

THE ARREST OF SPSU STUDENT LEADERS

On 29th July '76 1.30am Singapore Polytechnic Students Union (SPSU) house was raided by more than 15 plainclothes Internal Security Department agents.

The Union House was cordoned off and cabinets forced open by the agents who seized files and photographs on the pretext of looking for drugs. Foo Chin Yen President of SPSU, Foo Weng Fatt Chairman of the Council and Chai Chong, a recent graduate were manhandled, handcuffed and let away. The entire operation was carried out without the agents producing search warrants for or warrants for arrests, or allowing the students to contact their lawyer.

That same morning, Lia Tiow Hui, SPSU Assistant Financial Secretary and Ng Boon Hwee a recent graduate, SPSU Social Secretary and Chia Yei Yei, a Polytechnic student were arrested from their homes which, too were raided. Four days later, her sister, Chia Yei Tse, a former student of the Singapore Technical Institute, was arrested.

MOTIVE FOR THE ARRESTS

Although the most blatant and violent so far, the arrests are not the first repressive move against SPSU. For the last 2 years, the Polytechnic Administration refused to collect Union fees for the Union, hoping to cripple the Union financially. Rumours were spread and students instigated over internal issues to the extent that the SPSU Vice-President was physically assaulted. Recently some active students have been called up by the Central Manpower Base on the pretext of National Service call-up and subjected to long interviews. Yet SPSU fought on and on and in the coming student elections, it looked as if the active and socially-concerned trend in the leadership would continue, and grow, despite all the obstacles.

The raid was well-timed on the dawn of the SPSU nomination day (for the coming Students coming elections). Three of the arrested student leaders, Foo Chin Yen, Foo Weng Fatt and Lim Tiow Hui are eligible to stand for the coming council elections. Apart from crippling the Union leadership the label of "communists" is clearly aimed at creating fear among the student body and discouraging participation in the coming Council election.

THE ACTIVITIES OF SPSU

In 1974 and 1975, SPSU worked with the University of Singapore Students' Union (USSU) in issues such as the Bangla-desh Flood Relief Campaign, Anti-busfare Hike Campaign and the Retrenchment Research Centre. After the banning of USSU in December 1975, the Technocrat, official publication of SPSU, served as one of the few publications honestly analysing the effect of government policies regarding Asean, drugs, Lee's visit to China, etc., on the majority of the people. SPSU has worked actively to enhance students, physical, academic and social welfare. The arrested student leaders were among those who had courageously committed time and effort in building the Union's potential as an organisation that can voice critical and honest opinions for the interest of the majority of the people.

BE UNAFRAID

The Ministry of Home Affairs has announced without substantiation that the students (together with others, to make it more authentic) had been arrested for involvement in an "underground satellite organisation of the Malayan Communist Party". We can expect that pressure will be put on the arrested students to make statement of 'confessions' as condition for release.

Such arrests and confessions will further serve to 'prove' the government's story of 'communist threat' and perhaps help the PAP to win back a place in Socialist International at its coming meeting in September. They are also part of an overall strategy to silence and discredit all opposition before the nearing National General Elections and to frighten the people into voting for the PAP despite its high-handed policies.

Whenever criticised, the PAP will always claim that it has the support of the people, since it had been democratically elected. But the recent arrests to suppress opposition and sabotage even student elections clearly shows what kind of 'democratic elections' we have. No country can progress if the problems of the majority are not brought up and solved. If we truly want a better life for ourselves and our future generations we must not be afraid to be more critical and SPEAK OUT.

WE DEMAND AN OPEN TRIAL FOR OUR UNJUSTLY DETAINED STUDENT LEADERS !

( Support SPSU by passing this pamphlet to your friends and neighbours to let more people know what is happening.)

# 《新加坡工艺学院学生报》

## 工艺学院学生会学生领袖被拘捕事件：

一九七六年七月廿九日凌晨一点三十分左右，超过十五位便衣的内政安全局人员，突袭位于珊顿边的新加坡工艺学院学生楼，藉口搜毒，他们将各个学生楼封锁，把抽屉和櫃橱用暴力撬开，所有文件及照片都被检查。

符振渊，新加坡人，工院学生会第十六届会长，胡荣发，大马人，学生理事会的主席及蔡冲，一位刚毕业的网学。他们被内政部人员蛮横的拷上手铐，然後叱走这一切行动。内政部人员都在不肯出示搜查令及拘捕令的情形下进行，也不准学生联络律师。

当天早上，另外三位网学也遭拘捕。林兆辉，大马人，学生会副财政及曹训辉，新加坡人，毕业生，学生会岁任康乐主任。蔡燕子（一名工院在籍学生）在他们的家中被捕，而他们的住处也被内政部人员搜查。四天过后，又有一名学生蔡燕子被捕。

这一项逮捕事件并不是第一项迫害工院学生会网学的手段。两年来，工艺学院当局拒绝替学生会收会费，希望学生在财政上瘫痪，校园内也不断有人在散播谣言。而在处理一些内部问题时，有的学生更被煽动到打副会长。最近一些较活跃的学生在口民服役的条例下被「征召」而且进行长时间的盘问。但是学生会将继续战斗下去，在来届的学生选举中，在重重困难之下，关心社会的领导层将会继续壮大。

这个内政部的侵袭刚好是在学生会新理事竞选提名的黎明。符振渊，胡荣发及林兆辉是肯定会再参加竞选的。除了会削弱学生会的领导层外，当局还把共产党的帽子硬套在这几位网学身上，很明显的是会製造恐怖气氛及阻吓网学参与学生会的选举。

在七四及七五年间，新加坡工艺学院与新大学生会在许多活动上合作，如益加拉救灾运动，反巴士车费加价运动及裁员调查中心。自一九七五年十二月新大学生会被封闭后，工艺学院的学生报便成为少数能够忠实分析政府政策的刊物之一。如有关重烟安，吸毒事件，李总理访问中口书时及分析，都是对广大人民有深远影响的。此外，学生会也积极推动学生的体育、学术和康乐活动。这些被逮捕的网学把他们的时间和精力都花在工艺学院的工作上，使学生会成为一个旨为大多数人的利益而提出具有批判性和忠实心见的团体。

逮捕事件过后，内政部在没有根据的情况下发表声明说这些学生是由于参与马来亚共产党地下卫星组织而被捕。我们可以预料到压力将加以这些网学身上，使他们「自白」或「悔过」做为释放的条件。这些逮捕和悔过将进一步的被政府用来证明「共党威胁」的确存在而且可以在九月的会议中，帮行动党在社会主义口际中争回地位。

这也是在大选的来临之前，压抑反对党的一个步骤，同时也是恐吓人民必须投票给行动党的手段。不管对什么批评，行动党常常重申他们是得到人民的支持的，因为他们是在「民主程序」下被选出来的。但是从最近的逮捕，压迫反对党以及破坏学生的选举中，我们可以清楚的看到他们的「民主选举」到底是怎么回事。

如果大多数人的问题没有被提出去寻求解决的话，任何口实都是不可进步的。

如果我们希望自己和下一代过一个更美好的生活，那么我们就应该志到害怕，相反的，我们更应该提出质问和批评。我们要求公开审讯被无理拘禁的学生领袖！

看後請传给你的朋友

3-8-76