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The Straits Times / Article

The Sport Of Party

9 April 1952 - It is distressing that Tanjong Malim should become a party issue at Westminster. 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 L...

The Straits Times / Article

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...

The Straits Times / Article

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...

The Singapore Free Press / Article

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...

The Straits Times / Article

FOOD SHOPS ALLOWED TO OPEN TWO HOURS A DAY



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



been said at the time. Con-
vincing 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 Govern-
ment 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 in-
formation on which to form an
opinion. It cannot be expected
to have no opinion at all.



Punishing Pusing

The fuller story of Jender-
am, 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 cir-
cumstances which suggest that
townspeople know more than
they will say, has brought the
warning that this must be the
last incident. If Pusing's in-
habitants are unable to look
after themselves, other ar-
rangements 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 Jen-
deram was removed to a de-
tention camp in Johore, and
an area extending about ten



OPEN TWO HOURS A DAY

23 January 1951 - nTenff^esol^rQnTir&ITTenfe^^
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 Besfir 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 COUNCHXOBB here
enthusiastically declared today "Morale has never
heen 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 waning force, and the
600,000 ex-squatters...

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miles round the village has since remained closed. But if measures as drastic as this are contemplated for Pusing, the Government should make public as soon as it conveniently can the facts on which it proposes to act. This was not done in the case of Jenderam, and the result was much unnecessary suspicion, still not entirely dispersed despite Mr. Watherston's statement in the Federal Council. What steps have in fact been taken in Pusing to control the township? The District Officer has spoken of the town's inhabitants being "unable to look after themselves." It is a strange phrase which clearly needs an explanation. How far are the people of Pusing, and of other terror ridden towns and villages, supposed to be able to look after themselves? Where does official responsibility 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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