

7/6

OP 160144Z/03

FROM DSB

TO GCO SINGAPORE

BT

~~TOP SECRET.~~

LIEVEN FROM RENDLE. [REDACTED] 111426. HERE FOLLOWS FIRST DRAFT FOR YOU ALONE. SINCE ODDLY ENOUGH IT CONTAINS AN EXPRESSION OF VIEWS IT HAS HAD TO GO TO SHEDDON IF NOT TO MINISTER BEFORE FORMAL DESPATCH TO [REDACTED] AND YOURSELF.

MOST GRATEFUL TO HAVE YOUR COMMENTS TODAY PREFERABLY BY CONFERENCE IF YOU CAN MANAGE IT. PLEASE INDICATE TIME SOONEST. DRAFT BEGINS QUOTE THE SIGINT ORGANISATION, BOTH IN THE U.K. AND IN AUSTRALIA IS KEENLY AWARE OF THE PART WHICH IT HAS BEEN CALLED UPON TO PLAY IN MALAYA. WE REGARD THE DETECTION OF RADIO TRANSMISSIONS OPERATED BY ANTI-GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS AS A LIKELY KEY TO THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF CLANDESTINE COMMUNIST RADIO COMMUNICATIONS THROUGHOUT SOUTH EAST ASIA AND AS A TASK OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE. AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT TO POINT OUT THE ESPECIAL DIFFICULTIES OF THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM AND TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT A RAPID OR EASY SOLUTION COULD BE EXPECTED.

2. AN INTENSIVE WATCH (INCREASED FROM 2 POSITIONS IN APRIL 1952 TO THE PRESENT NUMBER OF 4 POSITIONS) HAS BEEN MAINTAINED AT OUR SINGAPORE STATION ON FREQUENCY BANDS LIKELY TO BE USED FOR CLANDESTINE COMMUNICATIONS. THIS SEARCH IS REINFORCED BY INTERCEPTION POSITIONS IN [REDACTED]

160144Z/03

DIST. DIR

16/3/53 EL.

HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA ALL OF WHICH MIGHT WELL FURNISH THE FIRST CLUE TO THE PROBLEM. IN ADDITION, A DETACHMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY HAS CARRIED OUT TWO EXTENSIVE RECONNAISSANCES IN MALAYA IN THE HOPE OF DETECTING SHORT RANGE TRANSMISSIONS WHICH MAY NOT BE AUDIBLE AT OUR PERMANENT STATIONS. A WEALTH OF MATERIAL HAS BEEN INTERCEPTED COVERING MOST KNOWN TYPES OF ACTIVITY IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND INCLUDING MESSAGES PASSED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY WITHIN [REDACTED] NO ITEM OF THIS MATERIAL HAS LED US TO THE BELIEF THAT IT WAS ORIGINATED BY OR ADDRESSED TO CLANDESTINE ELEMENTS IN MALAYA.

3. FROM THIS NEGATIVE EVIDENCE WE CONCLUDE WITH SOME CONFIDENCE THAT THERE IS STILL NO COMMUNIST NETWORK OF ANY COMPLEXITY REGULARLY FUNCTIONING IN MALAYA. WE APPRECIATE HOWEVER THAT ISOLATED TRANSMISSIONS FUNCTIONING SPASMODICALLY AND PASSING A LOW VOLUME OF TRAFFIC MAY WELL HAVE CONTINUED TO ESCAPE OUR NET. THE PRESENT STRENGTH AND DISPOSITION OF BRITISH COMMONWEALTH INTERCEPTION RESOURCES IN THE FAR EAST IS ADMITTEDLY INADEQUATE TO ENSURE THAT SUCH TRANSMISSIONS ARE

SPEEDILY DETECTED. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT OUR EFFORTS
TO REINFORCE OUR STRENGTH IN THIS AREA WILL SHORTLY BE SUCCESS
-FUL.

WE ARE ALSO GOING AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF
DIRECTION FINDING EQUIPMENT AT [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] AND
BOTH STATIONS SHOULD SHORTLY BE IN OPERATION. THERE IS A
CONTINUAL INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS ON WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPROVING
OUR TECHNIQUES WITH THE RESOURCES AT OUR DISPOSAL AND WE ARE
SATISFIED THAT THE QUALITY OF SIGINT PERSONNEL AT [REDACTED]
IS ENTIRELY ADEQUATE FOR THEIR TASK.

4. IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE TRANSMISSIONS WE ARE
SEEKING, IT IS MORE THAN EVER ESSENTIAL THAT WE SHOULD
RECEIVE WITH A MINIMUM OF DELAY ANY INFORMATION FROM OTHER
SOURCES WHICH MIGHT AID US IN OUR TASK. IN THE PAST ~~THIS~~ THIS
HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE AND WE SHOULD THEREFORE WELCOME ANY
ASSISTANCE YOU CAN GIVE TO IMPROVE THIS SERVICE.

5. FINALLY, WE FEEL OBLIGED TO REPEAT ONCE MORE THE
WARNING THAT EVEN WHEN A SUSPECT TRANSMISSION HAS BEEN
INTERCEPTED IT MAY STILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE WE ARE ABLE
TO PRODUCE INTELLIGENCE OF VALUE TO YOU. BY THE USE OF
SECURE CYPHERS AND BY RESTRICTING COMMUNICATIONS TO A MINIMUM
OF ESSENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE THE OTHER SIDE MAY WELL SET US A

PROBLEM WHICH PERMITS OF NO EARLY SOLUTION. YOU MAY REST
ASSURED HOWEVER THAT THIS PROVISIO WILL NOT PREVENT US FROM
PROSECUTING OUR EFFORT WITH VIGOUR AND DETERMINATION.

UNQUOTE.

DRAFT ENDS.

BT

CFN... OP 160144Z/03 DSB GCO ~~TOP SECRET~~