

S.B. No. 1 (Filmsy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

(COPY)

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

SUBJECT

7 day of April 19 70

STST

Reference to Papers

346/70/9

Doc 500

ENCLOSURE 2 pages
[redacted]
[redacted] 31

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

2. "The London Region Conference of the Stop The Seventy Tour was held in the Small Hall, St Pancras Town Hall, on Sunday 5 April 1970 from 2 pm until 6 pm. There were some 50 delegates present, and the Chairman was Ernest RODKER.

3. The agenda was:-

- (i) Privacy (vice Privacy who was indisposed): "Apartheid in Sport and Racism in Great Britain".
- (ii) Report back from groups and general discussion on tactics and organisation.
- (iii) Publicity - leaflets and fund raising.
- (iv) Pre-tour activity.
- (v) Tour activity.
- (vi) Any other business.

4. Privacy spoke briefly on the subject of Apartheid and expressed the hope that those present would not be too disappointed if the coloured population seemed somewhat wayward in supporting the Campaign. This was due to two factors: firstly that many coloured people felt cricket did not really affect them, and secondly that for various reasons it was very hard to mobilise them in any great numbers. He concluded by saying that STST was a small organisation but with a hard core of militants, who could help to destroy apartheid and racialism. To do this, however, the struggle must be continued after the Cricket tour, otherwise all the talent and experience gained during the months of the Campaign's existence would be wasted. In other words, apartheid in Sport was only the tip of the iceberg of fascist racism.

5. It was generally agreed that the organisation of STST was too small, in that it did not comprehensively

cover London; delegates were urged to set up local groups as soon as possible and to commence fund raising and political activities. The formation of these groups should be given the widest publicity in an endeavour to bring the aims of the campaign 'to the man in the street'. This would best be achieved by distributing leaflets in the most appropriate areas.

6. It was agreed that in view of the possibility of conspiracy charges arising from any activity which could be construed as urging others to disrupt public events, it would be wiser not to discuss detailed activities at this stage, but that a 'Planning Committee' should be set up, which could advise branches on tactics which might prove successful in disrupting cricket matches. The Planning Committee would consist of a small group of 'known' (trusted) delegates and would meet at a convenient date in the near future.

7. It was announced that a sum of £100 had been given specifically to assist in the production of leaflets, posters and sticky labels, which were in the process of being produced and would shortly be distributed.

8. More money would be needed for the purchase of tickets for the cricket matches and to finance this project two measures were agreed:

- a. National SST would finance as far as possible the purchase of tickets for resale to those individual members and groups of the campaign who were not in a position to purchase them themselves.
- b. The local London groups would be expected to obtain tickets for themselves at the earliest possible opportunity, and it was agreed that instead of membership fees, tickets for the matches at which the South Africans would be playing, would be the libra franca.

Members were urged to buy as many tickets as they could afford and inform National SST of the numbers which were in their possession so that a co-ordinated plan of ticket distribution could be drawn up.

9. Attention was drawn to the forthcoming 'Kitson March' which delegates were asked to support and use it as a distributing point for SST leaflets.

10. It was agreed that Saturday 2 May 1970 should be the day for national demonstrations outside all the



cricket grounds where the South Africans would be playing during the season. In London this meant Lords and the Oval, and the demonstrations there would take the form of picketing and distribution of leaflets. (There were some present at the meeting who felt that the demonstrations should take a more militant form, ie invasion of the pitches, but this was rejected as it was felt that it would adversely affect the campaign). Banners would be displayed announcing that in the event of the South Africans playing at the grounds action would be taken to stop the games.

11. The whole success of the Campaign would hinge on the first cricket match, South Africa versus Southern Counties at Lords, June 6th, and it was proposed that total commitment was necessary during the three days of this match, and all the resources of STST should be directed against it. As stated earlier, their tactics would be decided later, but the main object was to obtain massive support for disruption of this match, hence the necessity for obtaining tickets and also for the maintenance of strict discipline within those groups who would be participating in the demonstrations. Members who were given certain responsibilities would have to carry them out and the whole campaign must take on a more militant nature.

12. Reading University was organising a "reception committee" for the South Africans when they arrived at Heathrow on June 1st. The exact time and flight were as yet unknown but it was generally believed that they would travel ~~by~~ by BOAC.

13. In view of the commitment to the first match, both on a London and national basis, it was agreed that the weekend of 6/7 June would be an ideal opportunity to mount a large demonstration outside whichever hotel the South Africans were staying.

14. The conference was then closed.

15. The following persons are known to have attended this meeting:-

Peter HAIN

Brian BODKER

Privacy

Privacy

JONATHAN ROBERTSHEAD



Privacy

Privacy

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

H Ferguson
Detective Sergeant

Submitted

Ferguson
Chief Inspector


CHIEF SUPERVISOR

[REDACTED]

APPENDIX

to Special Branch report dated 7 April 1970 concerning
a Conference of the Stop The Seventy Four held on 5.4.70

Peter HAIN
Ernest RODKER

Privacy

Jonathan ROSENHEAD

Privacy

