

# From rising star to fugitive

1970

They Yew Kok is appointed president of National Trades Union Congress (NTUC).

1972

Elected MP for Boon Teck constituency (below).

1979

**May:** Appointed NTUC chairman. Some time in the middle of the year, They is investigated for corruption.

**Dec 1:** He is arrested, and charged with criminal breach of trust and other offences under the Trade Unions Act. Around \$100,000 of union funds is involved. They pleads not guilty and is released on bail of \$100,000.

**Dec 31:** Unknown to the authorities, They leaves for Kuala Lumpur on a train. He later moves on to Bangkok, where he disappears.

1980

**Jan 7:** They fails to turn up in court. A warrant for his arrest is issued and his home put under surveillance. Interpol is alerted and his passports are cancelled.

1989

**March:** Minister for Home Affairs S. Jayakumar tells Parliament that all possible measures to trace Phew were taken. He reveals that the Thai authorities raided the premises where They was suspected to be staying. He added that there was no period of limitation on the offences.

1998

**March:** Minister of State for Home Affairs Ho Peng Kee tells Parliament that They remains on Interpol's wanted list, but efforts to track him depend on intelligence.

2015

**June 22:** At the age of 81, They surrenders at the Singapore Embassy in Bangkok. The next day, he is escorted back to Singapore.

**June 24:** He is read the same charges he faced in 1979. He is placed on remand and a pre-trial conference has been fixed for July 23.

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