

Handwritten initials and a small box containing the number 1.



R A James Esq MC
Assistant Secretary
F4 Division
Home Office
Horseferry House
Dean Ryle Street
London
SW1

Our reference
346/70/9

12 March 1970

Dear

1. We spoke on the telephone two days ago about the report passed to Mr Elystan Morgan by Julian Snow MP for Lichfield and Tamworth that the Central Committee of the Stop the '70 Tour Committee had decided firearms should be carried by demonstrators at the forthcoming South African Touring Team cricket matches.
2. You will have seen the Special Branch report on the STSTC Conference held last Saturday and in particular the account of the closed session. Our information is that at this stage no real detailed planning of tactics has been agreed and therefore the many wild stories which are going the rounds about what the demonstrators intend to do can be treated with considerable reserve. I mentioned on the telephone that we had heard that someone has conceived the idea of using rifles fitted with telescopic sights to pick off the bails and shatter the stumps from time to time during the game. It may be that it was that story that formed the basis of the report which reached Julian Snow's ears.
3. Many other choice and exaggerated ideas are currently being circulated - one is that a swarm of locusts will be released over Lords - and as you said to me on the telephone we can expect a spate of such alarmist rumours in the weeks to come.
4. So far as the use of firearms in the worst and most dangerous sense is concerned our reaction is that this would be well out of character even for our most extreme militants at the present time.
5. Naturally we are keeping a very close watch on the situation and we will do our utmost to keep ourselves informed of the plans of the demonstrators. We are working closely with the Security Service with whom we are pooling and exchanging information. On 29 April 1970 at the next conference of Senior Special Branch officers from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland which takes place at the Yard, we have included an item about the cricket tour on the agenda. The conference will give us an opportunity to get together with the delegates from the Forces which are to be inflicted with the cricket matches and ensure that any item of information received from any quarter does not go astray.

Yours sincerely

