

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC.JUL.31/64(PM)

TEXT OF A BROADCAST TALK BY THE PRIME MINISTER,

MR. LEE KUAN YEW, OVER RADIO SINGAPORE AT 9 P.M. ON

WEDNESDAY, 22ND JULY, 1964.

When the curfew was lifted this morning at 6 a.m. all went on well until about 9 a.m. People went to market and to their offices. Very few incidents were reported. But between 9 and 11 a.m. a few hundred incidents occurred with rapidly increasing frequencies. After discussions it was decided to re-impose the curfew from 11.30 a.m.

I am sorry for the grave inconvenience this must have caused to you all.

But the risk of a big flare-up was too grave.

Tomorrow the curfew will be lifted from 5.30 a.m. to 9 a.m. I hope all housewives will go about their shopping without delay and help the curfew work. Depending on how well law and order is maintained curfew times will be relaxed day by day.

It may well be next week before things are back to normal. We do not want to take any chances. Tempers must be allowed to die down. There have been eight deaths and over 300 persons injured. None of these casualties must be allowed to spark off further trouble. There can be no private retaliation and revenge.

Plans are being worked out to see that the life and health of our island city is properly maintained whilst the security curfew is on. City cleansing, emergency health services, banking and other essential commercial services, port, railway and airport communications must proceed. Plans made for such a contingency will be implemented.

My colleagues and I had a full and frank discussion with the Acting Prime Minister. There are enough Police and troops to see that order is maintained. The Acting Prime Minister has made clear that these forces will enforce the law against all regardless of race, language or religion. When order has been restored then we will have to sort out the feelings of those hurt and injured in these disturbances and restore racial amity and harmony.

We have to live with each other in Malaysia. Do not do anything which will make it more difficult for us to live with each other. The more foolish things

are said or done in the next few days, the weaker and more vulnerable we will be.

The rights and wrongs of each individual attack and injury is irrelevant at the moment. When order has been restored and things return to normal everything will be properly investigated and resolved..

But at this moment, whoever chants communal slogan or incites others to communal attack is a criminal and must be responsible for the senseless brutality and the murders of innocent victims that have already taken place.

We must stop them from doing more harm. Today the Police have taken action to remove all the secret society fighters, Chinese, Malays and Indians.

Steps are also being taken to conscribe the activities of extremist elements. The

Government's first responsibility is to stop this madness. The Central

Government and the Singapore Government jointly intend to do without fear or favour.

22nd July, 1964.

(Time issued: 2000 hours)