

PRESS STATEMENT IGNORANCE OF MINISTERS

I see Jayakumar, one time Professor of Law at the NUS, displayed his ignorance when he told Parliament, when explaining the case of Yeo Eng Siang wrongly convicted and serving time in prison before his appeal could be heard, that "He also did not know of any country that would do so (pay compensation) in such circumstances". (S T Mar 1).

Is he not aware that in Britain there was a body set up some years ago to consider applications for compensation from persons who had been wrongly convicted and spent time in jail. Such ignorance is inexcusable in someone who was a Professor of Law.

Incidentally, what has become of the Chief Justice's promise in Open Court on the Feb 1 that he was going to "call up every fellow in the Subordinate Courts" to learn why Yeo Eng Siang was convicted, Shouldn't we be told now what the Chief Justice has found out.

(J B Jeyaretnam)
2 March 2005