

**The Rubber and Tin Industries in Malaya During The Emergency, 1948-
1960**

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Introduction

The British High Commissioner in Malaya, Sir Edward Gent proclaimed a state of Emergency on 16th June 1948 after the killing of the three European planters by the Communist terrorists in Sungai Siput, Perak. The deceased were Sir Arthur Walker from Elphil Estate; John Allison and Ian Christian from Phin Soon Estate in the area of Sungai Siput. On 18th June 1948, a state of Emergency had extended to the whole of Malaya by the British administration in Malaya.¹ By that, the effort was put to against the Communist terrorists in Malaya until the Emergency ended on 31st July 1960. The period from June 1948 to July 1960 was called as the period of the Emergency in the history of Malaya.

During the period of the Emergency, a considerable acts of violence began to take place all around Malaya. The Communist terrorists attacked the public, police force and soldiers; destroyed public and government properties, including rubber plantations and tin mining sectors. Miners, planters and labourers were victimized by the cruelty of the terrorists. The action taken by the Communist terrorists had caused a lot of difficulties and disturbance in both the daily life of the people and British administration in Malaya. This was the main objective of the Malaya Communist Party (MCP) to end the British administration in Malaya by weakling their administration through terrorism, thus the Communist terrorists could took over Malaya and established a Communist republic in Malaya.

For that purpose, the Communist terrorists launched attacks on the rubber estates and tin mines in the Malay States. These attacks had caused the destruction to the rubber estates and tin mines. They destroyed the mining engines, burnt down smoke houses, factories, hostels or kongsi houses and offices; slashed rubber trees and others. In addition, the labourers, miners and planters who wouldn't corporate with them were brutally murdered. The aim was to terrorize and instil fear into they mind that brought a disruptive influence on their work and their daily lives. This was what the Communist terrorists wanted, to cause unemployment among the labourers. As a result the economy of the country would be affected. Next, the Communist terrorists would intimidate the unemployed labourers to cultivate food crops for them.²

Rubber Estate

The important of the rubber plantations to the British financial position in Malaya and Britain as what had been said by Nicholas J. White:

¹ Federation of Malaya Police Monthly C.I.D. Survey of Crime For June 1948, C.O. 717/175/52849/22, Law and Order, Monthly C.I.D. Survey of Crime, p. 193; Dato' J.J. Raj, Jr., *The War Years & After*, Subang Jaya: Pelanduk Publications, 2000, p. 92. See also Edgar O'Ballance, *Malaya: The Communist Insurgent War, 1948-1960*, London: Faber and Faber, 1960, p. 82; R. Thambipillay, *God's Little Acre; Batu Gajah*, Ipoh: A Perak Planters' Association Publication, 1998, pp. 15-16; Anthony Short, *In Pursuit of Mountain Rats: The Communist Insurrection in Malaya*, Singapore: Cultured Lotus, 2000, p. 94.

² *Handbook To Malaya (Federation of Malaya and The Colony of Singapore) and The Emergency*, Singapore: The Department of Information, Federation of Malaya, Public Relations Office, Singapore and The Regional Information Office, July 1956, p. 17; *The Malay Mail*, 7 February 1950, p. 5; Federation of Malaya Monthly Newsletter No. 8 For The Period 16th August To 15th September 1949, C.O. 717/183/52928/24, Political Developments Monthly Newsletter, p. 39.

Malaya's rubber production . . . produces dollars to an amount that exceeds in total value all domestic exports from Britain to the US . . . if, for any reason, the operation of the great rubber industry are interrupted or seriously impaired, Britain's dollar situation would be rendered more acute than ever. This country would then have less food, less clothes, and there would be fewer dollars with which to buy raw materials – and that would mean unemployment. All of us are thus deeply concerned in what is happening in Malaya.³

The rubber estate was the main target of the Communist terrorists vicious act of terror during the period of the Emergency. In the month of November 1950 alone, the Communist terrorists had destroyed 186 buildings costing approximately two millions dollar worth of damages in the rubber estates in the whole of Malaya. This included a number of the smoke houses, rubber factories, offices, hostels and others.⁴ Meanwhile, between July and December 1951, the value of the destruction in the rubber estates caused by the Communist terrorists had raised to \$8,100,000 comparatively with \$6,300,000 in the year 1950 (July-December).⁵ At the height of the Communists brutality, there were 400 cases reported in the one month regarding the attacks of the Communist terrorists on the rubber estates in Malaya. The figures above showed that the concentration of the Communist terrorists in the action to annihilate the Malaya economic, which strongly depended on the rubber industry.

The Communists attack on the rubber estates also caused dead and injury amongst the rubber tappers and the European planters in Malaya. During the month of July 1954, United Planters Association of Malaya (UPAM) estimated seven percent of the European planters had been killed by the Communist terrorists in Malaya. This situation had forced some of the European planters to request permission to retire early, to avoid been killed by the Communists. On the other hand, the young planters had refused to involve in the plantation sector in Malaya. Furthermore, the management of the European owned estates had faced the hardship to obtain their staffs and retained them in the plantation sector in Malaya during the Emergency. In the year of 1948 alone, 15 planters had been murdered by the Communist terrorists in the rubber estates in the Malaya States. Another 20 planters had been killed by the Communist terrorists by the end of the year 1950.⁶ In the final count after the Emergency in Malaya, 99 European planters and their Malayan counterparts had been murdered by the Communist terrorists in the rubber estates in Malaya.⁷ Table 1 showing some of the names of

³ Nicholas J. White, *Business, Government, and The End of Empire: Malaya 1941-1957*, Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 1996, p. 99.

⁴ *Kwong Wah Yit Poh & Penang Sin Poe*, 5 January 1951, p. 5; Federation of Malaya Political Report No. 12 For December, 1950, p. 6, C.O. 825/82/1/55404/3, Political Intelligence Reports, Federation of Malaya.

⁵ *Indian Daily Mail*, 3 August 1952, p. 1.

⁶ Dato' J.J. Raj, Jr., *The War Years & After*, p. 120.

⁷ *Malayan Bulletin*, Vol. 5, No. 50, 25th February 1951, C.O. 717/205/52932/1951, Association of British Malaya Monthly Bulletin, p. 73; Planters Killed in The Emergency, C.O. 1030/15/FED12/108/04, Casualties Among Rubber Planters In The Federation of Malaya Since The Commencement of The Emergency, pp. 9-10; Names of European Rubber Planters Who Were Not Auxiliary Policemen Killed By Bandits Since The Commencement of The Disturbances In Respect of Whom Claims Have Been Received, C.O. 1022/25/SEA10/35/01, Casualties Among Rubber Planters In Malaya Since The Commencement of The Emergency, pp. 10-11.

the European planters and their Malayan counterparts that had been murdered by the Communist terrorists during the Emergency in Malaya.

Table 1: The Names of The European Planters and Their Malayan Counterparts Had Been Murdered By The Communist Terrorists in Malaya During The Emergency

Name	Date of Incident	Place of Incident
Arthur Walker	16 th June 1948	Elphil Estate, Sungai Siput, Perak
John Allison	16 th June 1948	Phin Soon Estate, Sungai Siput, Perak
Ian Christian	16 th June 1948	Phin Soon Estate, Sungai Siput, Perak
K.W Burnham	4 th August 1948	Bukit Sidim Estate, Kulim, Kedah
J.L. Boden	20 th August 1948	Sembarong Estate, Layang-Layang, Johor
Jack Moss	15 th October 1948	Jerantut Estate, Kuala Lipis, Pahang
S. Harper Ball	20 th October 1948	Craigielea Estate, Muar, Johor
J.Y. Simpson	20 th October 1948	Craigielea Estate, Muar, Johor
J.B. Middleton	8 th November 1948	Sungai Tekal Estate, Mentakab, Pahang
Norman Searson	8 th November 1948	Rasa Estate, Kuala Kubu, Selangor
George Alexander Swanson	26 th November 1948	Johor Estate, Labis, Johor
N. A. Gutsell	10 th February 1949	Kieress Estate, Seremban, N. Sembilan
F.P.W. Harrison	14 th February 1949	Somme Estate, Terap, Kulim
R.J. Wallace	9 th June 1950	-
D.A. Selladurai	8 th October 1950	Pahang
J.B. Wellscott	9 th October 1950	-
C. Petit	31 st October 1950	-
Edward Leggatt	22 nd November 1950	Coronation Estate, Johor
Noel Frank Modder	5 th December 1950	Kajang, Selangor
Edward Alcock	19 th December 1950	Jong Landor Estate, Ipoh, Perak
David Adamson	19 th December 1950	Estet Jong Landor, Ipoh, Perak
W.J. Shaw	10 th January 1951	Brooklands Estate, Banting, Kuala Langat, Selangor
David Duclos	5 th March 1951	Senai Estate, Johor
B.C. Desvergnés	28 th April 1951	-
A.J. Westendorp	16 th June 1951	Alor Gajah, Melaka
R.G.N. Cooper	6 th July 1951	-
T.M. Callanan	16 th July 1951	-
A.D. Paterson	19 th July 1951	Segamat, Johor
E.D. Harding	25 th January 1952	Lothian Estate, Sepang, Selangor

R.E. Bogle	29 th September 1952	Fraser Estate, Kulai, Johor
John Basil Ritson	12 th January 1954	New Rompin Estate, Bahau, N. Sembilan
W.R. MacConachie	2 nd June 1954	Heawood Estate, Sungai Siput, Perak
Robert Chestnut	2 nd June 1954	Heawood Estate, Sungai Siput, Perak
K.D. Paul	13 th March 1955	Santi Estate, Kota Tinggi, Johor

Source: Information in the Table taken from Names of European Rubber Planters Who Were Not Auxiliary Policemen Killed By Bandits Since The Commencement of The Disturbances In Respect of Whom Claims Have Been Received, C.O. 1022/25/SEA10/35/01, Casualties Among Rubber Planters In Malaya Since The Commencement of The Emergency, pp. 10-11.

During the Emergency, the attacks by the Communist terrorists on the rubber estates had destroyed buildings, engines and equipments; disturbed the work of tapping and the labourers daily life. During the first 12 months of the Emergency, between Jun 1948 to July 1949, there were eighteen attacks on the rubber estates by the Communist terrorists and twenty five labourers and contractors were murdered and six rubber tappers had been abducted. They destroyed fifteen kongsis, ten lines, three contractors' houses, nine smoke houses, one latex factory, three packing sheds and stores, two schools and two estate shops.⁸

The destruction caused by the Communist terrorists on the rubber plantation have disrupted and reduced the rubber production in Malaya. Production of rubber by the estates had decreased from 409,372,448.6 kilograms or (402,907 tons) in 1948 to 406,427,944.4 kilograms or (400,009 tons) in 1949. Meanwhile, in the same period, the rubber smallholding too suffered the same ill fate. Their production had reduced to 274,584,669.7 kilograms or (270,248 tons) in 1949 compared with 298,789,957.3 kilograms or (294,071 tons) in the previous year.⁹

Amongst the Communist terrorists attack on the rubber estates included that incident happened at Slim River, Perak on 17th June 1948. A kongsi house at Lima Blas Estate, Kelapa Bali was burnt down by the Communists. The amount of the damage was estimated at \$5,000 and the labourers had lost their living place.¹⁰ In another incident, 15 Communist terrorists attacked the Alburion Estate, near to Rawang, Selangor on 20th February 1949. They

⁸ Labour Department Negeri Sembilan, Report For June 1949, p. 1, Negeri Sembilan State Secretariat File, N.S. State Secretariat No. 260/49, Monthly Report For Labour Department, Negeri Sembilan, 1949.

⁹ Federation of Malaya Memorandum For Commonwealth Conference, London, September 1950, p. 6, C.O. 825/86/1/55425/4B, Regional Cooperation Economic Development, Preparation of Plans By S.E. Asian Territories, Federation of Malaya.

¹⁰ Federation of Malaya Police Monthly C.I.D. Survey of Crime For June 1948, C.O. 717/175/52849/22, Law and Order, Monthly C.I.D. Survey of Crime, p. 196.

had burnt down two smoke houses, a store and five kongsi houses. The damage was estimated at £5,000.¹¹ Then on 9th February 1950, a gang of the Communist terrorists raided a rubber estate near the Mentakab area, Pahang and murdered the estate manager and two labourers. They also abducted other four labourers, including a boy.¹² The terror continued in the Gua Musang area, Kelantan, where the Communist terrorists have slashed some rubber trees and destroyed the equipment at a Chinese owned estate in the early July 1950.¹³

Meantime, on 1st January 1951, a store and two kongsi houses in a rubber estate at Kuala Krau, Temerloh, Pahang was burnt down by the Communist terrorists. The damage was estimated at \$10,000.¹⁴ In the Seremban area, Negeri Sembilan, approximately one thousand of the rubber trees were slashed by the Communist terrorists at Bukit Nanas Estate in February 1952. At the same times, the Communist terrorists also slashed about one thousand of the rubber trees at the Lendu area, Melaka. In the area of Kluang, Segamat, Muar and Johor Bahru, more than seven thousand rubber trees were slashed by the Communists and approximately 7,655.62 litres (1,684 gallons) latex were destroyed.¹⁵

Incidents of the brutality of Communist terrorism continued at the district of Labis, Johor, where a Chinese rubber tapper had been murdered by the Communist terrorists in the early August 1953. The deceased was also a Home Guard from Bekok New Village, Labis, Johor.¹⁶ On 18th October 1955, a couple of rubber tapper was attacked by the Communist terrorists at the Mengkuang area, Temerloh, Pahang, while they were working in the rubber estate. The husband had been executed in front of his wife when his neck was slashed by the terrorists.¹⁷ On 12th October 1956, a rubber tapper was murdered by the Communists at Segamat, Johor, when the deceased was on his way to a rubber estate near the Segamat area.¹⁸ About seven hundred of the rubber trees at one of the rubber estate owned by the member of the Legislative Council at Kajang, Selangor, were slashed by the Communist terrorists on 8th December 1959.¹⁹

¹¹ Colonial Office Malaya, 8th-24th February 1949, C.O. 717/178/52849/62, Law and Order, Weekly Situation Reports Prepared In Eastern Department (Colonial Office), p. 324.

¹² Chronology of Important Events During The Emergency In Malaya For The Period January to June 1950, p. 4, Selangor State Secretariat File, SEL. SEC. 2114/1949, Chronology of Important Events During The Emergency.

¹³ The Security Forces Weekly Intelligence Summary No. 9 For Week Ending 6 July 1950, C.O. 717/198/52849/8/4, Law and Order, Military Situation Weekly Intelligence Summary, p. 113.

¹⁴ *Majlis*, 3 January 1951, p. 6.

¹⁵ The Security Forces Weekly Intelligence Summary No. 88 For The Week Ending The 10th January 1952, Part II, p. 3, C.O. 1022/13/SEA10/14/03, Security Forces Weekly Intelligence Summary on Bandit Activity.

¹⁶ The Security Forces Weekly Intelligence Summary No. 170 For The Week Ending The 6th August 1953, Part II, p. 4, C.O. 1022/18/SEA10/14/03, Security Forces Weekly Intelligence Summary on Bandit Activity In Federation of Malaya.

¹⁷ *The Straits Times*, 19 October 1955, p. 1.

¹⁸ *Nanyang Siang Pau*, 14 October 1956, p. 12.

¹⁹ *Sin Chew Jit Poh*, 11 December 1959, p. 11.

From the above examples of the attacks by the Communists on the rubber estates in Malaya, it was clear that the Communists actions had caused a lot of difficulties and hardship to those who was working in the plantation sector. It also caused the economic hardship and the damage on the rubber estates in Malaya which is directly due to the Communists and the Emergency. The destruction of the rubber industry during the Emergency in Malaya, the labourers faced the insecurity in their daily lives and work condition in the rubber plantation sector in the Malay States.

This situation has effected the production of the rubber in Malaya, either from the estates or the smallholdings. For the example, the attacks of the Communist terrorists had been influenced the production of the rubber smallholdings in the District of Kemaman, Terengganu in the year of 1949 (see Table 2).

Table 2: List of The Rubber Smallholding Production Area (25-100 acres) in the District of Kemaman, Terengganu in the year of 1949

Mukim	Number of Holding	Acreage of Rubber Land	Acreage Under Rubber (approx.)	Approximate Acreage Out of Tapping	Reason of Not Tapping
Chukai	1	44.28	35.00	25.00	Short of fund to clear the under-growth.
Binjai	4	174.93	32.32	All Tapped	-
Banggol	6	205.40	123.36	31.00	Owing to the Emergency and most of the estates are isolated.
Pasir Semut	1	88.06	63.18	All Tapped	-
Bandi	-	-	-	-	-
Tebak	5	195.41	176.25	100.00	Owing to the Emergency.
Hulu Jabor	22	1,126.53	1,000.00	700.00	Excluding Jabor Valley Estate. Shortage of labourers as some of them neglect to work owing to the Emergency.
Kijai	-	-	-	-	-
Kemasik	35	1,431.11	910.65	650.00	Owing to the Emergency. 98% of these lands belong to Chinese and formerly used Chinese labourers.
Kerteh	7	309.70	300.00	230.00	Shortage of labourers during the Emergency.
Teluk	-	-	-	-	-

Kalong					
	89	3,575.42	2,640.76	1,831.50	

Source: **District of Kemaman, List of Medium Rubber Estate (25-Less Than 100 Acres), Kemaman District Office File, A.O.E., Terengganu, A.O.E. 22/48, Miscellaneous (Emergency).**

Tin Mine

The destruction of tin mining industry during the Emergency was as devastate as the rubber plantations. Tin mining industry too was an important component of Malaya economic and played a vital role in sustaining the British administration in Malaya. Unfortunately, for the same reason, owners and miners of the tin mining constantly being terrorized and intimidated by the Communist terrorists to provide them with money, foods and others to sustained their activities and movement in Malaya. This situation tormented the tin miners and labourers, they felt worried, scared and unsafe due to their fear of severe punishment by the Communist terrorists to them and their families members for inability to fulfill their requests. Under this uncertain condition, they were psychological and emotional strains to perform their best work in the tin mining industry.

During the 12 years of the Emergency in Malaya, which officially started on June 1948 and ended on July 1960, the Communist terrorists had attacked tin mines in the six Malay States including Perak, Johor, Selangor, Pahang, Terengganu and Negeri Sembilan. Throughout Malaya, 80 tin mines were attacked by the Communist terrorists. These included 62 tin mines owned the Chinese and 18 owned by Europeans. The Communist terrorists had made 97 attacks on tin mines resulting 53 Europeans and Asians killed and another 56 injured.²⁰ However, the tin mines in Malaya still manage to produce average 56,085,794.4 kilograms or (55,200 tons) per year during the period of the Emergency.²¹

The first Communist terrorists attack on a tin mine was on 1st July 1948, when the Phin Soon Mine in Batu Gajah, Perak was being raided.²² On 4th August 1948, eight Communists struck Bandi Mine in Kemaman, Terengganu. They killed two labourers and wounded a contractor. A store and an office in the mine was also burnt down by terrorists.²³ On 30th September 1949, Kwong Teh Lee Mine and Kwong Hong Lee Mine at Sungai Siput, Perak was raided by a gang of the Communist terrorists, during the raid the labourers quarters and an engine room was destroyed.²⁴ Meanwhile, at about 9 p.m. on 28th January 1950, about ten armed Communists attacked Pak Long Tin Mine kongsi at the Kajang, Selangor. The Communists abducted three Chinese, tied their hands behind their backs and shot them

²⁰ *The China Press*, 9 July 1960, p. 10; *The Straits Times*, 8 July 1960, p. 6.

²¹ *The Straits Times*, 8 July 1960, p. 6. See also *The China Press*, 9 July 1960, p. 10.

²² *The Straits Times*, 8 July 1960, p. 6.

²³ *The Malaya Tribune (Ipoh)*, 7 August 1948, p. 1; *The Malaya Tribune (Singapore)*, 6 August 1948, p. 2.

²⁴ *Kwang Wah Yit Poh & Penang Sin Poe*, 2 October 1949, p. 4.

dead.²⁵ On June 1952, the Communist terrorists completely destroyed an engine shed at a tin mine in Tapah district, Perak by setting fire to it. At the same time, the Communists also attacked a tin mine in Kampar district and destroyed an engine and engine shed.²⁶

The European tin mine employee too had faced the Communists terrorism during the Emergency in Malaya. Amongst them were the manager of Meru Tin Mine in Jelapang, named Ian Ogilvie who was shot dead by the Communists on 4th August 1948 when the deceased was on the way to his office at mile 5½, Chemor-Jelapang Road at Ipoh, Perak.²⁷ Later, on 14th October 1948, an European named K.G. Jenkins, who worked at Renong Tin Mine, at the Gombak area, Selangor, was shot dead by the Communist terrorists on his bed at the kongsi house in the Renong Tin Mine.²⁸ In the other incident that happened on 25th January 1949, the Communist terrorists killed two European miners, George Henry Bernard Green and Matthew Barbour together with a special constable at a tin mine in Serendah, Selangor. They also destroyed the engines in the tin mine.²⁹

The attack of the Communist terrorists on the tin mines also caused the damage of properties and equipments in the mines. For example, from the beginning of the Emergency until December 1952, the damage in the tin mines caused by the Communists as below:³⁰

Grave Pumps	2 units
Oil Engines	119 units
Motors	27 units
Pipelines	18 units
Lorry	1 unit
Engine Sheds	101 units
Kongsi Houses	49 units
Tin Sheds	2 units
Store	1 unit
Railway Stations (Mines)	2 units
Pumping Station	1 unit
Dumpers	7 units

²⁵ Federation of Malaya Police Monthly C.I.D. Survey of Crime For January 1950, C.O. 717/200/52849/22, Law and Order, Monthly C.I.D. Survey of Crime, p. 333.

²⁶ The Security Forces Weekly Intelligence Summary No. 112 For The Week Ending The 26th June 1952, Part II, p. 1, C.O. 1022/15/SEA10/14/03, Security Forces Weekly Intelligence Summary on Bandit Activity In Malaya.

²⁷ *The Malay Mail*, 5 August 1948, p. 5; *The Malaya Tribune (Kuala Lumpur)*, 6 August 1948, p. 1; *The Malaya Tribune (Ipoh)*, 5 August 1948, p. 1; 6 August 1948, p. 1.

²⁸ *Indian Daily Mail*, 16 October 1948, p. 4; *The Malaya Tribune (Kuala Lumpur)*, 16 October 1948, p. 1; *The Malaya Tribune (Ipoh)*, 16 October 1948, p. 1.

²⁹ Cipher Telegram, 31 January 1949, C.O. 717/169/52849/8/1, Law and Order, Military Situation, FARELF Sitreps, p. 225; *The Malay Mail*, 25 January 1949, p. 1; 26 January 1949, p. 5; *The Malaya Tribune (Ipoh)*, 27 January 1949, p. 1.

³⁰ The Malayan Chamber of Mines, Report of Casualties and Damage For The Month of December 1952, C.O. 1022/21/SEA10/14/07, Report of The Casualties and Damage in The Mining Industry As A Result of The Emergency In The Federation of Malaya.

Excavators and Draglines	12 units
Tournapulls	8 units
Conveyors	2 units
Turbines	2 units
Sub-Station	1 unit
Power Lines	23 units
Telephone Removed	1 unit
Transmission Lines	2 units

The tin mining industry in Malaya had been suffered severely from the Emergency. There had been considerable loss of life and damage to property due to the Communists aggression during the Emergency in Malaya.

The Impact of The Korean War

However, the Korean War that broke out on 25th June 1950 and ended on July 1953 had ease economical tension in Malaya for a while. The Korean War caused an increment in demand for rubber and tin in Malaya. The Korean War prices boom provided both the resources and incentives to overcome the gloomy economy following the outbreak of an armed Communist revolt. Table 3 shows the quantities of rubber production in Malaya between the year 1948 to 1951. Production of rubber had increased from 979,107 tons in 1948 to 1,155,267 tons in 1951.

Table 3: The Rubber Production in Malaya, 1948-1951

Year	Quantity (tons)
1948	979,107
1949	899,212
1950	1,106,499
1951	1,155,267

Source: Malaya Rubber Statistics, Penang Secretariat File, RCP/442/49, Rubber, Tea and Palm Oil Statistics etc. For 1948/49/50/51/52/53.

Meanwhile, the production of tin mines too had increased during the period of Korean War. The production of tin mines had increased from 45,739 tons in 1948 to 57,722 tons in 1950, 57,453 tons in 1951 and 57,694 tons in 1952 (see Table 4).

Table 4: The Production of Malayan Tin Mines, 1948-1952

Year	Quantity (tons)
1948	45,739
1949	55,449
1950	57,722
1951	57,453
1952	57,694

Source: Malaya Tin Statistics, Selangor State Secretariat File, Sel. Sec. 411/1949, Malayan Tin Statistics, 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952.

Increased in demand for rubber and tin had resulting increase in prices for rubber and tin. The price of rubber had increased 4 times from the price of 1949 to 169.55 cents per pound in 1951. Market price for tin as 1951 was \$526.58 for a 'pikul' (133.33 pounds or 60.48 kilograms), which nearly double that of 1949.³¹ The rise in the price of rubber and tin, coupled with a steady increase in production and exports, resulted the increment of government export duty. Government revenue from rubber export duty at 1949 was \$28.1 millions, had increased to \$89.3 millions in 1950 and \$214.1 millions in 1951. Similarly, tin export duty had rose from \$31.3 millions in 1949 to \$50.9 millions in 1950 and \$76.2 millions in the year of 1951 (see Table 5). The prices boom generated a great deal of profits and job opportunities.

Table 5: Rubber and Tin Duty Revenue, 1949-1954 (\$ millions)

Year	Rubber	Tin
1949	28.1	31.1
1950	89.3	50.9
1951	214.1	76.2
1952	110.8	69.6
1953	54.7	51.3

Source: *International Tin Study Group Statistical Year Book, 1956*, London, 1957.

However, export rubber and tin had fallen drastic at the end of Korean War. Revenue from rubber export duty had reduced from \$110.8 millions in 1952 to \$54.7 millions in 1953. Tin export duty decreased from \$69.6 millions in 1952 to \$51.3 millions in 1953 (see Table 5). After the Korean War, which ended in July 1953, the demand for rubber and tin had reduced. Yet again the rubber and tin industry had plunged into another turmoil which resulting hardships among the unemployed labourers in rubber and tin mining sector.

Conclusion

The Communist terrorists have murdered the planters, miners and labourers, regardless of Europeans, Malays, Chinese or Indians. The Communists have tried to disrupt the development of the economic in Malaya and to terrorize its people. They knew that the Communism had no chance of gaining ground in Malaya unless the country was first plunged into misery and chaos. It is only through the stage of unemployment and despair that cancer of Communism can thrive in the minds of the uneducated.³² By attempting to hamstring the tin

³¹ Richard Stubbs, *Counter-Insurgency and The Economic Factor: The Impact of The Korean War Prices Boom on The Malayan Emergency*, Occasional Paper No. 19, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1974, pp. 10-14.

³² Malaya, C.O. 1022/2/SEA10/03, Information Supplied To Government Departments on The General Situation of The Emergency in Malaya, p. 58.

and rubber industries in Malaya, the Communists thought that they could paralyze the country. The Communist belief that the economy of the people and government in Malaya strongly depended on the rubber and tin mining sector. The attacks of the Communist terrorists caused the damage of the buildings, equipments, rubber trees and tin mines in Malaya. At the same time, it also caused the loss of the life and injuries amongst the communities in the rubber estates and the tin mines. It affected the work of rubber tapping and tin mining resulting decrease in the income of the labourers and Malaya government revenue. However, the Communist terrorists failed to destroy the rubber and tin industries in Malaya during the Emergency. Rubber and tin industries still carried on although the production from the rubber and mining sector had reduced; the labourers faced the hardship in their work and life during the period of the Emergency in Malaya.

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