



*A series of twelve Radio Talks on the
struggle for independence through Merger
between Singapore and the Federation
of Malaya*



*The Prime Minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, at the microphone at
Radio Singapore.*

**THE
BATTLE
FOR
MERGER**

**By LEE KUAN YEW
Prime Minister of Singapore**

BATTLE FOR MERGER

A series of twelve talks broadcast by the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, over Radio Singapore between September 13, 1961 and October 9, 1961.

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INTRODUCTION

THESSE TWELVE talks were written to clarify and explain the political situation in Singapore and the Federation. The immediate aim was to prevent people from being confused by the Communists, their front organisations and front men. All should be able to see where the truth lies, and what the future has in store for us.

But as this is the first time the united front veil of anti-colonialism is drawn aside, a fair amount of background explanation has been necessary. It is this background which may be of more than ephemeral interest.

I have included in the Appendices of this book, a letter from James Puthucheary, which was confidential only as long as he was in prison and documents in the handwriting of Lim Chin Siong which speak for themselves.

James Puthucheary has tried to make out in his recent letter to the press that all this talk of Communists and Communism is a bogey, and that Lim Chin Siong is a good honest democrat. In his letter Puthucheary clearly said that he himself was a member of the Communist-controlled Anti-British League and traces the reasons for his break with them. He also explained how the Communists have systematically penetrated lawful democratic organisations to capture and subvert the leadership. The three documents in Lim Chin Siong's handwriting will dispel any pretence that he is other than what he always has been, a Communist open-front leader. James Puthucheary has always known this.

From time to time in the next few years, students of Malayan politics, foreign correspondents and newspaper men may find the documents that have been added in the appendices of reference value.

The persons who have written them, both non-Communists and Communists, are likely to continue to play an important part in the events of the next few years. For better or for

worse, we a nationalist left and they a Communist left have brought the fight, the silent struggle for supremacy over the hearts and minds of the workers and the people of Malaya, out into the open.

What they have written and what they have agreed to in writing, they may have cause to regret. But that is no reason why they should not be reminded of their solemn political undertakings given to us when we were together in an anti-colonial front.

We have also published our statements so that everybody can decide who stands in Malaya, for what kind of Malaya.

My colleagues and I in the P.A.P. are one of the few groups that have worked in a united front with the Malayan Communist Party and have not been absorbed. John Eber, Lim Kean Chye, Devan Nair, the late Dr. Joseph Tan, P. V. Sharma, and the whole group of the Malayan Democratic Union activists started off before us, in the same way, basically nationalists with radical socialist views, but non-Communist.

Their statements and documents, to which I have had access since the P.A.P. formed the government, make fascinating reading. They went in and worked with the Communists in one united front convinced that it was right to join the Communists to defeat the common enemy—British colonialism. They also anticipated a time when the British would fade out from the arena and they would have to meet the challenge from the Communists. But unlike us, in the process of the anti-colonial struggle, they were absorbed by the Communists.

There are other groups like us scattered throughout Malaya, Left-wing nationalists, not Communists, who have worked with the Communists and know them well.

Those who have travelled along similar paths may find some interest in comparing their experiences with ours. Our experience may also interest others who have yet to meet

these Communist and pro-Communist cadres in political parties, trade unions, cultural organisations, old boys' associations, student clubs and so on.

But whether we personally have to meet these Communist cadres or not, we are all none the less involved if the Communist struggle for power ever succeeds in Malaya.

Arthur J. ...
21.10.67.