

FONG CHONG PIK

The Memoirs of a Malayan Communist Revolutionary



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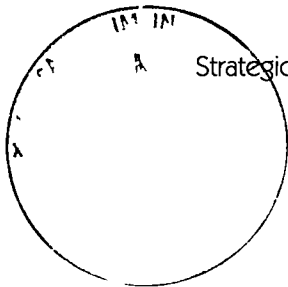


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Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	vii
<i>Map 1: Route to the 12th Detachment</i>	x
<i>Map 2: Camps Established during Military Diversion, 1978–1990</i>	xi
<i>Photographs</i>	xii

Part One: My Days in the Singapore Underground

Introduction: History and Historical Destiny	3
1 The Various Faces of the Anti-colonial Struggles	7
2 Wandering Outside the Political Circle	27
3 Hesitation at the Gate of the Political Circle	55
4 Tossing and Turning in the Political Circle	73
5 Secret Activities in the Jaws of the Lion	95
6 The Three-Member Working Group	117
7 Endure Humiliation, Unite to Oppose Colonialism	133
8 A British-directed Merger	147
<i>Appendix 1: “If Heaven has Feelings”, A Chat with Friends</i>	163
<i>Appendix 2: On Lim Chin Siong and My Life Experience</i>	175

Part Two: Guerrilla Life on the Malaysian-Thai Border

1 Arriving at the Border Region	181
2 Entering the Jungle	185
3 With the Special Force	193
4 Japanese Friends	199
5 The 12th Detachment	205
6 Jungle Guerrilla Activity in the Border Region	209
7 Main Force Diverts	213
8 Small Units Attack	225
9 Mine Warfare	231
10 Air Warfare	235
11 Food and Material Supply	237
12 Medical Services	247
13 Running Water	255
14 “Jungle Spirit”	257
15 The Four Dreads	263
16 The Four Loves	273
<i>Epilogue</i>	283
<i>Index</i>	284

Foreword

Fong Chong Pik (also written as Fang Zhuang Bi, Fang Chuang Pi, Fang Chuang Pie) was born in China in 1926, and came with his mother to Singapore at an early age. Before World War II, he attended Shu Qin Primary School. During the Japanese invasion of China and before Japanese imperialism reached Malaya, he was active in the anti-Japanese campaign in Singapore. Because he had to support himself, he only spent one year and three months to graduate from a three-year senior high program in Hua Zhong or Hua Qiao Zhong Xue (Overseas Chinese High School) in 1948. He attended St Andrew's English School for less than a year following his graduation from Hua Zhong.

Fong became a member of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) in 1950. He worked underground in Singapore until the early 1960s. During much of this time, his responsibility was to produce the party's Singapore underground organization's paper, *Freedom News*, and he had little involvement in other forms of revolutionary activity. His leadership of the Singapore underground began with his appointment as a member of a triumvirate to implement the policies of the party central committee in 1957. Those policies concerned the expansion of open struggles and strengthening of the united front with the People's Action Party (PAP) with the view to push for the ending of colonial rule. It was to implement these policies that he met with Lee Kuan Yew, the leader of the PAP, who later gave him the title, the Plen.

Police actions against the communists and left-wing activists in the late 1950s and early 60s forced him to withdraw with a few dozen of his comrades to Indonesia, from where he continued to direct CPM activities in Singapore. He made trips to China to consult with the CPM leadership. In 1977, he joined the CPM guerrillas on the Malaysian-Thai border.

Fong played an informal part in the tripartite negotiations between the CPM and Malaysian and Thai governments that led to the signing of the Haadyai Peace Agreement in 1989. With the settlement of the forty-