

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Malaya

DATE DISTR. 16 Mar 51

SUBJECT Malayan Communist Party Activities in Singapore During the Period 21-30 January 1951

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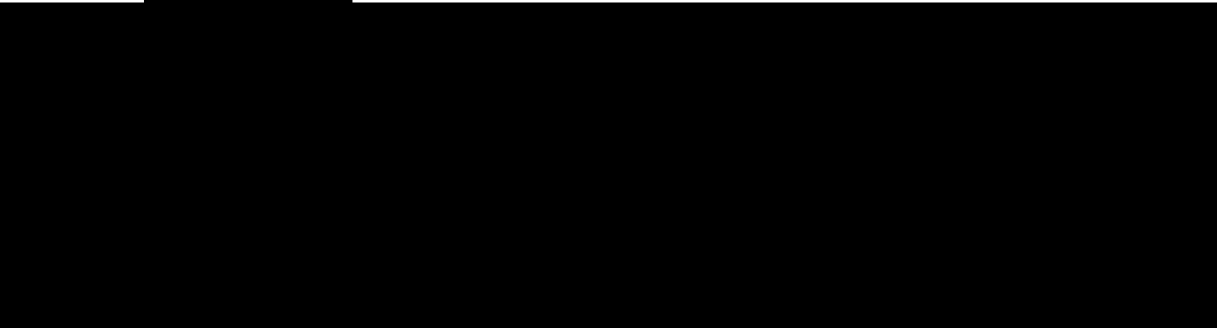
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1. On 21 January 1951, an arson attempt took place at the offices of the Singapore Standard and the Sin Chew Jit Poh. A group of six to eight Chinese, one armed with a revolver, the others suspected to be in possession of hand grenades and daggers, tied up a Special Constable who was on guard, and spread gasoline in the premises. The men were discovered before the fire caught, but they escaped in a car which was parked on Robinson Road. A watchman and a compositor at the plant extinguished the fire.
2. On 27 January 1951, two Chinese youths riding unnumbered bicycles held up a woman police corporal who was dressed in plain clothes. One of the Chinese seized and opened the policewoman's handbag, but she fought and recovered it. The youths apparently were satisfied that the handbag contained no weapons and rode off. Persons who were at Lorong 24A at the junction of Geylang Road during the holdup made no attempt to assist the woman, who carried arms until four months ago.
3. During the period under review, 21 identity card robberies, directed mainly against hairdressing salons, dress shops, and photography studios, yielded a total of 119 identity cards. Three Rediffusion sets were smashed.
4. A copy of the 25 December 1950 issue of a Malayan Communist Party (MCP) publication in Chinese, International News, was received by Police on 3 January 1951. A second copy of International News, dated 26 December 1950, has been discovered. The contents and the format of the two issues are different, and it is believed possible that two separate organizations are publishing the organ as a security precaution for the MCP. Other propaganda material discovered in the period under review included eight Communist posters, found in the Mackenzie Road area near the Singapore Traction Company depot.
5. On 26 January 1951, Police raided an MCP Communications Center at 167 Queen Street, and arrested five persons. Evidence was found connecting this propaganda center with one formerly located on Victoria Street. Communist propaganda, two vegetable knife daggers, a tin of gasoline and diary notes proving that members of the propaganda ring were

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connected with recent arson attempts and identity card seizures, were also discovered. A significant factor noted during the raid was that the public not only is uncooperative with police, but is reluctant to intervene on either side. Two of the detainees were not warned of the Police trap, although several persons were in a position to do so.

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