
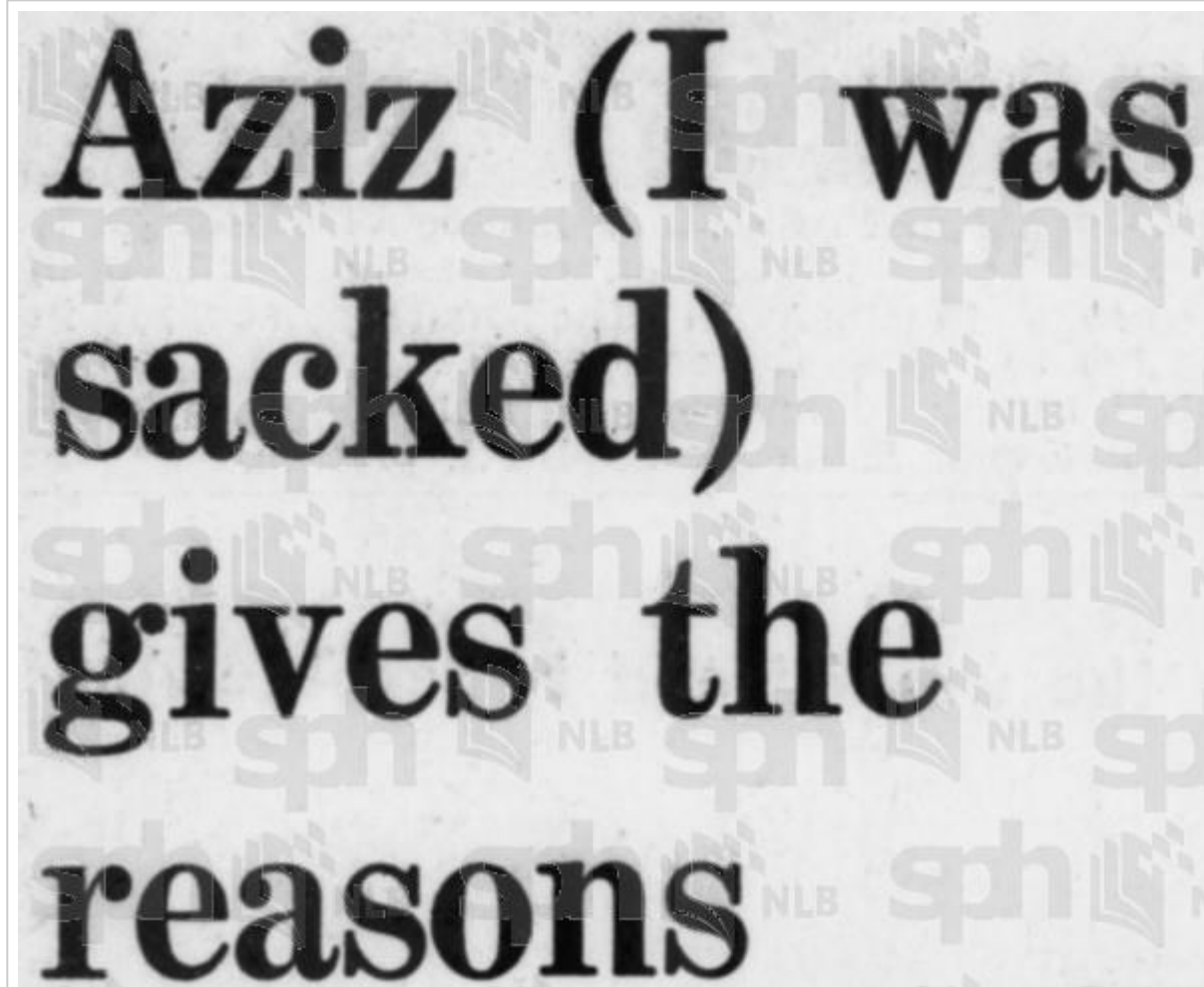


# Aziz (I was sacked) gives the reasons

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**YAP CHIN KWEE KUALA**

**By**

**LUMPUR, Sunday.**

**THE FORMER** Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Inche Abdul Aziz bin Ishak, today gave his reasons for leaving the Government after differences with his Cabinet colleagues last year.

Inche Aziz said at a press

conference that he was "sacked" by Tengku Abdul Rahman.

He made these points:

● His leaving the Cabinet was a direct victory for the policies of the Finance Minister, Mr. Tan Siew Sin.

● He accused the Government of telling lies about its economic, political and social policies.

● He disagreed with the Government's policy towards the Brunei rebellion and Indonesia.

Inche Aziz, who now lives in Morib, said: "The Government has been telling lies and nothing but lies to the people all the time in respect of its economic, political and social policies."

## 'Purposeless'

The strained Malayan-Indonesian relationship was absolutely "purposeless and senseless" and it benefited only the British.

He also briefly referred to how he was "sacked" by the Tengku. He claimed that the Tengku had offered him a chance to resign from the Cabinet which "I refused."

Inche Aziz said: "The

Tengku told me that if I resigned, I might be able to get a Government job. If I was to be sacked, I will get no Government job."

"I made it clear to the Tengku that I did not need a Government job and if he wished he could sack me, which he did accordingly.

"I think it is better to rear ducks in Morib in peaceful surroundings. I have applied for three quarters of an acre for a farm.

"I do not leave the Cabinet on my own accord. I have refrained from giving a statement since I have all along felt that the opportune time for one would be after the expiry of my leave.

"Moreover, the recent decision by the Tengku to relieve me of my post of chairman of the Selangor Alliance Committee calls for a statement from me.

"I am afraid that the po-

licies and attitudes of the present Government are not really in the interests of the present Government, particularly in the rural areas.

"The real test is to find out from the people themselves whether or not, after all these years of merdeka, their standard of living and their incomes have had any appreciable changes for the better.

"It is not fair to judge the position of our rural people by simply looking at the privileged few who have joined the class of prosperous and the wealthy after merdeka.

## New roads

"What is the use of having new roads and new buildings if the rural people are to continue living from hand to mouth?" he asked.

Inche Aziz said that such projects would only benefit the "urban contractors" by way of huge profits while the poverty of the rural

people would not change.

"It should, I believe, be the responsibility of the Government to give the highest priority to the task of realistically improving the living standards of the rural people instead of getting involved in wrangles with foreign powers or spending time and money in drawing up schemes for the building of factories in the urban areas which will be of direct benefit in every way to the urban population.

### 'Realised'

"It did not take long before I realised that if the economic position of the rural people was to be improved, then there must be a complete change of outlook and attitude by the Government, or to put it more plainly, by those few who wielded influence over the Cabinet.

"It was apparent that, even if there were the most laudable co-operative plans and policies, there would be difficulty in their effective implementation unless there was a sincere

willingness on the part of the Government to implement them.

"Despite difficulties, I pursued a policy of co-operative expansion with great zeal. I was always aware that with the expansions of the co-operative activities, especially into the fields of marketing and processing and business and industry, there would be a corresponding retraction of the activities by the middlemen and businessmen which they were certain to resent in the strongest terms possible.

"I am confident that the rural producers of all communities will be only too happy to see the end of the middlemen racket in the rural areas.

"The racket is not only crippling the Malay rural producer but also the Chinese or Indian producer."

Inche Aziz lashed out at the Finance Minister, Mr. Tan Siew Sin, whom he described as "my greatest obstacle" in the implementation of the plans and programmes of his former Ministry.

"His (Mr. Tan's) attitude had never been one of

sympathy and understanding of the needs and requirements and aspirations of the people, particularly those in rural areas.

"This is certainly most pathetic since he, in his position as Minister of Finance, wielded such authority and control over the implementation of plans and proposals involving Government funds.

### 'Obvious'

"My leaving the Cabinet was, I take it, a direct victory for the policies engineered by him. It was obvious that he was fostering and championing a colonial economic policy where the dominating interests were really a coalition of foreign, mainly British, capital, with local, mainly Chinese, compradore capitalists.

"When I sit back and recollect my years of service in the Cabinet, the various efforts made by the Minister of Finance to nullify my Ministry's plans for co-operative development constantly come to mind.

"We were starved of the funds we required for the

the projects and schemes. Let me cite a few examples to substantiate my point.

"The delay in the release of funds for our padi marketing schemes, even for a short period, for instance, only strengthened the position of the middlemen padi buyers and operators.

"There were instances, some time back, when the co-operative milling societies had to beg the private millers' associations initially to finance padi purchase schemes until Government funds were released."

## Padi plan

Inche Aziz charged that his Ministry's plan for padi marketing schemes in Krian and Province Wellesley failed "miserably" because of the influences of the Finance Minister.

"Our co-operative fishing schemes were ruined by his unwillingness to supply the funds. As a result, the fishermen who came away from the tentacles of the middlemen to join the co-operatives were forced to go back to the middlemen on their bended knees and with their caps in their hands.





INCHE AZIZ

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