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GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

HQ FAR EAST COMMAND

Telephone: 2801, ext. 21355

21st April 1967

GCO/0959/20/7
15/1

Director
DSD

Copy to SPO



F13 FILE
31/9/14

COMMUNIST TERRORIST ORGANISATION - BORDER

Further to the CTO Order of Battle forwarded to you under cover of our GCO/0921/20/7 of 7th April 1967. The following extracts from a note prepared by SLO(M) as a result of his visit to [redacted] and the North West border area add to our knowledge. The report is to be taken into consideration by JIS in preparation, at direction of JICFE, of a paper which "would review recent developments in the [redacted] border area and assess the resultant threat to [redacted]". This paper is to take into consideration SLO(M)'s report, and a visit yet to be made by [redacted] a First Secretary of the [redacted] to [redacted] under the auspices of the [redacted]. The JIS paper is not expected to be ready for a couple of months.

2. SLO(M) has drawn attention to the fact note is compiled mainly from impressions of conversations and not from detailed study of original intelligence despite having seen some captured documents. The figures must therefore not be regarded as authoritative.

3. The penultimate paragraph is the only one which is [redacted]

" Communist Terrorist Organisation (C.T.O.)

The organisation of the C.T.O. at the directing level consists of a Central Committee, Politburo, Secretariat, and Military Headquarters. Below this at regional level (see para. 6 below) are the State Committee, with a Politburo, Secretariat and Regimental Headquarters, and below that again District and Branch Committees.

The C.T.O. has long had links with the [redacted] border region and indeed when the Emergency broke out in 1948 the 8th Regiment left an independent platoon in the [redacted] area and the 12th Regiment an independent platoon in the [redacted] area to secure their firm base. The Secretary-General's group began to move back in about 1953 and the disposition along the border is now as follows (strengths are approximations only):-

(a) [redacted]

(b) [redacted]

(c) [redacted]

(d)

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(d)

Malayan Communist Youth League (M.C.Y.L.)

In two documents seen during the visit there were varying reports of size: one report, prepared for a briefing on 28th February, showed the M.C.Y.L. in 8th Regiment area as at least 70 strong and the M.C.Y.L. in 12th Regiment area as at least 371. This did not, however, square with the total shown in a summary prepared for the General Border Committee which matched the previous estimates of 1,000 - 1,500. Moreover, one of the captured documents seen showed that there were 67 M.C.Y.L. units in the area alone.

Contacts etc., by the Security Forces 1966

(a) Contacts with C.T. groups.

8th Regiment - 18
12th Regiment - 3
10th Regiment - 3

(b) Camps found

	<u>8th Regt.</u>	<u>10th Regt.</u>	<u>12th Regt.</u>
For under 20	10	-	2
For 20 - 100	5	-	4
For 100 +	1	-	4

The Bamboo Area

When 12th Regiment finally withdrew to [redacted] after about 1955, they left a group of 20 known C.T.s on the Malaysian side of the border in the [redacted] area in [redacted]. Although these 20 are still shown there on records, this is simply because there is no up-to-date information of their whereabouts. H.S.B. does not believe that they are now in Malaysia. The last confirmed sighting of C.Ts inside Malaysia was by New Zealand troops near the [redacted] some years ago, and the C.Ts in question withdrew at once. [redacted] thought that it was unlikely that C.Ts were now resident on the Malaysian side.

The [redacted] officers are in little doubt that the [redacted] area is effectively controlled by the C.T.O. and other areas on the South [redacted] border more or less dominated. They agreed, however,

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that the [redacted] were making greater efforts than had previously been the case and said that these were being encouraged by the Americans: in particular by [redacted] who were represented under cover of [redacted] and the [redacted]. It was believed that [redacted] nevertheless received little intelligence from the [redacted] and were trying to remedy this. [redacted] have offered to provide a much needed research unit for C.I.H but, although the Malaysians are willing to accept this, the [redacted] have so far refused.

C.T. Communications

LT The senior Malaysian Special Branch Officer from C.I.H. said that there is ample evidence that the C.Ts have wireless receivers to listen to [redacted] and that they may well obtain direct instructions from there. There is no indication that wireless is used for lateral communications but there is ample evidence of the use of more or less over couriers. It is known that the C.Ts use motorcycles for this purpose. Communications with Malaysia are thought to be by courier using clandestine methods and numerous live letter boxes. "

L C McKane

(L. C. McKane)

Government Communications Officer.

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