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TRIAL OF PETER HAIN ON PLOT CHARGES

*As the leader of the Young Liberals, Peter Hain campaigned against South African sports teams coming to Britain. In 1977 he defected to the Labour party. He is now Secretary of State for Wales.*

By Christopher Warman

PETER HAIN, Chairman of the Young Liberals, was at the very centre of four conspiracies to disrupt visits by South African sporting teams, Mr Owen Stable, QC for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday

Mr Stable said of Mr Hain, who was chairman of (the Stop The Seventy Tour committee; which aimed at preventing the-1970 tour of Britain by the South African cricket team: "There was no one who played a bigger part than he did and each conspiracy was organised from his own house."

Mr Hain, of Gwendolen Avenue, Putney, London; pleaded not guilty to all four charges.

These are: that between January 1, 1969 and February 13, 1970, he conspired with other persons unknown to hinder and disrupt the 1969-70 tour of the British Isles by the South African rugby football team by unlawful means; between January 22, 1969, and August 19, 1969, to disrupt the tour in England in July and August, 1969, by the Wilf Isaacs Cricket XI by unlawful means; between July 1, 1969 and July 19, 1969 to disrupt the Davis Cup match between Britain and South Africa at Bristol between July 17 and July 19, 1969 and May 22, 1970, to prevent and cause to be cancelled the 1970 tour of the British Isles by the South African cricket team by unlawful means.