

The Government had on 16 Jun 76 detained HUSSEIN JAHIDIN, Editor of the Malay daily, the Berita Harian Singapore (BHS) and AZMI MAHMUD, until recently the Assistant Editor of the same paper.

2 For some time, the Government had observed that the BHS consistently reported news on communism and the Muslim religion in a manner inconsistent with responsible and objective editorship. Articles and news reports had been slanted so as to put communism in favourable light whilst others simultaneously attacked Islamic tenets.

Security History

3 HUSSEIN JAHIDIN was previously detained under ISA on 2 Feb 63 as a result of his involvement in Communist United Front (CUF) activities in the Singapore General Employees' Union (SGEU). He was released on 10 May 65 under a Restriction Order. Prior to his involvement in CUF activities, he was a reporter in Utusan Melayu daily in Singapore. He said that he was indoctrinated into communism by SAMAD ISMAIL when both were in Utusan Melayu in the 1950s.

The Communist Scheme

4 HUSSEIN JAHIDIN and AZMI MAHMUD, in their separate statements, have both admitted that the imbalance and slants in the news reports and articles of BHS were deliberate. They revealed that since 1972 they were involved in a communist scheme masterminded and directed by SAMAD ISMAIL, the Managing Editor of the New Straits Times Group in Malaysia.

5 The Ultimate aim of the scheme was to work up discontentment and despair amongst the Malays and to influence them towards communism as an acceptable ally to solve their problems. To achieve this aim, they executed the following strategy :-

- i soften the Malay ground for communist ideas;
- ii diminish their faith in Islam;
- iii knock out those Malay leaders who are obstacles to the spread of communism and build up those who can help make the Malays "progressive" and receptive to communist ideas;
- iv create disunity amongst those Malay leaders and organisations which oppose communism;
- v create despair and incite Malay hostility towards the Government;
- vi project and portray communism in such a manner that the Malays would turn to it to help solve their problems.

Exmples of how the news items and articles in the BHS were deliberately manipulated to accomplish their aim are attached at Appendix "C".

6 HUSSEIN JAHIDIN, with the close support of AZMI MAHMUD, systematically implemented the directions of SAMAD ISMAIL. The manner in which they exploited their positions in a mass medium can be seen from the excerpts of their statements at Appendices "A" and "B" respectively.

7 In his statement, HUSSEIN JAHIDIN also described how he exploited his series of talks in the Radio Singapore weekly Malay programme "HAL-EHWAL ANTARABANGSA" (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS). His broadcasts showed a consistent pattern in that all the topics chosen by him were based only on the victories and successes of revolutionary struggle of the communists in Indo-China. Examples of HUSSEIN JAHIDIN's Radio talks are attached at Appendix "D".

8 HUSSEIN JAHIDIN's actions as directed by SAMAD ISMAIL were in conformity with the CPM policy to enlist Malay support for its cause. After its defeat in the last Emergency, the CPM realised that it would not be able to seize power without the support of the Malays.

9 Since 1973, the CPM intensified its campaign to gain Malay support through the Parti Persaudaraan Islam or PAPERI (Islamic Solidarity Party) which exploited religion and twisted Islamic tenets in furthering the CPM cause. Broadcasts over their clandestine radio station, the "Voice of Malayan Revolution" (VMR) champion the cause of Malay peasants and workers through exploitation of socio-economic issues. VMR also portrays that communism and Islam are not incompatible.

10 HUSSEIN JAHIDIN has admitted that under cover of a Malay nationalist championing the cause of the Malays and improving their lot, he was working to erode Malay faith in Islam and make them more receptive to the communist cause.

22 JUNE '76

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