

MALAYAN TALKS BREAK DOWN.

Tense crowds peak Baling, where Communist guerilla leaders are to meet Malayan premier Abdul Rahman (on the right) and David Marshall, Singapore's chief minister. Sir Cheng-lock Tan, Malayan Chinese leader, waits with them as the Communist chiefs drive in.

Mr. John Davis, who fought alongside the Communists against the Japanese, escorts the guerilla chiefs from the jungle rendezvous for the peace talks on which millions pin their hopes.

Unseen by Western eyes for many years, Chin Peng, Malaya's Number One Communist, walks to the conference room where the Government leaders are preparing to receive him.

After eight years of bitter war, can this man be persuaded to call off his jungle armies and bring peace to Malaya? For a country weary of bloodshed, it is the most dramatic moment since Japan's defeat, when Chin Peng and his colleagues enter the room. But in spite of the smiles, and small concessions on both sides, the gulf is still too wide, and the talks end in deadlock. Malayan and British blood must continue to be shed - a tragic outcome to a meeting which opened with the hope of peace.