

This was the scene at Baling in Kedah, in Northern Malaya, where Ministers of the Federation of Malaya and Singapore, were to conduct truce talks with Communist rebel leaders in the English School.

The most elaborate Security precautions had been taken, and troops stood on guard as the Ministers arrived; with the Government delegation, was Dato Sir Chen Lock Tan, head of the Malayan Chinese Association; the Chief Minister of Malaya and the Chief Ministers of Singapore. They came with high hopes of ending the internal strife that has plagued the Federation since the war.

The Communist leaders, arriving in police vans, were headed by Chin Peng. They came with demands for the recognition of the Communist Party in Malaya, but their hopes of this were doomed to disappointment.

They were escorted into the building by Security Guards. Chin Peng is one of the chief terrorists of Malaya, with a price of £30,000 on his head.....but for this important meeting he had been granted safe conduct. The rebels' demands for recognition of the Communist Party, met with an uncompromising refusal; and the truce talks, ended in deadlock.