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SECTION V : DOCUMENTATION

MOTION PASSED AT 43RD PROVINCIAL SYNOD MEETING OF THE CHURCH OF
THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

THAT THIS SYNOD -

AWARE of the deaths of several detained people; and also aware of the profoundly distressing allegations of torture of people detained by the Security Police, and knowing that some members of our Church are employed by the Security Police, either as officers or informers in the Republic of South Africa, asks such members, especially if they held any office in our church, to consider their witness before our Lord Jesus Christ, and asks Vestries to exercise great care in the election of church officers.

THAT THIS SYNOD -

1. NOTES

- a) That some people cannot render any form of combatant military service with a good conscience.
- b) That some people cannot render any form of military service with a good conscience.
- c) That in April, 1977 the Synod of Bishops of the CPISA supported a statement of the South African Catholic Bishops Conference which urged the State "to make provision for alternative forms of non-military service as is done in other parts of the world."
- d) That the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa, and the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa have all urged the State to provide conscientious objectors with non-military forms of National Service.
- e) That in May, 1979, the Synod of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Durban requested the South African Catholic Bishops Conference to establish a committee on military service.

REQUESTS

- a) The Minister of Defence to create a committee (or some other appropriate procedure) that will enable the Department of Defence and the Churches to discuss specific proposals and problems which are raised:
 - 1) By the request for non-combatant forms of military service that a conscientious non-combatant can render with a good conscience and

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- ii) By the request for non-military forms of National Service that a conscientious non-militarist can render with a good conscience.
- b) The Synod of Bishops of the CPSA to co-operate with any Committee on Military Service which may be established by the South African Catholic Bishops Conference.