

APPLICATION FOR CLASSIFICATION AS RELIGIOUS OBJECTOR

RELIGION: Jehovah's Witnesses

CATEGORY APPLIED FOR: Defence Act, 1957, (as amended), Section 72D (1) (a) (iii)

FULL NAMES: MARIO SALVATORE DI MAGGIO

ADDRESS: 46 Northgate, 23 Goble Road, Morningside, Durban, 4001

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 235625

FORCE NUMBER: 82415944 BA

Postponed until 31 December 1988

DATE OF CALL-UP:

PERIOD OF CALL-UP: 01/02/89 TO 03/01/91

REGIMENT ALLOTTED TO: SCHOOL OF ENGINEERS, KROONSTAD
~~SAMS TRG CENTRE, POTCHEFSTROOM~~

PREVIOUS MILITARY TRAINING: None

ID NUMBER: 6605225014 00 0

DATE OF BIRTH: 22.05.66

MARITAL STATUS: Single

LEVEL OF EDUCATION: B.Sc.

PRESENT OCCUPATION: Studying for H.D.E.

CONDITION OF HEALTH: Very good

NAME OF CONGREGATION: Morningside

CONGREGATION TEL No.: 839400

DATE OF BAPTISM: 06.04.85

ASSOCIATED WITH JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES FOR HOW LONG? 6 years

ACTIVITIES SHARED IN: All congregation activities

RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONGREGATION: Ministerial servant

RELIGION OF PARENTS: Associated with Jehovah's Witnesses

FACTORS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BOARD (such as bur-
saries, apprenticeships, etc. for which deferment of community
service may be requested): None

M. Di Maggio

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

Following are the Scriptural grounds upon which my application to the Board is based:

When I began studying the Bible seriously, I first clarified in my mind the correct teachings on the nature of God, death, prayer, worship, etc. One of the first things that started me thinking seriously about a Christian's attitude to warfare was when I learned that during the Second World War, German Catholics slaughtered English Catholics and German Protestants English Protestants. I was sickened at the utter hypocrisy of such occurrences. I soon realized how stupid it was for anyone to believe that God was in support of any militant nation on earth today. How could any nation claim to have 'exclusive rights' to God?

Jesus clearly stated that in time his disciples would be found all over the earth (MATT. 28 :19, 20). How then, could any true Christian go to war if the possibility existed that he would be fighting his own brothers? Yes, Jesus clearly said: "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves" (JOHN 13 : 35 NEW WORLD TRANSLATION).

In time, the truth became clearer and clearer to me. I saw that a Christian's stand was to be a neutral one - "They are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world" (JOHN 17:16), were Jesus' words. If I am to pray for God's Kingdom to come and for His will to be done here on earth (MATT. 6: 10), how can I be in support of any other earthly kingdom?

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My duty is to educate people about that coming kingdom: "Though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage warfare according to what we are in the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshy, but powerful by God for overturning strongly entrenched things" (2 COR. 10 : 3, 4).

It is true that enemies will always exist in this present system of things; those who will want to kill, destroy and plunder. It is also true that South Africa is facing an onslaught of this nature today - but a Christian just CANNOT compromise, regardless of the circumstances! When this stand conflicts with the State, a true Christian can only reply: "Whether it is righteous in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves (ACTS 4 : 19), but "We must obey God as ruler rather than men" (ACTS 5 :29). In any case, Jesus Christ said: "I say to you who are listening, continue to love your enemies, to do good to those cursing you, to pray for those who are insulting you" (LUKE 6: 27, 28).

A Christian's things of value, his real possessions, are not here on earth but in heaven (MATT. 6 : 20, 21).

The matter though, goes further than that. Christians also need to be neutral because it is not God who oversees the activities of this planet, but Satan (2 COR. 4 : 4).

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After Satan had showed Jesus "all the Kingdoms of the inhabited earth", he said to Jesus: "I will give you all this authority and the glory of them, because it has been delivered to me, and to whomever I wish I give it" (LUKE 4 : 5, 6.).

From this inspired Bible passage I can only conclude that the nations of the world belong not to Jehovah God but to Satan, and (I say this respectfully and purely as a Bible student) this includes South Africa.

I am determined to continue on this worthwhile course, doing my best to imitate Christ's example and that of the 1st Century Christians. Although I respect the South African Government to the best of my ability (ROMANS 13: 1 - 7) - I am eagerly awaiting the "Kingdom that cannot be shaken" (HEB. 12 : 28), and want to live my life as a faithful citizen of that Kingdom.

Thank you,

M. Di Maggio

M.S. DI MAGGIO

Morningside Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

C/O 1 KELVIN PLACE DURBAN NORTH 4051

130 Montpelier Road,
Durban 4001.
Telephone:

10/9/88

The Secretary,
Board of Religious Objection
PO BOX 20521
Bloemfontein
9300

Dear Sir,


RE: Mario Di Maggio

I Michael Frank Van Heerden, an Elder in the Morningside congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses Durban wish to confirm the following.

Mario moved into our congregation recently from Pietermaritzburg where he served as a Ministerial Servant in the local congregation. On arriving we could see immediately that this was a man of God with a strong conviction for his faith and God's Word. He has served most faithfully in our congregation, attending in a responsible way to any assignments given to him.

By the very positive nature of his participation in congregation activities, such as meetings, field service and Bible studies it is apparent that he loves the true God Jehovah intensely and would do nothing to disobey Him or his Christian conscience, based on his studies of the Bible.

I know personally of his strong conviction not to do National Service and confirm that he truly is a Religious Objector. I recommend this man highly, and wish to add that through faithful work in the Morningside congregation he has now been appointed as a Ministerial Servant in this congregation, thus confirming his firm stand for righteousness.


M. F. VAN HEEDEN

