

NST 21/6/87

# FREEDOM AT DAWN FOR 4

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A happy Jenny with an NST colleague in Johore Baru yesterday.

SINGAPORE, Sat. — Malaysian journalist Jenny Chin and three others were released from Internal Security Act detention at dawn today after a 30-day detention at the Whitley Centre here.

Jenny's release was "unconditional" but the other three Singaporeans were placed on "restrictive orders". This means they cannot leave the republic without permission of the authorities and they cannot join societies and clubs.

The four were told of their release soon after dinner yesterday but were officially released only at 4am. The case officers supervising them arranged for transport to take them back to their respective homes between 6 and 7am today.

The other three are Ng Bee Leng, Mah Lee Lin and Tang

Lay Lee.

They were among 16 people — 10 of whom are church workers or volunteers — who were arrested on May 21 for allegedly being involved in a Marxist plot to overthrow the Singapore Government and set up a communist State.

In a statement today, the Singapore Government said that "Jenny was involved in the conspiracy at the behest of her husband Kenneth Tsang who will be detained for one year.

"As her involvement was secondary being in support of her husband's primary involvement, she was released."

Ng, 23, was described as a drop-out from the Singapore Polytechnic and a full-time paid social worker with the Geylang Welfare Centre. She is a former president of Singapore Polytechnic Students' Union (SPSU) and "student agitator."

## Vincent Cheng to be detained for two years

SINGAPORE, Sat. — Vincent Cheng, described by the Singapore government as a directing figure in a Marxist plot to overthrow the Government and set up a Communist State has been ordered to be detained under the Internal Security Act for two years.

Eleven others detained at the same time with Vincent on May 21 were ordered to be detained for a year each.

They included Malaysian Chia Boon Tai, William Yap Hon Nguan, Tay Hong Seng, Kenneth Tsang Chi Seng, Teresa Lim Lee Kok, Tan Tee Seng, Chung Lai Mei, Teo Soh Lung, Kevin de Souza, Low Yit Leng and Wong Souk Yee.

A Government statement said the Internal Security

Department arrested 16 persons who were involved in a Marxist conspiracy, masterminded by Tan Wah Plow to subvert the existing social and political order, using Communist united front tactics, to establish a Marxist State.

Part of the plan was to infiltrate and subvert lawful organisations, including religious bodies and build up a united front, whose actions would start off with peaceful protests to mass demonstrations, strikes and leading to public disorder, rioting and bloodshed.

"Investigations have established that the 16 persons were all involved in the conspiracy but in varying degrees. To prevent those whose involvement was more serious from ar

any manner prejudicial to the security of Singapore, the Minister for Home Affairs has on June 19 issued detention orders under the ISA against them."

The statement said, Vincent Cheng, a central figure in the conspiracy will be detained for two years, the others for a year each and four were being released.

It said: "All of them were forthcoming during the investigations. But they have to be rehabilitated so that they will not revert to their old activities.

"If before the expiry of the detention orders, the Government is satisfied that a detainee is unlikely to resume subversive activities and no longer poses a security threat, he or she will be set forthwith."

### Influence

Mah, 22, is a polytechnic graduate and full-time paid helper with the SPSU, of which he is former secretary and "student agitator."

He was said to have come under the influence of Vincent Cheng, an activist in the Geylang Catholic Welfare Centre and fostered close ties between the SPSU and Christian activists.

Cheng, together with Tan Wah Plow, were described as the directing figures in the plot to overthrow the Singapore Government.

Tang, 33, a law graduate, is a full-time paid staff at the Young Christian Workers Movement and a former activist in Catholic students' societies.

He is said to have agitated "exploited foreign workers" and was in contact with Tan and his wife. He was also involved in agitation against the Singapore Employment (Amendment) Bill 1984.