



SINGAPORE TECHNOCRAT

工院 學生報

VOL. 5 NO. 3.

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION

JUNE '76

20 cents

MC(P) 809/76



contents

內容

- DRUGS Pg 3
- CHINA TRIP..... Pg 4
- BRIEF HISTORY OF LABOUR DAY.. Pg 5
- STREAMING TO PRIMARY ONE... Pg 6
- BRIEF HISTORY ON FAMILY PLANNING Pg 7
- PEOMS:
- I CAN SEE LIGHT IN THE DISTANCE
- WELCOME! MY NEW FRIENDS.

- THE TALE OF A LASSPg10
- STOP OPPRESSING NANTAH STUDENTS !Pg11
- UNION AWARENESS TROUGH MASS PARTICIPATION Pg12
- SPSU REJECTS INVITATION TO JOIN I.U.S.....Pg13
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN SOCIETY..... Pg14
- FILM REVIEW- THE SAND PEBBLES ... Pg15

- 吸毒問題淺談 Pg3.
- 中國之行 Pg4.
- 詩歌- 歷史的道路..... Pg10.
- 停止壓迫南大學生!..... Pg11.
- 星加坡五工學院學生會 拒絕國際學聯的邀請.....Pg13.
- 工院學生會面臨財政危機 Pg16.
- SPSU IN "FINANCIAL CRISIS"!..... Pg16.



DRUGS

The problem of Drug taking, like any other social evils, in the so called free world has become even more acute. In S'pore it is no exception. The fact that this problem is more severe compared with 1970 can be deduced from the qualitative and quantitative changes in this problem. The number of drug abusers have been increasing alarmingly and the drugs involved are dangerous drugs such as morphine and heroin.

What has given rise to the increasing acuteness of this world wide social problem? In actual fact, the severity of the increasing social crimes in the capitalist world indicates that the system is heading for its imminent doom. In a desperate move to rescue itself from collapsing imperialism and its network push drugs to the people especially the youth in an attempt to divert their energy from healthy activities. But, this venomous plot is bound to fail.

Would there be no solution to this problem? Certainly yes. To tackle any social problem, we must do it at the root cause i.e. the social system. A govt that can only clamour, impose fines and punishes offenders would not solve the problem, not even if it has a set of strict regulations, a team of well trained personnel and propagandists.

We are against the enactment of strict laws to deal with criminals. But, we do not agree with criminal acts. Criminals are the products of an illness-stricken social system. Hence the mask of seemingly responsible govt, imposing stringent rules on criminals, must be stripped off.

FAMILY PLANNING

Family Planning is not in any way intended to alleviate the adverse economic situation of the lower stratum of the society. On the contrary it is used to subjugate the poor. The poor have no alternative means to jobs, private housing or schools. Disincentives and penalties such as deprivation of housing, maternity leave, accouchment fees and income tax relief have hit hard directly at the poor - the 75% of the population who earn less than \$400 per month.

Family Planning in Singapore does not stop at Singaporeans. It is a weapon against the Malaysians and workers from other countries who work here. Inhuman regulations like rejection of marriage approval, withdrawal of work permit, failure to renew the alien's stay in Singapore, loss of medical, educational and housing benefits are imposed against those who refuse to be sterilized. Such policies formulated under the guise of "prevention of pregnancy from the standpoint of the health of the individual or the happiness of the family" can no more hold!

CHINA TRIP

Since Nixon's visit to the People's republic of China, many foreigners have also been to this socialist country. At present, trips to China by prominent political figures seem very fascinating and honourable.

Now, it is Lee Kuan Yew's turn. His visit to China has brought wide speculations among many people. What is the implication of this? Questions like. On what interests did Lee Kuan Yew make this trip to the People's Republic of China? etc arise.

The Chinese Premier, Hua Kuo-feng had reiterated the stand of China, "Being a socialist state, China supports all revolutionary struggles of all countries in the world." However, she will stick to the five basic principles of peaceful co-existence-non-interference in internal affairs or other nations. The Chinese wanted to unite with the Third World countries to fight against the attempt of imperialism and social imperialism to dominate the world. As regard to the

internal affairs of individual nations, it would be left to the people to decide for themselves.

Whether or not Lee Kuan Yew is following Nixon and Razak's foot step to China to gain personal interest for the coming general elections in S'pore is left to be justified by time.

But, the fact that more and more countries especially the Third World countries are having diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China has become a trend. The trend and tide forced many obstinate and staunch anti-communist political figures to visit the People Republic of China.

关于吸毒的问题

吸毒问题与其他社会严重罪行, 病态一样, 在这个所谓的“自由世界”里日趋严重。在这个小岛也不例外。比较1970年, 这个问题的严重性可从量与质的巨大变化看出来。不但吸毒人数大量增加, 所服的毒品更为强烈, 例如海洛英、吗啡。

为什么这环球性的社会问题愈来愈严重? 其实种种的社会罪行日渐严重乃象征着整个资本主义世界的没落、帝国主义在灭亡之际, 作垂死的挣扎, 大肆贩卖毒品, 企图转移世界人民, 尤其是青年的精力。这一切阴毒的手段必定遭到可耻的失败。

要解决这个环球性的问题岂不是徒然吗? 并不然, 要解决任何社会问题, 应向问题的根源——即社会制度着手。一个只懂得叫嚣、罚款, 严厉惩罚犯人的政府, 即使有更严厉、苛刻的法律, 既有训练有素的政府机关人员, 宣传伎俩, 也是解决不了问题的。

我们反对只是以严厉的法律对付犯罪者, 并不是因为我们赞同这些罪行。犯人都是不健全的社会制度造成的。实施严厉的法律, 表面上是个负责任的政府在为民除害, 这样的假面具必须给予撕毁、谴责。

家庭计划

家庭计划的实行从来就不是为了减轻下层人民的生活重担的。相反的它是用来压制人民的一种手段。穷苦的人们除了靠出卖劳力来维持生活, 把儿女送进公立学校及住在政府组屋外, 别无其他选择的余地。种种的抑制和惩罚措施例如——剥夺产后有薪假期、分娩费、免除所得税及工作准证等等, 沉重的打击着广大劳苦大众, 尤其那七十五巴仙的人每月所得仅有四百元不等。

这些措施并不只限制着星加坡人。它也是用来对付联邦工人及其他前来工作的外地人。不人道的条例如——拒绝发婚姻准证、收回工作准证、拒绝延长居留权、丧失教育、住宿及医药津贴等被强加在不愿接受堕胎的外地人。这些都说明了借“为保护妇女健康与家庭幸福”的美名而制定的政策已经站不住脚了。

中国之行

自从尼克逊访问中国后, 许多外国人都纷纷到中国去。目前中国之行是许多国家政坛人物感到兴趣, 并且感到荣幸的。

今天轮到了李光耀了。他这次的拜访引起了很多人的猜测。这个访问意味着什么? 中国的立场又是什么? 他本人又是为着什么利益而去呢?

中国总理华国锋表明: “作为一个社会主义国家, 中国支持所有国家的人民革命斗争。”不过, 中国遵守其和平共处五项原则——不干涉他国内政。中国的立场是团结第三世界国家人民打击帝国主义, 社会帝国主义瓜分世界的美梦。至于各国的内政, 自然由各国人民来解决了。

以尼克逊, 拉查之访问来比喻, 说李光耀是出于个人利益而去, 因为大选即将来临, 这种看法是否正确且由时间来考验吧。

但是当今世界上, 大部分第三世界国家都已承认中国。这已成为一个趋势, 这个时代潮流也迫使许多著名顽固的反共政坛人物走上访问中国之路了。

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The S'pore Polytechnic Students' Union enjoys a less popularity among the people as compared with the University of S'pore Students' Union. This can be attributed to the activities that SPSU has organised in the past, which were either academic or self-indulgent in nature. Nevertheless, SPSU had also some glorious reminiscences which were intermittent in her history in the 60's. In 1974, SPSU and USSU came together to take up several social issues through which the aspirations of the people were voiced out. These issues include, anti-bus fare hike, Help Bangladesh Flood Relief Campaign, J.B. Squatters and Retrenchment Research Centre. Unfortunately, these activities that SPSU involved were not brought to the knowledge of the people thro' our official organ, S'pore Technocrat.

The public must be anxious and concerned of the new Union of S'pore University students after the reconstitution of USSU would the new Union have the same fate as NUSU or even worse?

At present, why is it the only autonomous students' union left in S'pore - SPSU is facing a financial crisis? What would happen to her future? We believe this series of questions should be a concern of the public too.

We hope that through our publication - S'pore Technocrat - we can make known to the public the activities and happenings in our students circle. Besides, we also like to give our sincere opinions and criticisms with regard to things happening around us. Through this publication, we hope to promote a healthy relationship between the public and us. However, there are bound to have shortcomings like infantile views or even incorrect views. We sincerely welcome constructive criticisms and suggestions so as to help us progress along in our work.

编者寄语

工艺院学生会在社会上, 比起星大学生会来说, 是寂寂无名的。一方面这是由于以往学生会只顾搞些学术性的活动, 还有无聊的舞会等。但是工艺院学生会早期也有过断断续续光荣的历史。最近几年, 尤其是1974年跟星大学生会并肩合作, 也搞了一些有意义的活动, 例如——反巴士车费加价运动, 孟加拉救灾运动, 支援新山拆屋事件中的居民, 设立裁员调查中心等等。这些有意义的活动亦未通过我们的出版刊物, 向广大人民传开去。

大家必定很关注星大学生会的发展, 她将来会与南大学生会一样, 或是更糟吗?

但是, 在这小岛上仅存的独立、民主的学生会——工艺院学生会为什么今天会面临财政危机呢? 她的前途又是怎样? 相信这也是大家应该关注的问题吧?

我们希望通过我们的出版刊物——工院学生报介绍一些学生动态, 我们对社会的观点给大众, 从而促进我们与大众之间的联系。由于主观努力、能力有限, 肯定会有许多看法是幼稚的, 甚至是错误的, 希望大家能给予批评、指正, 鼓励与帮忙我们进步吧!

SUBSCRIPTION 订阅

Please include my name in your subscription list.

我欲订阅十期工院学生报

现付上三巴。

I enclose \$3.00 being payment for the next ten issues of the Singapore Technocrat.

姓名 NAME:.....

地址 ADDRESS:.....

日期 DATE:..... 署名 SIGNATURE:.....

Clip and post this coupon with your remittance to:

Singapore Technocrat
SPSU
9, Prince Edward Road,
Singapore 2.



—Peter Lim Teng You.

Drug-taking again hit the headlines recently. 200 American school students are on drugs; English school students are on drugs; Chinese school students are on drugs. Screened the press, radio and television. In October 1970, the same hysteria was played up. Then, it was white pills, M X pills and so on. In this time there is a qualitative difference. Hard drugs, like heroin, morphine etc. are reported to be commonly consumed. However, the striking similarity of both periods is that students are reported to be the main culprit in drug taking. This, we know, is not true, as drug taking also occur in the army, where "big dog eats small dog" and the business community where "big fish eats small fish." But unfortunately, these are the areas in which our restrained journalists are not paid to look into.

Nevertheless, the news media and the machines of the government poured their fervent attack on the youth of our society, as if they are the hard core of people who "just want to take drug". Hence, characteristically, the authorities began to attack the symptom of the problem instead of the root cause. As a result, the more they yelled about the drug problem the more the problem remained, and spread.

What then are the root causes of this problem and why do the very actions of the authorities provoke more drug taking? Why is the youth singled out to be the target of propaganda when obviously they are not the only ones? Do drug addicts have a chance to be rehabilitated?

ROOT CAUSE 1 - THE PRESSURE FROM THE TOP

It is well known that the school system has undergone some very dramatic changes. These changes are aimed at sharpening the competition between students such that it has become "usual" for more parents to employ tutors to coach their children. Needless to say, those poorer families who cannot afford private tutors loose out.

Nevertheless both rich and poor students face pressure to compete fiercely from their parents, who are themselves influenced by the schools meritocratic system. These pressures intensified when the government instituted further measures to discriminate between "bright" and "weak" students and to accredit harmful "high-horse" feelings to the former. Discrimination is further increased with the concept that those earning \$750 and above are "good breed" while those below

are "bad breed". Legislations and policies such as "students to be streamed from Pr. One" and family planning are aimed to oppress the lower-income group. Naturally, all parents want their children to be of "good breed" and especially the poor, for they look to their children to do well in school so that when they have finished they can hope to get a highly paid job, thus pulling the family from the target range of the govt legislations.

So when these young students and youths take drugs to seek escape from these pressures which will make them like rats, we must realise that the origin of these pressures lie in the government policies and actions within the educational and family systems.

ROOT CAUSE 2 - THE ACTIONS OF THE AUTHORITIES

When many drug addicts or suspected ones are arrested by the officers of the Central Narcotics Bureau, they are promptly beaten up severely without any due consideration to their psychology. For the addicts, they are then given the "cold turkey" treatment where they are left alone to sweat, shit and foam during the withdrawal periods. These facts are well known to many drug addicts and hence they do not trust the authorities whom they are supposed to surrender to. They therefore face a dilemma of submitting themselves to tortures which may make them insane or dead or keep themselves alive by injecting more poison into their system. Often than not, they opted for the latter, and became hard core addicts. When they run out of money to sustain their habits, they are forced to peddle drugs to keep themselves alive. Why can't they silently approach a doctor for treatment, some of you may ask? They would not do it because under the law the doctors have to report to CNB about such treatment which amounts to the same thing. Furthermore, in this capitalistic society, how many doctors are willing to stick out their necks unless the client is rich? Therefore, the common drug addict has no way out but to take more drugs.

ROOT CAUSE 3 - THE FOREIGN DOMINATED SYSTEM

The government had made ours into a foreign dominated society where our economy is controlled by foreigners especially Americans, Western Europeans and Japanese and our social system is copied piece by piece from the Western capitalist system which is a hot bed of various

social evils such as drug-taking, crime, and venereal disease. Therefore, it is not surprising that when the West catches cold, we are the ones that sneezed.

The foreigners come here with only one purpose, that is to make use of our cheap labour force to churn out money for them to take back to United States, Western Europe and Japan. Since the government has put us at the foreigners' mercy, their continued demand for cheap labour must be met. Hence our school system, especially the recent policy of "STREAMING AT PR. ONE" are geared towards creating more cheap labour force to satisfy the foreigners' greed. This constant pleasing of foreigners' industries with our social system created undue pressures on our people. To make people conform, a system of social control such as family planning, schools, national services and HDB priorities are instituted. Yet, ironically while all these pressures increased daily, on our people, there is virtually no control over the influx of Western culture such as strip-tease shows, hippie music, imported films, permissiveness, foreign life styles and drug taking. The more pressurized group of our people fall victims to these cultures. As such, to yell at drug taking without having the guts to change the very social and economic system which breeds drug taking is like telling the hungry people not to take the poison fruits when they are placed everywhere to tempt them, without giving them alternative foodstuff.

POT AND YOUTH

The main contention of these cheap sensationalism in the press, radio and T.V. is that our youth are "hooked". The profit-orientated news media also played on the curiosity of our youth on drugs. Why is there this frenzied attack on our youth? It is obvious that the power-wielder of our society, the capitalists, are afraid of our youth. For youth are like the sun at eight in the morning, full of vigour, vitality and dynamism, while the capitalists and their hanger-ons have one of their legs in their grave. Like all moribund forces, imperialism on the verge of extinction are using desperate tactics such as drug taking to divert the youth to save themselves from inevitable doom.

Yet, in spite of all these divertive tactics, nothing can save this decadent class. History will move on. Our youth are sure to be triumphant in seeing through the tricks of the imperialists and smash them to bits!!

吸毒问题浅谈

最近吸毒再次成为报章上的新闻提要。二百个美国学校学生吸毒! 英校学生吸毒! 华校学生吸毒等等都是报章叫嚣的。在1970年10月里有着同样的社会现象。当时主要的毒品只是白丸, M X丸等。目前却有着质的变化了。强烈的毒品如海洛英、玛啡已是常用的毒品了。但是很惊人的, 这两个时期的共同点都是——学生为主要的吸毒的坏分子。我们知道这是不正确的。吸毒发生在“大狗吃小狗”的军营里, 同样也发生在“大鱼吃小鱼”的商业界里。很不幸的, 这些都不是我们的受限制的新闻记者能探讨的方面。

然而, 新闻媒介与政府的宣传机器却大肆攻击我们的青年, 犹如他们是很顽固的吸毒分子。只停留于表面现象而不从问题根源着手处理又是当局处理事情的特征之一。于是, 他们愈是叫嚣, 吸毒问题依然存在, 并且变本加厉。

我们不尽要问——什么才是吸毒问题的根源? 为什么当局的措施愈刺激吸毒的风气呢? 为什么青年会成为受攻击的目标, 而显然的他们并非唯一的吸毒者? 吸毒者真的有机会复健吗?

问题根源之一: 层层的压力造成的精神负担

众所周知, 我们的教育制度有着戏剧性的变化。这些变化旨在使学生间的竞争性更剧烈。聘请家庭补习教师也因此司空见惯。毫无疑问的贫穷家庭是无能聘请补习教师的。

但是不论是贫苦或是富裕的家庭, 学生都承受着家长们的压力。家长们都希望儿女能加倍努力, 以期在激烈的考试竞争中不致被淘汰, 尤其是在政府制定区别“聪明”与“愚笨”的学生这种政策时, 家长们更施加压力于他们的儿女们。

凡是薪水高于\$750的人为“好种”这种想法也进一步增加了学生们的精神负担。还有“按照程度分班”, 家庭计划等等对贫苦人家不利的政策更是火

上添油, 增加一层压力。自然家长们都希望孩子们都是“好种”。贫苦人家更期望他们的孩子学业优良, 将来能有个好职业, 从而减轻这专对贫苦大众不利的宪法的压迫。

因此, 当学生们开始吸毒以设法逃脱精神负担时, 我们必须认识到吸毒的根源之一在于政府的政策、措施、教育制度、家庭制度等造成的精神压力。

问题根源之二: 当局的措施

当许多的吸毒者或是受嫌疑吸毒者被中央肃毒局官员逮捕时, 他们即刻被严厉的拷打, 不管这是否伤害他们的心理、自尊。之后吸毒者受一种称着“冻火鸡”的治疗方法。这种治疗方法是将吸毒者关起来, 任由他们受作毒瘾发作时的痛苦, 汗流浹背, 口吐白沫, 颤抖等痛苦。这些事实对吸毒者来说都是恐怖的。也因为这样他们不会信任当局而向当局自首。他们面对的困境是把自己交出来受虐待甚至于发狂或是继续吸毒而脆弱的“生存”着。往往他们都选择后者, 而变成更难于治疗的“死硬”分子了。当吸毒者无钱时, 他们只得去贩毒使自己能继续以毒品来维持生命。

或许有人会问怎么他们不静悄悄的找医生治疗呢? 他们不会这样做的, 因为法律规定, 医生必须向中央肃毒局作任何有关治疗吸毒的报告。再者, 在这种资本主义社会里, 如果顾客(吸毒者)不是富裕的话, 有哪个医生愿意给予他们治疗呢? 那么一般的吸毒者没有其他的解决方法, 唯有继续吸毒了。

问题根源之三: 受外国控制的社会制度

政府已把我们的社会弄成一个经济上受外国人控制的社会, 尤其是美国人, 西欧人与日本人。而我们的社会制度也是点点滴滴的抄袭自西方资本主义制度——一个吸毒、犯罪、性病和其他种种社会罪行, 病

态的温床。由此可见当西方人着凉时, 却是我们打喷嚏这种现象是不足为奇的。

外国人到此只有一个目的, 即剥削我们的廉价劳工, 挤出一大笔钱然后带回美国、西欧与日本去。由于政府已使我们操纵于外国人手中, 因此我们的教育制度, 尤其是最近的“按照程度分班”制更是为满足外国人的贪婪, 制造更多的廉价劳工而搞出来的。

这种种媚外政策给予我们人民极大压力与痛苦。为着控制人民——家庭计划、教育、国民服役、组屋优先权等措施被制定了。然而在这些压力与日俱增的同时, 对颓废的西方灰黄文化却不加以控制——脱衣舞、嬉皮士音乐、色情, 打斗影片、黄色小说、洋化生活作风、吸毒等到处泛滥。精神上受到巨大压力的人们往往不能抗拒这些灰黄文化的诱迫而受害了。因此当局这种只是对吸毒者的叫嚣, 而不设法解决问题的根源的做法, 犹如把一些毒果子放在一群饥饿的人前面引诱他们, 但又在劝他们不可吃这些果子, 而又不给予其他食物。

青年与毒品

只顾盈利的新闻广播媒介主要谈及的是我们青年已受害了, 上钩了。他们攻击青年吸毒乃堕落, 好奇。为什么会有这些强烈的攻击呢? 显然的当权者与资本家都畏怯青年的。因为青年象早晨八九点钟的太阳, 充满着活力与生气, 而资本家及其随从却已经一只脚踏进了坟墓里。就如一切腐朽势力, 帝国主义在面临灭亡之际, 在作垂死的挣扎, 企图以毒品转移青年的精力, 以便挽救他们那必然的死亡。

尽管有再多的卑鄙手段, 历史是必然向前发展的。没有任何力量挽救得了腐朽势力。我们的青年必然会觉醒, 并且会砸烂一切帝国主义的诡计, 打碎一切腐朽势力!

CHINA TRIP

by RICHARD TAN

When China was liberated in 1949, many statesmen of the western capitalist countries began fervently to condemn China and Communism. They also began to roll their propaganda machines to churn out horror stories about China under the communists as they are now doing to Indo-China. However, the wind changes direction in the first half of the 1970s. These very same who made fiery speeches against Communism and Communist China, were paying homage visits to China, as if they had suddenly realised that there is such a government that is looking after one quarter of mankind. Of late, the same type of South East Asian politicians are following this western cue, as they have always done so with their social, economic and political policies. Why do these people want to visit China, the bulwark of Communism, when they themselves continue to condemn Communism? What are the significances of such "China trips", to them and to China? An analysis of some of such visits will answer some of our questions.

NIXON'S TRIP

To analyse these homage visits without knowing the impact of Nixon's visit to China in 1972 is incomplete. Why must the President of the leading country in the capitalist world pay homage to China?

From the Chinese standpoint, Nixon was forced to come to China. The United Nations had already recognised the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people. China was and still is the leader of socialist countries and the champion of the oppressed people of the Third World. Therefore without consulting their views of the world, or befriend them, United States will be increasingly isolated from the people of the world, as they have been all along. The Chinese knew that they were talking from a position of strength



一九四九年当中国解放时，许多西方资本主义国家里的政坛人物都强烈恶毒的攻击中国与共产主义。他们甚至转动宣传机器发出许多中国的“恐怖事件”，就象他们今天在恶意中伤印支一样。但是在1970年的上半年，风向转移了。那些曾经激烈攻击共产主义与中国的西方政坛人物却到中国去朝奉啦，就好像是他们突然间发觉有一个照顾着地球上四分之一人口的国家存在一样。最近同一批的东南亚政客，西方政策的追随者，也随着西方的潮流到中国去朝奉啦。为什么这些人要到共产主义堡垒，中国去，而同时本身却大肆反共呢？这些“中国之行”对他们，对中国又有着什么重大意义呢？让我们尝试分析这些“中国之行”以解答其中一些疑问吧。

尼克逊之行

不先了解这个1972年的访问所引起的冲击来分析其他访问必然是不完整的。为什么美国——资本主义世界里的老大哥——的总统会到中国去访问呢？

以中国人的立场来说，尼克逊是被迫到中国去的。联合国都已承认中华人民共和国为唯一合法代表中国人民的政府。中国是社会主义国家以及深受压迫的第三世界国家人民的领袖。因此若不关照中国对世界的看法，或不与中国来往，美国将更被世界人民孤立。中国是处在一个有利的地位来会谈的。

尼克逊本身到中国的目的是要在1972年大选中蝉联总统。（可参阅埃德加·斯诺著的《漫长的革命》一书毛泽东的评语）尼氏知道，要蝉联，他必须向美国人民保证与中国建立新的关系，并且须解决台湾与印支的问题。

与中国建立外交上的关系，将是美国打破被世界孤立的第一步。当然与中国通商而获得的经济利益是逃不过美国大资本家的。

台湾一贯是中国与美国关系中的一根钉子。中国要美国从台湾全面撤退，中国并且声明台湾是中国的内政问题。

尼克逊很清楚，美国已把自己拉进了自己制造出来的旋涡里。他要尽快在大选前撤离美军。不过他同样要那“光荣的退休”。对于这些中国人的立场是：美国必须毫无条件的从印支全面撤军，但在没有得到越南的允许的情况下，中国决不会与美国谈判印支问题。这是符合中国的一贯原则——“革命是不能输出的”。

Nixon, on his part, went to China with only one motive - to be re-elected as President in the 1972 election. (refer to Mao Tse-tung's comment in Edgar Snow's book, "CHINA'S LONG REVOLUTION") He knew that to be in he had to promise the American people to set up a new relationship with China and also to settle the question of Taiwan and Indo-China.

The setting up of diplomatic relations with China, will be United States' first step towards breaking its isolation from the world. Of course, the economic benefits from trade with China do not escape the US multinationals.

Taiwan had long been the thorn of Sino-American relationship. China had demanded for the total evacuation of US forces from Taiwan and categorically stated that the island is China's internal affair. (However, a settlement in the Taiwan question cannot be separated from the question of withdrawal of US troops from Indo-China, nor the latter awaits the former.)

Nixon knew that the US is getting itself sucked into the Indo-China nightmare which they had created. He wanted to get the troops out fast enough for the election. But he also wanted to be spared the "cold turkey" treatment of withdrawal so as to retain some prestige of "retiring in dignity". To these, the Chinese maintained that foreign troops were to withdraw unconditionally in total from Indo-China and that China could not negotiate without the consent of the Indo-Chinese. This is in line with their principle that "revolutions cannot be exported."

This self-interest of Nixon fooled the ignorant American people. He was re-elected as President with a sweeping majority. Ironically, it was also this self-interest that brought him down in the Watergate Affair.

中国之行

尼克逊为了个人的利益，欺骗了美国人民。他在总统竞选中获得压倒性的胜利。可笑的是他终究由于他的自私而在水门事件中垮了台。福特也曾到中国，不过他却毫无收获。美国人民会再受欺骗吗？或许他们也是毫无选择，除了在每五年里投票外就是起来造反！

拉查之行

马来西亚是亚细安国家中第一个与中国建交的国家。拉查在1974年访问了中国。“分析家”认为拉查之行是为了解决三项政治问题的；其一：要求中国停止支持马来亚共产党。其二：停止广播“马来亚革命之声”（这个电台被认为设在中国境内，但中国否认这个指责）。其三：解决在马来西亚的华人的地位问题。

前两个问题显示这些分析家企图使人有着一个印象——马来亚共产党是受中国控制的。但是根据远东经济评论1976年年刊的分析：“认为与中国建交后，马共的基础就会被破坏——这一乐观看法是毫无根据的”。一个虚构的故事被打碎了。

第三个问题更好的反映出马来西亚当权者的种族主义政策。他们企图把华人与共产党联系在一起。但是马来亚共产党内存在着马来领袖，鸭都拉、昔迪与其他种族领袖，并且有一支马来亚民族解放军队是由马来民族组成的。这些事实再一次粉碎了第二个虚构的故事。

在这些火热的问题底下，当然是拉查的个人利益了。应该记得1974年是马来西亚大选的一年。拉查“中国之行”纯粹是用来拉华人的选票的。因为马华公会已经得不到华人的支持了。他组成“国民阵线”是为着掩盖其种族压迫政策。即使中国之行不成功，这个手段要了是肯定有利于他的。

他一死，巫统内就展开争权夺利的搏斗。较不老练的胡先翁竟然宣称巫统为马来西亚的基础，这样倒也揭穿了国民阵线的本质。很明显的统治阶级是无意改变他们的种族主义政策的。

李光耀之行

五月十日至廿三日已轮到李光耀访问中国。什么使他厚颜无耻的到中国去呢？向来他是公开诬蔑共产主义的。他是去旅行呢，还是去看看社会主义建设。

前几个星期的新闻报导很明显的要显示出李光耀

Ford also went to China in 1975 to pay homage, hoping of course to boost his image in the coming election. Will the American be fooled again? Perhaps, the Americans also do not have any choice but to cast their "five-years-once-freedom" with Ford unless they rebel.

RAZAK'S TRIP

Malaysia, was the first ASEAN country to establish diplomatic relations with China. Razak himself made his "China trip" in 1974. Analysts had said that that trip was aimed at resolving 3 main political issues: the withdrawal of support from the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM), stop the broadcast of the "Voice of the Malay-an Revolution", believed to be emanating from Chinese soil although China had denied it, and the status of overseas Chinese in Malaysia.

The first two issues clearly indicated that these analysts wanted to implant the idea that CPM is China controlled. But as Far Eastern Economic Review in their 1976 Year Book observed, "it was thought that since diplomatic relations had been established with China in 1974, the Communist base in Malaysia would be undermined. However, the optimism was not well founded" A myth blown!

The third issue only reflect the racist content of the Malaysian ruling class. They wanted very much to link Chinese with communist as they have recently done so. But the presence of Abdullah CD, and may others as leaders of the CPM, and the existence of whole Malay regiment in the CPM ranks, smashed this second created myth.

Underneath all these heated political issues, was, of course the self-interest of Razak. One could remember that 1974 was the election year in Malaysia

的才华；它尝试表示中国已不再支持我们人民的正义斗争，而中国却是同意镇压工人，学生与贫苦大众的法西斯政策，由于同行的记者都是经过严格的保安挑选的，我们不可能期望任何有关社会主义建设的正确报导。

且让我们来讨论什么促使李光耀到中国去吧！

其一：他希望这个访问能使人感到迷惑，而使人满足于此长期以来以内部安全法令，雇佣法令等等延续的法西斯制度。

其次是缓和人民的不满情绪——因为星加坡已经太过于倾向西方而会有制造出一代二毛子的危险。

其三：星加坡还未脱离资本主义经济萧条的余波，他得寻求与中国经商之路以支撑那快要破产的经济。他希望中国能供应便宜的食物，纺织品及其他基本必需品。

其四：那软弱的亚细安需要中国的承认以稳定它并且希望越南会因而转变她对亚细安的立场。中国支持亚细安的中立、反霸权主义的原则。至于中国是否支持亚细安国家其他方面的立场还是一个很大的疑问。

最后，也就是最重要的是既将来临的大选。李光耀期望他的人民行动党（目前被提议被踢出国际社会主义机构）获得象1972年一样多的选票——“所有选票”中的70%。在他看来，这象征着人民的支持。其实，由于它是一个法西斯政权，这些“选票”并不真正表示人民的支持。人民中隐藏着的憎恨都表现在反巴士车费加价事件，美国游艇厂事件，反对虐待政治拘留犯事件，工人支持陈华彪等事件中。最近冻结工资讨好美国与日本跨国公司的政策更增添人们的憎恨。

真相是什么？

这些人到中国去，并不是由于他们想把反共政策改为不结盟政策或是从一个剥削制度改为一个社会财富分配得平均的制度，也不是为着解决人民无土地、饥饿等问题，更不是为着提高贫苦人家的生活水平。不，他们去纯粹是因为破产的制度无法解决经济衰退的问题、吸毒、高犯罪率、贫富悬殊等问题，所以他们需要“中国之行”来苟延残喘和欺骗无知的人们。

对于这些人，我们只能这样说：中国之行只能暂时欺骗人们。当迷雾消散时，当压迫的真相暴露时，就算是“天国之行”也不能挽救他们的。

BRIEF HISTORY OF LABOUR DAY

by T.K. Ong

May Day is a glorious and ceremonious day for the working class of the world. It is the day to celebrate the consciousness of their historic role and their solidarity in the struggle for a world without exploitation and oppression.

The birth of May 1st International Labour Day was linked with the struggle of the workers for eight hours working day. In Europe, especially Britain, the Industrial Revolution had brought about wide usage of big power-driven machines for production. This had resulted in producing a large reserve of unemployed labour force. The capitalist exploited the adverse situation facing the workers by paying very low wages to them. Besides, the capitalists made the workers labour for sixteen to eighteen hours per day. The insatiable greed for profit of the capitalist class was exposed in the film "Modern Times" acted by Charlie Chaplin. In the Modern Times, we saw that the workers had to work during their meal

The ruthless exploitation on the workers had aroused wide discontentment and antagonism among them. Britain was a hot spot of workers' struggle against exploitation. These fiery struggles had induced the British Parliament in the year 1802 to pass a law, allowing a maximum working time of fifteen hours and as for child labour, it was set at twelve hours. However, the capitalist refused to abide by the law and was rendered inoperative.

On March 1st 1834, British textile workers launched an all out strike demanding for implementation of an eight hours working day. This strike was not very successful. It was not until fifty two years later in 1886 that eight hours working day was first imposed in America. This implementation was brought about after the American workers won their struggle for eight hour working day.

After the American Civil War, there bred a workers movement fighting for imposition of eight hours working day system.

In 1884, the American workers initiated a "Fight for Liberty and Bread" demonstration and rally, demanding for immediate implementation of eight hour working day. However, this just action of the workers was met with violent and brutal suppression by the authorities.

1st. May 1886, workers in every corner of America put up rallies, demonstrations and strikes, fighting for better working conditions and eight hours working day. Altogether, over three hundred thousand workers were involved in the strikes. With the experiences gained from the previous struggle, the workers consolidated their solidarity and improved their organisation and finally succeeded in making the authorities succumb to their demands. In July 1889, the first plenum of the Second International adopted a resolution making 1st May as the International Labour Day, in commemoration of the struggle of the American workers three years ago.

Continued from Pg. 4

and that Razak's "China trip" was totally utilised as a Chinese vote raker as MCA was losing more of the Chinese votes. He also put forward the "Barisan Nasional" party to camouflage as a multi-racial party so that should the "China Trip" prove ineffective, to get the Chinese votes, Barisan Nasional should do the trick. The ignorant was taken in for a while.

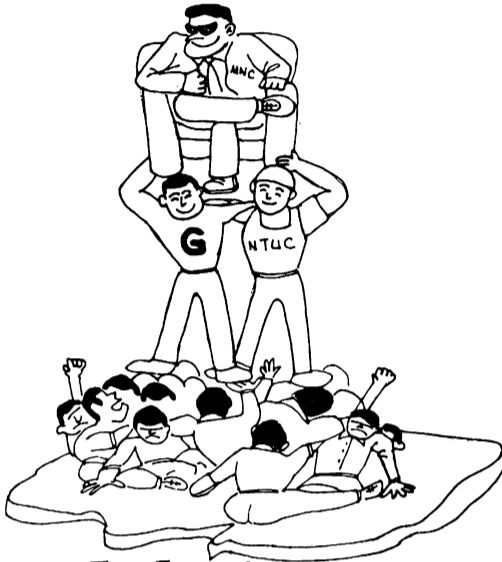
With his death, fighting in UMNO began to be heated up for lucrative posts in the cabinet. The less skilful Hussein Onn, could not but crushed the Barisan Nasional myth by proclaiming that "UMNO is the foundation of Malaysia". With that proclamation, it is clear that the ruling class had no intention to shift their racialistic policies.

LEE'S TRIP

May 10 to 23, 1976, was Lee Kuan Yew's turn to make the "China Trip". What made him so unashamedly inch his way there when he had publicly condemned Communism? Was his trip there one of sight-seeing or to witness the Socialist construction? For the past weeks, the theme of the news report was very clear: it intended to show the "smartness" of Lees, it attempted to show that China no longer support the just struggle of our people but it tried to imply that China implicitly agreed with Lee's system of fascist repression on our workers, students and poor people. Since these reporters who went along had been thoroughly security screened, one does not expect the reports to contain any real stuff about the workings of the socialist system in China.

The May 1st incident did not mark the end of exploitation of the working class in America. At that time, America as well as many European countries, were in the developing stage of capitalism. The essence of Capitalist society, as well as any other class society, is a society based on class exploitation. Class antagonisms between the capitalist and the propertyless working people is ever increasing. However, the exploitation had changed to a lesser degree and is more subtle.

The lesser degree of exploitation on the workers in America and Europe had been possible because of the opening of new areas, especially in the Third World countries, for economic subjugation and plundering. "The Enemy", a book written by Felix Greene would enlighten one on the immense wealth created by the people of the Third World countries being siphoned back to USA.



In Singapore, the PAP government advocated the policy of wooing foreign investors to Singapore at all costs. Under this policy, her economy has an abnormal growth, with the foreigners dominating a proportionally large part of her economy. Every year, these foreigners repatriated a large sum of profits back to their homeland.

To maintain the so-called "a suitable climate for foreign investors", all attempts to organise workers' resistance against exploitation were ruthlessly smashed. Since 1963, many progressive unions were banned or dissolved and its leaders arrested.

The clamp down of trade unions by the government with repressive acts like the Trade Union Ordinance had resulted in eminent decline in Trade Union movement in terms of membership, revenue, moral, public prestige and worker-acceptance. Eventually, the organised labour in Singapore was under the only federation of trade unions - the NTUC.

However, precisely because these reports intended to impart such ideas, one can turn the coin over to the other side to see the real propelling force that pushed Lee to make his homage visit at this time.

Firstly, he wished that this trip would be able to delude our people into complacency over a fascist system which he perpetuated through the Internal Security Act, Army, Employment Act, Press Act etc.

Secondly, there is the question of soothing the feelings of the majority of the people here who see Singapore leaning totally to the West and is in danger of creating a new generation of "banana people".

Thirdly, Lee has anchored Singapore's economy with the capitalist West and hence has not escaped the backlash of the Western world recession. Therefore in order to shore up the bankruptcy of a Western dominated capitalist economy, Lee is hoping that China will provide more cheap foodstuff, textiles and other basic necessities so that he can stall time for the economic upturn in the capitalist world.

Fourthly, the shaky piece-fitting of Asean needs the recognition of China to glue it together and possibly hopes that Vietnam will change its stand on ASEAN because of China. China, on her part was careful to note that it agreed with ASEAN on the principle of neutrality and also on anti-hegemony. Whether China supports the ASEAN countries in other aspects is still a big question.

The policy of the NTUC had generated a general feelings that the Unions are unable to represent the interests of the workers effectively vis-a-vis the employer and the government. Therefore, despite the rapid rate of industrialisation and an expanding labour force, the trade unions' membership from 1962 - 1969 had shown a steep decline. The number of membership declined from 190,000 in 1962 to 120,000 in 1969. The NTUC faced a severe lack of fund in its running as many of its members did not pay up fees. To save the NTUC from its collapse due to bankruptcy, the PAP government subsidized heavily to the running of the NTUC. This subsidy amounted to 90% of the NTUC running expenses.

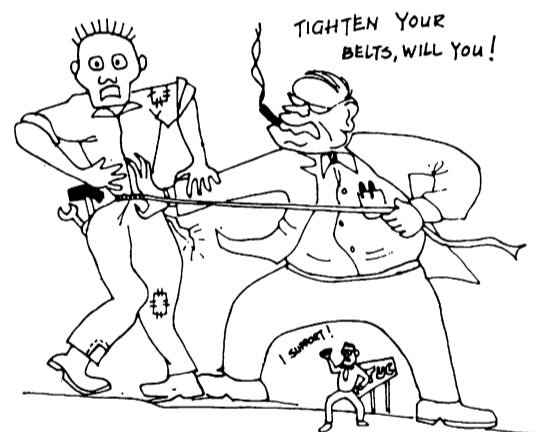
It was in the context of the bankruptcy of its policy that the NTUC launched a seminar on "Modernisation of the Labour Movement" in late 1969 and launched a massive campaign after that to unionise workers.

The objectives of the seminar were to save the NTUC from its collapse and propagate the venomous stream of thought that the class antagonisms do not exist in this modern 20th century. They claimed that the contradictions between the capitalists and working class are non-antagonistic and compromisable. In doing so, they hope to bring the workers into succumbing to a digit working hard for the capitalist.

The share of the working class in the national pie is decreasing compared with their increasing productivity. However, their 'leaders' ask the workers to work harder, to tighten their belts, not to demand for 'unreasonable wage increment' and that wage increase should be in line with rise in productivity rate. They were asked to put national interests before 'sectional' interests while the Union and Government were protecting and enhancing the interests of the capitalists.

In putting forward the concept of tripartitism the Union and Government actually meant a better position for the Capitalists.

We therefore question the rationale of such policy of the Union and Government. How long can such system be accepted by the working people when they become awakened?



Finally, and the most important of all is the coming election. He wanted his PAP, which is recommended to be expelled from Socialist International, to net as much votes as in 1972. - 70% of the total "numbered" votes. To him, it is a symbol of support. But by the very fact it is a fascist system, these "numbered" votes do not truly reflect the wishes of the people. The latent resentment of the people can be observed through the Bus Fare Hike American Marine Retrenchment Case, the political detention and workers support for Tan Wah Piew etc. The recent freezing of wages for the benefit of the American and Japanese multinationals, only heightens this latent resentment.

THE TRUTH

These people make "China Trips" not because they are going to change their policies from anti-communist to non-aligned, or from a system of exploitation to a more equal distribution of income or to solve the problem of the landless and hungry people, or to elevate the standard of living of the poor. No, these people went because of the bankruptcy of their own system in trying to cope with the problems of recession, drug addiction, unequal distribution of wealth and food, crime, creation of slums and political repression. Therefore, they needed the "China Trip" to stall time and to con the ignorant. For them, we have only this to say: China trips are only good for deluding people for only a short while. Once the mist of illusion fades, and the realities of oppression surfaced, then even 'Heaven Trips' will not help.

STREAMING TO PRIMARY ONE!

—Sng Keng Chye—

EDITORIAL NOTE

Already the existing system of education is biased towards the rich but somehow this seems not enough. The rich have the facilities like high paid qualified tutors, good food, peaceful environment and furthermore no worry of day-to-day living. As such they have ensured that their children are placed in a better position to learn and study as compared to the poor. The poor do not have all these luxuries. Without abolishing the system that create the rich and the poor or closing the existing wide gap between them, the government has already failed in their duties towards giving every child an "equal opportunity". What is most deplorable is that they have now adopted a new policy in which the system that create the rich and the poor is permanently enhanced. This policy adds another layer of oppression on the poor and clouds even the little rays of sunlight in their lives. In this article below, we present an envisagement of what is going to happen. Names of school used are only out of convenience.

SINO-ENGLISH SCHOOL

At the entrance of Sino-English school, a registration table was crowded by parents anxious to register their children into Primary one.

"Well, let's have a look at what you have, small fellow" said the smiling registration clerk politely.

"He is going to be the top student and I want you to put him into the best class okay?" said the Thai lady sternly. She was wearing a bluish pink silk with the latest fashion cut and her face was plastered with thick make-up, long Max Factor eye-lashes, with gold bracelets on her wrists and gold chains on her neck. She rattled on,

"He went to the most expensive kindergarten when he was 3 years old. I have to pay \$300 a month for that. He took good diet everyday since he was born and last year I even employed a dietician to put him on an "intelligence" diet which comprises lean meat, fish, eggs, milk, Milo, sanatozen and when he goes to bed, he always has a cup of Ovaltine. His father is the son of the B.M." The clerk's eyes sparkled and thought, "That will mean that this small bastard is going to have six points for his bio-data". She continued to listen politely to the woman's barking.

"His father is now a major in the army, a general manager of Guthrie and graduated with double distinction from uh...Che! I have even forgotten his university. You see, his stupid father always brag about how clever he is and how he finally proved to the B.M. that he too can get double distinction. I got so bored listening to him that now I even forgot what he said. Well, anyway his family has a tradition for acquiring "double stink" she laughed, and continued, "And myself, I am the daughter of a multimillionaire banker who also has a controlling interest in the state military concern. I am working as a factory manageress. I suppose you can call me a slave-driver, ha! ha! Our house is at Serangoon Garden where the B.M. formerly stayed. The B.M. did not want to stay there, not because of assassination or some other crab he conjured but rather he wanted to have a well kept golf course in front of him so that he can practise to be the world best golfing B.M."

"Well, coming back to small Li here, did he have any tutors?" asked the clerk. "Are you kidding? Where would a smart kid like him go without tutors? Of course, he has. Six tutors all in all mind you, just like what his father had when he was small. He only rests on Sunday like the good lord did. Now let me prove to you how intelligent and obedient my child is." She turned to her son and said, "Kow Chye, call auntie" The fair, plump boy looked at her mother and then at the clerk slowly saying, "AUN--T--I--E"

"Smile and say hello" coaxed the mother, He smiled and said, "HE--L--L--O"

"O.K. now march into that room like your father" said the proud mother smilingly and side-glancing at the clerk's expression. The boy marched in like a tin-soldier.

The registration clerk laughed, pulled out her bio-data catalogue given by the Education Ministry. She wrote on her book

Grandson of minister	— 6 points
good food	— 2 -do-
adequate tuition	— 2 -do-
Good breed therefore no sterilization needed	
Total	— 10 points (best)

Comment: A perfect puppet ruler.

BUKIT HONG SWEE PR. SCH.

At the entrance of Bukit Hong Swee Primary School, the annual registration of children had begun. The school caters for the surrounding housing estate which is mostly one-room or two-room HDB flats.

These flats are notably to be occupied by families having income below \$400 per month. Last year, the school had 85% of PSLE dropouts while the rest of the others barely make the grade. The registration clerk had just busily finished registering a child. It was then Madam Ang's turn. "What is his name?" asked the clerk without looking at her.

"Very sorry Missis, I do not speak English, can you please speak Hokkien" pleaded Madam Ang in Hokkien. The clerk's eyes squinted then relaxed.

"I said what is his name" she repeated in Hokkien.

"Oh, Tan Ah Hong is his name", laughed Madam Ang trying to cover her ignorance of English.

"Where is his kindergarten certificate?" haughtily asked the clerk.

"Uh, very sorry, you see, my husband works as a stevedore and has very irregular and uncertain work. If there are ships coming in then he will have some work to do and we will have some money. He earns \$15 a day while working. He normally has work for 3 weeks in a month. Myself, previously, I worked as a construction site labourer but ever since I had my fourth child, the doctor said I cannot do any heavy work because I am too weak, so now I earn \$70 a month by washing other people's clothes and....."

"Yes, yes don't be so longwinded. All I want to know is that did you send your child to the kindergarten" snapped the impatient clerk.

"Missis, I know I sometimes talk too much but I want to explain our circumstances so that you will not think that my son is stupid just because we cannot afford to send him to a kindergarten" explained Madam Ang firmly, positively angered by the clerk's indifference towards the poor.

"Low bio-data case again" thought the clerk. She looked at the middle aged woman and asked more gently, "You said that his father is a stevedore and you are a washerwoman, is there anyone else working?"

"Well, you see I have six children and we need more people to work since our combined income cannot even feed three of us. So my eldest daughter left school to work in an electronics factory. She is only 14 years old. Although she can study, she quitted school last year because the books are expensive and she said also the teacher did not care much about the progress of the poorer students. She wanted to ask many questions about the lesson, but the teacher just rattled on. In the electronics factory now, she had to look through a powerful microscope for 8 to 10 long hours without rest and her eyes are not insured by the company. She sometimes feels giddy after working long hours. Last time her eyesight was perfect but recently she complained that she cannot see smaller things clearly. The company also forced her to buy make-ups for some stupid functions. She gets \$3.20 a day. Actually she does not want to join the union but was forced into it. My second girl, is now 12 years old, also had the same problem in school and now working in a textile factory. She..."

The clerk was getting impatient and abruptly cut her short by asking, "So you have six children and two of your eldest daughters are working in electronics and textile factories. Good, now are you sterilized?"

"I cannot be sterilized because of some womb problem and also I am weak...."

"O.K." the clerk stopped her short "bring your kid to the third room."

Madam Ang slowly packed the credentials in her paper bag, then looked at the clerk and said, "Missis, we are all poor here and I hope you would not think that we are stupid because of policies of the government. I don't know, Missis, if the government wants to keep us poor and make us suffer, one day they are going to suffer too."



"WELL, TOO BAD - ACCORDING TO HIS BIO-DATA, YOUR CHILD IS OF LOW INTELLIGENCE!"

"The clerk looked at the thin woman sternly, then pulled out her bio-data catalogue and wrote,

Stevedore's son	— ½ points
Food - no good	— 0 points
No tuition	— 0 points
Consider to be bad breed, should be sterilized but did not	— -3½ points
Total	— -3 points (lower than normal)

Comment: A future factory worker.

To be put into "F" class on basic course and trained to be a docile worker

St. John's School

At the school registration table, the same scene prevailed.

"Did your daughter attend any kindergarten" asked the clerk.

"Yes, the ordinary type" said the lady in a neat blue dress, but not lavish. "Is it the PAP type?" continued the clerk.

"Oh no, I do not want my child to be indoctrinated by those goons. Just the ordinary type." emphasised the mother.

"Where are you staying?" probed the clerk.

"We are staying in a 3 rooms improved HDB flats and have a family income of \$800 per month. We have only 2 kids, this one and another smaller girl. I wished I can have a boy and am going to try for one. Anyway, his father is an assistant accountant and I, myself work as a bank clerk. Since both of us are working, we employ a girl of 12 for \$80 to help my mother to look after our children. We all study English and thus we can coach our children in English. We also use a lot of our hands in typing, doing accounts and sharing houseworks, so I don't think we need any of those "USE YOUR HANDS" campaign" rattled the mother, quite fed up with the private questions.

"Are you sterilized?" asked the clerk quietly.

That question really hit the head off the lady. She burst out like a machine gun. "Look, I think this government is getting too much. They want us to freeze wages, cut down our fringe benefits, make us work like dogs and put us all in the HDB pigeon holes with high rents and other bills to pay while they themselves have fat pays, big houses, big cars, servants and services free and also a big controlling interest and share in most foreign companies. Then they are now peddling the idea that trade unions should protect employers' interests as if we don't know that all along the trade unions are the very people who help the employers to exploit us. We are no fools. We are also forced to pay union fees and if we don't they will try every means to make our jobs difficult. One way or the other they want us to let ourselves to be exploited by the "towkays". Now, as if all these controls are not enough, they want to force "compulsory" sterilization on us whom they call bad breed because we cannot earn more than \$2000 Well, let me tell them this: I am only thirty and have 2 girls and I want to have more because I know that it is not the population problem that is the root cause of social problems but rather the distribution of THEIR wealth to the poorer sector. I am not going to cut myself for some stupid nitwit up there who thinks that it is good for him. It is not good for me. I also know they are going to tell me about Singapore's interests and all that but I know that when they think of Singapore, they are only thinking of the 300 people who control Singapore as they once said, and not the 2 million people who live in it. They have always considered that we, the 2 million people are just digits that can be manipulated, cut up and squeeze continuously. Well if they continue to pressurize us, the bottle will break one day and I pity them then."

See B.11.

BRIEF HISTORY ON FAMILY PLANNING

INTRODUCTION

Family Planning is an accepted way of life in Singapore. How did it come about? These notes on family planning deal briefly with the objectives and the underlying motive of population control in Singapore. As objectives became clearer the Abortion Bill and especially the Sterilisation Bill emerge as the ideal instruments for qualitative and quantitative population control. A severe and comprehensive system of penalties or disincentives which evolved, ensured general compliance.

Sources used are mainly the "Straits Times" and "Politics of Family Planning in the Third World" by T.E. Smith.

A. AIM OF FIRST FIVE YEAR PLAN

Family Planning activities in Singapore began in 1949 with the formation of the Family Planning Association, concerned with the health and welfare of mothers and children. In December 1965, the Family Planning and Population Board Act was passed in Parliament establishing a statutory body charged with the responsibility of implementing the first five-year family planning programme. Its aim was the reduction of crude birth rate of 32 per thousand in 1964 to around 20 in 1970. With the crude death rate of about 5 per thousand, this would give a rate of natural increase of about 1.5%. The Minister of Health, Mr. Yong Nyuk Lin said, "If this can be achieved, Singapore can be prosperous." (S.T. 29 Sept 1965)

ABORTION- AN "ULTIMATE WEAPON AGAINST WHOM?"

Mr. Yong Nyuk Lin announced that abortion was to be legalised (S.T. 11 Aug. '67). It would be the Republic's 'ultimate' weapon to curb the birth rate. It would be Singapore's second line of defence against hordes of unwanted babies. The first line would be 'other' methods of family planning. The Abortion Bill provided that the treatment to terminate pregnancy by registered medical practitioners may be authorised only by a Termination of Pregnancy Authorisation Board. Permission would be given on the grounds of risk to the physical or mental health or life of the woman. (S.T. 6 Dec. 1968). Its sister Bill, the Sterilisation Bill, introduced in Parliament sought to legalise voluntary sexual sterilisation of persons on medical, social and eugenic grounds (S.T. 6 Dec. 1968). Both bills were sent to Select Committee to allow interested groups to make public representations. The great majority of those presenting their views were doctors and Christian and Muslim groups.

SOME SAFEGUARDS - VOLUNTARY, NO COERCION

The Health Minister, Mr. Chua Sian Chin said, Sterilisation has such a vital role to play in the prevention of pregnancy from the standpoint of the health of the individual or the happiness of the family and for population control." Six safeguards have been written into the Bill. These, according to Mr. Chua Sian Chin were very important, for we must never get into the position where the Bill, introduced with such high ideals and good intentions, is exploited by unscrupulous and cruel persons, as in the mad days of Nazi Germany during the Second World War, when thousands of persons were sterilised without their consent. The law is to allow for sterilisation of persons to be done entirely voluntarily and at the person's request. Coercion will be an offence. (Comment: Mr. Chua is very right!) S.T. 9 April 1969: Debate on the controversial Abortion Bill began in Parliament today with a systematic demolition of all medical and religious opposition by the Minister of Health, Mr. Chua Sian Chin. However, the Bill would not make abortion procurable on demand. They would be given only in certain circumstances. (Comment: This last condition was actually abolished in 1974.)

THE REAL PRUPOSE OF THE TWO BILLS

The Prime Minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew's speech in Parliament. (S.T. 30 Dec '69) shows the real purpose of the Bill. He said, "One of the most noticeable trends in developed countries is that parents with more education have such smaller families than those with less education. This trend is also discernible in urbanised, though still under-developed societies like Singapore. If these trends continue to their logical conclusions, then the quality of the population will go down..... We will regret the time lost, if we do not now take the first tentative steps towards correcting such a trend which can leave our society with a large number of the physically, intellectually and culturally anaemic." Population control is also qualitative

and directed against the poor. ("Since the inferior is always numerically superior to the best, the worse would multiply itself so much faster.... given the same opportunity to survive and procreate.... the best would be necessarily pushed into the background. Therefore a correction in favour of the better must be undertaken" - ADOLF HITLER IN MEIN KAMPF)

IN SPITE OF INTENSE OPPOSITION....BILLS PASSED.

Mr. Ng Kah Ting, M.P. pointed out to the House that "21 of the 29 written representations received by the Select Committee were either opposed to the Abortion Bill in principle, or at least to the present broadly worded 'socio-economic' clause 5(2)B. Despite their numerous representations, no changes or amendments had been made by the Committee."

The Voluntary Sterilisation Bill was passed by Parliament immediately after the Abortion Bill. Unlike its sister Bill, it was passed without dissent in five minutes! (S.T. 30 DEC. '69)

SUCCESS AND DANGERS

Singapore may have to offer baby bonuses to mothers in the late 1970's. The reason - its great success in slowing down population growth. The net growth rate could well fall to 15 per thousand. Today it is 16.6 per thousand. - Mr. Yong Nyuk Lin, Minister for Communication. (S.T. Dec. '69). Another warning was sounded in the Straits Times of 6 April 1970: Singapore's population growth is tapering off, from about 4% at the time of the last census in 1957, the annual growth has declined to about 1½% last year... One of the results of the slowdown is that Singapore has more old people and fewer under fifteen's than before. Yet another warning came from the Ministry of Health's Eugenic Board. The Board has received more than 700 applications for sterilisation, more than 95% from women. 80% of the total applicants have a family income of less than \$400 a month. Those who apply for sterilisation usually have more than four children. The last condition (the applicant must have three living children) has been put forth because sterilisation is a permanent measure, and should be undertaken only when you have completed your family. (S.T. 26 Sept '70)

PENALTIES FOR NON-COMFORMIST/THE POOR - (SEE B)

"Our problem is how to devise a system of disincentives" P.M. told Parliament in December 1969. Again, "Mr. Lee Kuan Yew warned of Government action to deter Singaporeans from having large families. New 'fiscal policies' would be devised to actively discourage 'the irresponsible' form having more than three children (S.T. 27 July '70). The number of children per family was later further reduced to two children who would replace the parents.

SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN 1970

"The government is formulating a second five-year National Family programme to follow-up the success of its first drive, which ended last year. The new five year scheme would be integrated with maternal and child health programmes to increase efficiency and cut down costs." (S.T. 11 May '71).

AMENDMENT OF STERILISATION ACT 1972

The Voluntary Sterilisation Act was amended in 1972 to make "Sterilisation as a form of family planning easily available" in the words of the Minister for Health in introducing the second reading of the Bill on March 23 1972.



"Since late 1973 the Singapore Family Planning and Population Board, in conjunction with the Ministry, has embarked on a programme of talks in schools. At the same time, the Population Education is incorporated into the curriculum of primary schools and will soon be introduced at the secondary level." said Dr. Lee Chiaw Meng. (The Mirror, 3 March '75) The S.T. 29 Oct. '74 reported that 14,012 abortions were performed under the Abortion Act.

1969 ACTS REPEALED - NEW ACTS

Under "The Abortion Act, 1974" passed by Parliament on 6th November 1974, citizens are automatically eligible for abortion, but others have to meet a residential qualification four months. Major changes are:

- i) Abolition of the Termination of Pregnancy Authorisation Board.
- ii) The decision to abort is left to the mother and her doctor.
- iii) The period of pregnancy when abortion is permitted is extended from 16 to 24 weeks.

The "Voluntary Sterilization Act 1974" - passed on the same day makes it "lawful for a registered medical practitioner to carry out treatment for sexual sterilization" so long as the required consent is given. The Abortion Act (Cap. 150) and the Voluntary Sterilisation Act. (Cap. 170) are hereby repealed.

CALLING OFR A HALT?

According to the Family Planning and Population Board, the Second Five-Year Plan launched in 1970, has been so successful that it has reduced the birth rate to below the target level. Professor S. Ratnam, recently suggested that the Government could be less harsh with the population control disincentives because the target of zero population growth was possible if the 1975 trend was maintained. Comment: What about qualitative population control? See part B, please.

B. SYSTEM OF DISINCENTIVES/PENALTIES

From 1967 to 1976 various penalties or disincentives against big families were devised and added on to the existing list. These include housing, maternity leave, accouchment fees, income tax relief, primary school admission, marriage licence and work permit. All these affect the poor and hard-working population most. This is the price for "correcting a trend which can leave our society with a large number of the physically, intellectually and culturally anaemic."

1. From 1967, the HDB has dropped size of family as a criterion qualifying for priority to a HDB flat.
2. The Employment Act, 1968. enforced in Aug. 1968, bars women manual workers from any material allowance or paid maternity leave after the third confinement.
3. In 1970 accouchment fees in the maternity hospital were set on an ascending scale: for the first confinement \$10, for the second \$20, for the third \$50, and for the fourth and subsequent confinement \$100, although ward charges would be remitted if sterilization was accepted by either parents.

See Pg. 8

The Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
Istana Annexe
Singapore 9

OPEN LETTER

Dear Mr. Prime Minister

I. WE REFER to the New Nation 24/1/76 - Marriage Licence Shock and Sunday Times 25/1/76 - "Sterilization - 'price' of a wedding licence" reports on the practice of Work Permit holders being required to sign a bond to be sterilized after the birth of the second child in exchange for a marriage licence.

- Rejection of the marriage approval
- Withdrawal of the Work Permit
- Failure to renew the alien's stay in Singapore
- Loss of medical, educational and housing benefits.

These reports legitimately caused a stir among our people even on purely human grounds, not to mention religious and moral ones. The gravity of the issue is beyond doubt as it involves the way certain human rights to marry, to have children, to work, to housing, to education can be so inhumanly and unjustly denied or deprived in practice.

II. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED

a) That these measures infringe upon the basic human rights of a category of persons on work permit, among them many blue I.C. holders, but contributing immensely to our national economy. Furthermore, they infringe upon the basic rights of our citizens who wish to marry permit holders. As they are mainly the poor and oppressed ones without alternative means to jobs, private housing or school, they are, in practice forced to accept sterilization in exchange for the marriage licence and to retain other basic rights which you term as 'privileges'.

b) That a proclaimed national objective - Quality of Life - is hereby further degraded. When Government policies are frequently enforced through a system of material incentives and penalties, our people become programmed to measure life in terms of material gains. Not long ago parents rushed for sterilization in order to secure their children's admission to choiced schools. Now work permit-holders in order to obtain a marriage licence must barter away their personal integrity and human rights.

III. WE FEAR

a) That similar pressures (already excessive) on sterilization be gradually extended to more people.

b) That in future the exercise of our basic rights be conditioned by submission to and acceptance of particular Government policies (which are changeable and sometimes questionable).

c) That such measures of an over-powerful and self confident government would erode the very basic of our people's living - their value and dignity as persons.

IV. OUR BELIEFS

a) WE BELIEVE unconditionally in the dignity of the human person. Every person has the basic right to marry, to work, to housing, to medical care and to education. The planning of one's family is a personal right and responsibility. Persons are not 'digits'. Human rights are not 'privileges'. It is a crime to reduce persons to digits. To barter away personal rights is even worse.

Concerned Priests
c/o 6 Chapel Road
Singapore 15
4th March 1976

b) WE BELIEVE that a government has a moral responsibility to govern and to educate. More importantly, we believe that its sacred duty and responsibility is the safeguarding and promoting of basic human rights, the dignity and the total well-being of the people, individually and collectively.

c) WE BELIEVE that it is a violent injustice and infringement of human rights when marriage is conditioned by bonding oneself to sterilization.

V. OUR APPEAL

a) WE APPEAL to your government to respect the basic human rights of those who choose not to be sterilized, whatever be their nationality or economic status.

b) WE APPEAL to your government to withdraw all official and unofficial pressures on sterilization in hospitals, in government clinics and maternity wards.

c) WE APPEAL to your government not to discriminate against our people on the grounds of sterilization by withdrawing priorities for school admission, for HDB or JTC housing flats for people who undergo or agree to undergo sterilization.

d) WE APPEAL to your government to deliberate on your sacred duties to our people, to respect public opinion, to have the courage to rectify errors, to eliminate the fears of our people in respect to the implications of this issue of the marriage licence - sterilization bond.

We remain, Honourable Sir,

Yours sincerely,

At the service of our people and the country

Signed by the following priests :-

- Rev.
E.K. D'Souza ----- Holy Family Church, Chapel Road, (15)
Patrick Goh ----- Taman Jurong Chapel, 14, Blk.4, Hu Ching Road, (22)
Cyril Lee ----- Ss. Peter & Paul's Church, Queen Street, (7)
Lucas Leow ----- Risen Christ Church, 91, Toa Payoh Central, (12)
Johnson Fernandez - St. Teresa's Church, 2, Bukit Permai, (4)
Michael Teo ----- St. Michael's Church, St. Michael's Road, (12)
Augustine Tay ----- St. Michael's Church, St. Michael's Road, (12)
Joseph Ho ----- Blk. 174, 310-A, Boon Lay Avenue (22)
Francis Lee ----- Blessed Sacrament Church, Commonwealth Drive, (3)
Joachim Kang ----- Ss. Peter & Paul's Church, Queen St., (7)
Eugene Vaz ----- Good Shepherd Cathedral, Queen St., (7)
Vincent Chee ----- Queen of Peace Church, Sandy Lane, (15)
Joseph Tan ----- Catholic Church, Siglap Hill, (16)
Alfert Chan ----- Holy Family Church, Chapel Road, (15)
G. Arotcanera ----- Risen Christ Church, 91, Toa Payoh Central, (12)

copies to :- Hon. Minister of Health
Hon. Minister of Labour
Hon. Minister of Social Affairs
Catholic Archbishop of Singapore
All Catholic Priests & Catholic Religious Homes, Singapore
Editor, Catholic News
Editor, Hal Sing Pao
Editor, Straits Times
Editor, New Nation
Editor, Nanyang Siang Pau
Editor, Sin Chew Jit Poh

Stop at two, or else.....
contd. from pg.7

- 4. In 1972 Oct 24 the Minister for Health announced the adjustment of accouchment fees, maternity leave and priority points for public housing in such a way as to encourage families of two children.
The housing would give the highest priorities, in allocating new flat or arranging transfers to bigger flats, to those with two or fewer children, with a slight drop in priority for the three-child families and little priority for those who already had large families.
Paid maternity leave both in government service and under the Employment Act would be reduced after Aug. 1 1973 form three to two confinements. Accouchment fees would be \$150, \$75 a nd \$100 for the first three children, rising steeply to \$200 for the fourth and \$250 for the fifth and subsequent children.
5. Income tax relief would be given only for three children.
6. Since 1974, priority for entry to Primary One had been extended to children one of whose parents had been sterilised
7. Work permit holders marrying Singaporeans are required to promise that they will undergo sterilization after the birth of the second child. (N.N.24 Jan 1976)

- 8. March 1976. Only children whose parents were sterilised before they reach 40 years of age will be given priority for admission to Pri. One. Under the new ruling top priority will be given to children of those parents who have been sterilised after the second child over those who undergo sterilization after the third or fourth child.
1) The Far Eastern Economic Review, 2 nd April 1976, aptly calls it "Creating new classes of people". Under this heading, the Review reported extensively on the recent catholic objections to the use of "compulsory sterilization introduced last year a part of the Singapore population control policy". It added that "some feared that it was another step towards a creeping '1984'". Bnp Augustine Tan, M.P. and political Secretary to the Prime Minister, chastised the government for its "attempt to influence individual moral choices". He said it should not advocate immoral means to attain its good objectives
The rationale for such harsh measures was not readily apparent. Furthermore only 1,400 marriages between work permit holders and Singaporeans were registered last year. The clergy and other Singaporeans fear that sterilisation is only a forerunner of more draconian population control measures. Some fear that the sterilisation measures were possibly feelers to test the amount of protest from the local populace.

2) Le "Monde". 27th March 1976, headlined: "In Singapore, where the poor have to undergo sterilisation". It says "On the 4th of March, 15 catholic priests of Singapore distributed an open letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, in order to protest against the method used by the government to encourage sterilisation." This was followed by a summary of the open letter.
On the same day, the paper's chief editor commented on sterilisation in Singapore and India under the heading: "Contraception and repression, Demographic giddiness".
"..... In Singapore the same offence forbids the getting of work permit. Will they let the delinquent mother suckle child behind bars? Will the jobless father be more able to feed his children?Between the naivety of those who promote "development" as the only remedy to the demographic conditions and the barbarian laws of those who subject the couples to "norms of production", the way of responsibility, information and persuasion without force, seems to be a very narrow path. However, it is the way of justice and reason

Families are measured into homes
In careful doses prescribed by sense,
Science, and authority. Three experts
Cannot err. The malady is serious. Dense
Is the population.

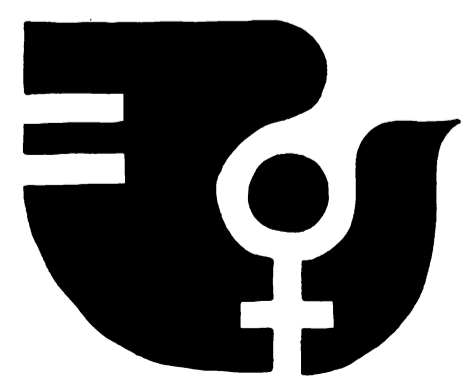
Mathus was a clever man;
And if his predictions of total annihilation
Failed, it is because we chose other weapons
Through mutual agreements in the nation
To reduce the numbers.

Barter and bargain follow an inexorable
Law. If a child's laughter and babies' smiles
Have been sold, we have other things. The sacrifice
Is not in vain. We are rich in refrigerators, clothes in latest styles
And an occasional bomb or two.

Children fly like zephyrs dirtying carpets,
Planes are faster and do not sully dresses.
And look at the profits. Women have leisure.
And freedom from chores like combing children's tresses
And washing clothes.

Much money divided by few men equals
Prosperity. If children belong to a realm
Not of this world, why, we have other kingdoms
Like space, and, experiences where at the helm
Presides a face we have seen before.

Restrict your love to statistical standards.
Be freed of the necessity of pain and sacrifice.
Man shall not live by bread alongbut by gadgets,
And artificial aids. And children are only had at a price.
Let them decrease!
K. HASSAN



尊敬的总理先生:

一、据今年一月廿四日新国家午报——“婚姻准证惊闻”，以及一月廿五日期星报——“绝育、结婚准证的代价”，报导说：工作准证持有人为获得结婚准证，必须签字保证在第二个孩子出生后接受绝育。否则，即丧失某些权利和优待，包括：

- 拒发结婚准证，
撤回工作准证，
不予延长外侨居留准证，
丧失医药，教育和住屋利益。

这些报导，即使不谈宗教和伦理，就纯人道立场来说，已足引起人民的不安。这实在是一宗严重的问题，因为它牵涉到结婚、生育、工作、居住、教育等人权被无理地抹煞和剥夺。但直至今日，政府仍未发表任何解释，证实或否认。我们以为如不表明我们人民合理的关注和恐惧，我们对新加坡人民失职。

二、我们深表关注

(a) 这些措施侵犯那些工作准证持有者的基本人权，他们中，一些持有蓝色身份证，对本国的经济贡献甚大。再者，这些措施，也侵犯那些要和工作准证持有人结婚的本国公民的人权。这些人大多是贫苦而受压迫的一群，对于职业，私人住屋，学校，别无办法，迫不得已去接受绝育，以换取结婚准证，和保留一些政府美其名曰“优待”的基本人权。

(b) 我国标榜的国策——生活的品质，将受到腐化。当政府再三以利诱和处罚去推行政策时，人民随之以物质利益去衡量生活。不久前，父母曾竞相绝育，为使子女在著名的学校中获得席位。现在，工作准证持有人，为得到结婚准证，必须出卖人格的完整和人权。

三、我们忧虑

- (a) 类似绝育的压力(已经过份)将逐渐扩充到更多的人民。
(b) 将来，我们基本人权的行使，将以屈从或接受某些政策(可变的，时或可质疑的)为条件。
(c) 这类出自权力过大而自信的政府的措施，将腐蚀我们人民生活的基础——做人的价值和尊严。

四、我们的信仰

(a) 我们无条件地相信人格的尊严，每个人都有结婚，工作，居住，医药服务，教育等基本权利。计划一个人的家庭是他本人的权利和责任。人不是数字，人权不是优待，把人和数字等视是一件罪行。出卖人的权利更是下作。

(b) 我们相信政府负有管教的道义责任。我们尤相信，维护促进基本人权以及人民集体或个人的尊严和整体福利，是政府神圣的义务。

(c) 我们相信，以绝育保证为结婚条件是侵犯人权和不义的暴行。

五、我们的呼吁

- (a) 我们呼吁政府尊重那些不愿接受绝育者的基本人权，不管他们的国籍或经济状况。
(b) 我们呼吁政府撤消一切在医院，政府诊所和产房内正式的或非正式(官方)的绝育压力。
(c) 我们呼吁政府不要以绝育理由，在儿童入学和租屋分配上，歧待我们的人民。
(d) 我们呼吁政府考虑自己对人民的神圣职务，尊重舆论，勇于改正错误，并消除人民有关结婚准证和绝育保证此一问题的疑虑。

藉此顺祝：

安好

为人民以及国家服务的十五位神父启

一九七六年三月四日

FAMILY PLANNING

历史
的道路



不论你叫什么名字
痛苦的全文
就是苦难

不论工农来自何族
大家都是
紧握铁锤 手挥锄头

不论身居何处
他们都是
一个民族 一种称呼

他们的力量何等壮大
为全世界人类
作出最崇高的服务和贡献

然而
正是他们
还受奴役
正是他们
还受挑拨
自相倾轧
他们
在枪尖下受桎梏
他们的汗水
却把压迫者养肥

但是
历史就是真理
历史的进程
谁也挡不了
东风日益激荡
斗争浪潮不断高涨
红日在燃烧
烧尽一切敌人
照亮
最后的胜利

赛·扎哈里
一九六四年



I can see light
in the
distance...



A weak typical student, I was
Who could see no future
and whose sight narrow
Study day and night, I did
hoping to score colourful grades
It's a struggle just too personal
and I could see no light...

My friends came to me
They told me
that thousands were starving
I didn't bother
They said
that our countrymen were evicted
I turned a deaf ear
They asked me
to join in campaigning for flood
victims
I was too busy to care
They informed me
that workers were unjustly
retrenched
I was not at all impressed
For I thought the diploma was above all
But later I was annoyed by heavy
tutorials
and depressed by tasteless lectures
I was happy no more
and I could see no light....

I began to ask myself, is that life?
I could draw no solution
My friends came to me again
They told me
that students were deported and
jailed
I wondered, and I asked, why?
My friends were cheered,
for I started to show concern
They said our big bosses were weak
I was enlightened, and I asked,
"What can we students do?"
They said we must be concerned
fight and stand united

WELCOME!
MY NEW
FRIENDS

SAMUEL TAY

You come innocent,
into this new environment
You come with wisdom, intelligence
and a youthful spirit,
and a green brain of starving
knowledge
For you see no true face of society
you understand no suppression of
people
and you hear no repression of our
students
You come with a simple aim,
to acquire expertise
and to secure a stable life.
But do you know
this is true life by no means?
Now you come to the students' union,
a place where your brothers and
sisters work hand-in-hand
to serve the students and people
You will understand,
Our stay in Poly is more than 3 'L's
and our people are being oppressed,
and our society is just in no time.
You will realize,
Your duty towards the society,
and students' struggle shall not cease
Come, come in awareness
Let your coming be
a service to the society
For this is your sacred responsibility!!

I mused....
and I began to see light....

Now I understand that's true
I join my friends and be involved
and I seek the meaning of life
and I can see light....
The victory shall be ours
For we can see light in the distance
And the light is approaching!!

* THE TALE OF A LASS *

Editorial Note:

Kamaruzaman Yacub is now in the political detention centre in Taiping. He was one of the many student leaders arrested under the notorious Internal Security Act after the Baling peasants' uprising in December 1974. At the time of his arrest he was the President of the University of Malaya Students' Union. The Union is now banned. It was under Kamaruzaman's leadership that UMSU changed from a welfare organisation to a pro-people student movement.

Sungai Pahang, in the state of Pahang, is the largest river in Malaya. Pahang had the glorious tradition of revolts against the British colonizers and Japanese aggressors. Today the flames of struggle against oppression and neo-colonization are still burning in Pahang.

I
This is a tale of a lass
without a name
I know her
for she
is history
for she
is the red flame of nationalism
for she
symbolises our women.
This is a tale of a lass
without a name.
Her love
for the land
for the nation
without end.

II
How unflinching is your spirit
wading through Sungai Pahang
in the thick black night
full of determination
bearing a secret message
to save
those lives and the guard-post
across the river
from being devoured by the bullets
of the colonizers.
How unflinching is your spirit

wading through Sungai Pahang
in the thick black night
in a rain of bullets.
Despite such high courage
your name has never been mentioned
Unlike swimmers of the English Channel
or the Straits of Malacca
whose deed are so minute
compared to yours
How unflinching is your spirit
to sacrifice your flesh as a target
for your blood has reddened the water
and your final gasps of breath are
silenced by the rattling of the guns

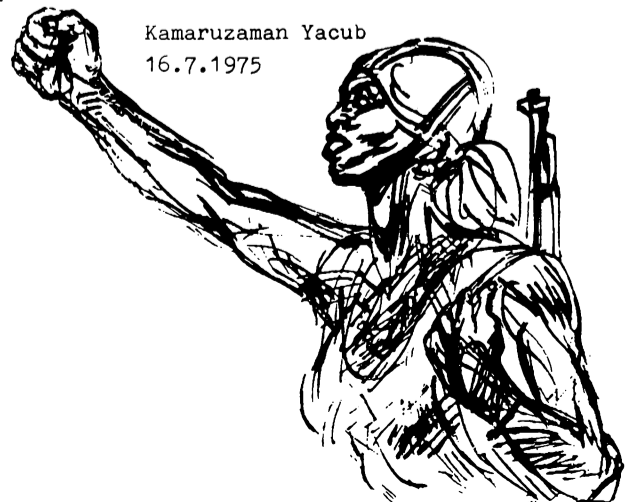
III
I know
the beauty painted
across your now still face
for
the secret in your breast
has been delivered.
And has saved all
those lives and the guard-post.
A lass
without a name
how priceless
is your life.

There may be
no gallery to exhibit
your mute face.
no coffin laden with banners
to wave your departure,
no cannon shots
solemn music of goodbye,
no children forced to line up
in the hot burning sun
all along the way to the burial ground.

Let me convey the news
that
there is a record of this forgotten deed
in our poetry and songs

IV
I know
you do not regret
You do not regret
not because
Sungai Pahang is still reddened
with your blood
or reflecting a beautiful tune
in its gentle flow
But
You are content
for the message has been delivered.

Kamaruzaman Yacub
16.7.1975



STOP OPPRESSING NANYANG STUDENTS!

—Technocrat Reporter—

In a resolution passed during an extra ordinary Ex-co meeting of SPSU 16th Council, the Ex-Co resolved not to recognise the present students' council of NUSU. This is in line with the principle of SPSU in refusing recognition to students' organisations which consist of members appointed by their University or College Authority.

WHY EX-CO RESOLVED NOT TO RECOGNISE NUSU STUDENTS' COUNCIL

On the 10th March 1976, the V.C. of NU, formally announced the dismissal of Ho Juan Tai, President of NUSU, and appointed Loh Ngiap Jin as the President of NUSU 12th Students' Council.

EVENTS THAT LED TO HO JUAN TAI'S DISMISSAL

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

In December last year, the University Council of NU amended article II, section 10 of the constitution. In this amendment, three additional clauses were added to the above-mentioned section and read as follows:

- (I) Students who have two demerit points, resulting from breach of University Regulations, would lose their right to the post of councillor, VP or President.
- (II) Students who repeat their studies would lose their right to the post of councillor, Vice President or President, unless otherwise granted permission by the V.C.
- (III) When any vacancy arises, the V.C. has to decide whether to hold an election or to appoint a member of students' council to act on behalf of the original office-bearer until the term of office expires.

Looking at the additional clause (I) it seems justifiable not to have students with poor conduct in the students' council. On clause (II), the bar imposed on students who repeated their studies is not acceptable. This clause is meant to victimize student activists, who because of their active involvement in Union's work have rendered them unsuccessful in their exams. As for the third clause, it has in a way given authority to the V.C. to appoint a councillor to be an Ex-co. The undemocratic nature of the amendment is hence revealed. However, the matter of paramount importance is that the constitution is amended by the University Council and not by the students. This is another ruthless act by the University authority.

If we were to keep closely to the events that follow after this, we would see the underlying reason for this amendment of NUSU's constitution.

INCIDENT THAT LED TO HO'S DISMISSAL

Since the appointment of Dr. Lee Chiaw Meng as Vice-chancellor of Nanyang University, the medium of teaching in Nanyang University has undergone a radical change. Nearly all the subjects are taught in English.

Around February, with the approaching of exams in N.U. there were confusion among students on whether which medium to use in their exams. After receiving much enquiries from the students, the President, Ho Juan Tai took up the issue to the Registrar.

On the 21st Feb 1976, in a meeting with Ho Juan Tai, the Registrar gave verbal promise that the Admin would allow students to choose either English or Chinese as their medium of exams and that instructions will be given to examiners to mark indiscriminately on exam papers, be it written in Chinese or English. Ho

then put up a notice, conveying the message of the Registrar to the students. However on the next day a notice from the Registrar repudiated the earlier promises. Instead it said that:-

- (i) all 1st year students can choose to answer either in English or in Chinese,
- (ii) for 2nd and 3rd year students, if the lectures are given in Chinese, they can use Chinese, while for those lectures given in English, they can then use English.

(iii) If lectures are given both in English and Chinese the students can choose either of the medium to answer.

On 2nd March, Ho received a letter notifying him that a meeting pertaining to the exam medium would be held on the 4th March, by the Disciplinary Committee. He was asked to stay outside the meeting place so as to be available in case the meeting needed him.

On 4th March, a letter sent to Ho from the Registrar said that Ho was given a demerit point for "putting up notices contrary to the truth to deliberately mislead the students."

He was allowed to appeal on the case before 9th March. But as the exam was on, Ho was too busy. He appealed on 9th March but was not entertained.

Prior to this incident, Ho was given one demerit point on the ground that he brought publications of USSU to the camp us.

Therefore, Ho has altogether two demerit points which under the amended constitution would bar him from all posts within the Union. On the 10th March, the V.C. formally announced the dismissal of Ho and appointed Loh who was vice-president then, to succeed Ho as President.

The justifiability of the two demerit points given to Ho may be doubted. However, even if it were justifiable, to appoint a successor to the Presidency of NUSU is an out and out contemptible and undemocratic act by the University authority. In doing so, the University authority had shown to the students that the authority does not have in mind the slightest concern for their opinions.

The situation facing NUSU makes one's attention turn to USSU. Before the passing of the Amendment Bill, USSU was still an autonomous students' organisation. Now that the Bill had been passed and the statute under which the new Union shall function was drafted, it induces one into questioning: will the new Union face similar fate as NUSU?

停止压迫南大学生!

在工院学生会第十六届执行委员会的一个紧急会议中,通过了一项议案——不承认本届南大学生理事会。这项决议是符合工院学生会的原则既拒绝承认任何一个有受校方委任的成员的学生理事会。

今年三月十日,南大校长李昭铭宣布南大学生会会长何元泰丧失其在学生理事会里的职权,并委任卢业仁代理第十二届学生会会长。

导致何元泰丧失职权的 一系列事件

修改章程

去年十二月南大校方第六届理事执行委员会修改了学生会章程第十条条文。在这次修正里,以下三项是新加上去的。

- (一)凡因触犯校规而被记大过二次者,将失去其担任理事,主席,副主席或其他学生理事会之权利。
- (二)留级生,除非得到校长之特许,将失去其理事,主席,副主席或其他学生理事会之权利。
- (三)凡遇职位出缺时,校长得决定举行选举或由学生理事会当中选任一人代理直至原有职位持有人任期届满为止。

乍看加上去的第一项条文,学生理事会中不应该有品行不良者,似乎是合理的。第二项条文阻止留级生担任理事就不合理而且不能被接受的。这是用以对付由于积极活动而考不及格的学生。至于第三条,它授权于校长委任理事会中的任何一员以填补执行委员会的空缺。修改章程不民主的本质因此而暴露了。但是更为重要的一点是校方擅自修改章程,事前并无征求学生会的意见,这是南大校方又一个无情的手段。

何元泰被解职的事件

自从李昭铭出任南大校长后,南大教学媒介起着极大的变化,几乎所有的科目都是以英文作教学媒介。

今年二月,当考试降临时,许多同学都对考试时应用哪一种语文感到迷惑。在频频接到同学来信询问的情况下,何元泰去见了注册主任。

在二月廿一日会见了注册主任后,获得他口头上的保证,学生可选择以英文或华文作答,并且校方将会提醒各科任课教师在改卷时不能因考试用语的不同而有偏见。于是何元泰贴出布告,传达有关注册主任的保证。

但是隔天注册主任出了一张布告,竟然否认之前所作的保证。布告说:

- (一)凡一年级学生都可任选中文或英文作答;
- (二)二、三年级之学生,若其正课与研讨课纯用华文者,则以华文作答;用英文者,则以英文作答。
- (三)若两种语文兼用者,学生可任选一种语文作答。

二月二日何元泰接到一封信通知他大学纪律委员会将定于三月四日召开会议讨论有关考试用语事宜,并且要他在会议室外等候提询。

三月四日注册主任通过函件告知何元泰说他擅自贴出与事实不符之布告,故意误导同学,因此而被记大过。信中提及三月九日前可以申诉。由于何元泰正在参加考试,他于三月九日提出上诉,但是不被接受。

在这事件发生之前,何元泰已因为去年把南大学生会出版刊物带进校园内而被记了一次大过。因此,在修改过的章程底下,他被禁止执行任何职权。

三月十日,南大校长正式宣布何元泰丧失职权,并委任卢业仁代理为会长。

这两次大过的合理性是可置疑的。但是即使是合理的吧,委任会长之事正是南大校方的可鄙的不民主手段。南大校方根本不把同学们放在眼里。

南大的处境使人联想到新大学生会的将来。在大学修正法案通过前,新大学生会还是一个独立自主的团体。但是目前修正法案已通过,新的学生会草拟法令也将被实施了,这不尽使人要问:新的新大学生会将来是否跟南大学生会一样呢?

the bio-data case from pg. 6

The clerk listened, thought and said firmly, "I also have the same feeling as you. I feel so bad when I put down low points for the poorer children, according to the standard bio-data book given by the Education Ministry. I know that these children's future will be determined by these points as there are computers that store up all these informations. I feel like vomiting everytime I put them down for I know all these are unreliable. When I think of my own child or my smaller brothers and sisters, or yours, I really know that they will have no chance whatsoever to become people that can be leaders of this island but rather clerks of tomorrow. Those "leaders" posts will be reserved for the sons or grandsons of the ministers or some other big shots. Actually I don't know why they are doing these things to us, the very people who put them where they are now. If they really want to improve the poor surely they can organise free tuition campaigns where the university and polytechnic students can be involved. I am sure that the two students' unions will response if the government actively and sincerely encourage these students to go to the poorer areas of Singapore and see these realities for themselves. Now, all I know is that when I register a child from a poor family, he will end up as a factory worker and yours will be a clerk."

"Damn them! We will not let them go!" cursed the enraged mother.

UNION AWARENESS THRO' MASS PARTICIPATION

The theme of this year's (1976/77) Orientation is "Union Awareness Thro' Mass Participation". That the FOC Central had adopted this theme was after much consideration of the prevailing situation within and without the campuses. To the new students, they may wonder why such a theme was chosen. By "Union Awareness" we mean the consciousness of the values of a students' union within and without the campuses as well as the roles of a student in a students' union.



ORIENTATION GAMES



STUDENTS' UNION

It is the inalienable right of students in tertiary institutions to organise themselves with the setting up of students' union. However, not all students' unions are given full autonomy. There are basically two types of students' organisations; govt controlled and autonomous. In the govt. controlled students' unions, decisions are made at the top by the authorities and students leaders are only puppets manipulated to execute the allotted tasks. For the autonomous type, the running of the student organisations is done in a democratic manner. It is conceivable that only an autonomous students' union can truly represent the interests of students. Our Union, SPSU, belongs to this type of students' union.

Our union is also an organisation which enables students to come together to organise various activities for the other students. Activities like camp, talks and forum, hike, film show, slide shows, etc are organised to enable more students to come together to exchange their ideas. In this way the students' union can also play an active role in the educating of the students both morally, and intellectually. This function of a students' union is especially important in view of an educational system which forces us to learn for the sake of passing exams.

Last but not least, our students' union also provides facilities for sports and games. It also runs the cheapest photocopy service in Polytechnic and a students service centre to provide cheap daily-needed stationeries for all Poly students.

WHAT ARE THE VALUES OF A STUDENTS' UNION INSIDE THE CAMPUS

The most important function of a students' union within the campus is very similar to that of a trade union within a factory ie. its representation of the whole students' body. Throughout our union's history, our union has been effective in voicing out the opinions and will of the students on the major policies made by the Administration. Also their opinions on food prices, class room facilities, sports facilities, lecturers, etc were voiced out thro' the students' union. Take for example, a mass demonstration was held in 1971 to protest against the removal of Poly students to a broken-down and poorly-facilitated PMC to make place for Engineering students of the University of Singapore. Unfortunately this important value of the students' union is not realised by many students and it is important that each and everyone of us understand this and put in effort to safeguard the survival of our union.

STUDENTS' UNION'S ROLE BEYOND THE CAMPUS

There has been much controversy over this question within the Polytechnic in the past due to varying views. Basically the 2 opposing views are: (1) students' union should limit its activities to students and students only. (2) students'



union has a role to play both inside and beyond the campus.

It can be seen that the first view originated from the self-centred and individualistic mentality of some students. This mentality is a reflection of the objective environment, which stresses on individual pursuits for higher social status and a more materialistic life. The authorities who created such an environment have the ulterior motive to infuse students with individualistic thinking so as to sequester them from the rest of the society. The second view belongs to students who wanted the association of students with the society. Students are an integral part of society and we are here in Poly at the expense of many others. We, therefore, owe an obligation and responsibility to justice, equality and the society.

The role of a students' union is very much dependent on the type of society it is in. In Singapore the students' union can be effective in playing the role of a social watchdog. Our union can be an effective social watchdog in the sense that it is able to analyse the policies of the policy makers without any



bias and it can voice out its opinion thro' press release, Technocrat, posters banners etc and also collecting public opinions. The anti-bus-fare hike campaign is a good example of our union's role in society as a social watchdog. The re-trenchment research centre is another.

Our union is also able to organise the students to give some immediate help to needy people and if possible, help them to help themselves. Projects such as road mending, tuition scheme, etc are the most popular projects organised. However, a bigger one was the Bangladesh Flood Relief Campaign.

It is beyond doubt that our students union can be effective in playing its role in the society but its effectiveness will be very much dependent on the support of the students. How, then can we play our part in the students' union to make it effective in serving the students and the people?

There are many ways in which a student can help to make the union more effective. However they can be classified mainly into passive and active support.

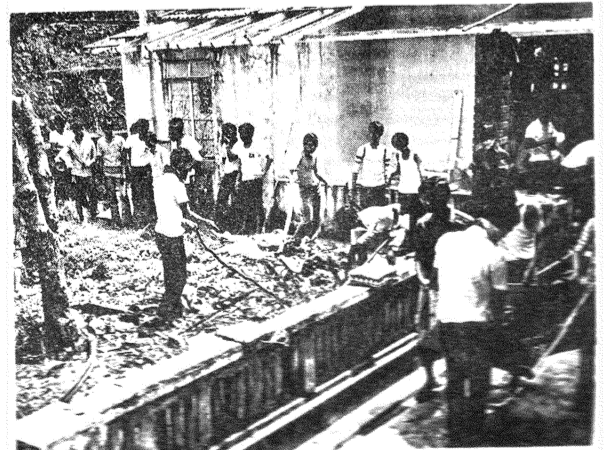
ACTIVE SUPPORT

Active support means to support by getting involved eg. by joining certain standing committees, helping to distribute the union's publication, drawing posters, helping to organise activities like games, forum etc. Active support is very vital to a students' union as it is this support that keeps the unions machineries running. However, not everyone will be able to support the union to that extent. Here the importance and relevance of passive support comes in.

PASSIVE SUPPORT

For many, active support means too much involvement and they cannot afford it. (due to committment in other fields, study, family pressure etc) However it is always convenient and IMPORTANT for all, EACH AND EVERY ONE to give passive support. Without passive support from majority of the students the active support of some students would be of little use. Passive support came in forms like reading the union's publication, reading notices, participate in activities organised by the union, voting to the best of your knowledge during the union's election, signing petition in campaign organised by the union, contributing articles to the union's publication, giving your opinions and suggestions to the students' council etc.

To sum up, a union has its role to play, both in and outside the campus and it has its duty and responsibility to the students and the society. Each and everyone of us have our role to play in the union and have our responsibility to society. However, owing to differences in conditions, and circumstances we are in, some of us might be able to participate actively, whereas others can only give passive support. But, whether passive or active, each little bit of effort is important for us to make our union an effective students' union and our stay in Poly a beautiful stay.



WORK CAMP

SPSU REJECTS INVITATION TO JOIN I-U-S.

— ABDULLAH —

SPSU RESOLUTION

On April 10th 1976 at the 4th Ordinary Council Meeting of SPSU a resolution was passed. It reads: "The 16th Council of SPSU rejects the open invitation to join the IUS as a member as the Council doubts the authenticity of its membership and suspects the organisational structure of the IUS to be undemocratic and further if it truly represents the interests of students." To understand why the students' Council so resolved we have to start with the mission of the IUS Vice President.

IUS Vice President

In February the IUS which is based in Prague, Czechoslovakia, send its vice-president, Labeed Abbawy, on an Asian tour in an attempt to set up ties with students bodies in the region where the IUS had little or no contact.

Labeed arrived in S'pore in March and rang up SPSU, requesting for a meeting with the president at his hotel. Representatives from SPSU, USSU and NUSU went to his hotel, Labeed spoke of the benefits of joining the IUS. Scholarship were offered and air-tickets (one-way) to Prague to visit the IUS Secretariat.

ASA's Rejection

Labeed then approached the Secretary General of the Hong Kong based Asian students' Association (ASA), wanting to set up link between ASA and IUS. The Secretary General of ASA rejected the offer and among the reasons given was that one of ASA members, AUS has just withdrawn from IUS basing on the facts that:-

1. the main political orientation of IUS, that of a detente with world imperialism, does not coincide with the con-

ete requirements of an organisation devoted to the elimination of Capitalism and Imperialism.

2. And the structure and membership of IUS is not such as to assure us of either the guarantee of full democratic rights for member organisation of the democratic nature and autonomy of member organisations themselves.

AUS delegation who attended IUS meetings reported of "Student Leaders" who are 40 - 50 years old. It was also the first time they saw a Secretary of Students' Union suffer from heart attack. Besides, AUS, there are an increasing number of students organisation in the IUS who are dissatisfied with the structure of IUS.

IUS Background.

IUS was formed in 1946 to fight against Fascist Nazism. It was hence a progressive at first. However, ever since 1960 the IUS took a qualitative change. IUS policies were so much influenced by the East European countries that the Americans propped up the ISC to counter the IUS. Ever since Russia took a revisionist line and started advocating "detente" the IUS organised or participated in no less than 11 conference advocating "Security and peace in Europe. The Russians have been selling "detente" to the rest of the world in an attempt to disguise its global expansion as manifested by its more than 3 million soldiers, more than 10 thousands tanks and over a thousand nuclear warheads in preparation for sweeping through Europe with conventional and nuclear weapons. Millions of armed forces are being stationed along the Sino-Mongolian border. Soviet fleets are patrolling all the oceans, capable of controlling any major sea passage in the shortest moment. The IUS has since implemented policies which closely coincide with the Soviet Union. For example, a recent issue of an IUS publication stat-

ed that the European Security Conference had set a model for Asia, inspiring the Asian people to work for an "Asian Collective Security System" which is in complete agreement with the official viewpoint and tone of the Soviet Union.

The Press — Malicious

In the midst of this issue, the Straits Times came up on March 25th 1976 with a report headlined "Prague Body wants ties with Students Unions. The report embodied such statements as "...tertiary student bodies...asked by a communist-backed international students' organisation to establish links and strengthen relationships with it." It is obvious that the report is trying to link the local students' Unions, especially SPSU and USSU, with the so-called "Communist-backed international Students' organisations" This is apparently to create fear in the people's minds of "communist infiltration" in the Students' Union.

The report concluded: "It is believed that student leaders from the University of Singapore, Singapore Polytechnic and Nanyang University are "considering" Mr. Abbawi's suggestions."

What makes the press "believed" so? We can deduce that after having built up the fear in the people's minds, the press go on to say that we are "considering" the proposal which means we may be accepting it and hence we are also "communist-backed" as IUS. This is yet another tactic to discredit the Students' union in the eyes of the public by a severely-prescribed press.



IUS President
Dusan Ulcak.

国际学联会长



The IUS Presidium 国际学联主席团

星加坡工艺学院学生会 (SPSU)

拒绝国际学联 (IUS) 的邀请

引述：这是我们第一次看到一个学生会的秘书由于年老而患上心脏病。

工院学生会 (SPSU) 的决议

76年4月10日，工院学生会的第四次理事会会议通过一个议案：“学生会第十六届理事会拒绝成为国际学联的会员。因为理事会怀疑她的会员资格的可靠性也怀疑国际学联的组织自主性，更怀疑她是否真正代表学生界的利益。”为了了解为什么理事会会致这么一个决议，我们必须从国际学联副会长前来的任务谈起。

国际学联副会长之任务

今年二月，设在捷克首都布拉格的国际学联派出副会长拉必、阿瓦威到亚洲来，尝试建立与这区域里的学生组织的联系。

拉必在三月来到了星加坡。他打电话邀请工院、星大与南大学生会的会长前往他住宿的旅馆去与他进行会谈。在会谈中，拉必谈到了参加国际学联的优厚条件，包括供给奖学金、提供单程机票到布拉格去参观国际学联的秘书处。

亚洲学生协会 (ASA) 拒绝国际学联的邀请

前些时候，拉必企图把设立在香港的亚洲学生协会跟国际学联拉上关系。亚洲学生协会秘书长拒绝了他的邀请时所给予的理由中有一条是亚洲学生协会的一个会员，澳洲学联基于以下理由刚退出了国际学联：—

(一) 国际学联对帝国主义采取了“缓和”的政治倾向并不符合一个致力于消灭资本主义和帝国主义的组织应有的坚定立场。

(二) 国际学联的组织与会员资格并不能保障会员们的民主权利，或是会员团体的民主性质及自主。

曾经出席国际学联会议的澳洲学联代表报导了有关四五十岁的国际学联的“学生领袖”之事。那也是他们第一次看到学生会秘书因年老而患上心脏病。除了澳洲学联外，有越来越多的成员对于国际学联感到不满。

国际学联之背景

国际学联在1946年成立，是当时一个进步的团体，宗旨是打击法西斯纳粹主义。但是在1960年以

来国际学联从本质上起了变化。国际学联的政策很大程度上受了东欧国家的影响，以致美国也组织国际学生理事会 (ISC) 与国际学联对抗。自从苏联走上修正主义路线并且推销“缓和”政策后，国际学联也跟着召开与参加了十多次吹嘘“欧洲安全与和平”的会议。苏联把“缓和”推销到世界各国去企图掩饰她全球性的扩军。超过三百万人的军队，超过百万辆的坦克和超过千颗核弹头已驻紮在东欧以准备横扫欧洲。

百万名武装苏军驻守在中、蒙边界。能够以最短的时间来控制任何主要航运通道的苏联舰队横行在各大洋上。然而，国际学联制定了与苏联相呼应的政策，例如，最近一本国际学联的刊物宣称欧洲安全会议为亚洲树立了一个好榜样，鼓励亚洲人民寻求一个“亚洲集体安全体系”。这完全与苏联官方的观点和愿望相吻合。

报章上的恶言毒语

在这事件中，海峡时报在三月二十五日发表了一则以“布拉格团体要求与学生建立关系”为标题的报导。这篇报导包含了这样的内容：“高等学府学生团体受一个共产党支持的国际学生组织的邀请以建立和加强他们之间的联系。”“他（拉必）的亚洲之行被认为已经引起了本地学生运动受共产党所影响的「恐慌」。”

很明显的，这则报导是要把本地学生会，尤其是工院与星大学生会与那个所谓“共产党支持的国际学生组织”拉上关系来谈。显然这是要造成一个“共产党渗透入本地学生会”的印象。这则报导在结论时这么说：“相信星大、工院与南大的学生领袖正在「考虑」阿巴威先生的建议。”

什么理由使到报章“相信”这事件呢？我们可以这样推断：在公众印象里制造一个恐慌感后，他们继续说我们正在“考虑”这项邀请，因此就有可能接纳，那么我们也象国际学联一样是“共产党支持”的了。这是紧紧受控制的报章在公众面前破坏学生会的又一个无耻的拙劣伎俩！

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN SOCIETY

by Social Study Group

Introduction: The civilisation of mankind has taken thousands of years. But, the history of mankind has a long span of time of about one million years. In this long period, mankind has gone through several stages of social development.

The development of all human societies for about one million years in all countries showed the common characteristics of regularity and consistency and is governed by a law in its development. In the beginning, we had a primitive, clan society; then a slave owning society, followed by a feudal society or serfdom and capitalist society and.....



The Early Man

Primitive Clan Society

In the primitive society, the implements of the early man were obtained directly from the wild nature. At the beginning, the implements were made of stone. Later on, metals were discovered and metallic implements were used. The main occupation of the primitive people was hunting of wild animals.

The only means of subsistence for the primitive people was from nature. The struggle with nature for survival has led the primitive people to live in groups as only collective efforts could ensure survival.

In the primitive time, there was no clans distinction. All hunting tools belonged to the group and the animals they hunted were consumed by the group. No individual was allowed to possess hunting tool.

Owing to natural disasters and scarcity of wild animals (or food), there began to have group migrations to sites where sources of food were plentiful. The migrations were done in large groups. After settling down and living together for some generations, a kin relationship was developed among the primitive people. These kinds of collective groups were known as patriarchal family or clan family.

Within each clan, all the foods obtained were consumed by the collective group. Members of each clan still lived collectively. During the time, the primitive people began to divide jobs between male and female. The males went hunting while the females picked fruits. Individuals were allowed to possess implements like personal weapon.

Leaders were elected from the clan members to lead the clan in various affairs. These leaders were people with more experience and usually the elder ones.

In the primitive clan society, the means of production was owned by the collective group. There was no private or individual property. The productivity of labour in this primitive society was very low.



Slaves' Revolt Led by Spartacus

Slave Owning Society

In the primitive age, due to the scarcity of lands with rich resources, wars between clans seizing these lands were frequent. These wars had brought about a large number of captives and they were usually slaughtered by their captors.

By this time, man had already learnt to plant crops and raise livestock. These two kinds of work required a lot of manpower. The captives of the wars were made slaves to do planting of crops and raising of livestock.

Thus we see a slaveowning society, the first human society with class division, emerged from a primitive classless society. Ancient Greece and Rome are typical examples of slaveowning society.

On the Roman law, slaves were regarded as chattels and not as human beings. They were forced to do compulsory labour and the fruits of their labour were expropriated by the slave owners. The brutal and merciless treatment on the slaves had resulted in many deaths. The slave population then declined and replenishment was possible through enslaving more captives in wars.

Discontentment and hatred grew among the oppressed slaves and they put up revolts against their masters. These revolts were mercilessly subdued. State, as a machine to bring the oppressed class in obedience to the oppressor, made its first appearance in human society during the slavery age. The slaveowners used the state apparatus to bring the slaves into their subjugation.

With large number of slaves engaged in production, the production rate was raised. Improvement in techniques of production further increased the productivity. These developments had given rise to more goods available in the market and helped to promote trade and other economic activities.

However, at a certain stage of development, the production rate began to be unable to cope up with the progress of society. This was due to three factors. Firstly, the slaves population was declining due to merciless exploitation and replenishment was not sufficient. Secondly, among the normal citizens, there bred a contempt for labour and were unwilling to do hard manual work. Lastly, the increasing tide of rebellions had severely impaired the economic structure. In ancient Roman Empire, there were numerous slave revolts of large and small scale. Among the most prominent heroes of the revolts, was a man by the name of Spartacus. Under the leadership of Spartacus, the united and armed slaves gave the Roman Empire hard blows and severe shocks.

The slavery age was at its doom.



Peasants' Uprising in Ancient China

Feudal Society

The slave owning society was followed by a new form of society - the feudal society. In a great number of countries, slavery in the course of its development evolved into serfdom. In feudal society, the fundamental division of society was into feudal landlords and peasant serfs.

The landlord did not own the peasants serfs as chattels but that he was only entitled to their labour and to compel them to perform certain services. The peasant might work a definite number of days for himself on the plot assigned to him by the landlord, on the other days the peasant serf worked for his lord.

The essence of class society remained; society was based on the exploitation of one class by another. In this case, the minority landlords dominated the vast majority peasant serfs. Nevertheless a wider road was opened for the emancipation of the peasants since the peasant serf was not regarded as direct property of the landlord. He could work part of his time on his own plot. This relation of production had resulted in higher produc-

tion rate because the peasant serfs could have more share if they work harder.

There was increasing opportunities for the development of trade and exchange of commodities as there were more goods for circulation in the market.

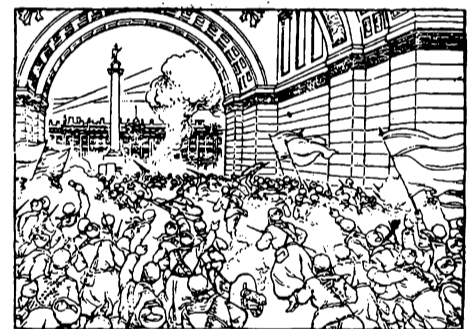
The development of trade and the development of commodity exchange led to the emergence of a new class - the capitalist. In Europe, at the close of the Middle Ages, with the discovery of America, world trade flourished. Silver and gold became the instrument of exchange and were recognised as wealth all over the world. Trading and other commercial activities had made possible the circulation of money and had led to concentration of wealth in individuals. The economic power of the landlord class declined and the power of the new class - the representatives of capital - developed.

In the development stage of the feudal society, handicraft industries had developed from household scale to workshop handicraft industries. Workshop enabled a conglomeration of skilled, semi-skilled workers and apprentices to engage in producing a product. This was the beginning of large scale production of commodities in huge factories.

Large scale production of commodities in factories needed a large pool of labour force. In the feudal society, the chief source of such labour was from the countryside where there large number of potential labourers. But, these peasants were bound to the lands under the feudal system. Contradiction began to arise between the newly emerged class - the capitalist and the feudal system.

As mentioned earlier, the feudal society was still a society based on class exploitation. As the society developed, the class contradiction between the feudal landlord and peasants sharpened. This contradiction was the result of the greedy, exploitative nature of the feudal landlords. Numerous uprisings were put up by the peasants to fight for their just demand for better life.

In Europe, around 15th and 16th Century, feudalism eventually gave way to Capitalism.



The October Revolution in Russia

Capitalist Society

In the late days of the feudal system, several types of machines were already use in factories. These machines like spinning-jenny were expensive and only the minority few - the capitalist could afford it. The factory and other means of production were owned by the capitalist while the working class had nothing except their labour to sell

In combating feudalism, the capitalist proclaimed liberty for the whole people and declared that it expressed the will of the whole people. They denied it is a class state.

Under the capitalist system, all men are equal before the law, irrespective of what capital each owns. The capitalist system advocates free enterprise and free competition. An entrepreneur has the right to employ any workers. Workers can also choose the factory he likes to work in. Laissez-faire policy was practised in this type of society.

But the fact that capitalist society is still a class society cannot be denied. The form of exploitation is changed under capitalism. The owners of capital, the owners of the land, the owner of the mills and factories in all capitalist countries constituted an insignificant minority of the population who have complete command of the labour of the whole people and consequently command, oppress and exploit the whole mass of labourers who procure their livelihood in the process of production only by the sale of their labour power.

Within the capitalist class, those with more capital swallow up the smaller capitalists. The wealth of the world begin to

FILM REVIEW

THE SAND PEBBLES

Recently, a Hollywood-produced film, *The Sand Pebbles*, was screened locally. It aroused concern and discussion among many people. Many western film fans and many others who seldom see western films went to see the show. Probably one of the reasons was that it was starred by Steve McQueen and two other famous actors.

The company also pulled in a French girl of Siamese origin and a Japanese to act as Chinese. What's even more startling and shameful was that the shooting of this film was backed by the Taiwan Chiang regime. It ordered the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education, the Central Film Company to give assistance in every possible way viz. manpower as temporary actors, loaning of the whole Kilung harbour and other technicalities.

The story of the show started with events happening in the Shanghai and Changsha areas in 1926. In order to have a correct knowledge and analysis of the film, let's look at a brief historical background of old China in 1926.

After the 1911 revolution led by Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the Chinese society did not change basically as the revolution had only pulled down the feudal Emperor from the political stage. What remained pressing on top of the people's heads were the three great mountains - the feudal landlord, the bureaucrat comprador and the imperialist. The warlords who divided China into pieces of land for their own power, had then concentrated in Northern China. China remained a semi-colonial, semi-feudal state. Therefore, in their struggle against the feudal landlords and warlords to build a united, democratic New China, the Chinese people had to fight the imperialists who had invaded China and had openly supported factions of warlords for their own interests.

In 1924, Dr. Sun reorganised the Kuomintang and proposed various innovational policies. Upon his death, the Southern revolutionary forces followed these policies. From Kwangchow (Canton) they moved towards the north to exterminate the warlords. The people of Yangtze Kiang region had mobilised themselves, forming organi-

sations and unions. The choice of the very place of the story of the film, Changsha, was not coincidental but had ulterior motives.

The film strongly implied, through the captain of the ship, Sao Paulo, that the Americans were 'neutral', not supporting either the southern revolutionary forces nor the northern warlords.

But the fact is: the U.S. imperialist aided a warlord, Wu Pei-fu, by giving arms worth US\$3 million, 10,000 guns, 20 million rounds of bullets and 250 machine guns. All these arms were used to suppress and to slaughter the people and the revolutionary forces of the south. 'Neutral' - what a shameful out-and-out lie, aimed at misleading people who do not know the historical facts. Such a venomous motive must be exposed. Such a mask must be torn to pieces.

Not even a word was mentioned about the cruel and brutal acts of the imperialists but instead it was arranged so that the temporary Taiwan actors acted as Chinese who were cruel, violent rioters. The film falsifies history by portraying the Chinese struggle against the imperialists as one without any conceivable grounds and by indicating that the Americans were forced to defend themselves. The invaders had suddenly become the "invaded".

The U.S. navy was sent to invade China. The scriptwriter however portrayed two navy men, Horman and Francis, as heroes in trying to save a Chinese prostitute (starred by the Siamese). Their "brave" act was futile as the Chinese killed the girl and Horman was then framed up as the murderer. The invaders had now suddenly become the "kind-hearted heroes"!

In another scene, a Chinese coolie (starred by the Japanese) was shown to be

caught by workers and students and accused to be a "running dog" or "lackey". He was then tied on a wooden stack. His shirt was torn and his body was cut bit by bit by the workers and students! They did not want to kill him at once but just wanted to torture him. This scene was aimed at misleading the audience that the Chinese people who had risen to fight against the imperialists were barbaric, violent rioters!

Another malicious scene featured a missionary who refused to go with the captain, whose duty was to "protect" every American citizen. At first this missionary even renounced his citizenship and stressed that he would stay on in China as the Chinese were good people.

But how did the scene turn out? Just as the captain and the missionary were arguing hotly, an injured Chinese student came running to inform the missionary that the Chinese people had come to invade the missionary school. The missionary unhesitatingly went out, confident that he could convince the Chinese to stop. But he was shot dead. What was the intention of the script-writer? It was none other than to give the impression that the Chinese people were not trustworthy. They were not humane but killed even a good "white". Hence it was only logical and justifiable that the Americans had to kill the Chinese. The Chinese deserved such punishment.

There were many other unscrupulous and despicable tactics used by the script writer aiming at disgracing debasing and dehumanizing the character of the Chinese people. The author of the book on which the film is based, Richard McKenna, served in the U.S. Navy in the 1920s. He was sent to China on a warship. His brain is full of colonialism and white superiority complex. All these are proved by the distortion of history in his book.

Many a time the audience was in great applause as if they were adoring the captain's "bravery" and sympathy towards the two U.S. navy men who had tried hard to save the Chinese girl. They are ignorant of history! We must present facts to expose shows of such nature which seek to distort history and undermine the people's interest. We must lead more people to realise the real truth and not be misled!

DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN SOCIETY

cont'd from pg 14

concentrate in the hands of a small handful economic groups. The monopoly of capital had begun after a certain period of its development. In some countries, capitalism had reached its highest form - monopoly capitalism or imperialism. The imperialist organisation were sending out its tentacles, like an octopus, over the World to plunder and create havoc to mankind.

Along with constantly diminishing number of magnates of capital, grows the mass of misery, oppression, exploitation and dehumanisation. Together with these, grows the revolts of the working class. The working class is ever increasing and its movement is gaining momentum.

Capitalism, as a social system, has its inherent, irreconcilable contradictions. From its genesis to now, crisis after crisis had broken out periodically. Each successive crisis had hastened the imminent collapse of this moribund, degenerating system.

Where are the inherent contradictions found? It is found in such system where the means of production were centralised in the hands of the minority few and the

production was carried out in anarchy and had frequently resulted in overproduction. Inflation had since its inception become an incurable disease. Furthermore, the class contradiction between the two distinctive classes in capitalist society had developed and sharpened.

Socialism

The socialisation of production is bound to lead to the conversion of the means of production into the property of society. The conversion to a socialist society will directly result in an immense increase in productivity of labour and the replacement of small scale disunited production by collective and improved labour.

In Socialist state, there are two main types of ownership of means of production. The ownership by the whole people is also ownership by the state. Collective ownership is the ownership by the collective group of people engaged in the local production.

CONCLUSION

We have touched on the various stages of development of human society: primitive-clan society, slavery age, feudal society, capitalist society and socialist society. Each form of society exhibits its specific characteristics. These characteristics on the other hand is determined by the mode of production of material

life of that society. The mode of production is the combination of social productive forces, and relations of production.

We observed that all societies hitherto have undergone the process of genesis, development and decline. What are the forces giving rise to this process of motion of human society? It is the result of the conflicts and contradictions of the productive forces and relations of production of a society. In the genesis of a society, the relations of production promoted the productive forces. At a certain stage of their development, the productive forces of society came into conflict with the existing relations of production. These relations became the impediment of the progress of productive forces. Then a social revolution begins with the result of a formation of a new relations of production. Though the development seems to repeat the preceding stages, the repetition is on higher basis, the development is in spirals or leaps.

The world is becoming smaller as a result of fast progressing communication system, the links between countries are becoming more possible. Knowledge can be disseminated very swiftly to the various parts of the world. Consequently, the development of societies need not follow the pattern we have mentioned; they can skip one or more stages of society and transform into a new form of society.

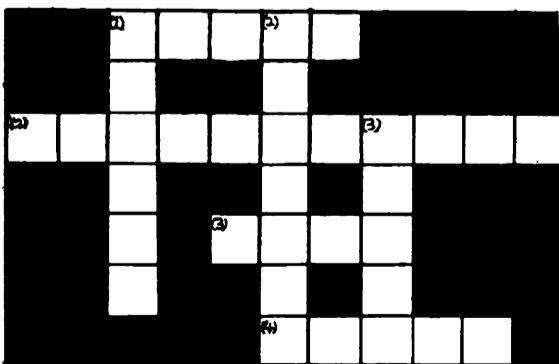
CROSSWORD

DOWN

- 1) Person, whose acts are completely controlled by another.
- 2) Group of three plays or novels, to be performed or read in succession, each is complete in itself but with common subject.
- 3) The founder of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

ACROSS

- 1) The Greek idealist (philosopher) who wrote the book: *My Republica*.
- 2) The highest form of capitalism.
- 3) Collective term for various grain plant like barley, oats, wheat.
- 4) A prominent city in Soviet China.



Cut out and send to Singapore Polytechnic Students' Union, 9 Prince Edward Road, Singapore 2.

Name.....
Address.....
.....

QUOTE & QUOTE

"Man's dearest possession is life. It is given to him but once, and he must live it so as to feel no torturing regrets for wasted years, never know the burning shame of a mean and petty past; so live that, dying, he might say: all my life, all my strength were given to the finest cause in all the world - the fight for the Liberation of Mankind."

NIKOLAI OSTROVSKY

Without the cold and desolation of winter
There could not be the warmth and
splendor of spring
Calamity has tempered and hardened me
And turned my mind into steel.

HO CHI MINH

SPSU IN FINANCIAL CRISIS

工院学生会 面临财政危机

1974 marks the beginning of the Students Awakening in Singapore. This world which is full of trickery and is extremely unjust is a rhetoric that pierces the heart of any concerned student. But far from being rhetorical, Students have realised a new perspective of their role in society. More students are stepping down from their ivory towers into the realms of everyday activity of the masses.

In the year 1974, the students of Singapore realising the social problems of the Society, had initiated several campaigns paying much attention to the Welfare of the people. Much time and energy were spent on taking issues of public interest and concern and thus at the same time arousing the social awareness of Students.

In early February 1974, a joint project - Anti-Bus Fare Hike were carried out by NUSU, NATCSU, SPSU and USSU. Though we were unable to stop the ten cents bus fare hike, (and the rejection of co-operation from the authorities concerned), students had been effective in organising public sentiments against the irrational move of the authorities.

In August 1974, USSU and SPSU jointly launched a Bangladesh Flood Relief Campaign bearing the principle of taking concern in the plight of the less fortunate people and strongly uphold the motto of social justice. Though again we did not have the co-operation from the authorities, we managed to mobilise not only Students from SPSU and USSU, but also students from various Secondary Schools. In a short span of 2 - 3 weeks, we managed to collect 42 lorry loads of clothing and \$26 000/- in cash.

In September 1974, Students of USSU and SPSU were involved in the Tasek Utara Issue. A fund raising campaign organised by SPSU in all its three campuses was fairly successful. A total of \$1,749 was collected from Students and staff, and subsequently sent across the causeway. On 18th September, about 70 students from USSU and SPSU forwarded an appeal to the Malaysian High Commission for a reasonable reply.

In November 1974, USSU and SPSU were jointly involved in the Retrenchment Research Centre. This centre was set up to:-

1. gather information about retrenchment.
2. suggest some relevant alternatives to the authority concerned
3. provide an immediate relief to the retrenched workers
4. suggest future action for the Students' Union to follow

During the course of RRC work, USSU encountered many obstacles. Firstly, the Chairman of RRC, Tan Wah Piow (President of USSU), because of his involvement in the American Marine lay-off case, was arrested and charged in court for 'illegal asse-

mblly' and 'rioting', a week after RRC was set up. This action was followed by the deportation of six other USSU councillors. These drastic action resulted in a series of mass rallies of 3 to 4 thousand students held in the Bukit Timah Campus. USSU also officially called in a two-day boycott of lectures in protest of the drastic action of the authorities. SPSU also held similar rallies in its various campuses.

During the various issues, the authorities concerned not only did not provide any help but tried various ways to hinder students' effort. In 1975, the authorities concerned with the administration of Singapore Polytechnic decided to separate the Union fees from the tuition fees, which is a violation of our Constitution. The reluctant 'service' of the Administration to collect Union fees from students and other means, discouraged students from paying their Union fees, thus creating a Financial Crisis in SPSU. In doing this they hope to cripple the Students' Union from functioning effectively. Their action however, did not deter the Students' Union from striving towards the goal of STRIVING FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE MAJORITY - THE WORKING CLASS.

Yours in Students' Solidarity,
SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION



1974年是本地学生光辉的一年，大专学生开始走出象牙塔，关心社会，接触现实社会。同学们更了解他们对社会所应负起的责任，更明确所走的道路是对的。

回顾过去一段历史，就能更深入地了解现在工院学生会面临经济危机的根源。

1974年二月初，我会与其他兄弟团体，星大学生会，南大学生会与义安学生会联合推动了反对巴士加价签名运动。在这项运动中，当局拒绝与我们合作，导致这项运动的难产，但是同学们却有效地收集了公众人士的心声，抗议当局无理的加价。

八月中，我会与星大学生会开展了救济孟加拉灾民运动，以关心那生活在水深火热的孟加拉人民。这次，我们再度受到当局的干扰。然而，我们发动了更多同学，不单单是星大和工院的同学，还包括来自各源流学校的中学生。在广大人民群众的支持下，只不过短短的两三个星期中，总共收集了四十二罗厘的救济品及两万六千元的现款！

九月，我会组织了同学，分别在各院址展开了一项筹款运动，总共收到\$1749的现款，即日送过长堤彼岸的新山拆屋事件中的打昔乌打拉居民。九月十八日，为数70余名的工院及星大同学到大马路事馆请愿，坚决认为大马政府驱逐新山木屋区居民的行为是极不人道，不合理的。

十一月中，星大与我会的同学又设立裁员调查中心，以便调查工友的状况，旨在：

- (一) 收集裁员问题或与其有关的资料
- (二) 提供建议给有关当局
- (三) 援助那些被裁员的工友
- (四) 建议可采取之行动给学生会

在这件工作中，星大学生会再次面对了更多的阻碍。首先，调查中心主席，陈华彪被控参与一宗“暴动”事件。接着是六位星大学生会理事被驱逐出境。这一切无理的行动引起了同学们的不满，在星大校园内连续举行了三、四千名学生的群众大会。同时，号召学生罢课，以示抗议。工院学生会也曾曾在各院地址举行数次类似的集会，支持这正义的斗争！

在以上的事件中，有关当局除了拒绝给予任何帮助外，还不择手段地压制学生们的正义的行动。从逮捕学生领袖，驱逐出境，扣留星大学生会的会费及最近国会通过的大学修正法案的事件中，更能看出他们的狰狞面目。在工艺学院方面，有关当局也不放弃任何能施展恶毒手段的机会，打击学生会的活动！

最近工院当局除了各方面不合作，(例如拒绝让学生会运用一些校方的设备)更却置学生会于瘫痪状态中。校方违背我会的章程，把学生会的会员费与学费分开来收。以往会员费与学费是一起由校方收的，章程规定，所有会员必须交会员费的！但院方采取这种行动，不鼓励学生们缴交他们的会员费。校方尝试把学生会转变为院方工具这一美梦被破灭后，就企图在经济上弄垮学生会。但是，他们的一切行动是永远不能阻止学生们为人民服务的伟大理想的！

工艺学院学生会筹募会务基金电影招待会

SUPPORT SPSU'S FUND RAISING FILM SHOWS

热烈支援
踊跃购票!

FILMS 戏名	THEATRE 戏院	DATE 日期	TIME 时间
BALLAD OF JOE HILL 工运铁汉	PALACE 丽宫	27/6/76 SUNDAY 星期日	8.45 am. 上午
DARK HEAVEN 黑天堂	PALACE 丽宫	11/7/76 SUNDAY 星期日	8.45 am. 上午

TICKETS AT: \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 票价
AVAILABLE AT: SPSU UNION HOUSE (Shenton Way) 工院学生楼 (珊顿道) Tel: 981974
VANGUARD Book Room 新知 前卫书室 文化企业