

DOPE SHEET ON THE BALING TALKS.

670 ft.

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Focal point in South East Asia - Baling in Kedah, north Malaya, near the Siam frontier where Tunku Abdul Rahman, the Chief Minister of the Federation of Malaya and Mr. David Marshall, the Chief Minister of Singapore, are due to arrive for talks with Chin Peng.

Chin Peng is heading a Communist delegation straight out of the jungle where for the past 8 years the Communists have carried on a brutal campaign of murder and terrorism not only against troops and Britson but against their own people.

A temporary home for the Communist delegates is ready to house the terrorists, and essential items are provided. Chin Peng is used to having his own personal cook - he probably considers it safer that way.

The town of Baling is on its toes as the time for the meeting approaches. The people are tense and amongst the crowd are many young children who have known nothing but the overhanging fear of terrorism and restrictions needfully imposed on them by the Emergency Regulations. For these people much may depend on the results of these talks and the possible calling-off of terrorist activity.

The Ministers and other high-ranking Government delegates arrive in good time for the talks, and "Operation Pink Gin", the code name for the Baling meeting, is under way.

Tunku Abdul Rahman and Mr. David Marshall arrive at the Rest House and are briefed by the police on the security arrangements. In spite of Peking Radio's reports that the Baling talks are being sabotaged by military operations, it was the Communists themselves in their recent terrorist attack on Kea Farm in the Cameron Highlands area who abused the amnesty "safe areas" and caused precautions to be tightened up.

Dato Sir Cheng-look Tan, President of the Malayan Chinese Association, accompanies the Ministers to the Rest House. Tunku Abdul Rahman is in the best of spirits as indeed he has every right to be. He is an elected representative of the people of Malaya and has therefore personally refuted the greatest Communist claim - that they themselves are the representatives.

Newspapermen are gathering in force near the meeting place, the English School, as the time draws on. While they are waiting, Mr. John L.H. Davis, the famous Force 136 anti-Japanese guerilla leader and an erstwhile colleague of Chin Peng, is up at Klian Intan on the fringe of the jungle, waiting for the Communists to emerge. There is little ceremony in the arrival of the Communist bosses. Travelling in 2 ordinary police trucks with hard benches, they are brought into Baling where they are taken first to their temporary home, heavily fenced around with barbed wire. With Chin Peng are Chen Tian, the Communist propaganda chief who made all the preliminary arrangements for the talks, and Rashid Mydin who escaped from the Malacca Detention Camp in 1951.

The Government delegates arrive at the Conference Room and are closely followed by Chin Peng and his delegation. However starved the terrorists in the jungle may be, it is obvious that Chin Peng himself has been living well.

In the austere Conference Room, everything is in readiness.

The talks begin and the hopes and fears of the people of Malaya sit beside their delegates. All wish to stop the senseless terror and murder of the past 8 years, yet none desires to yield an inch to the men who perpetrated these crimes.