

Undesirable Publications Bill

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Bill No: 1/1967

Read the first time: 27th February 1967

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Expenditure of Public Money

Undesirable Publications Bill

Bill No. 1/1967

Read the first time on 27th February 1967.

An Act to prevent the importation, distribution or reproduction of undesirable publications and for purposes connected therewith, and to repeal the Undesirable Publications Ordinance (Chapter 124 of the Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows: —

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Undesirable Publications Act, 1967.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“periodical publication” includes every publication issued periodically or in parts or numbers at intervals whether regular or irregular;

“place” includes any vehicle, vessel, train or aircraft, whether in a public place or not;

“prohibited publication” means any publication the importation, sale or circulation of which has been prohibited under section 3 of this Act;

“publication” includes all written pictorial or printed matter and everything, whether of a nature similar to written or printed matter or not, containing any visible representation, or by its form, shape, or in any manner capable of suggesting words or ideas, and every copy and reproduction or substantial reproduction of any publication.

Power to prohibit importation, sale or circulation of publications

3.—(1) If the Minister is of opinion that the importation, sale or circulation of any publication or series of publications published or printed outside Singapore or within Singapore by any person would be contrary to the public interest, he may in his absolute discretion, by order published in the *Gazette*, prohibit the importation, sale or circulation of that particular publication or series of publications or all publications published or printed by that person.

(2) If an order under the provisions of subsection (1) of this section specifies by name a publication which is a periodical publication, such order shall, unless a contrary intention be expressed therein, have effect with respect to —

- (a) all past and subsequent issues of such publication; and
- (b) any publication published or printed under any other name if the publishing or printing thereof is in any respect a continuation of, or in substitution for, the publishing or printing of the publication named in the order.

(3) If an order made under the provisions of subsection (1) of this section prohibits the importation, sale or circulation of all publications published or printed by a specified person such order shall, unless a contrary intention be expressed therein, have effect not only with respect to all publications published or printed by that person before the date of the order but also with respect to all publications so published or printed on or after such date.

(4) An order made under the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall, unless a contrary intention is expressed therein, apply to any translation into any language whatsoever of the publication specified in the order.

(5) The Minister may at any time revoke, vary or amend any order made under the provisions of this section.

Offences

4.—(1) Any person who imports, publishes, sells, offers for sale, distributes or reproduces any prohibited publication or any extract therefrom shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable for a first offence to imprisonment for a term not exceeding

three years or to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or to both such imprisonment and fine, and for a subsequent offence to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four years.

(2) Any person who without reasonable excuse has in his possession any prohibited publication or any extract therefrom shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable for a first offence to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or to both such imprisonment and fine, and for a subsequent offence to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

(3) In any proceedings against any person for an offence under subsection (2) of this section such person shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, to have known the contents and the nature of the contents of any publication immediately after such publication came into his possession.

Delivery of prohibited publication to police station

5. Any person —

- (a) to whom any prohibited publication or any extract therefrom is sent without his knowledge or privity or is sent in response to a request made by such person before the prohibition of the importation, sale or circulation of such publication came into effect; or
- (b) who has such a publication or extract therefrom in his possession at the time when the prohibition of its importation, sale or circulation comes into effect,

shall forthwith, as soon as the nature of its contents has become known to him, or in the case of a publication or extract therefrom coming into the possession of such person before an order prohibiting its importation, sale or circulation has been made upon the coming into effect of such order, deliver such publication or extract therefrom to the officer in charge of a Police Station and in default thereof shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or to both such imprisonment and fine.

Power to examine packages

6.—(1) Any —

- (a) officer of the Postal Department not below the rank of Superintendent;
- (b) officer of the Customs and Excise Department not below the rank of Customs Officer;
- (c) Police Officer not below the rank of Inspector; and
- (d) other officer authorised in that behalf by the Minister,