

Zam: Chinese too fought against communists

By MANJIT KAUR
manjit@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: There is common misperception that only the Malays had fought against communist terrorists in the early years of the country's independence, said Information Minister Datuk Seri Zainuddin Maidin.

The Chinese too contributed, he said, adding that this helped to bring the Malays and Chinese closer together.

"The young generation should be told about such history," he said,

commenting on an event to mark the 46th year of the death of MCA founding president Tun Tan Cheng Lock.

"With books and movies being produced on the defunct Communist Party of Malaya, such misperception may have negative connotation," he said here yesterday.

Commending the MCA for holding the event, Zainuddin said he was impressed with the in-depth knowledge shown by party president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting on the roles played by several leaders in the creation of the country's unique political arrangement of inter-eth-

nic cooperation and power sharing.

"I am happy that the MCA acknowledges that Tun Tan Cheng Lock, along with Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak and Tun V.T. Sambanthan, were the founding fathers of independent Malaya," he said.

"We need such common understanding to create awareness about the multi-racial struggle for the country's independence."

Zainuddin said that acknowledging the fact that certain people had struggled for the country's independence would further strengthen ties between Umno and the MCA.

A common understanding of history will teach the young that the Malays and the Chinese had just one goal, and that was to fight against communism, he added.

"Some young Malays and Chinese may be misled by the chauvinism and extremism of the communists, which can pose a danger to the country," he noted.

He felt it was important to educate young Malaysians about history, saying that he would play his role by airing such information over RTM, adding that *The Star* too could have more articles on history.

The Star - 16/12/2006