

Handed to DIS
at 3.00 pm on 21/10.
G. Enki will issue about
3 pm on 22/10. DIS P.A. info. 16/10

PRESS RELEASE

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The Government has decided to impose a ban on the importation, sale and circulation of all the publications of a total of 53 Chinese publishing houses operating in Communist China or Hongkong. These publishing houses have in the past consistently published material containing subversive Communist propaganda, calculated to undermine the principles and practice of democratic government and likely to hinder the growth of an exclusive Malayan loyalty. The continued importation of such material into Singapore is not in the interest of the maintenance of security and good order in Malaya. The ban has been imposed under the provisions of the Undesirable Publications Ordinance as recently amended.

2. The Chief Secretary has at the same time revoked the permits, issued under the Printing Presses Ordinance, in respect of 7 so called "mosquito" papers printed and published in Singapore. Revocation of these permits has become necessary because the papers in question have consistently published material which is harmful either to the security of Malaya, or to public morals.

3. The Government is determined to prevent the circulation among the youthful population of Singapore of material, whether published locally or imported from abroad, which is damaging to the interests of the general public and a careful watch will be kept on all publications to ensure that they neither propagate subversive propaganda nor alien loyalties nor, by their obscene or pornographic nature, lower the standards of morality.

4. In pursuance of this policy of preventing the publication of material which is immoral or improper, the Commissioner of Police and the Chairman of the Board of Film Censors have received instructions to examine very stringently all advertisements and applications relating to cinemas or theatrical performances in order to ensure that they, and the shows to which they relate, do not contain material of a suggestive or pornographic nature.