

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC.SE.33/64(CUL)

TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE,  
MR. S. RAJARATNAM, AT THE CHILDREN'S SHOW  
AND PARTY AT THE KAMPONG GLAM COMMUNITY  
CENTRE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, AT 7 P.M.

Ours is an age of revolution. Revolution means change and change is necessary if we are to survive and prosper in the modern world. That is why in Asia and Africa leaders talk of the need to have a social revolution.

But what is a social revolution, what do we mean by it?

In some countries, like Indonesia, revolution means violence, oppression and misery for the people. For example, President Soekarno has told us what he means by revolution. For him revolution means, as he recently boasted, having the largest army, the largest air force and the largest navy in Asia. It does not matter if this means less food, less clothes, less houses, less hospitals and schools for his people. Revolution for him means military glory; crushing Malaysia. Recently he sent Indonesian paratroopers into Malaysia. Many of these have either been captured or killed.

All this is an unnecessary waste of lives and energy. But for President Soekarno sacrificing the lives of his young men for military glory is part of the revolution.

After nearly 20 years of Independence, Indonesia's people live in degrading poverty though they have potentially the richest country in Asia. After 20 years the Indonesian revolution sees 100 million people living in poverty and dreaming of military glory.

Contrast this with the Malaysian social revolution. We have been independent for less than a decade. Nature has not endowed us with the vast natural resources that Indonesia has.

But through hard work and discipline we have given greater prosperity to our people. For us revolution means more homes, schools, roads, electricity, industries, hospitals and food for our people. Ours is the revolution of a peaceful and constructive people. Our leaders do not boast of the size of their army, navy or air force but of the houses, schools, community centres and factories they have built and intend to build.

We do not teach our children to find pleasure in violent revolution, or in crushing other nations or in military glory. We do not teach our children that the only true wisdom is to repeat the ravings of a great leader. We teach our children to learn to think for themselves and to disagree with our leaders if they feel our leaders are wrong.

Tonight's show put up at this community centre by our young people reflects the peaceful and constructive nature of our social revolution. We want our young people to make life more beautiful, to find satisfaction not in destruction but in construction; not in crushing other people but in working together with other people.

But though .....2/-

But though we are a peaceful people, that does not mean that we are a weak people. We don't want to fight with other people but if other people want to crush us then they will discover that a people bred in freedom and in the ways of peace can be tougher and stronger than the aggressor. Unlike the aggressor's revolution our revolution is worth preserving and defending. The biggest army, navy and air force when manned by impoverished slaves must crumble before the united resistance of a free people.

The Japanese militarists discovered the truth of this. So did the mighty army of Hitler. And so will Soekarno who fancies himself as a new Hitler.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1964.

(Time issued: 1645 hours)

-----