

a Gatting snubs'anti-ap

MIKE GATTING. captain of the rebel cricket tour to South Africa, yesterday refused to meet four anti-apartheid campaigners .who had flown from Johannesburg In an attempt to dissuade the cricketers from going, writes David Graves.

The campaigners, who included Mr Krish Maekerdhui. president of the South African Cricket Board. the governing body of non-raeial cricket. WCHUO Lord's where Gatting was playing for Mddlesex against North-amptonshire, bl". he declined to see them. Rain had stopped play when the delegation arrived and the former England captain was available in the ground but the delegation was met Instead at the main gate by Col John Stephenson. secretary of MCC. Mr Mackerdhul gave him a letter addressed to Gatting inviting the player to meet the delegation before they leave London temol'row.

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OVER THERE: Willie-John McBride and players Steve Snuth, Paul Rendall and Jeff Probyn arrive in Johannesburg for the rugby tour. OVER HERE (below): anti-apartheid group-Murphy Morobe, N gconde' Balfour, Mi Hlatswayo a_nd Krish Mackerdhuj _arrive in London to campaign against the rebel cricket tour

arth group into Lord's, told Mr Mackerdhuj: "live come down here because I don't want you to feel we have been diseourteous in any way. Mike Gatting is playing in a match and live come down to accept it on his behalf." Mr Mackerdhuj said he was surprised the delegation had not been invited into Lord's. The letter to Gatting said: tilt has been reported that you are undertaking the tour to help develop non-racial cricket in South Africa. This is certainly not the view of the overwhelming majority of South Africans." The delegation's visit is part of the most sustained protest against sporting links with South Africa for nearly 20 years. launched by the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Some 28 protests are planned at matches involving the 14 members of the rebel squad before the end of the cricket season. The other members of the delegation were Mr Murphy Morobe, of the United Democratic Front. ' ho has twice been detained Hlatshwayo, of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, and Mr Ngconde Balfour of the National Sports Congress, who has been out of detention for two weeks having spent five months in solitary confinement. The delegation later met Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy Labour leader, and Mr Norman Willis. TUC general secretary.

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Last night Mr Hattersley urged Mrs
Thatcher to intervene with a robust eon-
demnation of the tour in an effort to per-
suade the players to pull out.
0 Steve Smith, the Ireland hooker, became
the first member of the victorious British
Lions squad to show officially his support
for the South African Rugby Boardis cente-
nary celebrations when he arrived in Johan-
nesburg yesterday. Wasps' Paul Rendall
and Jet? Probyn were passengers on the
same plane along with tour manager Willie-
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