The Government has today detained G RAMAN, a lawyer under the Internal Security Act for pro-communist activities. He worked with a group of Euro-communists to exert pressure through the Socialist International on the Singapore Government to release hardcore communist detainees. At the same time he tried to instigate local groups including students and workers to resort to agitation as part of the plan to rebuild the Communist United Front (CUF) in Singapore.

Involvement in the SI Episode

2 In April 1976 the Government publicly disclosed a communist plot to exert international pressure through the Socialist International (SI) on the Singapore Government by threatening to expel the People's Action Party from the SI. The aim of the communists was to force the Government to release the hardcore communists now under detention in readiness for the General Elections due 1976/77. The released detainees could then group and rebuild the Communist United Front (CUF) to complement the armed struggle of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) to overthrow the Governments of Malaysia and Singapore. Local communists and pro-communist elements, in league with a group of Euro-communists, were actively involved in the plot. The prominent members of the Euro-communist group include MALCOLM CALDWELL, ERNST UTRECHT and Mrs BIEM LAP CHOO LIN. Dr POH SOO KAI and G RAMAN were the local pro-communists who provided the distorted information to the Euro-communist to bring about international pressure on the Singapore Government.

3 G RAMAN was born in Perak and came to Singapore in 1948. He received his education in Singapore and was registered as a Singapore Citizen on 21 April '59. Thereafter he studied law at the Grays Inn in the United Kingdom between 1967 and 1969. It was in those years that he became associated with a Euro-communist group in UK. After he returned to Singapore, G RAMAN maintained contact with the Euro-communists. Since 1972 he was supplying distorted information on the political and social conditions in

Singapore to ..... /2

Singapore to justify the expulsion of the People's Action Party from the Socialist International. He was also in touch with AMIR DASTAN and other pro-communist Malaysian and Singapore student leaders in UK. These student leaders were responsible for influencing some of the university students overseas to agitate for the release of hardcore communist detainees in Singapore. AMIR DASTAN was active in the Malaysian and Singapore Students' Movement (MASS), one of whose aims is to support the struggle of the CPM against the elected Governments in Malaysia and Singapore.

Local Activities

4 G RAMAN's close associates in Singapore include former communist and pro-communist detainees such as Dr POH SOO KAI, T T RAJAH, CHAN KET TECK, NGOH TECK NAM and A MAHADEVA, all of whom have been detained before for supporting the CPM's armed revolution. Dr POH SOO KAI was re-detained in June 1976 and one of the grounds for his second detention was that he had established links for collaboration with similar-minded groups abroad and was preparing for a revival of CUF activities in Singapore.

5 G RAMAN was the legal adviser to the University of Singapore Students' Union (USSU) between 1971 and 1976 and to the Singapore Polytechnic Students' Union (SPSU) in 1975/76. It was during those years that student agitation in the University of Singapore and Singapore Polytechnic was at its peak. G RAMAN frequently counselled TAN WAH PIOW and JULIET CHIN, and had instigated them to adopt agitational tactics. On 31 May 76 at a talk organised by the SPSU Freshmen Orientation Committee at the Ayer Rajah Campus he instigated them to follow the example of the Thai students who overthrew the Government through violent riots in 1973. At a dinner party on 10 July 76 at Tuas Village organised by some former workers of the American Marine (Singapore) Pte Ltd, he called upon them to support the communists, stating that the CPM would eventually overthrow the PAP Government, and both Malaysia and Singapore would turn communist after the fall of Thailand.

6 With the re-detention of Dr POH SOO KAI on 4 Jun 76, G RAMAN has become the communication centre and link man between

the local ..... /3

the local pro-communists and the Euro-communists. Despite the detention of Dr POH SOO KAI and the exposure of the communist plot, G RAMAN and the Euro-communists continue to use every opportunity at international forums and publications to deliberately distort and misinterpret the actions and policies of the Singapore Government and to agitate for the release of communist detainees in pursuance of their plan to revive the CUF in Singapore.

7 The Government cannot allow pro-communist elements like G RAMAN to run around aiding and abetting the communists in their designs to create chaos and instability to advance their cause. By his action he has also shown that he has been disloyal to his country of adoption.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

10 FEBRUARY 1977

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