

5. THE "BRAIN DRAIN"

Between 1984 and 1987 South Africa lost 1651 engineers, 329 doctors and dentists and 714 from the accounting profession. In a 1987 survey of Rhodes University students, 57 per cent of those planning to emigrate cited conscription as their major reason for leaving.

The Department of National Education has estimated that the "brain drain" costs the government more than R11 million a year in wasted investments in university training alone.

There is also a growing population of "semi-fugitive nomads". These are people who simply fail to report for military service and evade the SADF for as long as possible. According to evidence in 5 different trials in 1985, an average of 25 per cent of conscripts failed to report for their camps. Many of these men govern their lives by the desire to evade military call-ups. This is both a disruption to our community and an invisible drain on the economy.