

LIM CHING SIONG IN HOKKIEN AT A MEETING ORGANISED  
BY THE P.A.P. AT THE BEAUTY WORLD PARK, BUKIT TIMAH  
ROAD, ON THE EVENING OF 28TH OCTOBER.

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(A tape recording of this speech made openly  
by the Radio Police is available.)

(Loudly applauded when he was announced as the next speaker.)

1. Dear Uncles, Aunties, brothers and sisters - from 18th September until today, over 20 people have been arrested in Singapore and over seven organisations have been banned. On the night of 18 September six people were arrested, one is LIM CHIN KOK, President of the Farmers' Association, President of the Singapore Factory & Shop Workers' Union and President of the Amalgamated Pineapple Workers' Union. Another is TAN GET HENG, Committee Member of the Women's Federation; and another is CHEN MONG HOCK, president of the Women's Federation. Two teachers of the Chung Cheng High School were also arrested and another is TAN KONG HONG also a teacher in Jurong and at the same time the President of the Teachers' Union. Six people arrested and including a student, seven. Six were arrested under the Banishment Ordinance to be banished, and the student was detained under the Public Security Ordinance. On that night too, two organisations were banned. One is the Women's Federation and the other was the Brass Gong Musical Society. For what reasons? Lim Yew Hock's Government never told us. A month has elapsed and still no reasons have been given. What offences have these organisations committed? No evidence has been produced. Soon after these arrests the people held meetings to protest, sent delegations to see him and to ask him why he arrested these people. He could produce no reasons and said that it was in the interests of the people. But everyone knows what offences LIM CHIN KOK has committed. At the age of 4, he left China and came to Malaya. He is 41 years old today. At the age of 8 he worked in a pineapple factory and he had worked for over 30 odd years as a pineapple worker and I am sure a lot of brothers and sisters here know him. Now all he did was to work for the Farmers' Association for the Trade Union and for the workers. He is not educated and he is illiterate; he cannot speak very well. What offences can he commit? He hasn't stolen any chickens and he hasn't committed any robbery; he hasn't taken a gun and shot anybody. Yet the Government arrested him and want to banish him - without any reason at all.

2. Another member, TAN GET HENG, is also to be banished. TAN GET HENG is a Committee Member of the Women's Federation. She was born in China but at the age of only 8 months - before she could even speak - her mother brought her from China to Malaya and stayed here in Singapore until now. She is 24 years of age. The mother is a hawker and worked very hard to earn money to feed her and she has grown up. She has studied and gained education and when she was over 20 years she became a teacher. She has also worked for the Women's Federation for a little while and for this they want to banish her. And now her mother is alone with no one to take care of her. But what offence has she committed? The Government cannot say. TAN KONG HONG, as everyone knows is also only interested in teaching. What did he do? All he did was to tell the Government that they must not suppress Chinese education, and because of this he was arrested. And what did the President of the Women's Federation do? All she did was to tell the Government that in Singapore today there are too many strip-tease dancers and that a lot of young people went to see these shows daily. She told the Government that these must be banned otherwise...../

otherwise harm would come to the young people - and for this she was arrested. What evidence? None. They banned the Women's Federation also. What offence? No evidence.

3. On the 18 September after all these arrests and banishments the Government said that it is very democratic, that what it had done was for the people of Singapore and that if these people who have been arrested wished to they can appeal. But, everyone knows; have these appeals succeeded? No. When we appealed they said it was not permitted. What reason? No reason. We appealed against the banning but they said we could not. The incidents of the 18th had not even been settled and on the 19th the situation changed. On 24 September the Government banned the S.C.M.S.S.U. What had they done? All they did was to tell students that their object to attend school was to study - to 'hsueh-hsih' and so that when they grow up they can be worthy of their parents. This they won't allow and they arrest. They said that to study and to 'hsueh-hsih' is communism, because in China the communists practice 'hsueh-hsih'. That means to say that if the communists eat rice we cannot eat rice. This is all unreasonable - all oppressive. But when we protested the Government couldn't care less. They advanced one more step. In spite of the banning of the students' Union, the arrest of students and when the students protested by hanging black cloth they would not allow it. On one hand they said if you don't agree you can protest for they are democratic. And when you protest they won't allow it. When students hung black cloth they would not allow it and they wanted to arrest. The students wanted to hold meetings to protest. They said they cannot. On 30 Sept. they arrested the president of the students' Union, SOON LOH BOON. Also, they arrested one member of our central committee, CHIA EK TIEN without reason and without evidence. There was no change in the situation and the matter was not settled and on the 8th October something flared up. On the night of the 8th the students held mass meetings. On the 9th the Management Committees were called and they forced the Management Committees to sack 142 students and said that if they didn't they would start action. On that night four students were arrested. So much so that the students of both Chung Cheng and Chinese High Schools had no alternative but to camp in and they have been camped in now for 15 days. During this period the people resorted to all sorts of methods to protest. These were all peaceful methods. Reasonable methods. These are not oppressive methods. We never take up guns. We never lifted stones. All we did was to tell the Government you must give your reasons for arrests; you must show the offence. After all these people have not committed robberies, they have not stolen chickens. If they have evidence then we cannot say anything. But they never bring up any evidence. All they did was to continue to oppress, and today they are still oppressing us. Last night the Government arrested four more people. One is the headmaster of the Jurong Lok Yang School who is also the Vice-President of the Primary School Teachers' Union. Another is a Brass Gong Musical Society committee member. Another is the editor of the Shi Tai Pao. Another - they have arrested so many I can't remember all their names.

4. They have also banned four organisations - one is the Parents' Association, the others are the Arts Association, the Primary School Teachers' Union and Chung Cheng Alumni Association. At the same time last night they issued an order that if by 8 p.m. the students of both the Chung Cheng High School and the Chinese High School do not disperse they will start using force. Everyone knows that last night police were already stationed in front of the Chung Cheng and Chinese High Schools. Now, at this very moment more police have arrived there and before long the water-tender will be sent up. They are going to use the water-hose against the students. By 8 p.m. if they do not disperse they will start using

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force. Use these people for such act Everyone know Lim Yew Hock dog of the B bresth he sa Did he look say they was out of here But Lim Yew has never fo the peoples' enlisting th parties to f A few months But this was all the poli British. No fight the Br fought the p month. All tions, oppre bought over is because h He only has of Lim Yew H He encourage accepted the oppressed to Chief Minist that althoug the people. Minister. A for the peop will not wor will be anot ble to beco help of the all progress nobody will against him. for his own dollars a mo the people. audience, we water-tender himself only the help of the help of

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force. Use force to oppress innocent students. What offences have these people committed? The Government has given no reason at all for such action. Why is Lim Yew Hock's Government doing this? Everyone knows it is most unreasonable and most oppressive. By this Lim Yew Hock has clearly shown that today he has become a running dog of the British. (Ang moh lang.) (Long applause). In one breath he says he wants independence, freedom and democracy. Did he look properly into what the people actually want when they say they want independence? They want the British to be driven out of here and get that kind of independence. (Cheers! - applause). But Lim Yew Hock never studied how to drive the British out. He has never found out from the people what they really want. Without the peoples' help how can he drive out the British? Instead of enlisting the help of the people and joining up with other political parties to fight the British he has sought the help of the British. A few months ago he said he wanted to organise an all-party meeting. But this was all bluff. On his return from England he did not call all the political parties together to discuss how to fight the British. Nor did he ask the people how they could cooperate to fight the British. Instead, he got the help of the British and fought the people. From September 18 until now has been over a month. All he has done has been to arrest the people, ban organisations, oppress and oppress. All this clearly shows he has been bought over by the British. Why does he not help the people? It is because he has not got the interests of the people at heart. He only has his own interests at heart. What was the early history of Lim Yew Hock? In the past he was in the Labour Department. He encouraged workers to go on strike - but in the background he accepted the employers' money and put it in his own pocket. He oppressed the workers - he arrested the workers. Now he has become Chief Minister and he is still using the same methods. He realises that although he is Chief Minister he has not got the support of the people. He has never done anything since he became Chief Minister. All he has done has been to buy a new car and do nothing for the people. So now he is afraid that in future the people will not work for him, and he knows that in two years' time there will be another General Election and he is afraid he will not be able to become Chief Minister again. So now he only seeks the help of the British, and uses the power of the British to suppress all progressive organisations, so that when the election comes nobody will compete with him and nobody will stand for election against him. Because he thought in this way for his own objects - for his own interests, with only the thought of a few thousand dollars a month - he has joined hands with the British and oppressed the people. He has entirely forgotten about the people. Dear audience, we must be steady, we must not be afraid when we see the water-tender. That is useless. Lim Yew Hock is now thinking of himself only. Because of his desire to be Minister he has enlisted the help of the British. We know that because he has asked for the help of the British and the British and he are in agreement.

3. The British must have told him that MARSHALL had failed and that if he wanted to succeed he must ban all these progressive organisations, and arrest Chinese. That if he did, they would give him a little bit. Within a month he could make arrests and then he could go to England, to conspire to give him independence or a target date for independence such as next year, or the year after. Thus everybody would talk about independence and forget that people have been arrested. Thus people would think he was very clever. It wasn't bad that he arrested people, for in so doing he would obtain independence from the British and everybody would agree and when the General Election comes he would not only be Chief Minister but they would make him a knight. Or maybe, his salary would be increased from \$4,000 to \$6,000. That is why Lim Yew Hock is following the instructions of the British in doing what he is doing now. He uses the power of the British to oppress the people and today we can see clearly, we can see that this matter will not change .....

change anymore. He will not change his policy. He will continue to oppress. He has already forgotten about the people and all he does is to seek the help of the British. What will the people think? The people will think - what is the use of protesting now? - it is useless. In spite of our protest he is still oppressing us. He still continues to arrest and to ban. since last night he has arrested four people and banned four associations. Tonight he may beat the students. So what is the use of protesting? But, dear audience, we must not imagine today that Lim Yew Hock is all powerful. True, he has power. But this power will not last forever. He depends on the police, on the army, on the machine-gun, on the aeroplanes, on gaols - but never mind - how long can he have these things? How long can he last like this? Let him arrest now - let him banish now - let him ban unions. But is this Malaya's first experience? No! Tens of years ago, the British have already done this. In 1948 the British did the same thing. In fact, then it was even worse. Before daylight on the 20th June, 1948 and within a week they banned all the unions and in the whole of Malaya had arrested tens of thousands of people. But, from 1948 to 1954, a mere eight years, the people have risen once again and the British quietly gave us an elected government. If the British are helpless what can Lim Yew Hock do? Now he has the police to depend on, the army to depend on, and the gaols to depend on - but how many gaols are there in Singapore? How many can he arrest? Changi at the most they can put 500 more; Outram or Seoy Lin - 500; St. John's Island - 500. This will be over 10,000 - how many more can he arrest? (Applause). Therefore he has no way to oppress we, the people. If he arrests one, a hundred more will take his place. If they arrest 100 - a thousand will take their places. He cannot possibly arrest them all. How long can he stay in power? Lets say 10 years. But he cannot possibly stay in power for 10 years. We don't even know it will be possible for him to stay here. (Applause). In the present day where there is no democracy, people cry out for democracy. For this is the elected Government, and no matter what happens by 1959 there must be a General Election. For that matter let him win during the 1959 elections - for him to become Chief Minister for another four or six years. After the six years are over is there any more chance of him staying on again? no chance. So in the end it will mean defeat for him. This is all very clear. Let him be in power for six years. Let everyone go to gaol but they will continue to 'Hsueh-Hsieh' and they will fight him even harder. (Applause.) Therefore arrest is no use. Banishment - but how many can be banished? Quite a lot are local born. How can be banish them? The most they can do is to banish from Taipo to Siew Po. (Laughter). No matter how they are banished they will be banished in Singapore. (More laughter). This is all useless. He depends on the police, on the British, but how long can he depend on the British? Before the war the British were powerful and everybody looked at the British with "Tebeh tuan", and bow. But now when they look at the British they spit, filthy spit. (Applause - loud cheers). (The crowd went wild). The British in Malaya today are like dogs. But not only in Malaya - in other countries too. For example, in Egypt; they were chased out of Egypt with their tails down. (The crowd went wild again). In India they were driven out by the Indians. In Cyprus the people opposed them and they couldn't do a thing. In Africa the people rose against them and they also could do nothing. In England, even the workers rise against them. So how long can he depend on the British? Those who depend on the British and the Americans will finally end in the sea. Chiang Kai-shek when he was in China had tens of thousands of soldiers. He had American machine-guns and cannons and American support, and he oppressed the Chinese people. But now he has quietly gone over to Formosa; what use has he now of America and the British? and, what has Lim Yew Hock got to compare with Chiang Kai-shek. He can't even be compared to a strand of hair on Chiang. (Applause) So, how long can you depend on the British? And when they run away, where is Lim Yew Hock going to .....

going to? The for him to run they are police (Inspector). to attend the the meeting; them that at a lot of peo 'pak mata' ( to cooperate in the time and cheers.) instead of d on the peopl 10 people an one did not relling. Th don't distri MARCHALL's c support the Now, the As- Yew the mone be afraid of let him ban happened in occupation were slaught now? They h a person who we must not afraid it w tell Lim Yew independance means to ask here. (Loud people we w with the Br Yew Hock's dog and the Regulations not worthy these laws is finished dissolve th British run the people if he uses will not to

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going to? There is no Formosa in Singapore - so the only place is for him to run into the sea. (Applause). With regard to police, they are police-brothers, detective-brothers (sm-pai) and tau-kow (Inspector). They are all wage earners, and they are all here to attend this meeting to oppose Lim Yew Hock. (Loudest cheers of the meeting so far.) We gladly welcome them, and the more of them that attend will make us even stronger. (Crowd cheers wildly.) A lot of people don't want to shout Merdeka! they want to shout 'pak mata' (beat the police). This is wrong. We want to ask them to cooperate with us because they are also wage-earners and so that in the time of crisis they will take the gun and run away. (Laughter and cheers.) So Lim Yew Hock wants to depend on these people instead of depending on the masses of the people. He also depends on the people in the Assembly. But those are only slightly over 10 people and all these are Ministers and they can stick together but one did not get a chance to become a minister and now they are quarrelling. They are robbing, arresting, collecting money and if they don't distribute the money there is sure to be a fight. In MARSHALL's case, for example, they now want to force MARSHALL to support the Government but MARSHALL says he wants to think it over. Now, the Assembly can cooperate but once it quarrels they will fall. Now the money is a power behind it and everyone is afraid. Don't be afraid of him. He won't last long. Let him beat us, arrest us, let him banish us; this is not the first time, the same thing has happened in Malaya. It happened before in 1948. The Japanese occupation was even worse and a lot of our brothers and sisters were slaughtered by the Japanese. But where are the Japanese now? They have quietly gone back to their own country. Therefore, a person who is oppressive will never last long and therefore we must not be afraid just because of his action. If you are afraid it will be wrong. We must be united together. We want to tell Lim Yew Hock's Government that we want independence and that independence does not mean assaulting the people. Independence means to ask you to go and fight the British and get them out of here. (Loud applause). And if he wants to continue to oppress the people we will tell him that the people will kick him out together with the British. (Loud cheers). Therefore we want to warn Lim Yew Hock's Government today that he has become a British running dog and that although he has promised to get rid of the Emergency Regulations and all that, he has failed to do so. He is therefore not worthy to represent the people any more because he is using these laws to oppress the people. That means that this Government is finished and that his Government is dead. We want him to dissolve the Government immediately and if he says he is not a British running dog let him have a re-election and see whether the people support him or not. (Applause). And we warn him that if he uses force against the students we, the people of Singapore, will not tolerate it.

6. Therefore, I hope, brothers and sisters, we will quickly unite together for tonight there is a possibility that something big will happen. But, dear brothers and sisters, if any of our sons are assaulted we will not tolerate it. Therefore, we must unite together and pay attention to Government's activities. Dear brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts - do not grieve. We must go and tell our neighbours that Lim Yew Hock's Government is a bad one and that we must forever impress (upon them) what kind of a Government it is. We must also use method to get rid of this oppressive Government and to attain our final objective and if we can all unite together, I believe, no matter how oppressive the Government is, it will be defeated. Therefore I hope you will not be sad. Quickly unite together. Workers and workers unite. Farmers unite. We must take certain action to retaliate against their oppressive action. My speech ends here. (Long loud cheering.)

LIM CHING SIONG spoke from 1825 to 1848 hours, following which a voice in Mandarin announced that they had only got a permit up to .....

up to 7 p.m. and therefore the meeting would now come to an end. Before he dismissed the meeting he wanted all to know that on the 27th there would be a meeting at Bukit Panjang Village of a similar kind and he hoped everybody would attend. He asked all to shout three times, Merdeka.

The meeting commenced at 1725 and dispersed at 1850 hours.

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APPENDIX M.2

Report on the May Day Celebrations  
held by P.A.P. at the Badminton  
Hall on 1st May, 1955.

On 1st May, 1955, the P.A.P. held a meeting at the Singapore Badminton Hall to celebrate May Day. About 10,000 people attended of whom about 4,000 were Middle School students who were not in uniform. Workers from the following Unions were in attendance at the invitation from the Singapore Trade Unions' May Day Committee, of which LIM CHIN SIONG was Chairman and DEVAN NAIR Secretary:-

- (1) Singapore Factory Workers' Union;
- (2) Singapore Tailors' Union;
- (3) Amalgamated Malayan Pineapple Workers' Union;
- (4) Singapore Dyers & Dry Cleaners' Union;
- (5) Singapore Barber Assistants' Union;
- (6) Demobilised Chinese Overseas Mechanics' and Drivers' Association;
- (7) Singapore Printing Employees' Union;
- (8) United Engineers Workers' Union;
- (9) Singapore Cinema and Entertainment Workers' Union;
- (10) Singapore Rattan Workers' Union;
- (11) Singapore Leather Workers' Union;
- (12) Singapore Spinning Workers' Union;
- (13) Singapore Naval Base Labour Union;
- (14) Singapore City Council Labour Unions' Federation;
- (15) Singapore Bus Workers' Union.

Speeches:

LIM CHIN SIONG, speaking as the Chairman of the meeting, had this to say:-

"May Day is the workers' struggle for better living and to commemorate past events of bloodshed. (This is believed to refer to the clash between Police and strikers at the Hock Lee Bus Co.) Workers must zealously celebrate and be united to fight to the end. With the Emergency Regulations, benefits to the workers have been jeopardised. When the Japanese invaded Malaya the Europeans were the first to flee. We, the workers, during the period of three years and eight months of the occupation suffered many hardships. We fought united until June 1948. Then the Colonial Government of the British Imperialists enforced the Emergency Regulations to detain our people in many ways. This evil of Colonialism enabled the arrest of the leaders of the workers. We, the workers and students, must be united to protest against the Emergency Regulations as they are made for the safety of Colonialism. The Emergency Regulations are directed at the people and the activities of the workers. The Paya Lebar bus workers and the Hock Lee bus workers are fighting for better living and have been arrested and kicked and beaten by the Police. The workers have been ill-treated with barbarous methods and the Emergency Regulations used to control the freedom of speech of the workers and the freedom to congregate. These Regulations give freely the powers of arrest.

At present there is trouble with the workers - the Swee Hin workers' strike, the Hock Lee bus workers' strike, the Hong Seng Sago Factory workers' strike, the Mis-Sino strike, the Alexander Brickworkers' strike, and the

Singapore .....