

PRESS STATEMENT

I see the Minister Mentor has been churning out the same dreary old stuff to the NUS students (ST Feb 1/H6).

To some pertinent and important questions from the students, his only reply is - go on and form a political party. This has been said by the PAP over and over again.

Lee claims Singapore is a democracy. He tells the students - you take your message to the people and if you are right, you will win. "That's democracy".

Why is it necessary for anyone, who feels unhappy over something, to go and form a political party. Why can't those, who are unhappy about any matter, take their message to the people in a peaceful assembly or procession. This is not allowed in Singapore and Lee mocks the students to go and form a political party. He turns a serious discussion into a mocking display.

Instead of telling the students to form a political party, shouldn't he have told them "go and organise a demonstration outside the Istana where the Prime Minister's office is."

Defending the ISA, he says the Jemaah Islamiah in Singapore "would have gone on with its plan to launch seven bomb attacks here" if their leaders had not been arrested under the ISA. Why couldn't they have been arrested and tried in open court if the police had evidence of their plan to launch seven bomb attacks in Singapore.

In another report, Lee talks about the need for change but he does not want any change in the system. It is the system that has to be changed. A system that denies people any say at all in what happens in this country.

Despite all this, Lee and his colleagues still glibly talk about Singapore being a democracy. They must think our people are such fools that they can be bought over with such nonsense. Our people have not been bought over but have been held down by fear. That is the truth that the PAP has to learn.


(J. B. Jeyaretnam)
1 February 2005