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TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S BROADCAST ON

OCTOBER 6, 1961, AT 7.30 P.M.

The original plan of the Communists to capture power in the Assembly by getting 26 Assemblymen and form the Government has failed. Their second plan to get 26 Opposition Assemblymen to vote the Government out has also failed.

Their third plan is now to make it so hot and uncomfortable for the Government all round that we shall quit before merger is accomplished. We shall be patient and forbearing and we shall see merger through.

You will remember, immediately before the Motion of Confidence in July, I wrote to Dr. Toh Chin Chye, and predicted that the Communists were now going to mount an assault on the industrial front. Lim Chin Siong issued a counter-statement saying that all this was a smear and that they had no intention whatsoever of doing this. Woodhull, in the Sunday Mail of the 6th August, said

that the unions would be most reasonable and would accommodate the employers.

The Communists are on the surface playing the game constitutionally and softly for the time being. Their ultimate weapon of attack are the Communist controlled unions like the General Employees Union, and so on. But if these unions take action, obviously it would be directly attributed to Lim and the Communists. Therefore, they are mounting their attack in places where the trouble cannot be directly connected with them, as for example, in the People's Association community centres, and the Business Houses Employees Union.

Until we disclosed that the 17 workers who were dismissed and the seven others, who are demanding their reinstatement, were all in fact members of the PAP, nearly all of whom owed their jobs to PAP Assemblymen, who have defected to the other side, this fuss in the People's Association could not be attributed to Barisan Sosialis or Lim Chin Siong. But when we placed all the facts before you to show the political connection between the fuss in the People's Association and Barisan Sosialis, the position has altered.

It is one thing supporting a genuine case of arbitrary dismissal. It is another openly supporting one side of a political disagreement and a side which

openly defies the authority and discipline of a Government Board. For any one to do so would be to show bias and to prejudice the political neutrality claimed by those who have issued statements in support of the workers in open rebellion. So the attempt by the supporters of Barisan Sosialis in the People's Association to close down the Community Centers and coerce the Government into taking them back, including the key supporters of Barisan Sosialis has only aroused irritation in the people who have suffered inconvenience from these foolish acts of defiance and indiscipline.

Then there has been a rash of strikes in the Business Houses Employees Union. These are nearly all English-educated workers, clerks, salesmen and sales girls. A strike by them would not generally be known to be connected with Lim Chin Siong and the Communists.

So we had to show the link. The pro-Communist cadres in these unions are Woodhull, Bani, Dominic Puthuchery and Kam Siew Yee. Dominic

Puthuchery is the younger brother of James Puthuchery. For several years he was working on our side in the unions competing against the Communists for the support of the workers.

As late as March last year he was still our staunch friend. As a result he was smeared in the pro-Communist unions as a stooge of Ahmad and me. This hurt him to the quick and Devan Nair had to tell Lim Chin Siong and Fong to stop this smear.

But by the middle of 1960, after working in the General Employees Union for over a year, Dominic went over to the Communist side.

Kam Siew Yee is a much more serious-minded pro-Communist cadre than either Bani or Dominic. He was initiated into Communism from about 1953 by a mutual friend of his and mine. Kam's interest in Communism was greatly encouraged in 1959-60 by Lim Kean Chye who was then staying in Singapore. He has just moved to live in Penang. Lim is the man who escaped arrest and disappeared when the Government in 1951 detained John Eber, Laniaz, Devan Nair, James Puthucheary and other members of the Communist anti-British League English-speaking Section. Lim Kean Chye lent him Marxist books and literature. Finally, Lim Chin Siong and Bani and Woodhull and some others got Kam to resign his job as a teacher and got him to work in the Business Houses Employees Union among the English-educated.

When you know these facts, you will understand how these things tie up. At the moment the Communists are putting on relatively mild pressure through persons and organisations which they hope cannot be attributed directly to them.

Again, among the English school teachers who were asked to sign petitions against the six-day week and attend protest meetings few realise that Kam Siew Yee and Bani were amongst those hoping to exploit this feeling of unhappiness prevalent among English school teachers. Kam was a former General Secretary of the Singapore Teachers Union, and still has a few active sympathisers in the Union who help to work things up. They were able through two Normal-trained teachers on the S.T.U. Central Council, K.S. Williams, lieutenant of Kam, and S. Sivanandam, lieutenant of Bani, to get their proposals through. Bani got in touch with some members of the T.T.C. trainees sub-committee in August this year to offer his help. Kam and Bani are both former English school teachers. Among others interested in hotting things up is Kwa Boo San. Kwa Boo San together with Poh Soo Kai, Assistant Secretary of Barisan Sosialis, and Dr. Rajakumar of the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, whom I referred to in my 9th talk were all defendants in the Fajar sedition trial. Kwa is now teaching in Monk's Hill Secondary School.

The Communists always do this. Exploit a real or imaginary grievance through cadres and sympathisers not generally known to be connected with them. We will always view with sympathy any genuine unhappiness of the English school teachers over the six-day week, but we cannot be expected to view with sympathy the efforts of pro-Communist cadres to heat up and exploit this unhappiness.

Unfortunately very few teachers realise that the intemperate and truculent language in the circular to teachers dated 31st August, 1961, calling for abolition of the six-day week was not the language of their President, Mr. Seah Yuen Chong, or of his Singapore Teachers Union Central Council. It was inspired by the pro-Communist cadres behind the scenes. Throughout the whole circular was the undertone of political struggle in Marxist terms which the English school teachers were not accustomed to and did not like.

## National Archives of Singapore

Let me read you some of these phrases in a circular to teachers, people who are supposed to teach our children good language and good manners. The heading reads: "Campaign to seek support of the public and the working class movement". Another heading was underlined: "A massive appearance of an army of teachers will ensure the annihilation of the six-day week". And the first page ends by exhorting the teachers to a "massive attendance". Then the draft

petition entered into political controversy with the Government: "One cannot but arrive at the irresistible conclusion that political expediency led the Government to impose the six-day week." It was not political expediency. The six-day week was part of the PAP program published during the general elections in May 1959, "The Task Ahead" and endorsed by the people. I think teachers do not want to engage in a political struggle with the Government. However, the circular is in the language of political struggle of the English-educated pro-Communists.

Not unnaturally this circular to the teachers which was intended as a mass signature campaign failed to arouse popular response. Instead it upset them. The Singapore Teachers Union Central Council sensed the unhappiness this circular caused and they issued a statement in the Straits Times on 22nd September denying "certain rumours being circulated to the effect that the Singapore Teachers Union is under the influence of a political party and that it has as its adviser a certain well-known political personality. A mass signature campaign for parents and teachers and the general public has been stopped for the time being. The two responsible for bringing the petition into the Central Council were Williams and Sivanandam. The President, Seah Yuen Chong, supported by others have asked them to take the petition away because of the obvious Marxist phrases and the overtone of political struggle which runs through all its pages.

A meeting was called on 24th September by the Normal Trained Teachers Branch of the Singapore Teachers Union.

There was a resolution passed calling for a teachers' solidarity day. It was Kwa Boo San's idea to have one day where the teachers in all schools stop work and have a mass meeting to demonstrate their solidarity. He got his proposal formally adopted by the Normal Trained Teachers Branch through a representative. Now the back room cadres are planning a demonstration of defiance on a school day when all teachers will stop school to attend a mass rally. This resolution has now been entrusted to a sub-committee of two in the STU Central Council to look into this question of holding a mass meeting. Do you know who these two are? None other than Messrs. Williams and Sivanandam, the two lieutenants! The P.A.P. Government is all in favour of Teachers' Day, provided it is not in aid of the Communist cause. In fact we already have a teachers' day, and on the 5th August this year the Government declared a holiday for teachers to hold a joint meeting at which I was privileged to address them.

So you see things are not as simple as they appear to be in the newspapers.



One difficulty the Communists are facing at the moment is the complete absence of tension or uncertainty or anti-government feeling. For them to succeed, a state of uncertainty and unrest, and a belief that revolution is just around the corner, is most necessary.

To create anti-government feelings, their cadres with the English-speaking section deliberately in the course of the Robinson strike blocked the entrance to the store. They knew that this was against the law. The result was that the Police had to be called out to clear the entrance. On investigation it was found that over 60 out of about 200 of those who picketed outside Robinson were not Robinson employees but people brought in from elsewhere by those pro-Communist cadres to swell the numbers. They encouraged over 100 of these workers to insist on being arrested and going into Police vans. Then they issued statements that these cruel attacks by "tough" riot squad policemen on weak harmless workers were on the orders of the PAP Government. But we forestalled that line of attack by being obviously reasonable, while also exposing their intention.

There is no tension, uncertainty, or hatred of the Government among the people now. Only among their own Communist supporters is there this feeling of tension at the grave perils they face, uncertainty over their own future, and hatred

of the Government because the Government did not fall in with their plans and wishes. In the end when they fail to create tension, uncertainty and hatred against the Government through stirring up trouble among the English-educated workers, the school teachers, and over the Chinese middle schools 3-3 or 4-2 problem, they will have to show their hands openly and mount the offensive through their Communist-controlled unions. As they go down we may see them have one last fling, to demonstrate Communist anger and the strength of their cadres in rallying the workers in their Communist-controlled unions to demonstrate on their behalf. Some of them are already threatening such action. But such a course of action must lead them to disaster in a collision with the final authority of the State.

My next talk will be about citizenship rights after merger. I shall also tell you how, as we the nationalists are getting together with merger and Malaysia, the Communists are also getting together their front organisations in the different territories.

OCTOBER 6, 1961

(Time Issued: 12 noon)