military Conscription, who may be able to answer your questions.

Phone one of the contact numbers and arrange an interview. If necessary, you can be referred to someone else working on the Advice Bureau. There are lawyers, a psychologist, priests, and past conscientious objectors, who are all available for counselling.

Many people have used the Advice Bureau as a channel for talking about their problems about serving in the SADF. There is also information available about the possible alternatives to conscription.