

16 APRIL 1958

MR LEE KUAN YEW'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CORRUPT, ILLEGAL OR UNDESIRABLE
PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

I am astonished to know that a man who is a lawyer and is expected to know how to conduct an Inquiry heard allegations in camera against me and the P.A.P. that secret society members had supported me in the election campaign, never allowed me the opportunity to hear the evidence and cross examine the witnesses and confront them and yet chose to repeat these allegations in his report.

It may interest Mr. Elias, the Chairman that when Mr. Justice Chua in his Commission of Inquiry heard evidence against Mr. M.P.D. Nair alleging he had received a refrigerator free, he called up Mr. Nair, had the evidence heard in front of Mr Nair and offered Mr Nair the opportunity to cross-examine these witnesses (Cmd 8 of 1958 page 9).

The report states in para 36 that Mr. C.H. Koh "engaged the Headman and a member of the 969 secret society of 24 Group, four members of the other secret societies of the same group and a member of a secret society of 18 Group at a daily remuneration of \$12-00."

And in para 34 that Mr. Chong Wee Ling "engaged Aw Sai Soo at a remuneration of \$400-00 a month".

The report states (para 31) that Lee Kuan Yew telephoned the Superintendent of Secret Societies Branch of the C.I.D. to warn him of probable trouble with secret society elements. The Chairman of the Commission should have stated specifically that Lee Kuan Yew did not engage gangsters.

All P.A.P. witnesses gave their evidence in public. We had nothing to hide.

Why was no P.A.P. member who was alleged by the Police to have been connected with secret society members or incidents called up and questioned publicly? All

evidence against us was given in private, may be, because

I have tabled the following motion into the Assembly to have the report debated:-

"That this House notes with regret that the Commission of Inquiry into Corrupt, Illegal or Undesirable Practices at Elections had made its report (Cmd 7 of 1958) without giving to some of the persons against whom allegations were made in secret, the opportunity to know of such evidence and to cross examine such witnesses and to confront them with contrary evidence and that this House urges the Government to take action against the persons whom the report says, the Police have reliable evidence of their having solicited and paid for the assistance of gangsters."

Singapore

16th April, 1958

LEE KUAN YEW

National Archives of Singapore