

PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

2 delay 15/7/53

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After protracted investigations and acting on information, the following persons were recently arrested for their active involvement in the activities of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) in Singapore:-

- (a) CHEONG SIEW TENG (53 years), a long-standing CPM District Committee Member and close associate of FONG CHONG PIK @ THE PLEN;
- (b) POH SOON SENG (40 years), an active CPM member who has been involved in various acts of violence, including assassination, carried out in Singapore by the CPM;
- (c) TOH GIM HOCK (44 years), another active CPM member who has been involved in various acts of violence by the CPM, including assassination, in Singapore;
- (d) LO LAN YIN (f) (39 years), a member of various communist organisations since the early 50's, and who since 1966 has been an important courier between two CPM high-ranking cadres, one in Singapore and the other in Malaysia; and
- (e) CHONG KUAN SUEE (29 years), a member of the Malayan National Liberation Front who has been actively involved with the CPM underground.

The Government has ordered their detention under the Internal Security Act.

2 CHEONG SIEW TENG, who is a District Committee Member of the CPM, was first recruited into the Anti-British League (ABL), a satellite organisation of the CPM in 1951. In 1954, he became a full-fledged CPM member and three years later was promoted to District Committee Member. In 1959, he came under the direction of FONG CHONG PIK also known as THE PLEN until the latter fled to Indonesia in 1962. In 1969 the CPM re-established contact with him through LIM HOCK KOON who had then returned from Indonesia and continued this contact until LIM HOCK KOON's arrest in early 1971. After a break the contact with the CPM was revived and continued until his recent arrest. In the CPM, CHEONG SIEW TENG was entrusted with the direction of a considerable number of subordinates, some of whom he directed to carry out acts of violence, including assassination aimed at creating public disorder in Singapore. On 17 APR 55, as directed by his CPM superior, he sent 2 of his subordinates to assassinate LEE TAI LING, a student of the Chinese High School, at Cairnhill Road. The 2 firearms used in the assassination were later buried in the compound of his house at No. 32-H Kampong Loyang Besar, which was purchased with CPM's fund. In the same year, through arrangement made by his CPM superior, CHEONG SIEW TENG received handgrenades for safekeeping which he subsequently buried in 4 jars in the compound of his house. In 1956, again acting on CPM instruction, CHEONG SIEW TENG and 5 of his subordinates carried out grenade attacks on 3 police establishments namely, the CID building at Robinson Road, Geylang Police Station and the Jalan Eunus Police Reserve Unit with the aim of creating public disorder. CHEONG SIEW TENG also used his house as a hide-out and meeting place for CPM cadres.

3 On 7 and 8 JUL 75, CHEONG SIEW TENG led a Police party to his house where the following items, concealed in earthen jars and buried, were recovered:-

- (i) 189 handgrenades;
- (ii) 210 detonators;
- (iii) One .38 revolver;
- (iv) One .25 Colt automatic pistol;
- (v) 75 rounds of ammunitions; and
- (vi) Communist books and documents.

The .38 revolver was one of the two revolvers robbed from two Police Constables in Singapore by CPN elements in AUG 50 and later used for assassination.

4 On 30 JUL 75 after continued investigations, another 109 handgrenades in two earthen jars were found buried in the compound of the house of TOH GIM HOCK - another of those detained - at Jalan Bumbun Selatan, off Tampines Road.

5 As a result of disclosures made by CHEONG SIEW TENG after his arrest, the 4 other persons, who are connected with the CPN underground, were arrested on 7 JUL 75.

6 POH SOON SENG became a member of the ABL in 1953. He came under the cultivation of CHEONG SIEW TENG in 1954 and became his subordinate. Subsequently he became a CPN member in 1956. On the direction of CHEONG SIEW TENG, he together with TOH GIM HOCK was involved in the assassination of LEE TAI LING, a student of the Chinese High School, at Cairnhill Road in 1955 and the grenade

attack on the premises of the Jalan Eunus Police Reserve Unit in JAN 56. He was also very active, holding various executive posts in the communist-penetrated Singapore Country People's Association (SCPA), which was de-registered in 1963 because of its involvements in various communist-inspired activities, including the 1961 students' agitation against the "4-2 coersion system". Besides being involved in the SCPA, POH SOON SENG was also a member of the Barisan Sosialis Singapore (BSS) and the Chairman of its Tampines Branch in 1961.

7 TOH GIM HOCK was recruited into the ABL in 1951 by LOH TAI TONG, a CPM member arrested in 1956 and since banished. Subsequently CHEONG SIEW TENG took over as his ABL superior in 1953. TOH GIM HOCK himself later cultivated his brother, TOH THYE CHUAN and POH SOON SENG into the ABL. On the instruction of CHEONG SIEW TENG, he together with POH SOON SENG was involved in the assassination of LEE TAI LING, a student of the Chinese High School, at Cairnhill Road in 1955 and the grenade attack on the Jalan Eunus Police Reserve Unit in JAN 56. In addition he himself launched another grenade attack on the Geylang Police Station on the same day. He was also actively involved in the SCPA and figured prominently in the 1951 students' agitation. He was subsequently elected President of the 5th Branch of the SCPA in 1962.

8 LO LAN YIN is the wife of CHONG KON SANG @ TEO KWAN SENG, a ranking courier of the CPM still at large, and sister-in-law of CHONG KON LAN, a member of the Malayan National Liberation Front (MNLF) who joined the Communist Terrorists in the jungle, the

Malayan National Liberation Army (MNLA), in 1972. LO LAN YIN herself has had long-standing and important connections with the CPM, having been a member of a number of communist organisations since the 1950's. She was a member of the ABL and the Singapore Women's Federation, a communist united front organisation dissolved by the Government in 1956. She was also an official of the SCPA. In the early 1960's she headed the Propaganda Section of the SCPA, Nee Soon Branch and led the Branch's cadre training classes aimed at indoctrinating the masses to gain their support for the communist cause. At the same time, she was also a member of the BSS and was Officer-in-Charge of the Women's Committee of the BSS, Nee Soon Branch. In 1962, she participated in propaganda campaigns organised by the BSS in the Nee Soon Area.

9 In 1966 LO LAN YIN provided a hide-out for CHAN HOCK WAH, an important CPM cadre then in hiding and was subsequently arrested in FEB 71. From 1966 LO LAN YIN served as a CPM courier assisting CPM cadres to re-establish contact with one another and with the Party. In this capacity, she became a courier for two high-ranking CPM cadres, one in Singapore and the other in Malaysia. It was also through her that the CPM resumed contact with CHEONG SIEW TENG in 1973 and 1974. She also acted as an intermediary between the Malayan National Liberation League (MNLL) and the MNLF in 1972, and maintained lateral contact with MNLF members in Singapore. Both the MNLF and the MNLL are militant underground satellite organisations of the CPM through which the communists stepped up subversive activities including sabotage, assassinations

and extensive recruitment into the CPM underground network and the Communist Terrorist Organisation to pave the way for armed struggle.

10 CHONG KUAN SUEE is the brother-in-law of LO LAN YIN. He had actively indulged in activities of the Communist United Front since 1967. He was an official of the communist-directed Si San Old Boys' Association in 1968 and 1969. He participated in cadre training classes and was involved in communist indoctrination activities of the Association. He also assisted the Association in the production of articles condemning the Singapore Government and propagating the communist ideology.

11 CHONG KUAN SUEE was also an active member of the Sembawang Branch of the BSS. In 1967, he participated in several illegal demonstrations organised by the BSS and was one of the demonstrators who caused damage to properties of the Chong Nee Community Centre in Jurong. As a result, he was arrested and sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment. He also took part in the display of anti-Government posters and banners and distributed anti-Government pamphlets in 1967 and 1968. CHONG KUAN SUEE was one of the members of the BSS, Sembawang Branch and the Si San Old Boys' Association who on 28 JUN 68 carried out a propaganda campaign in the Sembawang area to instigate the residents to oppose the Employment Bill, and on 4 JAN 69 visited the workers of the Gim Huat Quarry to give support and encouragement to the strikers, to propagate the communist line of struggle and to incite anti-Government feelings.

12 In view of his active role in promoting the interests of the Communist United Front, an Expulsion Order was issued against

CHONG KUAN SUEE in 1969. Following this he ceased his open front activities but became involved with the communist underground. He was selected as a target for recruitment by the MNLF and came under the cultivation of his sister, CHONG KON LAN now with the MNLA and other ranking MNLF cadres. Under the influence of his MNLF superior, he donated money to the MNLA and assisted the MNLF in the distribution of anti-Government pamphlets.

13 The arrests of the abovenamed persons and the recovery of arms and ammunition and communist books and literature go to show that far from being dormant in Singapore the Communist Party of Malaya continues to clandestinely re-build its shattered organisation. It is all the time preparing itself for the day when it can resort to revolutionary violence once again in Singapore. It is also evident from the recoveries of arms that these CPN elements, despite the changed conditions in Singapore to-day, still persist in pursuing their objective of establishing a "Communist Malaya including Singapore" through acts of violence. The Security Authorities are conscious of this fact and the unrelenting efforts of these communist elements, despite the setbacks they suffered in recent years. The Government with the co-operation of the people will continue to be vigilant and expose and cripple them as they emerge.

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= 4 AUG 1975