

S.S. No. 1 (Priority)

Special Report

SUBJECT

S.T.S.T.

Reference to Papers

316/70/9

BOX 500

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

10th day of March, 1970

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-

2. "The First National Conference of the 'Stop the Seventy Four Committee' was held at Hampstead Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, NW3, on Saturday 7 March 1970, from 10.15 a.m. until 6 p.m. It was attended by some 150 delegates. The Agenda was as follows:

Morning Session (open to the public as well as delegates)

- (i) Chairman's Introduction - Michael CRAFT
- (ii) Sport and the White South African - Professor John RIX
- (iii) The Problem as seen by Michael BRINKLEY (phonetic) (Middlesex cricketer)
- (iv) The Seventy Four and the West Indian Community - Jeff CRANFORD
- (v) Review of S.T.S.T. - Peter HAIN
- (vi) General discussion

Afternoon Session 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. (open to delegates only)

- (a) Chairman's Introduction - Privacy
- (b) Financial Report - Privacy
- (c) Regional Group discussions
- (d) Final discussion.

3. Michael CRAFT opened the conference by reading various press extracts - both British and South African - which showed the reaction to the formation and activities of the S.T.S.T., in particular he used them to demonstrate the publicity which the movement had received in South Africa, which in itself was a breakthrough, because hitherto the South Africans had ignored any mention of apartheid in relation to sport

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4. JOHN DEY, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Durban, traced the origin of apartheid in sport in South Africa, and assured those present that, contrary to a lot of 'authoritative' opinion, the actions of S.F.S.T. had considerable effect on South Africa and he felt that the movement was merely the beginning of a mass struggle which would overcome the racist regime in South Africa.

5. MICHAEL BRIDLEY (ph), a northern university lecturer and a Middlesex cricketer, gave a well reasoned speech in which he warned delegates against the use of violence for the moderates within S.F.S.T. who are against all forms of violence. Unfortunately neither BRIDLEY nor any of the other speakers could satisfactorily define 'violence', which complicated the arguments for and against it.

6. The next speaker, JEFF CRAYFORD, Secretary of the West Indian Standing Conference, promised support for the Campaign, but added that as yet neither he nor other members of the W.I.S.C. had decided what form their support should take. Many of them felt that if large bodies of coloured people took part in the demonstrations at cricket matches then two separate problems could arise -

- (1) their protest could be used as an excuse by fascists for attacking them and thus increasing racial tension, which was the very opposite of what they wished to achieve and
- (2) a large number of his members felt that they were already victimised by police and at such demonstrations they could easily be singled out for arrest.

Despite these disadvantages, W.I.S.C. was taking all possible steps to ensure that the Tour did not take place, and this included the refusal of any West Indian player to participate in any cricket match which involved the Springboks, and also an attempt to get the West Indies to refuse to play England in any further test matches if the Tour went ahead. He strongly criticised Basil d'Oliveira for being the 'Uncle Tom' of English cricket.

7. The final speaker in the morning session was Peter HAIN who gave an outline of S.F.S.T. describing its meteoric rise which he hoped would not have an equally spectacular fall, and he urged all present to regard S.F.S.T. as the start of a great movement with the stopping of the Cricket Tour as only the first but

[REDACTED]

not the primary objective. The support which had been gained in such a short time should not be allowed to dissipate at the end of the Springboks tour. From attacking apartheid in sport they must move into the wider field of racism both in South Africa and in this country, and finally the capitalist system which nurtured it.

8. During the general discussion which followed it became apparent that the only real ground for disagreement amongst the delegates was on the question of whether or not violence should be used at the demonstration which would take place during the cricket season, and indeed what constituted 'violence'. Some felt that violence could only be used against the person, but others felt that property came within the definition, and also the threat of violence at a later date was in itself a violent demonstration. Despite this difference, it was stressed that S.T.S.T. was not a monolithic organisation, and its avowed policy was one of non-violent militant direct action, if individuals or individual groups felt that violence was called for then they must be the final judges of what action was appropriate. This concluded the morning session.

9. [REDACTED] Privacy a student at Reading University, took the chair at the opening of the closed afternoon session. He immediately introduced [REDACTED] Privacy who gave a brief financial report, which showed that the movement as a whole had a credit balance of £251, which was regarded as satisfactory. There then followed a brief general discussion on 'Criticism of S.T.S.T.' which showed that the main criticism was its failure to enrol the support of the working men through the agents of the Trade Unions.

10. The conference was then divided into groups: viz London, South, Wales, Midland, North and the Trade Unions to discuss the broad strategy for the forthcoming summer. The general pattern which emerged from these group discussions was:-

- (1) A 'welcome' should be extended to the 'White' South African cricket team when they arrive at Heathrow Airport, if this was at all possible to arrange. The T.U. spokesman [REDACTED] Privacy (of SOGAT) said that he would endeavour to arrange for everything connected with the Tour to be 'blacked', which was considered an appropriate form of action, and this would commence at the Airport itself. The demonstration should be extended to the hotel where they would stay.
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(2) A national demonstration should be held at Lords on Saturday June 6 1970, the opening day of the Tour, and it should be of such proportions that it should effectually finish the Tour.

(3) As a preliminary to (2) it was felt that local demonstrations should be held outside all the grounds where the South Africans would be playing at the earliest possible date after the beginning of the Cricket Season. These demonstrations should take the form of a propaganda exercise consisting of leafletting and picketing the grounds. The leaflets should contain a warning that if the South Africans played at the grounds then the matches would be disrupted. The date of these demonstrations would be decided later, as all the groups concerned felt there was insufficient time to make the arrangements at the Conference.

(4) Members should join Cricket Clubs in order to be in a position to obtain tickets for the matches.

11. In the general discussion which followed it was felt that activity should be maintained between now and the commencement of the Cricket tour, and the following were put forward as venues which S.T.S.T. supporters should attend.

(1) Albert Hall, Saturday March 7 Rothmans Professional Tennis.

(2) International Badminton tournament at Wembley from March 18 to 21.

(3) Saturday March 21 1970, 10th Anniversary of Sharpeville.

One demonstration would commence at Kennington Oval at 1.15 p.m. and march to Trafalgar Square to join the main body of demonstrators.

(4) Freedom Theatre, Lyceum, Wellington Street, W.C., to commemorate Sharpeville : Sunday 22 March 1970, 7.30 p.m.

(5) Medical Aid Walk across London's bridges on Sunday 12 April 1970, commencing 10 am at Tower Bridge, in aid of African Freedom Fighters.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



(6) Kitson March commencing Ruskin College, Oxford, Friday May 22 and terminating at Trafalgar Square on Monday May 25 1970.

Privacy

12. The conference was ended by a short address from Peter HAIN, in which he thanked all those present for their assistance over the past months and urged them to even greater activity during the forthcoming weeks. He warned however that they must beware of infiltrators, without becoming neurotic, as the S.T.S.T. was undoubtedly of great interest to the authorities and Special Branch. Unknown faces and strange 'volunteers' should be treated with suspicion. The conference was then concluded.

13. The overwhelming majority of the delegates present were obviously students; of the adults present nearly all were 'individuals' as opposed to delegates from organisations. It was a well conducted and organised conference. The main responsibility for this lying with Michael CRAFT. The only unusual incident took place before the start of the Conference when [redacted] occupied the Chair and later stood on the table as a protest on behalf of the M.C.C. and to "give S.T.S.T. a taste of their own medicine." The presence of the press and T.V. undoubtedly saved him from forceful ejection.

14. The following persons are known to have attended this Conference:

Jonathan ROSENHEAD

Privacy & Christabel

Privacy

Michael CRAFT

Peter HAIN

Privacy

Ernest ROUKEE

Privacy

Privacy

Privacy

Privacy





Mike BRISLEY
John RAY

Privacy

15. Special Branch references to the persons mentioned are contained in an appendix to this report.

M. Ferguson
Detective Sergeant

Submitted:

Jamieson
Chief Inspector
Privacy

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

Privacy





APPENDIX to Special Branch report dated 9 March 1970.

Jonathan ROSENHEAD

405/68/166

Privacy

Christabel

Privacy

Privacy

Michael CRAFT

405/59/297

Peter HAIN

405/69/402

Privacy

Ernest ROOPER

405/60/522

Privacy

No trace

No trace

Mentions

Jeff CRAWFORD

405/ Privacy

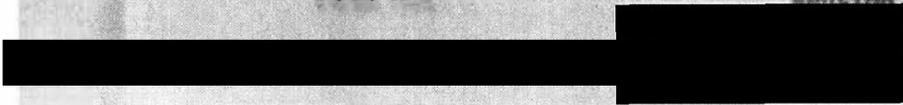
Privacy

Nike BRISLEY

No trace

John RRY

Mention





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Privacy

