

**Index to TCT's speeches made on the advisory councils, 1945 - 1948**

<b>Council/Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<p><b>1. BMA Advisory Council, Singapore, Wed, 14.11.1945</b></p>	<p><b><u>a) Price and wage levels</u></b>            In dealing with rising cost of living, TCT suggested that a standing committee be appointed to ensure careful distribution of supplies, the import of necessary food supplies and the dissemination of accurate information to the public. Once the question of price is tackled, the problem of low wages would automatically be resolved.</p> <p><b><u>b) Suppression of vice (gambling, opium etc)</u></b>            To Dr. Chen Su Lan's suggestion to dismiss the entire police force to curb corruption, TCT felt that it was a drastic measure in view of the hitherto brief existence of the BMA, and instead suggested that the BMA issued instructions to the Heads of Departments to tighten up its system and take every possible precaution against corrupt practices.</p>
<p><b>2. Council resumed, Thurs, 15.11.1945</b></p>	<p><b><u>a) Government loans to local business</u></b>            TCT supported the move to give out government loans to the middle class to help them resume their businesses. He called for government loans to be extended to rubber estate owners to help rehabilitate their estates and absorb the unemployed. He cited the War Damage Act and War Risk Insurance in England and advocated a revised scheme whereby applicants are carefully assessed for loan aid. He was of the opinion that no time be wasted in helping these people and suggested the formation of a committee of Unofficials to look into the applications.</p> <p><b><u>b) Remittances to China</u></b>            TCT supported the stand that petty remittances to China should be restored in the earliest possible and gave his reasons: to be able to send remittances and receive a reply from the families would serve as an assurance for the labourers and a reminder for them to be more careful with their hard-earned money. He added that Brigadier Godsall had agreed to help expedite the restoration of the practice.</p>

	<p><b><u>c) Discussion on grants-in-aid etc to schools</u></b>  TCT lauded the efforts made by the BMA to help reopen schools. He pointed out that the Military occupation of the Chinese High School premises kept the students away from school and requested for strong representation be made to the Military to see if the High School cannot be returned. He also suggested that financial help by way of a grant or low-interest loan from the government be provided to reopen more schools to keep the youths occupied.</p>
<p><b>3. BMA Advisory Council, Wed, 12.12.1945</b></p>	<p><b><u>a) Discussion on financial matters- assistance to rubber estates, pineapple plantations and local industry</u></b>  TCT asked Colonel Williams for assurance that estates over 100 acres would have access to supplies. He explained that his application to the Supply and Distribution Department has drawn a blank.</p> <p><b><u>b) Discussion on financial matters- Transactions with the banks and the post office savings bank during the Japanese Occupation</u></b>  TCT spoke in defence of the efforts of the BMA officers, especially Brigadier Godsall, in securing relief for the locals and seeking sanction to grant foreign exchange in appropriate cases. He expressed his dismay at the apparent reluctance of the Imperial government to delegate more powers to the Controller of Finance, which ran counter to colonies' aspirations for self-government.</p> <p><b><u>c) Trade and supplies-Price of rubber</u></b>  The long term policy was to attain a fair price for an adequate supply of rubber, but as TCT saw it, this policy was forgotten in the case of new cars which were selling at 150% more than the pre-war price.</p> <p><b><u>d) Municipal affairs and housing- formation of standing committee on municipal affairs</u></b>  TCT urged the formation of a standing committee of ex-Municipal Commissioners to assist Mr. Bartley in the Herculean task of reorganizing the Municipality.</p>

**e) Matters of law and order- scheme to attract educated youths to join the police force and to provide for their intensive training to be police inspectors**

TCT suggested that a training school for local officers be established as soon as possible and a remunerative scheme to attract the best type of candidates.

**f) Medical, health and relief matters**

TCT illustrated with examples to emphasise the high price of medicine. He suggested that public recognition be accorded to those doctors who had made the sacrifice to adhere to their pre-war scale of charges. He appealed to all reputable dispensaries to help in all possible ways to bring down the price of medicine.

**g) Education matters- return of schools occupied by the forces**

TCT pointed out the importance of education to the Chinese community and appealed on behalf of the community that the Military returned the other school premises still under their occupation as quickly as possible.

**h) Land and sea transport problems**

TCT highlighted the importance of bringing in more ships to ease the shortage of supplies. He called for the Military authorities to release the vehicles loaned to them by the BMA so that such vehicles might be allotted to various essential industries to enable them to restart.

**i) Repatriation of Malayan evacuees**

TCT urged the BMA to make further representations to the relevant powers to provide the necessary transport to bring back the evacuees in India who had made the necessary arrangements to prepare for their return only to find themselves stranded in India due to the lack of available ships.

4. BMA Advisory Council, Wed,  
23.1.1946

**a) Date of changeover to civil government**

TCT proposed that a target date for the change-over to civil government be fixed and made known to the public. In anticipation of the disputes that would arise

with the termination of the BMA, TCT called for the introduction of certain general rulings and the appointment of a specially constituted commission as part of the preparations for the change-over.

**b) General-Occupation of properties by the services without prior requisitioning**

TCT proposed that steps be taken to enforce the Supreme Allied Commander's instructions that only the fewest possible buildings be requisitioned, in the face of housing shortage. He suggested action be taken to protect the interests of the house owners whose properties were occupied by the Military.

**c) General- Shipping space for passengers to and from India**

TCT highlighted the plight of the stranded evacuees in India and illustrated two cases in which ships left India with few paying passengers when they could have been used to ferry more of the evacuees.

**d) Trade and supplies- Free trade**

TCT called for minimal control and interference with the freedom of trade to aid the rehabilitation of Malaya. He cited cases of impediments, such as the delay in authorizing the resumption of transactional communications with Malaya and the absence of foreign exchange in Malaya for approved imports until later, which retarded Malaya's rehabilitation. He asked that more weight be attached to the recommendations of the senior officers of the BMA by the Imperial Government to facilitate Malaya's progress towards self-government.

**e) Trade and supplies- Damage to civilian property caused by the military**

TCT called for reminders to be sent to the forces in Singapore to be more careful in their use of requisitioned properties to prevent further damages to the premises.

**f) Legal matters- Property found in Japanese possession alleged to be booty and claimed by the Military**

	<p>TCT called for stolen goods to be returned to their rightful owners as it was against the law to retain stolen property. He queried the outcome of the proceeds of sales of goods sold as booty by the Military and implied that such proceeds be turned over to the Custodian of Property from whom they might be recovered by their rightful owners.</p> <p><u>g) Collaboration</u> TCT called upon the BMA to clarify to the public its policy with regard to investigation into allegations of collaborators.</p>
5. Colony of Singapore, Advisory Council, Thurs, 2.5.1946	<p><u>Rent Assessment Board (Additional Powers) Bill</u> TCT called for the scope of the proposed legislation to be restricted such that the right of application was limited to ex-internees and prisoners-of-war, and also the ejection of those persons who managed to get into their premises by Japanese influence. He also suggested that a representative body be set up to hear applications for reinstatement.</p>
6. Colony of Singapore, Advisory Council, Thurs, 4.7.1946	<p><u>Protected Places Bill</u> TCT asked that the proposed precautions to distinguish the Protected Places be made known to the public.</p>
7. Colony of Singapore, Advisory Council, Thurs, 13.3.1947	<p><u>Singapore Harbour Board (Temporary Powers of Sale) Bill</u> In response to public fears that the increased powers of the Harbour Board might lead to abuse, TCT informed that the Chairman of the Harbour Board had given his assurance that every endeavour would be made to trace all interested parties. He suggested that complete sales lists also be sent to each of the three leading Chambers of Commerce in Singapore.</p>
8. Colony of Singapore, Advisory Council, Thurs, 27.3.1947	<p><u>The Merchant Shipping Ordinance, Cap. 150-The Merchant Shipping (Fire Appliances-Boats) Rules, 1947</u> TCT raised his objections to the approval of these rules, citing insufficient grounds for passing these regulations.</p>
9. Colony of Singapore, Advisory Council, Thurs, 19.6.1947	<p>In response to the hasty transfer of two posts in the Official Assignee's Office to the Colonial Legal Service, TCT called for qualified Straits Settlement Legal Service officers to be admitted to the Colonial Legal Service first, or some other temporary</p>

	arrangements to benefit the present holders.
10. Colony of Singapore, Advisory Council, Thurs, 3.7.1947	<b><u>The Singapore Legislative Council Elections Bill</u></b> TCT objected to Part V of the Bill which conferred a privilege on certain associations and bodies to elect three members of the Legislative Council, adding that it conferred an unnecessary class privilege on the mercantile community which comprised only a small section of the population.
11. Colony of Singapore, Advisory Council, Thurs, 4.9.1947	TCT argued for better and closer co-ordination between the three administrations, which would contribute to greater administrative efficiency.
12. Colony of Singapore, Advisory Council, Thurs, 18.9.1947	<b><u>Elections and Registration of Voters</u></b> TCT endorsed the comments of Mr. C.C. Tan that the Government should not interfere in the controversy surrounding the question of whether the people should register for a vote.
13. Colony of Singapore, Advisory Council, Thurs, 9.10.1947	TCT enquired when the report of the Salaries Commission would be ready, and highlighted the problem of government dilatoriness in reaching its decisions. He also called for government control of the prices of local cinema admission.
14. Colony of Singapore, Advisory Council, Thurs, 30.10.1947	TCT objected to the policy of strong class distinction in the Singapore General Hospital and suggested that public funds, instead of being used to provide luxuries for the well-off, be used to provide more accommodation for more people.
15. Colony of Singapore, Advisory Council, Thurs, 27.11.1947	<b><u>The Income Tax Bill</u></b> TCT spoke against the introduction of income tax in the Colony of Singapore under the prevailing, viz abnormal conditions.
16. Singapore Advisory Council, 45 <sup>th</sup> Public Session, Fri, 19.3.1948	<b><u>Report of Proceedings of the Finance Committee</u></b> TCT expressed his support for the proposal to pay an advance equivalent to four-fifths of a month's salary to Government employees. He also requested for more time for the council members to consider the proposed motions.