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MEETING OF PRIME MINISTERS

THE SITUATION IN MALAYA

Memorandum by the United Kingdom Government

Introduction

1. The present disturbances in Malaya must be reviewed in proper perspective against developments in that territory since the end of the war. The Japanese occupation gave a great impetus to "national" movements in South-East Asia. But the trouble in Malaya does not spring from a genuine nationalist movement: or from economic discontent. Since the establishment of the civil administration the Malayan Government have worked:-

- (a) to restore Law and Order throughout the territory by re-establishing the machinery of administration and police arrangements and by disbanding the Malaya Peoples Anti-Japanese Army (which had been supplied by us with arms as a resistance group). Considerable quantities of arms (although not all, unfortunately) have been collected and order restored in considerable areas which had been under organised guerilla control;
- (b) to secure sound constitutional arrangements acceptable to all the principal elements in the population. The existing constitution is a delicate balance of all the elements in Malaya, containing much compromise between the communities. It is accepted by all sections as substantially equitable;
- (c) to provide the people with food and to create the conditions for economic rehabilitation and expansion of production. The economic recovery of Malaya has been one of the outstanding achievements since the war.
- (d) A direct appeal has been made to the interests of the Malaya peoples by a progressive social policy in the fields of housing, education, taxation, the development of sound trade unionism and other social services.

The Communist Party

2. The present wave of violence is entirely the work of some thousands of Chinese, mostly aliens by birth and of Communist sympathies. Before the war the Malayan Communist Party, the membership of which was almost exclusively Chinese,