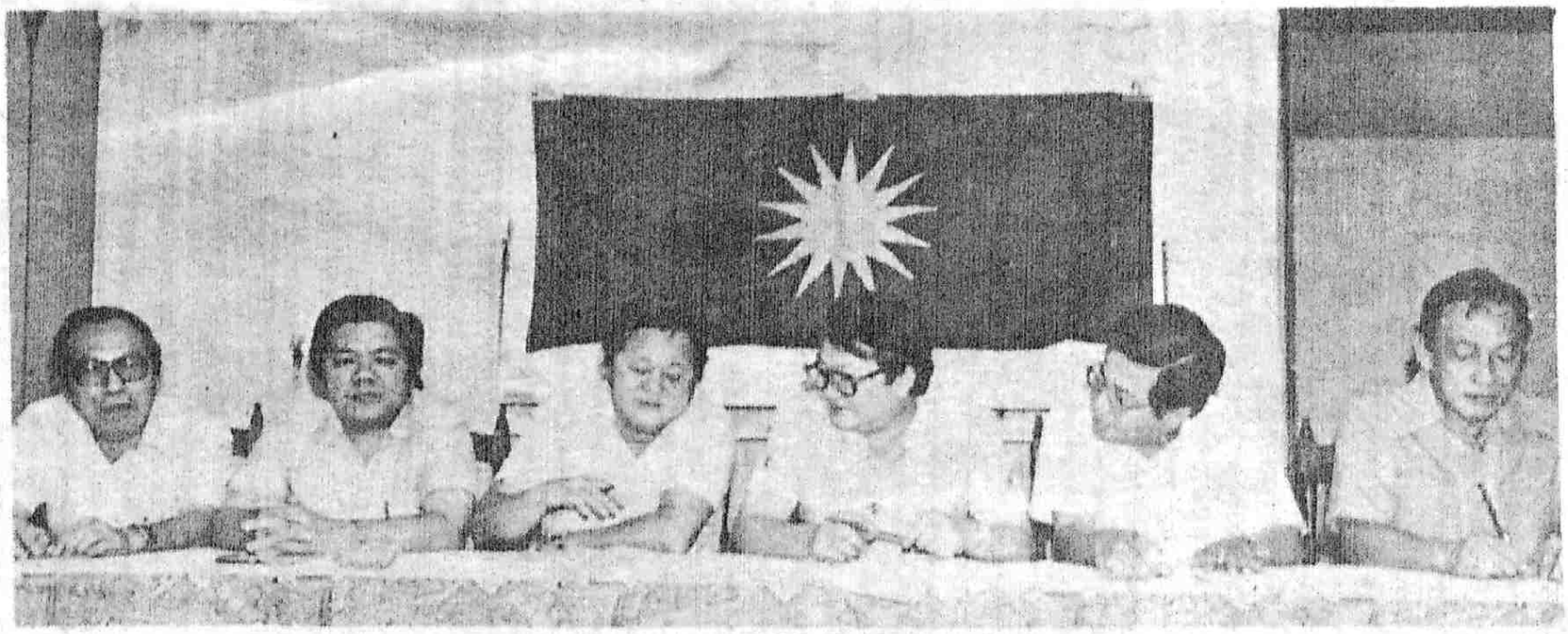
GANG OF 3 JOINS MCA



Six men, one aim: Chinese unity. From left — Mr Goh Lim Eam, MCA vice-president Datuk Dr Neo Yee Pan, Mr Seow Hun Khim, Datuk Lee San Choon, Mr Chin Nyok Soo and Penang MCA chief Mr Lim Kean Siew.

EX-DAP LEADERS: ALL CHINESE MUST UNITE

PENANG, Sun. — Three former Penang DAP leaders joined the MCA today, citing Chinese unity as the principal reason for their decision.

They are Mr Seow Hum Khim, Mr Chin Nyok Soo and Mr Goh Lim Eam, popularly known as the "Gang of Three."

MCA president Datuk Lee San Choon, who announced their decision at a Press conference here, said they were joining the MCA without any condition.

"Theirs is a just and brave decision. It is our hope that more and more Malaysians of Chinese origin will likewise recognise the political realities they have outlined and play their part to strengthen the MCA," he said.

"There is no more eloquent testimony to the correctness of the MCA's approach than the decision of our three new colleagues to join the party today."

Mr Seow, the MP for Bukit Mertajam and State Assemblyman for Pekan Bukit Mertajam, was the Penang DAP vice-chairman.

Mr Chin, the Assemblyman for Paya Terubong, was the DAP State publicity chief, while Mr Goh was the DAP State secretary.

They were expelled from the DAP during the crisis that arose from the party's defeat in the Pengkalan Kota by-election in November.

The entry of Mr Seow and Mr Chin gives the MCA a three-seat boost — one in Parliament, and two in the Penang State Assembly.

The party now has 17 members of Parliament, and five members in the Penang Assembly.

Observers said the trio's decision was also a tremendous boost to the MCA's efforts to unite the Chinese Malaysians.

"Their decision reflects the growing awareness among the Chinese Malaysians that they have a common destiny and must act as one, and that they must not be split into groups and weakened," the observers said.

Datuk Lee said it was significant that all three men had cited Chinese unity as the principal reason for their decision.

"This is a concept the party has been expounding for quite some time, and it is gratifying to note that everywhere there is increasing understanding of what it means and what it implies," he said.

Datuk Lee said no community could expect to secure a fair and equitable share of the country's wealth and opportunities if it did not have the organisation and the resolve to struggle for them.

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Bahan asal dari Arkib Negara Malaysia

GANG OF 3: MORE CHINESE PARTIES, WORSE FOR CHINESE

Datuk Lee San Choon welcoming the Gang of Three — Mr Seow Hun Khim . . .

PENANG, Sun. — There are too many Chinese-based parties in the country — and the Chinese Malaysians are suffering for it, Penang's "Gang of Three" said today.

Commenting on former DAP political bureau director Chan Teck Chan's move to form a new party, they said: "We admire his guts and spirit in wanting to form a new political party.

"However, we must consider whether another Chinese-based party will consolidate or split Chinese unity.

"There are already too many Chinese-based parties, and the more such parties there are, the worse it is for the Chinese Malaysians."

The Gang of Three — Mr Seow Hun Khim, Mr Chin Nyok Soo and Mr Goh Lim Eam — were speaking at a Press conference where MCA president Datuk Lee San Choon announced their decision to join the MCA.

The three former DAP leaders were also asked why they decided to join the MCA today, and not later.

Replying on behalf of his colleagues, Mr Chin said their decision was based on a number of grounds, the main one being Chinese unity.

"We are also aware that the High Court will be handing down its decision tomorrow in the suit brought by an MCA member to nullify the elections at the party's general assembly in 1979," Mr Chin said.

"We want to make it clear that whatever the court decision, we are joining the MCA because we believe in the party and in Chinese unity.

"We are not opportunists — we support the party, whatever the decision may be tomorrow."

Mr Seow said they still had the same ideals — to fight for a fair and equitable multi-racial society.

"In the MCA, we will be adopting a different approach," he said.

"We have realised that the DAP's empty slogan-shouting will not achieve anything."

Mr Goh said that although the DAP's slogans appealed to him when he joined the party in 1972, he had discovered that its approach to problems would not work.

"Opposition for the sake of opposition will lead the Chinese Malaysians nowhere," he said.

"The DAP approach is an approach for political leaders to make heroes of themselves."

He said the MCA approach was moderate and acceptable.

"I am accepting this approach to fight for my political ideals," he said.

The three men said they expected many of their former DAP colleagues and supporters to join the MCA and boost Chinese Malaysian unity.

Datuk Lee San Choon, asked how Mr Goh would fit in as he was neither a State Assemblyman nor an MP, replied:

"The MCA welcomes people with calibre. We open our doors not only to elected representatives, but also to all those who can participate and help in strengthening the party."

He said Mr Goh had worked very closely with Mr Seow and Mr Chin, and had expressed his desire to join the MCA.

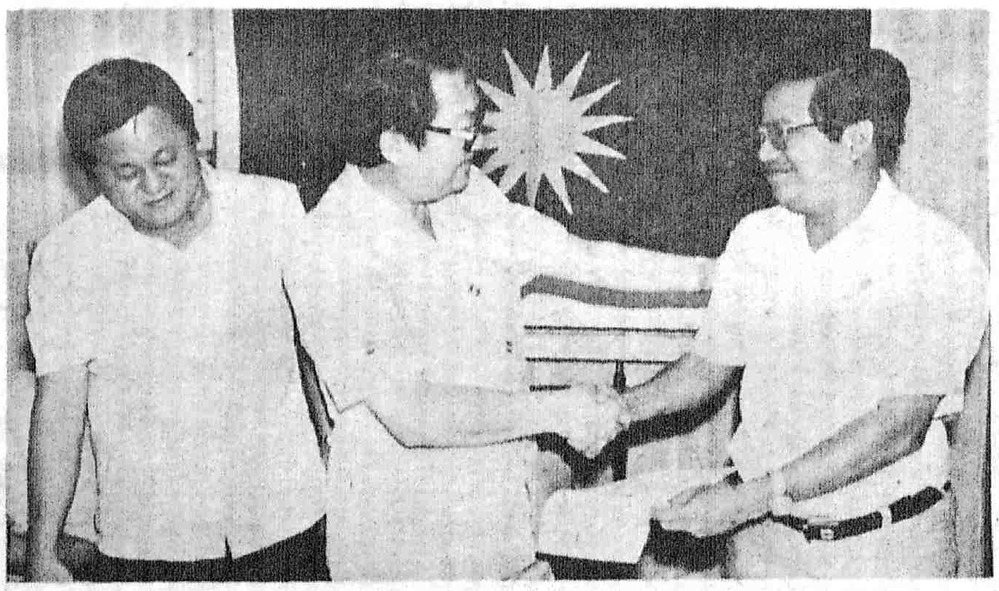
"We welcome him as we welcome a State Assemblyman or an MP."

Datuk Lee later called on Chief Minister and Penang Barisan Nasional chairman Dr Lim Chong Eu to inform him of the trio's decision to join the MCA.

Gerakan president Dr Lim Keng Yaik was told about it later by MCA vice-president Datuk Dr Neo Yee Pan.

Former DAP leaders:

We must stop splitting the Chinese



Mr Chin Nyok Soo . . .

and Mr Goh Lim Eam

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"Certainly no community that is fragmented and lacking in a common political purpose can expect to achieve these goals," he said.

"In this country, let us never forget that politics is a continuous process of trying to attain an acceptable equilibrium of interests among the different communities, so that no one race will feel that it has been left out in the cold.

"This is a constantly shifting equilibrium, depending on the degree of tolerance and understanding which exist between the races and the compromises and bargains which they have struck among themselves."

Datuk Lee said that for any community to be able to influence this process, it needed to be properly organised and properly led.

For this purpose, the MCA had called on the Chinese to recognise their common destiny and act to enhance their collective strength to help secure a fair and just society.

Datuk Lee said: "Chinese unity, therefore, is a concept which is not intended to deprive others of their legitimate rights and interests: it merely seeks to ensure that Malaysians of Chinese origin will have equal access to the opportunities and wealth of the country."

In a joint statement, the three former DAP leaders said they had decided to join the MCA without any condition.

They said their decision was made after much thought and careful deliberation. They realised the need for Chinese unity to fight for the legitimate rights of the Chinese in the country.

"To achieve unity of all the Malaysians, the individual races must first unite. Therefore, it is now the duty of every Chinese to promote Chinese unity," they said.

"We realise that to achieve unity among the five million Chinese in the country and to consolidate their political strength, we have to stop splitting them into more and more groups.

"We join the MCA because we are conscious of the needs of the Chinese community.

"We want to fight for the democratic rights of the five million Chinese. These ends cannot be achieved by empty slogan-shouting. They can only be achieved if we consolidate our strength for a just cause."

The trio said the politics of the past 10 years had clearly indicated that in multi-racial Malaysia, political participation along communal lines was the only correct approach.

"We have realised from practical experience that politics must be based on strength, especially in the present racial political structure. The lack of racial unity has also meant an inability to reflect the hopes and aspirations of the community."

They said the Chinese in the country had gradually realised the importance of racial unity.

"They have begun to realise that merely to voice their grievances to satisfy their emotions will only dissipate their political strength and can only bring about more losses, more grievances and more venting of their emotions.

"This vicious circle will only lead them into a rut from which they cannot recover."

The trio cited the current controversy over Multi-Purpose Holdings' proposed take-over of the UMBC as "a good political lesson for the Chinese".

Without political strength, they would be the victims of those who played on emotions and the extremists who were prepared to go to any lengths to achieve their personal short-term objectives.

"We feel that our decision to join the MCA is a correct decision. History will prove us right," they said.

"What we have decided to do will help to further promote Chinese unity to protect our dignity, democracy and our rights. We are prepared to play our part."

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