

STATEMENT ON DR. LEE'S LEAVING THE PARTY

"UPHOLD THE UNITY OF PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT"

(I) A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVENT

As the result of difference in opinion between the majority and himself on the question of "National Service Registration" the Party Chairman Dr. Lee Siew Choh has decided to leave the Party.

In order to give a true picture of the event and not to have the reactionary benefited from such an issue, an account tracing the cause of Dr. Lee's resignation is desirable.

"National Service Registration" is an important issue in the present situation. The Party, therefore, would not make any hasty decision on the question. On the whole, careful study & several discussions were being held among the rank & file within the party.

Since the "Registration" was carried out in the Federation & before the Central Executive Council had come to any decision, the Central as well as the Branch Chairman/Secretary had already had many a discussions on the subject. Even Dr. Lee himself had also gone to the various branches to study their different point of views.

On 4.3.64 the Executive Council had decided to register with principles. Three days later, Dr. Lee tendered his registration on ground that he could not accept the decision of the Council. His registration was rejected by the whole Council, and the letter was returned to him. Few days later a second letter of resignation was again tendered to the Council on the same reason.

On and before receiving his second letter of resignation, all members of the Council as well as the present and former Assemblymen had made efforts in appealing to Dr. Lee to remain in Party for the sake of Leftwing unity and to lead in the struggle for social advancement.

Intense and profound discussions were also held with him on the possible effect resulted from his resignation. However, all these efforts failed to persuade him to change his mind.

Meanwhile, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference had invited the Party to send a representative as an observer.

Dr. Lee agreed to represent the Party in the Conference.

On 9.4.64 the second day of his return from England, the Chairman convened a Council meeting during which he requested the Council to nullify the previous decision as condition on his remaining as Chairman.

For the sake of Party unity and in order not to disturb the smoothness of the election campaign in the Federation, the Council agreed to hold the decision in obedience for further discussion at the various levels.

Instead of waiting for reconsideration at all levels, Dr. Lee called a press conference on 17.4.64 to announce a boycott of registration.

Majority in the Party did not agree with this statement, as a result on 20.4.64, during the Central/Branch Committee meeting, a request was made by many representatives to convene an extraordinary Delegates Conference on 29.4.64 to arrive at a final decision.

The list of delegates, the agenda to be discussed were all laid down in accordance to Chairman's instructions. Since the Party delegates conference is the supreme body in making decisions, it was only right that the majority will be observed. Regrettably, it proved the contrary.

The fact that several appeals both official & personal had been made to the Chairman to alter his decision to leave the party and even withholding the Council's decision in abeyance, thus showed the desire and love of party unity among the majority. It would be unfair, therefore, to suggest that the split today was the fault of the majority of the party delegates. If organisational discipline had been observed, and resolutions of the supreme body adapted, this unfortunate event would not have been occurred at all.

It is not convincingly therefore to say that our view today is a betrayal of the party basic stand and that we are infected with compromise and capitulation. It was these same delegates, who in 1962, elected Dr. Lee and Sdr. Lim Chin Siong to lead the Central Executive Council. It would be difficult, therefore to suggest to the mass that these same delegates, are today "helping the imperialists", and have become traitors of the party. These same delegates, under the present hardships and difficult condition, have suffered greatly - such as arrest, imprisonment and unemployment etc. Yet they still carry on the anti-colonial struggle. Could these people be blamed for "helping the imperialists to enslave the masses."

We must stress that differences within the party today is merely how best the colonialists and their puppets can be defeated. It does not involve any principle or question of being anti-colonialism or pro-colonialism. The issue can be clearly seen if everybody cools down, discards the smoke-screen, and takes off his coloured glasses.

The split of the Leftwing movement can only benefit the imperialist. It is they who will be most rejoicing. We therefore sincerely appeal to Dr. Lee and the others to accept the majority's decision and return to the fold of the anti-colonial struggle.

(2) THE PARTY'S STAND ON THE QUESTION OF 'NATIONAL SERVICE REGISTRATION'

In order to let the people understand our stand on the question of National Service Registration, it is necessary to clarify our stand as regards the North Borneo people struggle and Malaysia.

a) In Support of the Just Struggle in North Borneo.

Any truly anti-colonial and anti-imperialist political party, organisation or individual will without any hesitation support the North Borneo people struggle. The Barisan Sosialis, as an important part of the Leftwing movement in Singapore, has all along clearly staged its support for the independent & freedom struggle of the North Borneo people. On December 8th 1962, the North Borneo people arose and took up arms to drive out the British colonialists from their soil after the colonialists had blocked all constitutional roads.

On 23rd Dec., the same year, our Sec.Gen., Sdr. Lim Chin Siong in a mass rally to support the freedom struggle of the people of Kalimantan Utara said: "There can be no doubt that it is a national struggle, a struggle against British colonialism, a struggle for freedom, for merdeka, for justice and for democracy. It is precisely because it is a just cause, precisely because it is fighting against colonialism, for freedom. It is our duty as socialists to support this struggle whole heartedly."

Today, yesterday and tomorrow the Barisan Sosialis will keep firm to this stand and nothing now or in the future will ever change it.

Our stand is not directed by outside people. We fully realise that the struggle in North Borneo is due entirely to the British colonialists ignoring the just demands of the North Borneo people and eradicating all reasonable means; the responsibility is entirely with the British colonialists and their lackeys the PAP and the Alliance governments in Singapore and the Fed. On the one hand the Borneo war is the just struggle of the North Borneo people which has won the admiration of all peace loving people and countries through out the world and on the other hand the severely condemned British colonialists and their underlings.

As a constitutional party we will adopt all possible means available to mobilise the masses and give moral and spiritual support to the North Borneo people struggle. We will carry out mass movement to force the colonialists and the reactionary governments to respect the demands of the North Borneo people; to allow them to satisfy their own wishes and their own form of govt. To this end we will increase our work as a concrete step towards helping in the struggle. Any attempt by the reactionary to destroy and suppress us will not change our stand.

b) We Oppose Neo-colonialist Malaysia.

As a neo-colonialist plot, Malaysia was formed against the wishes of the people of the 4 territories and it serves only the political, economical, military interests of the British colonialist. Every person with common sense can easily know the nature of Malaysia and its evil. The Barisan has ever since its inauguration been fighting against colonialism and Malaysia.

We will continue to expose Malaysia. We will continue to educate and organise the masses to oppose colonialism & imperialism & Malaysia.

THE 7 RESOLUTIONS :-

A joint meeting of Central Executive Committee members, Legislative Assembly members, all branches chairmen and secretaries was held at Barisan Sosialis Headquarters on 5th May 1964 to discuss matters concerning the resignation of Dr. Lee and 7 other comrades from the party. The meeting heard several members of the C.E.C. giving an account of the procedure adopted by the party regarding the National Service Registration issue and a brief account on the events of the Party Chairman's resignation. Finally, the meeting also passed 7 resolutions with unanimity.

The 7 resolutions are as follows:-

1. We realise that the "National Service Registration" was a reactionary step taken by the reactionary government to counter the Leftwing movement of the 4 territories, to transfer the dissatisfaction of the people against the reactionary government of internal affairs to external affairs; to enable foreign aggression against the liberation struggle of the people; to try to turn the masses to work for their private interest. Further to help the imperialists to augment their policy of Asians fighting Asians. Therefore we must expose the National Service Registration as a retrogressive step and we must at all levels try to frustrate the reactionary's attempts to push their scheme through.
2. We reiterate: We are determined to support the North Borneo people liberation struggle; we are strongly against the sending of troops to North Borneo to suppress the North Borneo people liberation struggle. We are opposed to making use of young man whether registered or not yet registered as cannon fodder for the imperialist. We believe that it is the right of the people to protect their own home and property but we do not accept that the people should die for the imperialist.
3. We strongly support the decision of the Extraordinary Delegates Conference on 29th April regarding National Service Registration. We realise: the delegates' conference is the party's supreme organ; the decision of the conference is final. It represents the full members, the cadres and the masses collective wisdom. We are in complete agreement that the decision of the conference is the correct one. We therefore regret that the Chairman's and other 7 comrades' inability to accept the conference decision. We sincerely ask Dr. Lee and 7 other comrades to accept the view of the majority and return to the party and we welcome them with enthusiasm to rejoin the ranks of the anti-imperialist and anti-colonial fighters.
4. We reaffirm that: we are firmly and strongly behind the party's stand. We safeguard the party's discipline and organisational principle and truly uphold the party's unity.
5. On the basis of the common interests of the people of the 4 territories and of the socialist movement, we shall unite & fight together hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder.
6. We call upon all patriots, all comrades and all other responsible comrades of all levels to heighten their vigilance and strengthen their unity and reject all attempts and cunning manoeuvres of the reactionary to capitalise on the party's temporary difficulties.
7. The full body of C.E.C. members, Legislative Assembly members and branches chairmen and secretaries strongly support the party's statement of 5th May, 1964.

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c) Our Stand on the N.S. Registration

The National Service Registration is a reactionary device to extricate themselves from their difficult position. We have always maintained that if the Alliance govt. does not respect the wishes of the N. Borneo people, they will be dragged into the imperialist policy of getting 'Asians fighting against Asians'.

Since 16th Sept. last year when Malaysia was forcibly formed, it has maintained its neo-colonialist nature and it has not been well accepted by foreign countries especially the Afro-Asian bloc. Today Malaysia is isolated in the international sphere and intern-

ally it has caused economic chaos, loss of trade, increase of unemployment & general dissatisfaction among the people.

At the same time, the deterioration of relationship between Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia has created tension in S.E. Asia. From the reactionary point of view this train of events are not good to them and therefore they will try to shift the general dissatisfaction of the people and the deteriorating situation to other places. They will try to put the blame on Indonesia and by labelling the

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The 3 Principle to Restore Peace

The following is a joint statement on "Call-up" issued by the Nanyang University Political Science Society, the University Socialist Club, and the Singapore Polytechnic Political Society on the 30th April, 1964.⁷

At this crucial moment, when the "confrontation" between our Government & the Indonesian Government has deteriorated to a degree verging on war, we, the patriotic and loyal undergraduates of the three highest institutions of learning, wish herein to express our deep concern over the present situation and propose our carefully considered and practicable solutions towards achievement of peace in this region.

We know that the nationalist uprising in the Borneo territories is the national struggle against British imperialism. The people of Singapore and Malaya are therefore under the moral obligation to show their sympathy to the Borneo nationalists in their present struggle, in the same manner as we had done when the Algerian nationalists were struggling to achieve freedom from French domination.

Our Government however is attempting by diverse means to justify its suppression of the nationalist uprising in the Borneo territories. To safeguard themselves from accusation by other nations and people, they put the blame entirely on Indonesia for the troubles there.

We are convinced that peaceful means of settling the present dispute are still available and we urge the two Governments concerned to make full use of these means to settle their present dispute.

We wish here to propose the following principles for acceptance by our Government and the Indonesian Government in order to restore peace in this region:-

1. that all Asian problems should be left to be solved by Asians themselves; and that foreign power should never be allowed to instigate war among Asian countries.
2. that all troops currently stationed in or along the Borneo territories be withdrawn and that the Borneo people be given their legitimate right to self-determination.
3. that the diplomatic relations among the three countries, namely, Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia, be normalised as quickly as possible; and that the summit meeting be convened to settle the dispute on the basis of the ten principles adopted by the Bandeong Afro-Asian Conference in 1955.

We wish to emphasise that when the people respond to the "call-up" they do so because of their desire to express their loyalty to Singapore and Malaya. They will resist any attempt to send them to Borneo territories to safeguard any form of imperialist interests.

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Barisan Sosialis as being in league with Indonesia and as selling out the country to her, they hope to isolate the B.S. and at the right moment they will take unreasonable action against the B.S. and other progressive organisations. These were the actual circumstances when the national service registration was introduced.

Today the people are forced to register. The reactionary has claimed that they are registering to show their support for Malaysia. We challenge the govt. to remove all forms of compulsion, the penalties, the imprisonment, the fines and we would like to see how many people will really register voluntarily.

The people have registered only to defend Singapore & Malaya. If they are forced to go to N.Borneo to be imperialist cannon fodder they will resist with all their might. We believe that the people have the right to defend

their own homes but have no obligation to work for the imperialists and the reactionary alliance government.

We reiterate our support to the N. Borneo people just struggle; all foreign troops should be withdrawn from N.Borneo. Let the N.Borneo people carry out their self-determination in a peaceful & democratic manner. Besides, we also agree that all international disputes must be settled by following the Bandeong Principles of peaceful settlement through negotiation.

(3) OUR SINCERE CALL

Today it is most necessary that the progressive movement must be united. There are 1000s reasons why it must be united but no half a reason why there should be a split. Whatsoever our views, we must not let the reactionary benefit from our action. We sincerely hope that Dr. Lee & the other comrades will consider the importance of the unity of the progressive movement;.....

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LETTER TO THE STRAITS TIMES - 7.5.1964

Mr. Editor,

With reference to your editorial and Mr. Sam's article in the Straits Times of 6th May, 1964 we would like to point out that these articles appeared to be written with a strong bias against the Barisan Sosialis.

First and foremost we would like to emphasise most strongly that there is no such group as the Nantah group in the B.S. controlling the Party and its 35 branches. The procedure by which the Party has resolved all important issues is in fact the most democratic procedure. The organisational procedure of referring the final decision on this all important issue of national registration is a logical step in any democratic body and much more so in a left wing party like the B.S. Ever since the foundation of the Party, the same procedure has existed to resolve issues; in short the Congress of Delegates has been the supreme body for deciding issues. For your information the delegates that decided the national registration issue were the same delegates that chose the Central Executive Committee of the Party. It cannot be accepted for a moment that these delegates were so easily manipulated and controlled by the so-called Nantah group. On the contrary, it is the branches thru their delegates that control and decide on the policy of the Party.

Your reference in the editorial to the young intellectuals as being the really dangerous and determined enemies of Malaysia is nothing but an attempt to exploit the present difficulties of the Party and in this way to frighten away some more supporters of the Party.

In Mr. Sam's articles there was a suggestion that the 300 odd underground Communists have adopted a soft line, thereby hinting that the B.S. has also adopted a soft line in conformity. This is nothing but a very bad form of smearing which appeared to us to benefit only the colonialists and their kind.

(From page 4 - accept the view of the majority and the organisational principle of the party.

Let us all be united under the glorious party flag and advance our progressive movement.

South Vietnam

309 American servicemen have been killed, wounded or missing this year in operations in South Vietnam; for 1963 the figure was 503. The number of U.S. servicemen in South Vietnam is 15,000.

Casualties inflicted on the South Vietnamese people by these U.S. servicemen have however been far higher. The photograph shows the result of chemical weapons supplied by the U.S.A. and used in operations led by the U.S. servicemen - a child badly burned.

THIS MASSACRE IN SOUTH VIETNAM MUST BE STOPPED. THE U.S.A. MUST BE TOLD TO CLEAR OUT OF SOUTH VIETNAM!



Discussion

CYPRUS

* by JOHN EBER *

As the British troops in Cyprus are transformed into United Nations troops by the donning of a blue beret, the tension between Greek and Turkish Cypriots continues. The U.N. mediator started his work in early April, but his job may not be an easy one. How can harmony between the two communities be restored, and foreign interference in the island be ended?

The N.C.F. views this problem impartially, without adopting the arguments of either community. Perhaps the Greek Cypriots have had a better "press" in Britain, on the whole, but to understand this complex situation, one needs to look at both sides of the argument. There is one aspect of the matter which is of very great importance, but which, I think, has not yet been sufficiently weighed in Britain; it is whether either community really wants to create an independent, separate Cypriot nation.

My own impression, derived from conversations with Cypriots from both communities in London, of all shades of political opinion, is that most Greek Cypriots do not want to create a separate Cypriot nation. They have for centuries felt themselves to be Greeks, and "enosis" has for long been their political aim. I think there can be little doubt that Archbishop Makarios is working towards "enosis" if this proves possible, and that in doing so he has the tacit support of the great majority of the Greek Cypriots. For tactical reasons they prefer at present to speak of "self-determination", and to accept a ban on both "enosis" and partition. But Greek Cypriots, whether from the Left or Right, seem to be united in their interpretation of "self-determination" as meaning the right of the (Greek Cypriot) majority, at some time after freeing Cyprus from the restrictions of the London-Turkish agreements, to decide on "enosis". The only difference one finds is in the timing; the Right is ready for early union with Greece, the Left would prefer to await the arrival of a more democratic government in Athens.

So that behind the use of such words as "independence", "democracy" and "self-determination" by Greek Cypriots is the tacit understanding that they mean in effect and at some unspecified time in the future, "enosis", and, in the meantime, rule by the (Greek Cypriot) majority over the (Turkish Cypriot) minority.

In these circumstances it has been easy for imperialism to divide the people of Cyprus to their own advantage. While Greek and Turkish Cypriots face each other as enemies, the British bases in Cyprus remain

secure."

What is the solution? I believe it involves two factors. The first is for the Cypriots, and particularly the Greek Cypriots, to decide whether they wish to create a separate Cypriot nation.

As the majority community, I believe it is for the Greek Cypriots to make up their minds - are they Greeks or Cypriots? It is of little use the Turks in Cyprus deciding to be Cypriots if the Greek majority want to become Greek nationals. Having made up their minds, the Greek Cypriots should proclaim their decision, and work for its fulfilment.

There is nothing wrong or shameful about desiring "enosis". The Greek Cypriot community is fully entitled to struggle for union with the land which gave them their ancestors, their language and their religion, if that is what they desire. If any outside forces stand in their way, they have the right and indeed the duty to stand fearlessly for their right of self-determination. The Turkish minority in Cyprus could not legitimately stand in the way of that right, though they could with justice insist on protection of their minority rights. But if the Greeks of Cyprus really want "enosis", the only honest course is to say so openly.

If on the other hand the decision of the Greeks of Cyprus is to abandon for ever their aim of union with Greece the events of the last few years have made it necessary that they should take certain important steps as a basis for that. I will not go into those steps in details; they may be summarised as steps towards satisfying the Turkish minority and indeed the world of the sincerity of their decision to create a Cypriot nation which, however close may be the ties with Greece, is a separate and distinct nation.

The second factor concerns the attitude of the Cypriot progressive forces. One of the strongest indications of the nature of the problems in Cyprus is the fact that there is a closer identity of views between the Greek Cypriot Left and the Greek Cypriot Right than there is between the Greek Cypriot working class and the Turkish Cypriot working class.

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Aden and Malaysia

There seems to be a very strong similarity of events happening in the very hot desert country of the so-called Federation of South Arabia which includes about ten sultanates and shiekhdoms and the British base of Aden, and those happening in the North Borneo territories of Sarawak and Sabah in the so-called Malaysia Federation which includes also about ten Sultanates and the British base of Singapore.

The Federation of South Arabia was another British inspired scheme to consolidate themselves economically and militarily so that they could hope to stem the tide of Arab nationalism which is spreading fast throughout the Arab world. The present government of Yemen which overthrew the degenerate Imam by a coup in September, 1962 has the full support of the Arab world from President Nasser and other Arab leaders. Unfortunately, true to its colours, the British government instead of welcoming the heroic struggle of the Yemeni people tried their level best to stem their advance and today we witness the sorry plight of British soldiers being sent to the desert regions around Aden to fight a guerilla war which must end in the complete defeat of this British military and political adventure. Because on the side of the Yemeni people, stand the full strength of the Arab world led by President Nasser who has pledged publicly that not one British soldier will be allowed to remain on Arab soil.

Today, we also witness the heroic struggle of the North Kalimantan people against the British & Gurkhas troops in the hot and steaming jungles of Borneo. The same pattern and style of events are happening in the North Borneo territories as in the Aden peninsular. On the one hand we have the British trying to consolidate their military and political and economical privileges by rushing through the Malaysian Federation with the support of the reactionary forces, comprised of the local feudalists and the pro-colonial ministers. On the other side stand the firm and resolute nationalist and anti-colonial forces backed and supported by all freedom loving peoples of the world especially by the Afro-Asian bloc.

It does seem strange that in both these Federations, the British have placed themselves in an untenable position which must end in their complete defeat and humiliation. It appears

that there cannot be peace in these two regions unless there is a political settlement and the withdrawal of all foreign troops. A further requisite for peace and the solution of these problems is the self-determination of their own political future for both the peoples of Aden and North Kalimantan & Singapore.

The parallel events happening in the Federation of South Arabia and the Federation of Malaysia have thrown some revealing light on the so-called truth mission to Africa some time early this year. From the newspaper reports, it was very strongly hinted that President Nasser supports the Malaysia Federation. However, since, President Nasser has pledged to drive every British soldier from Arab soil, which means the liquidation of British military strength in South Arabia, is it possible that he will support Malaysia which seeks to consolidate British military strength in South East Asia, and by doing so finds himself opposing another great Afro-Asian leader in President Soekarno. The answer can only be that this is most unlikely.

South Vietnam

The terror and brutal repressions in South Vietnam have driven everyone into resistance. According to incomplete figures, over the past eight years, 105,000 of Vietnamese have been killed and at the present moment there are over 350,000 held in the 874 prisons and concentration camps. There are over 6,000 children held in the prisons many of them born in prison. They have known no other world than the four walls of a prison and what they can see through the bars of their cells. Countless others have been born in prison and died there without ever having seen the sun.



Reign of Terror

CYPRUS (from page 6)

I have repeatedly heard Greek Cypriots of the Left speak of the "complete unity of the people of the people behind the Archbishop", and it seems to require some mental effort for them to accept that by "the people", they are referring to the Greek Cypriots. The actuality of Cyprus, whatever may be the reasons for it, is that the Greek Cypriot Left, including AKEL, has paid more attention to achieving political unity among the Greek Cypriots of all classes than it has to achieving the unity of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot workers and peasants. I think this, to put it mildly, has not contributed to the unity of the Cypriot people in their struggle against imperialism.

When imperialism succeeds in its policy of "divide and rule", all progressives will join in condemning imperialism for this evil and reckless stirring up of trouble. But, knowing that imperialism will certainly use this trick if it possibly can, it is the responsibility of the progressive movement in each country to see to it that imperialism is defeated in its efforts to divide the people.

To do this, however, it must first be decided who are "the people". It is for the people of Cyprus to decide: are "the people" Greeks? Or Cypriots? Which is more important - class unity or communal unity?

FREEDOM FIGHTER TO BE BANISHED

Barisan Sosialis Bras Basah Branch Vice-Secretary Sdr. Lim Beng Chuan who was arrested under PPSO in last September had recently received a banishment order from the Government. The Headquarters was informed that Sdr. Lim is now appealing to the Minister to withdraw the banishment order. The Central Welfare Committee has called upon all comrades to concern about the matter, and be ready to give their assistance.

MP'S VISIT TO PRISON
NOT FERRISHED

Since their last visit in November in last year, our Assemblymen have not been able to visit our comrades who were detained in February last year. It is because their application had not been approved by the Minister of Home Affairs. Our three MP's Sdr. Lim Huan Boon, Sdr. Chia Thye Poh, and Sdr. Kow Kee Seng who are now in K.L. will meet Dato Ismail to urge the Government to grant them permission to visit our freedom-fighters in the prison. This is another iron example of the undemocratic Alliance Government's denial of the democratic rights of the people's representatives.

ASSEMBLYMAN AWANG OUSTED IN ELECTION

The self-styled champion of workers, Inche Mahmud Awang, PAP Assemblyman for Kampong Kapur has been ousted by the STC workers in their recent Union election.

Until the election, he was president of the STC Workers' Union. Awang, standing for election in his department of conductors secured only slightly more than 200 votes, a crushing defeat, indeed, for the so-called champion.

The defeat of Inche Awang as well as some former committee members of the Union was not totally unexpected. He had, since becoming the Union's president, neither cared to look after the welfare of fellow-workers nor to improve their working condition. It was reliably learnt that Lee Kuan Yew gave him a piece of his mind after Awang's crushing defeat.

