

Cricket raids: the men who stayed silent...

NO one in the Anti-Apartheid Movement should have been surprised by the sudden switch to more violent protest this week over the South African cricket tour.

For the Daily Express has evidence which shows that the A.A.M. leadership—at its annual meeting last October in the National Liberal Club, Whitehall—plainly entered into a conspiracy of silence about the direction future tactics should take.

This evidence clearly indicates that the people who lead the Movement—and the Stop the '70 Tour committee—gave a nod and a wink to its militants while at the same time saying:—

Don't associate us publicly with this.

Attending that meeting on October 26, when the Stop the Tour movement was born, were:—

- A life peer.
- Members from six trades unions.
- Several known Communists, including one of the party's most respected senior statesmen.
- And many of the officers of the AMM who have consistently denied prior knowledge of the excesses of some of its members.

Yesterday the Express obtained a transcript of the proceedings of that meeting.

It is obvious from this that the platform, chaired by Mr. John Ennals who was recently removed from the United Nations Association director-generalship, was well aware that militants were planning more drastic action than simply marching.

Approval

It is also apparent that they gave at least tacit approval.

The meeting lasted all day. Seventy-four people were present. Two stewards at the door checked everyone's credentials.

On the platform was Lord Collison, until recently general secretary of the National Union of Agricultural Workers and now chairman of the Government's Supplementary Benefits Commission. Alongside him

By ALAIN CASS
and JAMES DAVIES

was Mrs. Ethel de Keyser, full-time executive secretary of the A.A.M. and the executive committee.

In the audience were Mr. Idris Cox, 70-year-old secretary of the Communist Party's International Department; Mr. Peter Hain, South African-born organiser of the Stop the Tour committee; several people deported from South Africa including author and journalist Mr. Brian Bunting who was expelled from the South African Parliament in 1953 for Communist activities and now works for the Soviet news agency Tass in London.

Exiled

Also authoress Miss Doris Lessing and Mr. Jo Slovo who with his wife Miss Ruth First was exiled from South Africa following a period of detention.

Elected to positions on the A.A.M. that day were two Labour M.P.s, Mr. Peter Jackson (High Peak) and Mr. Frank Judd (Portsmouth West)—vice-chairman and national committee member respectively. Mr. Hain was elected to the executive council.

It was when the meeting discussed the setting up of the Stop the Tour committee that Mr. Paul Hodges, a national organiser of the A.A.M., revealed

that detailed plans had already been made to harass the Springboks' Rugby and cricket tours.

He said he appreciated that the Anti-Apartheid Movement could not be linked officially with the protesters "because of the possibility of its leaders being charged with conspiracy to commit a public disorder."

He also said that while he would welcome them serving a prison sentence for a sit-down strike or some other peaceful form of protest, he would not expect them to face similar penalties for being engaged officially in the sort of protest he and his friends were organising.

But, he emphasised, the officers of the A.A.M. were aware of their plans.

Mr. Hodge was quite right. For shortly afterwards Mr. Ennals himself, in answer to a question, said the leadership was "aware of their planned activities" but that it was important there was no publicity on the issue involving the A.A.M.

And the name of Mr. Alan Brooks, the A.A.M.'s full-time organiser, was crossed out on the agenda where it had appeared among those sponsoring a motion on the subject.

No report

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For the first time in many years no report of the meeting was given in the Communist-owned Morning Star.

A resolution was carried unanimously. It said: "This A.G.M. aware of the effectiveness of direct action in the sphere of sport urges an extension of this kind of activity to other fields."

M.P. Mr. Peter Jackson said yesterday: "I was not at the meeting—but I allowed my name to be put forward for election. I am certainly in favour of some forms of civil disobedience."

What forms? "I am deliberately not commenting on that question."

Civilised

Mr. Frank Judd, M.P., said last night, after addressing the anti-apartheid group at Portsmouth Polytechnic:—

"My position is absolutely clear. I am absolutely against violent methods as I believe they are counter-productive. We must use civilised methods in our fight for civilisation."

The honorary vice-presidents of the A.A.M. are: Sir Dingle Foot; Trevor Huddleston, Bishop of Stepney; Jeremy Thorpe; and Basil Davidson.

The Bishop of Stepney said last night: "I was not at the meeting but I think the whole idea of the tour is so misplaced and so contrary to anything that is right and decent that there is bound to be violent reaction to it.

"I also believe that any form of violence—and that includes damage to property — is self-defeating and I would not wish to be associated with it."

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