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The Straits Times
Singapore, Mon., Apr. 30, 1951.



that there are, for the inference which otherwise may be drawn from the District Officer's warning must give rise to some uneasiness. The Government must take the strongest possible measures against any section of the community which aids the Communist terror, and it cannot allow itself to be deterred even by the thought that a few among the many who are punished may be innocent, at worst negligent in their public duty. But the Government must not take drastic action against a community which has not been given all the help and protection that are possible. And while there can be no two opinions about the notoriety of Pusing, not yet has the Government established all the facts which the public will regard as necessary for its reassurance.

It is important that the Government should do so. Public support is essential for any measures it may take and, as the case of Jenderam has shown, support may be forfeited if some of the facts are concealed. The Secretary for Defence, in his statement in the Federal Council, made out an indictment against Jenderam which Councillors could not challenge. Yet he said nothing which could not have

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9 April 1952 - It is distressing that Tanjong Malim should become a party issue at Westminster. i After the little flare-up in the Commons, has come the debate in the Lords. It is right that Parliament should speak to its brief, and take seriously its responsibility for British I...

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Singapore, Fri., Apr. 4, 1952.

Sentence And Protest

4 April 1952 - Singapore, Fri., Apr. 4, 1952. Sentence And Protest Critics of the High Commissioner for the action he has taken against Tanjong Malim district must make up their minds whether they are attacking the principle of collective punishment, or only its imposition in the case of Tanjong Malim. The Federal Government...

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A Stake At Pusing

25 January 1951 - (XS the Port Dickson road, a few days ago, Dato Tan Cheng Lock reiterated his argument that to wean the Chinese from Communism we must give them a stake in the country Seeing this argument so frequently mentioned in the Press, not least by the Chinese...

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The Singapore Free Press

FRIDAY, April 4, 1952. Police & Chinese

4 April 1952 - The Singapore Free Press FRIDAY, April 4, 1952. Police Chinese IT is fast becoming a habit with a section of the Labour Party to attack the Conservative Government for adopting policies which they themselves practised when they were in office. Thus, Mr. Churchill was criticised for promising British support for...

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FOOD SHOPS ALLOWED TO OPEN TWO HOURS A DAY



been said at the time. Convincing as the indictment was, however, the impression is still left that Jenderam became what it was partly because of Government inability to take any kind of action earlier. Mr. Watherston told the Council how a hundred villagers made their separate trek to Kuala Lumpur to beg the Government to act. Jenderam did not become a problem village overnight. Possibly there was a stage when action less drastic than that which was finally found necessary could have restored the situation. And so with Pusing.

These are far from normal times, and measures which would be repugnant in the ordinary way must now be tolerated. The public accepts this fact, and will support these measures when it is convinced of their necessity. But it must be given the information on which to form an opinion. It cannot be expected to have no opinion at all.



Punishing Pusing

The fuller story of Jenderam, told in the Federal Legislative Council by the Secretary for Defence, and the "last warning" which has now been given to "the worst town in the Federation", will help limit the optimism which has recently coloured the Emergency outlook. Heavily fined only a few weeks ago, the town of Pusing apparently was taught nothing by its brief experience of the power of the law. The murder of another constable within the wired perimeter of the town, in circumstances which suggest that townspeople know more than they will say, has brought the warning that this must be the last incident. If Pusing's inhabitants are unable to look after themselves, other arrangements will be made.

That means whatever the authorities later choose that it should mean. The possibilities can be most unpleasant, as the fate of Jenderam has shown. The entire population of Jenderam was removed to a detention camp in Johore, and an area extending about ten



OF EASY TWO HOURS A DAY

23 January 1951 - nTenff^esol^rQnTirBTTenfe^^ From Our Staff Correspondent IPOH, Monday. THE collective fine of \$40,000 imposed on the mining township of Fusing on Saturday was confirmed today by the Mentri Besir of Perak but the order for the total closure of all shops has...

The Straits Times / Article

Townspeople speak, 24 suspects held

31 March 1955 - Townspeople speak, 24 suspects held SIR GEOFFREY PRAISES WAR COMMITTEE AND MORALE IN SENAI HAS NEVER BEEN HIGHER SKNAI, Johore, Wednesday. TOWN COUNCHOBBS here enthusiastically declared today "Morale has never been higher in Senai." Almost as they spoke, message from the Director of Operations, General Sir Geoffrey Bourne, was received...

The Straits Times / Article

The Ghost Villages

22 May 1956 - The New Villages have been out of the limelight for some time; mainly because they are no longer, as they were a few years ago, of immediate and vital concern in the war against terrorism. Now that the terrorists are a wanling force, and the 600,000 ex-squatters...

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0. miles round the village has
0. since remained closed. But if
a- measures as drastic as this are
t- contemplated for Pusing, the
g- Government should make pub-
0. lic as soon as it conveniently
t- can the facts on which it
s- proposes to act. This was not
h- done in the case of Jenderam,
r- and the result was much un-
r- necessary suspicion, still not
r- entirely dispersed despite Mr.
1. Watherston's statement in the
0. Federal Council. What steps
y- have in fact been taken in
it- Pusing to control the town-
0. ship? The District Officer has
n- spoken of the town's inhabi-
n- tants being "unable to look
e- after themselves." It is a
e- strange phrase which clearly
d- needs an explanation. How far
d- are the people of Pusing, and
d- of other terror ridden towns
d- and villages, supposed to be
r- able to look after themselves?
r- Where does official respon-
sibility begin or end?

There have been no signs of Pusing trying to help itself, the District Officer has added. The blukar outside the perimeter fence has not been kept cut, and the town has failed to recruit a full Home Guard. Whose fault is this? Even Kuala Lumpur has failed to recruit a full Home Guard and although the circumstances admittedly are hardly the same, it is far, far easier for the Federal capital to establish a Home Guard than it is for Pusing. How seriously must the Kuala Lumpur failure be taken? And who is really responsible for the perimeter fence in Pusing, the townspeople or the police and the other representatives of the Government, law and order? Since Pusing was fined, what has been done to help the townspeople look after themselves? What kind of police post has been established there, and are there adequate arrangements for reinforcement if reinforcement is needed?

There may be perfectly satisfactory answers to all these

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