POINTS IN MR. LEE KUAN YEW'S SPEECH AT A RALLY

IN KLUANG ON 16TH APRIL, 1964.

Barisan Sosialis' reaction betrays their implications with Indonesia

With acts of terrorism mounting in Singapore, it is interesting to note that there has been not one word of condemnation of these Indonesian atrocities by Barisan Sosialis in Singapore or the Socialist Front in the Federation.

Today I read that when Dr. Lee Siew Choh, Chairman of Barisan Sosialis, was asked by the press about the taking of preventive measures and the formation of vigilante corps, all he could say was that he was against all acts of destruction and that it was the duty of the government to take steps against this. A more weak and feeble statement cannot be imagined.

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These men who are ever ready to issue the fiercest of statements in denunciation of the government suddenly find themselves mild and waterish when it comes to expressing indignation against our neighbours whose acts of terrorism have already killed five innocent people, women and children. They have time to condemn national service and the call-up, but they feel no anger or indignation against wanton acts of terrorism against defenceless civilians.

Rewards according to effort

One of the reasons why a privileged society based on the privilege of property and rank must give way to a society where men are rewarded according to their ability and their contribution to society is that it is only when people are encouraged to give of their best that society progresses. No society has existed in history where all men were equal and obtained equal rewards. If that were to be practised and the lazy and the incompetent were paid as much as the industrious and the intelligent, it would end up by all the good men giving as little of themselves so as not to give more than their weaker brethren.

But it is possible to create a society in which everybody is given not equal rewards but equal opportunities and where rewards vary not in accordance with the ownership of property, but with the worth of a man's contribution to that society. In other words, society should make it worth a man's while to give of his best to the country. This is the way to progress. This we can do in Malaysia.

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16th April, 1964.