

Ref: 2601/005

'S' Group, D.S.B.

22nd April, 1954.

Dear *Supo*

During your last visit I asked your advice about siting intercept detachments in Malaya. Here are the relevant details.

We are under an obligation to assist the Security Forces in coping with the activities of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP). The seriousness of the situation may be gauged by the fact that over 8500 people have lost their lives during the last five years and hundred of thousands of rubber trees have been destroyed.

Our task, of course, is to find the wireless communications and hence to give information on "the heart and brains of the Party".

We have always assumed that three types of links might exist:

- (i) External links to or
 - (ii) Internal links between state committees.
 - (iii) Tactical links of an operational nature.
- i.e. long distance, medium distance and short distance links.

We do not have all the resources we would like for the task and we cannot entirely dissociate search for MCP from search in support of the rest of D.S.B's operations.

Our general plan is to carry out general search from referring to D.S.B. by special signal, intercepts which look particularly suspicious. If our own search or collateral information turns up something particularly interesting, we are prepared (and have done on three past occasions) to send short term detachments (of AMF) to "favourable" sites in Malaya. One such detachment is at present at (approx.), following information received from a defector some months ago.

All our experience and collateral information lead us to the conclusion that wireless if used at all, is only used in an unsophisticated manner. It is, of course, important that we continue to look in case a well organised system should appear and even to intercept what scraps are available, if any.

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MCP activity takes place in every state of the Federation but head the list with not far behind.

In captured documents and defectours statements, frequencies have been mentioned which span the ganut 4-10 mc/s, but sets (usually unserviceable) have been captured which tune from 3-16 mc/s.

To date there has been no positive identification of MCP transmissions. [One of our great difficulties is that we do not really know what an MCP transmission would look like. Since the movement is largely run by it may "look" but on the other hand the original wartime MCP came under the active tutelage of and hence MCP transmissions may well have a army "look".] Early in March, at a time when we were contemplating withdrawing the detachment, it intercepted (indifferently) for three days one end of a link which, mainly because place names in Malaya were mentioned in P/L, was considered to be the most likely candidate for MCP yet seen. The frequency was 7132 kc/s and time 1430Z. though on the alert did not hear the transmission at any time and no more of it has been heard at or at all of which were alerted. On 5th April, intercepted (again indifferently) a call sign tallying with that used by the other end of the link. No further continuity has been obtained from any station.

The foregoing intercepts have created great excitement in the Federation although at D.S.B. we have refused to be committed beyond - "the most likely thing so far, but of no substance in itself". However, it is clear that, whether we agree or not the case for putting out detachments (since the transmissions were heard at and nowhere else) is firmly established in the minds of the Federation authorities and the subject is too political for us to express a contrary view at the present time even should it be based on the soundest sigint and technical radio advice!

It is unlikely that we could provide more than two twentyfour hour positions (or their equivalent) at each of two sites. The hours of darkness are considered by the Federation authorities to be the most likely hours of operation, hence we could search a narrow band fairly thoroughly at night with no daylight work, or do the same band less thoroughly for twentyfour hours. Since the reason for putting out detachments would be the uniqueness of interception at that site, a policy of searching one portion of the band at one site, and another portion at another site would appear to be wrong. It might be better to concentrate resources at one site only.

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The questions to which I should like answers are:-

(i) Are detachments (which are manned at the expense
of intercept at) likely to increase
the chances of interception?

(ii) If so, how many and where.

I would be grateful for your opinion on the matter,
realising that the data are not all you could wish them to be.
If there are any other aspects on which I might be able to
help, please let me know.

Yours

