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PUBLICITY DIVISION · MINISTRY OF CULTURE · CITY HALL SINGAPORE 6

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MC/FEB/2/78 (Home Affairs)

MR LEE EU SENG RELEASED FROM DETENTION

The Government today released Mr LEE EU SENG from detention. Mr LEE was formerly the Managing Director and principal shareholder of the Nanyang Siang Pau.

At the time of his arrest, LEE had used the Nanyang Siang Pau in a campaign to arouse and incite people against the Government over issues of Chinese language, education and culture.

For this purpose LEE had bought LY SINGKO from Sin Chew Jit Poh into Nanyang Siang Pau by offering him $4,000 a month, almost doubling his salary in Sin Chew Jit Poh. LY SINGKO admitted that LEE EU SENG had personally directed him to write "editorials of a highly offensive and provocative nature", which were calculated to arouse and to incite people against the Government. He falsely accused the Government of killing Chinese language, education and culture. After more than a month of this LY felt uneasy. However, LEE EU SENG increased his salary from $4,000 to $6,000, and induced him to stay in Nanyang Siang Pau to intensify his agitation over Chinese language, culture and education, until he was arrested.

LEE EU SENG had re-organised the layout of the newspaper through TUNG TAO CHANG, the editor-in-chief at that time. TUNG TAO CHANG had been detained on 2 May, 1971 and released on 26 Jan, 1973. He has been detained again after the elections on 24 December 76 for again using Chinese education and culture to incite people against the Singapore Government.

Because of several other instances where newspapers were bought out and manipulated by forces outside Singapore for purposes contrary to Singapore interests, the Government got Parliament to enact, in

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July 1977, the Newspaper and Printing Presses (Amendment) Act. This Act requires all major Singapore newspapers to go public. No single person or family can be in proprietary control, since the Act prohibits any person from holding directly or indirectly through a nominee or holding company more than 3% of the ordinary shares issued by a newspaper company.

By spreading the ownership of newspapers as widely as possible newspaper editors and reporters need not fear direction from the owners to embark on agitational journalism.

The ownership and control of the Nanyang Siang Pau has now been reconstituted under the new Act. LEE EU SENG has been divested of control of Nanyang Siang Pau. He can no longer make use of the Nanyang Siang Pau against the public interest.

He is now released under a Restriction Order with two conditions, namely, that he should not change his address, nor leave Singapore, without the prior written approval of the Director, Internal Security Department.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
1 FEBRUARY 1978

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