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CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR SUPPORT GROUP.

P.O. Box 591
Kengray
2100

25 August 1993

The Negotiations Council
For attn: The Technical Committee on
Fundamental Rights during the Transition
World Trade Centre

Fax No: 397-2211

Could you please substitute the attached page 1 for the first page
in the document delivered to you by hand on 24 August.

There was an error in the original document in section 1 (d), line
three of this section. This should read "(2) **No-one shall be
required to bear arms...**" (Not "requested" as in the original.)

I apologise for this error and hope that you can rectify it!

Thank you.



Nan Cross

For Johannesburg COSG

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Conscientious Objector Support Group

P.O. Box 591
Kengray, Jhburg
2100

25 August 1993

The Technical Committee on Fundamental
Rights during the Transition,
World Trade Centre,
Kempton Park
1619.

BY HAND

SUBMISSION TO THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BILL OF RIGHTS

The Johannesburg branch of the Conmscientious Objector Support Group (COSG) has recently had occasion to examine the sixth report of the Technical Committee on Fundamental Rights during the Transition, dated 15 July 1993.

1. COSG Johannesburg would like to make the following comments:
 - (a) Clause 8(1) establishes the right to freedom of conscience. It does not, however, make specific reference to the right not to be conscripted into an armed force.
 - (b) We believe that it is essential that such a right be formally and specifically established in our new South African Bill of Rights as early as the transition period.
 - (c) Our full position is set out in the enclosed Policy Statement dated 22 October 1990.
 - (d) We therefore request that Clause 8(1) be followed by a clause such as the following:
"(2) No-one shall be required to bear arms or perform military service against his or her conscientious beliefs".
This wording was included in the ANC Draft Bill of Rights Preliminary Revised Version dated February 1993. COSG's input was taken into account in the the drafting of that wording.
 - (e) Furthermore, we consider it essential that the right to Conscientious Objection be excluded from the suspensive powers of clause 29 as it

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is precisely in an emergency situation that the right not to be conscripted into an armed force needs to be protected.

2. COSG - what it is. The aims of our organisation and our methods of working are set out in the enclosed leaflet entitled "What is COSG?"

3. We welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft Bill of Rights and trust that the committee will be able to incorporate our proposals.



P Paul Goller
for Johannesburg COSG.

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