

**The Electric New Paper (Singapore)**

**Once feared communist leader spotted in S'pore**

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**By Faith Teo**

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RUNNING dog.

If you were branded one in the late '40s and '50s, you'd most likely live in fear.

That was the name the Malayan Communist Party gave people who sympathised with the colonial government in Singapore and Malaysia.

And the penalty was death.

The man who headed that infamous organisation - Chin Peng.

A name that struck fear then.

But all that is in the past. The MCP has long been a spent force. (See report below.)

Today, Chin Peng is a portly 82-year-old who lives in Thailand.

Despite repeated pleas recently to re-enter Malaysia, the country has banned him.

Singapore does not want him either, but has previously allowed him in for a few days for special reasons.

Which could explain why he was spotted here again currently.

But the special reasons remain unclear.

Perhaps, it could be that a documentary based on him, I Love Malaya, will be launched tomorrow.

Made by five Singaporean film-makers, it was inspired by the life that Chin Peng has led and his bid to return home to Malaysia.

**UNREPENTANT**

It views him as unrepentant because he will not denounce his political beliefs and violent past.

But the documentary makers said they weren't sure why he's here.

We asked the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Iseas), which gave a \$20,000 grant for the making of the documentary, if it had invited Chin Peng here again.

No, said the Iseas head of administration, Mrs Y L Lee. Not this time.

What about the Asian Civilisations Museum, which is hosting the screening?

Spokesman Jennifer Quong said the museum is not involved in the inviting of guests for events, and was not aware that Chin Peng is here.

Banned from entering Singapore, he made his first trip here after 56 years, in 2004, to speak at the Iseas.

The three-day visit, made possible by special permission granted by the Singapore Government, received wide media coverage.

In March last year, his lawyer filed papers at a high court in Penang to fight his exile from Malaysia. The case was moved to Kuala Lumpur, where it opened to protests from 150 former police and army personnel.

His lawyer, Mr Darshan Singh, told The New Paper yesterday that the case has been stalled because of the movement of judges within the Appellate and Special Powers Division of the KL High Court.

He added that the case will resume in January or February next year.

Band of armed terrorists hiding in Malaysian jungle

CHIN Peng was secretary-general of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP) for 42 years until 1989.

The MCP was set up in 1930 with an aim of overthrowing the British colonial government.

But it lent its support to the British during the Japanese Occupation in World War II.

Chin Peng even received an award from the queen which was later repealed when the MCP returned to its original aim after the war.

In 1948, the MCP started its violent campaign of assassinations and strikes.

A state of emergency was called and it lasted until the British left in 1960.

At the height of the MCP's reach, Chin Peng controlled thousands of fully-armed terrorists who operated out of the Malaysian jungle.

It also had many informers in the cities.

**TOUGH TACTICS**

But eventually, tough tactics by the British and the independence of Malaysia, followed by Singapore, eroded its power.

In the '60s, the once strong force was a shadow of itself. Its leaders were either dead or had given themselves up.

Chin Peng escaped to China in 1961.

In 1989, a peace agreement was signed between the MCP, and the Malaysian and Thai authorities.

While most of the remaining 1,200 members went home, about 150 Malaysians and Singaporeans either refused to leave or, like Chin Peng, were not allowed to go home.

They settled into four villages set up in Southern Thailand by Thai princess Chulaporn.

Chin Peng has been living in one of these 'peace villages' since.

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