

WITNESS TO HISTORY

Memoirs of An Editor

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Memoirs of An Editor

By

J. Victor Morais, S.B. St. J.

Foreword by:

Tun Sir James Thomson

Introduction by:

Tun Justice Suffian

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FOREWORD

by

Tun Sir James Thomson

First Lord President of
Federal Court of Malaysia



To Students of History it has often seemed that it is not sufficiently recognised by the people of Malaya that in our generation they have been passing through what in the future may well be regarded as one of the flowering periods of their national life. The life story of every nation follows the same course. The soil is tilled, the seed is planted, for long the inconspicuous plant grows and then, as of a sudden, the flower is there in all its beauty and glory. It is true that all too soon the flower will seem to wither and fade but that is but a stage on the way to its even more beautiful successor.

So it is with nations. For generations there is slow and quiet growth. Peoples move and migrate; religions and ideas are born; there is a gradual increase in the knowledge of the material world in which people live and in the ability to make use of (though perhaps not so much to control) the forces of that material world. It all happens gradually. For long every to-day seems like yesterday. Then something happens, what we call a revolution. Nothing really changes. But suddenly, and it seems overnight, there is a realisation that much change has indeed occurred.

Now, it is Victor Morais who has written this book and it would be wrong of me to embark on a detailed examination of Malay History during the past 7,000 years or so since the first Australo-Melanesoid peoples came down from the North or to express my own views as to what have been the flowering periods during that time. There have

been many of these. But there is little doubt that the historian of the future will treat the years through which we ourselves have passed as one of them.

Previously there had been long and, on the whole, peaceful years of contact with and infiltration by the material and the ideological forces of the outside world. This has brought about great changes but they had come so gradually that they attracted little attention. Then came the calamity and catastrophe of modern world-wide War followed by the years of heroic political activity which produced a modern democratic State.

It is during this period that Victor has spent his working life and now he has provided us with the results of his observations of the scenes through which he passed.

None who has known Morais — and I myself have known him for getting on for thirty years — can have any doubt of the value of what he has done both for his thinking contemporaries and for the historian of the future. He has observed with the always increasing skill of an experienced journalist but, what is more, his observations have been illuminated by the light of a deep and understanding interest in their subject and he has recorded them with consummate skill.

Augustine Birrell once described History as a dustheap and Carlisle as the distillation of rumour. But in the years to come, when the historians of the future come to their task, there can be little doubt that this work by Morais will be one of the pearls they will rescue from the dustheap or, to vary the metaphor, the sound grain from which they will distil the spirit of truth.

But apart from its value for the future historian this book is of profound interest to those of us who have lived through the years it covers. It throws light into many hitherto dark corners, and if at times we disagree with some of the things that are written in it the very fact of our disagreement will have the valuable effect of compelling us to consider whether our own views really have been justified. And if anything is better for a man to admit that he may have been wrong it is to have to admit to himself that he has indeed been wrong.

Tun Sir James Beveridge Thomson was born on March 24, 1902, in Clydebank, Scotland. Education: Edinburgh University (M.A. 1st Class Hons. History). Called to English Bar (Middle Temple) 1929. Married Dr. Florence Thomson, formerly of Colonial Medical Service. One son — Robert, chemical engineer.

Sir James retired as the first Lord President of the Federal Court, Malaysia. An orator, he was one of the ablest judges who served Malaysia.

INTRODUCTION

by

**Tun Mohamed Suffian
bin Hashim**

Lord President,
Federal Court of Malaysia



What is history? At school I thought that it dealt only with the dim past and consisted mainly of recording the acts of kings and queens and of the courts that surrounded them. But it is more than that. Ordinary men and women also make history; nay many ordinary men and women are at present living who have seen and taken part in events that will be objects of study by future historians in universities far and near. It is for this reason that contemporary accounts by living persons are valuable. Else how explain the popularity of reprints of century-old accounts of Perak and other states in Malaysia, which when they first appeared must have struck their readers as slight and only fit for light reading? Yet the persons and events they describe excite in us a lively interest, for they give the personal and contemporary impressions of their authors on events long forgotten, on dignitaries that appear in but a dull light in solemn history books and on familiar places that have over time changed beyond all recognition.

Just as we have a lively interest in events, persons and places of a century ago, so I have no doubt our descendants a hundred years hence will want to know how today's events, persons and places strike us who are directly affected by them.

For this reason I welcome this interesting book by my friend Victor Morais. In the West thousands of titles are published every year, and there is no dearth of memoirs, not only by presidents and prime ministers, but also by politicians and writers; but unfortunately, Asians

shrink from talking, let alone writing, about ourselves, and yet we mutter when Westerners write about us after but a brief stay in an air-conditioned hotel in the capital. Victor too shrank from writing about himself, though he has written enthusiastically enough about others, and I am therefore very pleased that he has succumbed to my pestering to write this book.

He has had a very interesting life, seeing important events at close quarters meeting the "actors" concerned (people of all ranks and from all walks of life), and more important, writing about them in his newspaper. The recounting of these events will evoke memories among those of us who knew of them but have forgotten, will inform those of us who were too young at the time; and the reaction to these events of the author and others at the time will be of interest to present-day readers and, above all, to historians of the future who want to write a rounded account of Malaysian history.

Malaysians of all races cross these pages and Victor has rightly paid tribute to their contributions to make Malaysia what she is today. If others should also write of what they heard, saw and know, to add to the source material of future historians, then Victor's example will not have been in vain.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Writing has been my calling for the past forty years. I have edited newspapers, reference books and written biographies of several famous people of Malaysia and Singapore. Many a time in recent years, I have been asked when I would be writing my own story.

Before concentration fails and memory fades, I have resolved, for better or for worse, to write my reminiscences and give my views on Malaysia and matters Malaysian for what they are worth.

There may be chapters in this book that may not be interesting to some readers. But then not many can write everything to please everybody.

Mention of this fact reminds me of the story told by Sir Stanley Unwin, the famous publisher in his autobiography, "The Truth About a Publisher". He writes: "Bernard Shaw was talking a lot of nonsense about Mussolini at a luncheon when Mrs. Shaw turned to me and asked, 'Do you agree with him?'" I shook my head and then she said, 'Neither do I!'"

If the great Shaw can talk a lot of nonsense and get away with it, I think readers will forgive me if there is some nonsense here and there in this book!

I have decided to write my story in the conviction that all of us can gain something by sharing our thoughts, our insights and our experiences in the hope that they may serve as a source of instruction and, possibly, inspiration.

I have attempted to cover a period of nearly fifty years of my life in Malaysia, the country of my adoption. References are made in this book to the many historic changes I have witnessed during three of the most momentous periods of Malayan history — the colonial era under the British, the Japanese occupation and the epoch-making events of the birth and growth of Malay nationalism and the reawakening among all the races after the return of the British.

I was a witness to the formation of the United Malays National Organisation, the Malayan Chinese Association and the Malayan Indian Congress. As a journalist, it has been my good fortune to meet nearly all the national leaders of destiny whose contributions towards Malay-

sia's progress are outlined in this book.

There is a chapter on my impressions of America and Americans during my tour of the United States in 1958.

My involvement in various organisations as a participant in their activities enabled me to know leaders of the different communities and thus learn many useful lessons from them. These are also recorded in this book. I have given my views on the role of the press and journalists and some reflections on the duties and responsibilities of citizens.

I trust I have served Malaysia well by making known through the *Who's Who In Malaysia* and other publications the lives and achievements of Malaysians in various fields of human endeavour. These books have brought other peoples of the world into closer touch with Malaysian men and ideas, customs and culture and, above all, our unique system of a multi-racial government, all working in harmony.

After all, books are the best ambassadors. They do not change. They serve as an instrument for promoting international and inter-cultural understanding without which the real peace we seek will always be beyond our reach.

I am much obliged to my friends who have encouraged me to write this book. I am grateful to those friends who read the manuscript and gave their comments, criticism and suggestions. I am deeply indebted to Tun Justice Mohd. Suffian bin Hashim, Lord President of the Federal Court of Malaysia, for reading through the manuscript and offering valuable suggestions and also for writing the Introduction. I am grateful to Tun Sri James Thomson, our first Lord President, for writing the Foreword and to my friend, Dr. Stephen Goh, for contributing a pre-publication review.

It was nice of Dr. Goh to send me a note urging me to publish my autobiography. Among other things he said: "As an admirer of your life work I would urge you to publish your autobiography since it should inspire most Malaysians especially the younger generation who will read it. I want to congratulate you for finding the time to complete your story....."

I am also obliged to Dr. V Nadkarni, M.B.B.S., my friend and physician, for going through the manuscript and for his advice and to Dr. Lim Ho Peng Ph.D., the educationist, for his editorial assistance.

I have been inspired to write my story by the words so beautifully expressed by Cardinal Newman:

"A man could do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one would find fault with what he has done."

I sincerely hope that what I have written will serve to encourage others to write their own stories.

PRE-PUBLICATION REVIEW

By

Dr. Stephen Goh

Ph. D (Cantab),
LL.M (Harvard).



I was privileged to read the typewritten manuscript of the life story of Mr. J. Victor Morais in advance of publication. Vic, as I like to call him, is famous as the author and publisher of *Who's Who in Malaysia & Singapore* for more than 25 years now. As a schoolboy, though I had never met him then, I got to know of Mr. Morais when I bought my first copy of *Who's Who* in 1956.

I remember having to save my pocket money for two months to buy the book, such was my high regard for the publication then. I still possess that first volume, a treasured acquisition in my library. Even when I was abroad for ten years in the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard, I renewed my acquaintance with Mr. Morais and the current history of Malaysia by reading the personalities listed in *Who's Who* since the book is found in the libraries of these universities together with the *Who's Who* publications of other countries.

Who's Who has now become a tradition and is an institution associated with Mr. Morais and for which he will always be remembered. I need hardly add that his *magnum opus* has won admiration from many citizens, of which I am but one especially when he has related how difficult it was for the book to be launched in the face of discouraging events.

Besides *Who's Who* Mr. Morais went on to publish other books such as the selected speeches of our leaders, biographies of Tun Abdul Razak, Tun Tan Siew Sin and the Lord President Tun Mohd. Suffian, to name only a few. I first came to meet Mr. Morais in 1974 when he

undertook, at his own expense, to do a biography of our Lord President, Tun Mohd Suffian. His enthusiasm for the subject was what impressed me and the success of this book followed simply because Mr. Morais was able to write in simple words about the personality of his subject. It is now appropriate that he has recorded with the same simplicity of style his own story for the benefit of historians and fellow citizens.

I like his autobiography because it is the story of a humble man who is a successful journalist and who has participated in the growth of the Malaysian nation by reporting on the events that are now part of history. An autobiography is a record of a person's life progress in the context of the events in the country and Mr. Morais has related his own trials and tribulations in what has now proved to be a successful life story. However, what he has left out in the autobiography with all modesty is that he is also a successful parent in that his children have gone to the universities and have done exceptionally well. One of them, Dr. Herbert Morais, a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Harvard, is now a Counsel with the Asian Development Bank in Manila while his two daughters and the other two sons have done well in their studies and in their careers. Mr. Morais must be proud of their success, something for which he has contributed to in no small measure. As a parent, he must be the envy of all parents.

The personality of Mr. Morais comes out in his autobiography, an indication of the success of the story he is telling. Knowing him adds that much more poignancy to the humility and sensitivity which he has for others even when people are unkind to him. (See the chapters on his struggles as a newspaperman). I remember how odd that a proven journalist and biographer that he has been could come to ask a novice that I was for technical advice on the writing of biography. On reflection, Mr. Morais is that kind of humble man who could learn a thing or two from lesser beings and remain grateful. Such is his charm that he persuaded me to contribute a chapter on the man that both of us admire and which he published as *A Man of His Time — Lord President Tun M. Suffian*.

I have lamented on the paucity of published autobiographies by Malaysians and Mr. Morais' book, inasmuch as it adds one more to the few that we have, must be welcomed and supported. His story is living proof that humble citizens do also contribute to the growth of the nation. In Mr. Morais' case, his chief contribution is in the education of its citizens by editing newspapers and publishing books. The chapters on the Japanese occupation are vivid and I hope that his autobiography will be read with the same sense of satisfaction that he has provided in his biographies of other leading Malaysian personalities.

A DISTINGUISHED OLD BOY



Mr. J. V. Morais.

Managing Editor, Malaya Tribune, Ipoh.
Member, Perak State Executive Council, 1948—1949.
President, Rotary Club of Ipoh, 1948—1949.
President, Kinta Indian Association, 1947—1950.
Chairman of the All-Community Advisory Committee, Ipoh, 1946.
and Vice-President of Perak Library.

I am grateful to my friend, Mr. Ung Khok Cheow, a former Mathematics teacher of the Anderson School, Ipoh, for obtaining this photograph which appeared in THE ANDERSONIAN, the school magazine.

MANAGING EDITOR OF MALAYA TRIBUNE



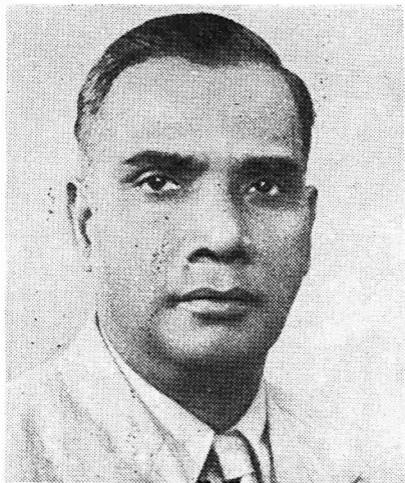
At work in the Malaya Tribune office at Belfield Street, Ipoh in 1937 when I was the Managing Editor. I was then 27 years old.



The Members of my family. Seated from left Jamaliah Morais and her daughter, Jacqueline, Gladys, my wife, Elaine and Dawn, our daughters, myself and Patricia Morais, wife of Benedict Morais and her children Rowena (seated on ground) and Mark.

Back row from left, our eldest son, Dr. Herbert Morais, Justin, our youngest son, Ramachandran Menon, our son-in-law, and Benedict, our second son.

FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM



Mr. John Manuel Morais, my eldest brother, who was a pioneer of education in Perak where he had served as a teacher of the Anglo-Chinese School, Ipoh, from 1916 to 1920 and the Anderson School, Ipoh from 1920 to 1950.

J.M. was more than a teacher. I had seen hundreds of students and teachers coming home to seek his advice. Indeed he had coached many teachers and civil servants to pass their examinations. Among his former students are several judges and magistrates, senior civil servants, Police and Army officers, well-known educationists, parliamentarians and leaders of trade and industry.

The memories that I cherish to this day are his devotion and dedication to the tasks he had undertaken as a teacher and as the President of such organisations as the Perak Teachers Association, the Perak Catholic Association and the Ipoh Teachers Co-operative Society and his life-long love for his brothers and sisters and his one and only son. The first lesson he taught us was: "Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom."

Though he is no more, his name is now our inspiration.

CHAPTER 1

THE EARLY YEARS

Boyhood In India and Malaya

I am a Malaysian of Indian origin, owing undivided loyalty to Malaysia. I have lived here for nearly 55 years, studied and worked here as a newspaper editor, and as an author and publisher.

I was born on 18 December 1916 in Trivandrum in the State of Travancore, now part of Kerala. Trivandrum is virtually at the tip of South India. To be exact, my birthplace is Port Trivandrum. My ancestral home is only a stone's throw from the Church of St. Anthony, which is a few hundred years old. My father was a sacristan, a poorly paid employee of the church.

My father and mother apparently did not know or appreciate the importance of family planning. I say this because I was seventh in a family of eight!

I had the misfortune of losing my mother soon after the arrival of my younger sister, May. My mother passed away following complications after childbirth. I was only three years old when this first tragedy hit our family. I have absolutely no recollection of my mother. The only thing I can remember is the weeping and wailing in our home one day. I was also weeping, presumably because others were weeping. My relatives tell me that that was the day of my mother's funeral. That is all I can recall. According to our relatives, my mother was a fair and beautiful woman much liked by our people. These stories about her often make me feel how unlucky I was not to know and cherish the love and affection of a mother.

In fact, death stalked our family and claimed my second and third brothers in the early 1920's. Indeed, death had cast its long shadow too early in my life. Fortunately, it always cleared off like the morning mist. But time has not eased my pain over the misfortune of not knowing my mother.

I feel I have the gift of meeting and overcoming challenges of life with serenity. I refuse to be intimidated by the workings of an unkind fate.

In the absence of my mother, my father played the dual role of father and mother to the children.

Being a minor church employee, my father's income was not adequate to maintain a large family. My father received regular

monthly remittances from my eldest brother, John Manuel, who was a teacher, a geography specialist, in Anderson School, Ipoh. No other person from our place supported his family as generously as my brother did. He was the pillar of our family, one who had helped many of our relatives.

My father on his part did his best by working as a carpenter, a medicine-man (like a Malay bomoh), a painter and as a manufacturer of paper flowers and flags and candles. In fact, he was nicknamed 'Chutan Maistry', a Jack of all trades.

As sacristan, the parishioners often came to my father with all sorts of requests. He would oblige them for a fee! As a medicine-man, I remember seeing him one day give a concoction made out of juice from the white root of a plant mixed with coconut milk for treatment of rabies. I do not remember, however, whether the patient recovered or died of hydrophobia. He also did such strange jobs as exorcising evil spirits from some women.

When I recall all these incidents, I cannot but admire the resourcefulness of my father. The love that he and my eldest brother lavished on our family and the sacrifices they made and their constant concern for our welfare have left a lasting imprint in my mind and gratitude in my heart.

I remember all this because I was closer to my father than any other member of my family. Being the youngest at home — my younger sister was with my aunt who had adopted her — I knew what he was doing and where he was going. In fact, I owe a debt of gratitude to my father not only for looking after me so well but also for consenting to let me come to Malaya when I was only sixteen years old. I say this because his decision to let me come to Malaya for further education at that time was significant because I had two older brothers still in India then.

Destiny plays an important role in the life of almost everyone and I think it was destiny that inspired me and it was divine guidance that prompted my father to send me to Malaya despite the deaths of two elder brothers who had visited Malaya before.

My second brother, Thomas, who had been working in a rubber estate in Malaya, was taken ill in Malaya and was sent back to India for treatment but he died a few months after his return. Two years later, my third brother, Franklin, went to Malaya for higher studies and he too unfortunately fell ill and had to be sent back home. He passed away a few months after his return to India.

My arrival in Malaya was the turning point in my life. In Malaya, I was constantly under the guidance of my brother, whose acts of love and kindness towards me are too numerous to enumerate.

What are the memories of my early schooldays in India? One event that I find difficult to forget occurred when I was in Second Form at St. Joseph's School, Trivandrum. We were attending Malayalam class. The teacher was an elderly man. He was known as the 'Munshi', a Malayalam pandit. He was a good teacher but he was hot tempered. He was strict with pupils who did not do well in their tests.

Once when he was writing something on the blackboard, a rotten banana was thrown at him. It hit the back of his head. This was the first incident of its kind I had ever witnessed. The teacher turned around and asked the class to point out the boy who had done it. Nobody did anything. Everyone was frightened of the culprit who was a bully. The teacher paused for a while and then said, "Well, the boy who has done this did not insult me. He insulted his parents. God will punish him."

One of the sad events I witnessed as a boy of 14 was during the wedding of my eldest brother. After an absence of 15 years, he returned to India in 1925 to get married. As one of the two from our place to become teachers in Malaya, he had no difficulty in finding a bride. Among the several proposals made, he chose as his bride Anne Culas, a fair and attractive young lady of 21. On the eve of the wedding, rumour was rampant among our relatives that the bride-to-be was not well. The nature of her illness was not known.

Some of our elders advised my brother to postpone the wedding because my sister-in-law had a nervous breakdown. Since the wedding was already fixed and the reception arranged, my brother decided to go ahead with the wedding which was solemnised by one Father Lopez, a close relative of my sister-in-law. After the church service, the new couple and the guests left for the reception at the residence of the bride's parents. The bride was so ill that she could not attend the reception or go for the honeymoon. The event caused quite a stir among our relatives.

I was then too young to realise the agony that my brother went through and the questions he had to answer his friends in Malaya when he returned alone. But my brother was a brave man. His prayers were answered when his wife joined him after complete recovery eighteen months later. Their one and only child, Emile Morais, was born on September 14, 1927. He was a brilliant student at school, gained two double promotions, and passed his Senior Cambridge examination at 14. Emile is now the Press Attache in the Malaysian Commission in

New Zealand. Before joining the Foreign Service, he had been on the editorial staff of the Malay Mail and then with Radio Malaysia.

In 1937, my eldest brother and his wife went to India for a short holiday. During their short stay, my sister-in-law complained of frequent headache. So my brother took her to see one Dr. Sommerville, a famous neuro surgeon who performed a major brain operation to remove a tumour. It was a success but she lost her eyesight. Despite this handicap, she remained an extremely happy person. This is unbelievable but true, mainly because of the devotion and love lavished on her by my brother.

As I write this, I am reminded of the many crosses that my brother had to carry as the eldest member of the family, the losses he had suffered early in his career by the death of our mother when he was away in Malaya, and the deaths of his two younger brothers, of whom much had been expected. Despite all these events, he remained serene and did his duty to his family till the last days of his life. No one could have asked for a more loving or dedicated brother. In a real sense, he was a second father to the rest of us. His heroic spirit was an inspiration to us all.

ARRIVAL IN MALAYA

I arrived in Malaya in February, 1927. In India, I had been in Third Form, the equivalent of Standard VI in Malaya. According to my brother, I was not up to the mark for Standard VI but because the class teacher of Standard V was a hot-tempered man, he had me admitted in Standard VI. The class teacher of Standard VI, the late Mr. Lee Fan Chin, was an old friend of my brother.

According to our school rules, all new students especially from India, Ceylon and China had to undergo a test before admission. So I was taken to the Headmaster's office for the purpose of the test. The Headmaster at that time was Captain B. Preedy with whom my brother, some years previously, had had a quarrel over some school matter. True to English tradition, Captain Preedy did not think of that incident and take revenge on me. He told my brother, "Why do you bring him to me? You are a senior teacher, you can admit him in any class you think fit."

Thus I began my education in a foreign country. Here I must admit that at first the going was very tough for me, especially in the study of the English language. Only a few understood what I was speaking. In fact, the way I spoke amused some of my classmates. So much so, during the first year, I was quite an object of ridicule for the Malayan students. Some of them even teased me whenever they met me after

school. However, I remained unruffled. I knew my shortcomings. I resolved to do my utmost to come up to the level of the average Malayan student. This teasing stopped when I reached Junior Cambridge class.

One painful experience I had was after the final examination of Standard VII, which was then known as the "Preparatory Cambridge". Every student had to get a minimum of 500 marks to qualify for the Junior Cambridge (Standard VIII) class. My total was only 499. I needed that one vital mark desperately. I approached one Mr. Lee, a Ceylonese, who used to teach us Scripture, for the extra mark. To my surprise, he refused my request because he apparently did not want me to go into the Junior Cambridge Class, in which one of his sons had failed in his first attempt.

I refused to give up hope. I went to see Mr. Hall, an Englishman, who was a man of few words and a very brilliant mathematician and author of a standard book on Algebra and Geometry. Although I was not good in mathematics, I took courage and pleaded with him to give me one more mark. I gave him my Report Card in confident hope. Hall listened to my plea and without much ado he gave me not one mark but two!

This gesture of Mr. Hall was of immense benefit to me. With this Report Card, I went to my brother. He was the teacher in charge for both the Junior and Senior Cambridge classes. He too was touched by the action of Mr. Hall. The refusal of Mr Lee and the helpful attitude of an Englishman serve to show how petty-minded some Asians are.

In school, I identified myself with two main activities, sport and scouting. After two years in our School Scout Group — Fifth Ipoh — I rose to become Troop Leader, a position I enjoyed very much especially when there were public parades and rallies such as on the King's Birthday and Armistice Day. On such occasions, I could shout out loud and clear, "Fifth Ipoh, Eyes Right," as we marched past the officials taking the salute! My performance at these parades left me with a glow of real pleasure.

A close associate of mine during our scouting days was Justice Tan Sri Chang Min Tat a Federal Judge, Troop Leader of the Scout Group at St. Michael's Institution, Ipoh. We used to organise outings for our scouts during week-ends.

It was scouting more than anything else that taught me to be self-reliant and to face the challenges of life without fear. I am glad to say that several scouts from our Troop have done well in life. Among them, the most outstanding are Datuk Yeop Mahidin, the leader of Watania, a secret Malay anti-Japanese organisation during the Japanese occupation which included among its officers former Prime Minister

Tun Abdul Razak and former Chief of Armed Forces, Tan Sri Ibrahim Ismail. Other fellow scouters are Datuk Liew Whye Hone, the engineer-lawyer and former leader of the Perak Malaysian Chinese Association and the late Encik Sanusi Baki, a former Secretary-General of the Ministry of Welfare Services.

Of all the games in school, I excelled in cricket and won the school colours, thanks to the encouragement of our cricket captain Mohamed Amin. Let me admit that my performances as a cricketer were lamentably poor but Amin chose me because of my enthusiasm for the game and because I attended all the practice games.

As a scout, I learnt many useful lessons by getting together and working together harmoniously with people of all races in Malaya. Until today, I cherish the memories of the many happy days I spent as a student, as a scout leader and as a sportsman. The lessons that I had learned have stood me in good stead. My motto has always been the same as my school motto: "To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield."

What impressed me most was the discipline in our school. Thanks to the dedication of the teachers in the thirties, the students were extremely well behaved.

Only on one occasion, there was a stir when the Headmaster of the Anderson School, one Mr. L.A.S. Jermyn, a war-veteran, caned a senior student. The reason for this I do not recall now. The boy's father was a senior teacher in the same school. The boy was good in studies and sports. Caning of this boy, therefore, caused quite a sensation. When he heard about the caning, his father rushed into the Headmaster's office and demanded an explanation. Fortunately, everything ended amicably.

I must add that this particular boy, after completing his studies in Raffles College and later in the University of Malaya, joined the Education Department as a teacher and rose to become a State Education Officer. I wonder whether the caning had brought about a change in his outlook or his ambition!

Most of the teachers of my time took keen interest in the work of the boys. Some of them went out of their way to give those boys including me, special tuition in their homes before the Senior Cambridge examination. The teachers who deserve special mention for helping students after school hours are T.P.M. Lewis, the famous rugger player and our English teacher, Ung Khek Cheow, a mathematics wizard and the late Lee Mun Yui, who taught us Literature.

During my schooldays we were under three headmasters — first Captain B. Preedy, then Mr. F.C. Ayre and later Mr. L.A.S. Jermyn. Mr. Ayre, who was the only headmaster without a university degree but

a qualified teacher with plenty of experience nevertheless stayed at Anderson School longer than any other principal. His influence on the teachers and pupils was immense. His main aim was to instil discipline among teachers and pupils. He often stressed the importance of development of brain, physical education and sports activities. He was always immaculately dressed in a white suit. He spoke slowly but impressively. Whenever he entered our class, there was absolute silence and everyone rose to greet him.

Ayre was more than a teacher, a father-figure and a philosopher. He showed no favouritism. Both the British and Asian teachers were treated alike. Once when a Geography graduate teacher from England, Mr Tiddleman, joined the staff, he wanted the H.M. to allow him to teach Geography in Cambridge classes. His request was turned down by Mr. Ayre on the ground that a senior teacher, though not a graduate, had produced excellent results and he therefore did not wish to make any changes in the existing arrangements. That Geography teacher was none other than my eldest brother, J.M. Morais, who used to give special awards to students who obtained distinctions in Geography in the Senior Cambridge examinations.

Among old Andersonians who have distinguished themselves in Government service are the late Tan Sri Datuk Osman Talib, a former State Secretary of Perak and Chairman of the National Electricity Board; Datuk Justice Hashim bin Yeop Abdullah Sani, High Court Judge in Ipoh and author of "Our Constitution — A Study In Goodwill"; Datuk Abdul Aziz Zakariah, the former Director-General of Public Services, Prime Minister's Department; the late Encik Hussin bin Haji Alang Shamsudin, our school Victor-Ludorum and former Managing Director of Securiguards Sdn. Bhd.; Encik Mohd. Amin bin Mohd. Ali, our popular cricket and hockey captain and former Political Secretary to the Minister of Health, to the Minister of Welfare Services and to the Minister of Transport; Encik Mohd. Din, former Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police and now an adviser with Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Kuala Lumpur; Encik Sabri, the former Secretary-General of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Datuk Ng Khin Yee, a former senior police officer and now Managing Director of three mining companies in Perak. He is the President of the Old Andersonians Club.

Among old Andersonians who have done well in the field of education are Professor Wang Gungwu, the historian, a former professor at the University of Malaya and now with the Australian National University, Canberra, and Professor Chattar Singh of Universiti Sains Malaysia — both outstanding scholars.

In passing, let me add that Malaya acted as a catalyst that made hundreds of thousands of Indians, Ceylonese and Chinese to cross the ocean because it conjured up a land of milk and honey, an Eldorado that promised far better prospects and unlimited possibilities than in their own countries.

I have often asked myself: "Was I right in coming to Malaya?" Today, I have several pleasant memories of the friendliness of the Malays who welcomed all immigrants with open arms.

Like millions of others, I have participated spontaneously in the collective utopian dream to search for and find a better life. What I have seen and what I have achieved help me to recapture my boyhood dream of a land of promise — that was Malaya and now is Malaysia.

CHAPTER 2

PREPARATION FOR A CAREER

The Beginnings In Journalism

While waiting for the Senior Cambridge Certificate results from England, I took up a course in Journalism and Short story writing from the Regent Institute, London. I was interested in short stories and wrote some. Meanwhile, I used to write letters to the local newspapers on controversial issues. Some of my letters appeared in the press and they gave me immense thrill.

I drew the attention of my sister-in-law every time one of my letters appeared in the newspaper. Like all good wives, she conveyed this news to my brother when he came home from work. One day he asked me: "What do you plan to do if you pass your Cambridge examination?" I told him that I wanted to be a teacher. I wanted to follow in his footsteps!

He replied, "Oh, forget about this miserable teaching career! You had better take up shorthand and prepare for newspaper work. Try to become a reporter."

This decision of his was prompted, from the reports he had received from his wife about my articles and letters in the newspapers.

By this time I had learned some typewriting by practising on our old "junk" at home. I could type with only two fingers. Shorthand had now become a necessity. Personally, I was not keen to undergo training in Pitman's shorthand with all its strokes and squiggles, which I thought quite laborious. Then I remembered that a friend of mine had a book on Owen's Shorthand, which was speed writing. It consisted of abbreviations and symbols. I borrowed the book from him. There were 20 lessons in the book and I decided to finish them in 20 days. This I did. Armed with this knowledge of shorthand and typewriting, I was prepared for newspaper work as a reporter.

My English teacher, Mr. E. Davies, used to compliment me on my work, especially my English essays. I approached him for a recommendation to the Managing Director, Mr. Whittaker, of the Morning News which had just begun publishing. This paper was started to compete with the "old-timer", the "Times of Malaya". I had heard a lot about the new newspaper which was being backed by several prominent people of Ipoh. So I decided to see Mr. Whittaker. Unfor-

tunately, his secretary, an 'Ugly Malayan', gave me all sorts of excuses for not arranging an interview with Mr. Whittaker although I told him that I carried a letter from Mr. Davies. He made it impossible for me to see Whittaker because he wanted only his own people on the staff of the newspaper.

Disappointed but not dejected, I went over to the 'Times of Malaya' office and offered my services to Mr. Eric Jennings, the Assistant Editor and son of Mr. Jack Jennings, the proprietor of the paper. I answered the many questions he asked me. I felt that I could cover all sporting events except horse-racing. I assured him that I could learn fast. He offered me a job with the fabulous salary of \$20 a month! This was early in 1932 when Malaya was undergoing the worst slump in its history. I worked there for nearly two years.

RETURN TO INDIA

During this period news came from India that my father was seriously ill. For several nights, I could not sleep. In fact, once I screamed in my sleep. My sister-in-law reported this incident to my brother. I was pining to see my father. My brother was ready to pay my passage but I faced the difficult problem of getting leave from my office. I explained my plight to Eric Jennings. He bluntly told me that I was not entitled to any overseas leave, with or without pay. I pleaded with him to let me go on leave, if need be without pay.

He said, "Well, Morais, you better resign and go". He paused for a moment and then very generously made this offer: "You can have your job back when you return."

Although jobs were hard to get in those days, I decided to leave in order to see my father. This appeared to me then far more important than my career.

Why did I resign from my job so early in my career and go all the way to India? We have a tradition to love and respect our parents in particular and all elders in general. Nobody advised me to do this. I just followed this custom, an example set by our elders. It seemed natural to me to show my love for my father when he was seriously ill. It was then a case of now or never.

So to India I went. It was one of the most painful occasions of my life. My father was bed-ridden. He was in his last days. He had undergone an operation and one side of his jaw had been removed because of cancer. His appearance shook me and I cried. Yes, it was one of the saddest moments of my life. My father passed away a few months after my return to Malaya.

When I returned to Malaya I went to see Eric Jennings. He kept his

promise. I was given my job — still as a junior reporter! From then onwards, I was looking ahead for an opportunity to improve my prospects elsewhere, in another newspaper if possible.

MY FIRST BOOK

I was then the Honorary Secretary of the Perak Badminton Association. Badminton was then becoming very popular. So I decided to publish a book entitled, "Badminton In Malaya" under the pen-name of 'Racquet'. It was the first book of its kind as far as sports was concerned. The Foreword for this book was written by the late John L. Woods, senior partner in the law firm of Cowdy and Jones of Ipoh. Woods was the President of the Malayan Badminton Association. Few people in Malaya had done so much to promote the game as Woods had done.

I was not sure if what I had written was up to standard. That being so, one evening I cycled to the house of our Assistant Editor, the late Mr. A.E. Moreira, who at my request graciously went through the manuscript, made a few corrections and returned it to me with the remark ' Good job, well done.' This heartened me.

I got the book published by the Job Printing Department of the "Times of Malaya". It carried several advertisements. The revenue from the advertisements was enough to cover the cost of printing. The proceeds from the sales constituted my profit, which was approximately \$1,000, a big amount in 1934.

This book proved my passport to success as a journalist and as an editor and publisher. Most of my seniors in the office were surprised. A junior reporter had the guts to publish a book! I was then only 23 years old.

The book was well received by many badminton officials and players and those interested in the game.

It aroused greater interest in badminton. More and more badminton clubs and parties were formed and more tournaments were organised throughout Malaya.

CHAPTER 3

A NEW CHALLENGE

Malaya Tribune Representative In Ipoh

After the publication of "Badminton In Malaya", which was reviewed by most of the newspapers, I heard that our rival newspaper, "The Malaya Tribune" of Singapore, was planning to open an office in Ipoh. The Tribune was popular. It was the only newspaper which was then beingsold at five cents a copy!

I sent an application to the General Manager of the Tribune offering my services as the Ipoh representative of the Tribune.

A few days later, I got a letter from Mr. E. M. Glover, the General Manager, asking me to be present for an interview at the Station Hotel in Ipoh. I was so happy that I confided the news to a colleague of mine, one Mr. Swamy, a senior reporter. He wished me luck. Three days later — only a few hours before the interview — he, Swamy, disclosed that he had received a telegram from Glover asking him to be present for an interview as well.

I was stunned by the act of this man whose salary was almost three times mine. I did not expect him to do this to me. However, I prepared for the worst. I was determined to outwit him before or during the interview.

We waited at the Station Hotel for Mr. Glover. On seeing Glover coming out of his room, I moved faster than Swamy and greeted him. Glover had already made enquiries about both of us from our former colleagues working in the Tribune office in Singapore.

Glover remarked, "So, you are Morais. You wrote that book, 'Badminton In Malaya'?" I replied 'Yes'.

At this stage Swamy joined us.

Glover remarked, "Now look, I cannot interview both of you at the same time. I am sure one of you has something to do this afternoon."

I did not hesitate. I told him, "I am free but Swamy has to go to court to cover a case!"

He turned to Swamy and told him, "If you have to attend court, go ahead. Let me interview Morais first. I will see you in the evening."

After this, it was smooth sailing. I was able to convince Glover that I

was the right man for the job he had to offer. I got it. It was my first victory.

Swamy came late in the evening. He was told by Glover that he had already appointed me as the Tribune representative in Ipoh. He also told Swamy to keep in touch with me for any future vacancy!

This news of my appointment was a source of great satisfaction to my brother. Despite financial difficulties, he bought me a second-hand Morris convertible car from a European banker. In the 1930's, motor-cars were a luxury. Very few owned them. Most of the professional people travelled by rickshaws or cycled to their offices.

For the first time in my life, I became a boss in my own office. To create an impression on visitors, I had photographs of famous authors put up on the walls of my office! I was determined to make a success of this opportunity by covering all aspects of news reporting. In addition, I wrote a weekly review entitled, "Week's Events In Perak".

After six months, Glover came to Ipoh with a file containing a large number of news cuttings of Perak events. He told me that the circulation of the Malaya Tribune in Perak had increased considerably and that the Board of Directors had decided to publish the paper simultaneously in Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh. He wanted to see the captains of industry and business in Perak for advertisements for the proposed Ipoh edition of the Tribune. In one day, he obtained advertisements to the tune of nearly \$10,000.

Ipoh saw the first issue of the Tribune published there in 1935 with veteran journalist, the late Mr. A.E. Moreira as its first Managing Editor. Lim Keng Hor was his assistant and I the chief reporter.

One major assignment that I was asked to carry out was to visit a riverine kampong near Parit, Perak where a man had run amok and killed five members of his family -- his wife and four children.

I accompanied a Chief Police Inspector, the late Sarmukh Singh of Ipoh, to Bota in Parit. To get to this place, we had to cross a river and walk along a narrow bridle path with tall bushes on both sides. While we were moving towards the scene of the incident, I was told by the Inspector that the amok was still at large. He was believed to be hiding in the jungle. Sarmukh Singh was armed with a pistol and he asked me to be on the look-out for the amok who might slash us with the parang he was carrying. Thereafter, it was with fear that I moved forward. Eventually, we reached the kampong where the killing took place. Soon after our arrival, news was received that the amok had been shot dead.

I telephoned my report from the nearby police station to my office who splashed the story on the front page of the Tribune with the streamer -

ORGY OF KILLING IN KAMPONG

Glover congratulated me for my report when he telephoned our office from Singapore. We beat the Straits Times by publishing a first-hand detailed report on the incident. It was the first feather in my cap as a reporter!

Another important event I was asked to cover was a meeting of delegates from the International Tin Council and Malayan miners held in the Town Hall in Ipoh. The meeting began as scheduled. While it was in session, the convenor of the conference, the late Mr. Lee Swee Ho of Ipoh, called me aside and asked me to prepare a speech for him expressing the gratitude of the Malayan miners for the support the Tin Council was giving Malaya at that time.

I must confess I knew very little in those days about the tin industry and what it contributed to the economy of the country. I thought for a few moments and then scribbled a short speech for Mr. Lee. For this prompt assistance Mr. Lee was always willing to help me with several 'scoops' about the development of the tin industry in Malaya and overseas.

Some important changes took place during this period in the Tribune set-up in Ipoh. Mr. Moreira retired and Mr. W.B. Patterson, a Scotsman, succeeded him.

Patterson used to write a weekly column in the Sunday Tribune entitled, "A Scotsman Looks At Malaya". It was a humorous piece liked by most of our readers.

Our Sub-Editor, Lim Keng Hor, was transferred to Singapore and I became the No. 2 man in Ipoh.

EDITOR AT 27

Early in 1937, Patterson was asked to go as Managing Editor in Penang where the Tribune was about to publish the Penang Edition to complete the chain of Tribune newspapers in Malaya.

I heard rumours -- in fact they were more than rumours -- that Glover was planning to send a senior journalist from Singapore to succeed Patterson. This upset me a lot. I decided to move heaven and earth to see that the Head Office gave me a chance instead.

As a result of my repeated requests Patterson recommended that I be appointed as his successor. He wrote to Glover that I had had enough experience to succeed him. Furthermore he added, that I knew the local institutions and people better than anyone else in Singapore.

Very reluctantly, Glover agreed to my acting as the Managing Editor. I went all out to prove that I could handle the job. Eventually, I was confirmed as the Managing Editor. I was only 27 years old. I was

then the youngest Asian to hold such a responsible position in Malaya.

My work involved editing and producing the paper daily and sending a daily report on the business side of the paper to Singapore.

As the editor of the only English daily in Ipoh I made many friends of all races. This enabled me to take the lead in forming the Cos Club, a cosmopolitan organisation in Ipoh. It was my first introduction to public life.. I had the support of several friends who held senior positions in the Education and Co-operative Development Departments, in the Police and those involved in business.

The experience I gained in Cos Club stood me in good stead when I became the President of the Ipoh Rotary Club, the Kinta Indian and the Selangor Indian Associations and as a member of the Perak State Executive Council, a Director and Trustee of the Y.M.C.A., Chairman of the Perak Centre of St. John Ambulance Association and the Vice-President of the Ipoh Town Library.

My task as Editor was also made easy by the cooperation of heads of commercial firms. The late Colonel Cecil Rae, the then most senior member of the Federal Council, the late Mr. J.L. Woods, a leading lawyer, Mr. J.A. Thivy, another lawyer and a good friend, Mr. C. H. Yin, a banker and a pioneer of the trade union movement, Mr. F.G.H. Parry, a State Councillor and President of the Perak Teachers Association, were among the leaders who hepled me with news from time to time.

It was during this period that the Straits Times bought the "Times of Malaya". They sent a number of senior journalists from Singapore to build up the T.O.M. in Ipoh. A veteran reporter of the Times of Malaya, F.A.S. Hoole, told me jokingly: "I give you three months before we kill the Tribune. So look for another job, Victor."

However, events proved the contrary. The Straits Times gave up the fight within a year and the Tribune continued to flourish. The Straits Times had too big an establishment in Ipoh and this was not in keeping with the circulation of the paper and the revenue it earned from advertisements.

Once I was faced with a minor crisis when my assistant, Mr. Yoon, published a notice in our paper in my absence that a leading tin miner and race-horse owner had given a dinner on the occasion of his marriage to a certain lady. Later on, we were told that the lady was only his mistress and the Press announcement naturally annoyed the millionaire. He sent us a lawyer's notice claiming damages for defamation of character.

I thought that was the beginning of the end of my career as a

*journalist and as the Editor of the Tribune in Ipoh.

I sought the help of my friend, the late Mr. Toh Thean Soo, a banker who knew the millionaire. While our correspondence with the lawyers was going on, Mr. Toh urged his friend to drop the claim against the Tribune because it would be poor publicity for him. Furthermore, it would destroy the career of a young man.

He also told him that I was an old friend and that both of us were officials of the Perak Badminton Association. The miner was a keen badminton enthusiast and supporter of P.B.A.

God was indeed kind to me. The millionaire asked his solicitors not to proceed with the claim.

On another occasion one Slade, an Englishman, telephoned me and demanded an apology for publishing a report of a hockey match published in my paper which stated that "he was so *bottled* that he could not do a thing right during the game."

What we should have printed was that he was "*so bottled up* that he could not do a thing right during the game".

Slade assured me he was quite sober and that he did his best for his team. I explained to him that the Printer's Devil had done the mischief! Fortunately for me, he accepted my apology.

CHAPTER 4

MARRIAGE IN INDIA

Although I had lived the best part of my life in Malaya, where I made hundreds of friends of Malaysians of all races, it was to India that I returned to look for a bride. This was in May, 1940.

There had been a few approaches to my eldest brother about marriage for me. One of the elders of our small community in Trivandrum wrote to me offering his only daughter in marriage. He promised me a big dowry. I gave this letter to my brother who politely declined the offer. He was not satisfied with the girl's educational qualifications and her family background.

I had a few girl friends in Malaya whom I disqualified because they either belonged to another Christian denomination or because they were not Malayalees. The girls I was introduced to in India did not come up to my expectations. So I decided to return to Malaya. However, just four days before my return, a lady came to see my brother-in-law, the late Denis Culas. She invited us to her home. We went and we were entertained to a sumptuous lunch. The young lady of the house assisted her mother in setting the table and serving the food.

With only three more days left, I had to decide once and for all whether to marry that young lady or not. Her name was Gladys.

After some thinking and approval by cable from my eldest brother in Malaya, I decided to marry Gladys. She was only 17 years old. She grew up fast in wisdom to perform admirably her duties as a wife and mother. We have three boys and two girls.

The eldest is Herbert, who has done well as a student to get his doctorate in law. He topped his class in the final year law examination at the University of Singapore in 1966. Then he got his LL.M. (Master of Laws) and later S.J.D. (Doctor of Juridical Science) from Harvard University. I gave him all the financial support he needed to complete his studies for his LL.B. at the University of Singapore. Thereafter it was he who was responsible for winning Fulbright and Harvard scholarships for his postgraduate studies.

On his return to Malaya, Herbert joined the University of Singapore as a lecturer in the Faculty of Law and was subsequently appointed the Sub-Dean. Later, he was admitted to the Malaysian Bar and Singapore

Bar. Herbert is now a senior legal counsel with the Asian Development Bank in Manila, Philippines.

My second son is Benedict, a college-trained teacher who is keenly interested in public relations work. He is the Secretary of the Public Relations Institute of Malaysia. A former member of the teaching staff of La Salle School, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, he was in charge of Career Guidance for his school. He had also served as the Discipline Master of the school. He is now with the Federal Education Department as an officer.

The third and fourth children in the family are girls -- Elaine, who is called Sushie at home, and Dawn. Dawn's arrival, when we were in India, proved the dawn of a new and happier era for me because soon after her birth I returned to Malaya to join the Malay Mail in Kuala Lumpur. Sushie is a history and education graduate, while Dawn got a first class honours degree in English from the University of Malaya. They both taught for a time in a local English school.

Sushie later joined the Oxford University Press as an Editor, while Dawn joined the PTM Communications, also as an editor. This was only for a short period. Later she joined Leicester University from where she got her M.A. in Education while Dawn underwent a two-year course at the University of California (Los Angeles) for her M.A. in American Literature.

The last member of the family is Justin, a Police Inspector. Now a few words about Gladys, my wife.

Not many women, I dare say, can equal Gladys in culinary art. She is second to none in cake-making and icing. She has taught many young ladies the art of cake-making and icing and also cooking. She has the gift of weaving exquisite patterns on cakes for which she receives orders from time to time.

WIFE'S RARE GIFT

My wife has a rare gift -- the gift of seeing coming events. From a child she had acquired this phenomenon of vision. One of her first experiences was when she saw from the 'eyes' of her mind the funeral of her elder brother who was then a student in Kottayam, which is 50 miles from her home town, Trivandrum. This was no figment of imagination. A few hours after she saw this 'dream', she was informed while attending a catechism class in the church that her brother had passed away. He had been suffering from typhoid.

Once she dreamt that someone had removed the 'crown' that I was wearing from my head. It was the forewarning of the suspension of the publication of the Malaya Tribune in 1950 when I was its Managing

Editor. I had served this paper since 1937.

A major incident in her life was when she became excited and restless all of a sudden on January 2, 1952. My eldest son, Herbert, and I were then away in Penang. She felt that something terrible had happened to us. This caused her to look out of the window of our house several times. True enough, after one hour a man came to inform her that I had met with a serious accident near Taiping on my way back from Penang. My car, which was being driven by my friend, Thomas, the then Headmaster of the Ipoh Trade School, somersaulted twice after overtaking a lorry. In the car besides Thomas and myself were Mrs. Thomas and Herbert.

After the car had come to rest, all the others managed to get out. They were shaken but otherwise they were all right. I found blood on the left sleeve of my shirt. I then discovered to my horror that my left upper arm had broken.

That was the beginning of the bitterest trial of my life -- an accident that cost me a fortune. I had to discontinue work on the Perak WHO'S WHO that I had begun promisingly. I had received excellent support from advertisers and orders for copies of the book from friends and well-wishers.

Another unforgettable experience of hers was another dream she had. I was undergoing deep-ray treatment for cancer in Bombay in October, 1963. In her dream she saw my eldest brother, who had died two years earlier, appear before her. This was in November, 1963. I was then undergoing treatment for cancer of the vocal cord at the Tata Memorial Hospital.

According to her my brother appeared before her holding on to someone who was hidden behind a tree. Suddenly he told her, "Here is your Victor. He is all right now."

The following morning, before she could recover from the shock of the dream, she received my cable from Bombay. It read "Treatment successful, flying back tomorrow."



With my wife, Gladys. This picture was taken a few years ago.

INDIAN COMMUNITY HONOURS TUNKU



The Selangor Indian Association of Kuala Lumpur held a dinner to welcome the first Chief Minister of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj at the former S.I.A. Hall in Taylor Road, Kuala Lumpur. On right is General Bourne, the then Director-of-Operations, Malaya. The function, presided over by me as the then S.I.A. President, was attended by representatives of all communities.

HIGH COMMISSIONER PRESENTS MEDAL



Sir Donald McGillivray, the last British High Commissioner of Malaya, is seen presenting me the Medal of the Serving Brother of the Order of St. John conferred by H.M. Queen Elizabeth of England for my services to St. John Ambulance Association and the S.J.A Brigade in Perak of which I was Chairman.

The presentation took place at King's House, the residence of the High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur.

WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER GENT



As the Chairman of the Ipoh Citizens Advice Bureau, I welcomed the late Sir Edward Gent, the former British High Commissioner in Malaya when he visited the Advice Bureau soon after the liberation of Malaya. Members of the Advice Bureau comprised representatives of all communities. A few months later Sir Edward was killed in an air crash on his return to London.

CHAPTER 5

MALAYA UNDER JAPANESE

Marriage over, I returned to Malaya with my wife. I resumed work as the Managing Editor of the Malaya Tribune. The late Mr. Ng Yook Yoon, who was acting for me, continued to work in Ipoh as my assistant.

This was the time Malaya was being threatened with invasion. Various developments were taking place in Malaya and in Britain over the fear of an imminent Japanese attack. The climax to our fears came soon when the Japanese started bombing Ipoh, at the same time landing troops on the East Coast of Malaya.

With the bombing and machine-gunning of Ipoh, most of the people fled to the countryside by every available means of transport they could find. My assistant, P.S. David, wanted to take his wife, Dr. Sarama David, to her people in Singapore. He sought my permission to go to Singapore. This I gave. From Singapore, he left by sea in one of the last boats to India. He joined the Indian Army and became a major.

To return to the Japanese invasion. The Japanese were marching towards Ipoh. I had instructions from Singapore to issue news bulletins, from my house in Green Town, a suburb of Ipoh. This I was only able to do for a few days because, with the Japanese closing in on our town, we too had to flee to the interior of an estate in Batu Gajah which is 12 miles from Ipoh. There we had an anxious time for nearly a month.

During this period, we heard stories of atrocities committed by the invading forces as well as ravages by Malayan bandits in the neighbouring estates.

NIGHTMARE IN AN ESTATE

One night, we had a most frightening experience when we heard a big commotion in the labour lines. We thought that robbers were coming towards our house. After a short discussion among ourselves, my entire family, including our hosts decided to go out of the house and hide in the bushes about 100 yards away. We had a baby with us, the only child of our hosts.

We were in constant fear that the child might start screaming when



Soon after the landing of the Japanese invasion forces in Malaya, their soldiers, on bicycles, entered the towns of Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur. Here are the first group of Japanese soldiers on their way to Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur.

attacked by mosquitoes. I noticed a light approaching us, so we moved deeper into the jungle only to discover afterwards that the light was not from a torch of the robbers but was in fact a king-size glow worm!

As the Japanese forces were advancing from Ipoh to Kuala Lumpur, there were several reports of molestation of women by the soldiers. Thus we were scared when two soldiers came to the estate at Batu Gajah where we were staying. There were three ladies in our house — my wife, my sister-in-law and another lady. On seeing the soldiers approaching our house, the ladies locked themselves up in one room while we waited in the adjoining room.

The soldiers searched every nook and corner of the house before they came to the room where the ladies were hiding. They banged the door and demanded that the people inside come out. Terrified, the ladies refused to open the door but the soldiers finally pushed open the door.

Huddled together in a corner were three frightened women. They had done a quick make-up job to appear ugly, with their hair over their faces, their tongues out and their faces darkened with ash. They looked like mentally retarded women! The soldiers spat at them and shouted "Baggero" (fools). After helping themselves to some fruits on our dining table, the soldiers left.

On another occasion, three soldiers in torn uniforms, walked into the house of a young widow who was sewing her children's clothes. Seeing this, without much ado, they stripped themselves naked and ordered the lady to mend their torn trousers. They then moved about the house in their birthday suits!

PUBLIC EXECUTION

A day after this incident, news reached us that the invading forces had occupied Ipoh and had issued instructions to the people who had fled their homes and offices to return to their places of work at once.

We had no alternative but to go back because we were warned of serious consequences if we failed to return in time. Our car had already been taken away by two Japanese soldiers a few days earlier. With the help of an old Ceylonese friend, we returned to our home in Ipoh in his car. There was little or nothing inside the house. Robbers and looters had been to our place and taken away most of our belongings. The only loyal member of our house, who greeted us, was our watchdog, Spot.

It was with trepidation that I returned to my office and called my staff from various parts of the town to help me begin publication of an English newspaper.

Japanese intelligence officers had already arrived in our office to

The Yamato News

(APPROVED BY THE NIPPONESE AUTHORITIES)

3 CENTS

IPOH, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1942.

SINGAPORE FALLEN

The Yamato
Monday, Feb.

Co-operative
Nippon

HOW can we be
with the Nip-
ment? This is
every citizen must
and consider the an-
of primary importer

That we must co-
the present Govt
without saying, and
willing to do so is a
ious, for the reason

We are officially informed that Singapore, the last stronghold of the rapidly crumbling British Empire in the Far East, has fallen to the victorious Imperial Japanese forces.

The information is to the effect that the remaining defenders of the island surrendered to the Japanese forces at 7.30 last

The remnants of the British fleet that were taking shelter in the base of being captured were

Perak Shimbun

7 CENTS

IPOH, MONDAY, JULY 3, 1944 (13TH YEAR OF SYOWA)

7 CENTS

OUR SUCCESSES ON INDIA FRONT

TOKYO, July 2 (DOMEI).—IN THE BURMA WAR
THROUGH OUR FORCES IN THE FALEL SECTOR
HOLDING STRATEGIC POSITIONS AT A POINT TWO
KILOMETRES EAST OF FALEL AND ON HEIGHT 4219
ARE PREPARING FOR A GENERAL ASSAULT

Tokyo—Symbol Of Our Strength



TOKYO, July 1 (Domei).—Greeting the first anniversary of Tokyo's

These are the front pages of the two newspapers — THE YAMATO NEWS and THE PERAK SHIMBUN — that I edited during the Japanese Occupation in Ipoh.

order us to publish the paper in English under the title of Yamato News (Yamato, I was told, is the old name for Japan).

Immediately after the Japanese officers had left my office, one of my reporters called me out and pointed to the Birch Fountain in front of my office.

There on a spike, was the head of a man, whom the Japanese had beheaded!

What a grim and grisly sight it was. Then came the startling announcement of an open-air execution of robbers and looters at the public park, off Anderson Road, in Ipoh.

Thousands watched Lieut. Nakagawa, the Garrison Commander of Ipoh, behead five people. Several women and children fainted. Nakagawa issued a stern warning to the people assembled there. He told them to spread the news about the beheading of the robbers.

It was about this time the Japanese Gestapo spread its hideous tentacles to every corner of the country. Thousands became victims. With Japanese soldiers all over the town conducting searches and making arrests, we felt like prisoners with walls that closed us in. There was no sign of relief.

Hope deserted us and fear gripped us. Everything seemed lost. What lay ahead of us we did not know. Work we must, so we carried out the orders of the Japanese. It was a case of do or die!

Fired by the inspiration of national pride and hatred for the Japanese, scores of sturdy young Chinese and some Indians and Malays made their way to the hills and jungles to form what was destined to become a powerful, well-organised resistance movement against the Japanese, known as the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army, in short MPAJA.

My schoolmate and fellow scouter, Datuk Yeop Mahidin., organised the first Malay resistance organisation, known as Watania. He became a Major in this organisation.

Our former Prime Minister, the late Tun Abdul Razak and Tan Sri General Ibrahim bin Ismail, the former Chief of the Malaysian Armed Forces Staff, were Captains. The daring exploits of Watania in the jungles of Pahang won the admiration of thousands of people in this country.

It was difficult enough to publish an English newspaper before the war under normal conditions. Now we had to produce a paper on terms dictated by the conquerors. The editor's chair proved a chair of nails, with army officers and military police coming in frequently to give never-ending instructions and warnings. It was difficult to collect news, edit it and give suitable headings that would not give offense to the

Japanese.

One specific instruction I received was that any news about Tenno Heiko, the Japanese Emperor, must be on the top of the front page. Nothing should appear above it. It was during this period of tension and fear that a Japanese sergeant asked me to go to Taiping, Headquarters of the Japanese Police Force, to see the then Japanese Chief Police Officer, one Kunichika. He was the much dreaded "Kapala Potong" officer (head-cutting officer). Before the war, he was a taxidermist in Singapore!

Fears filled my mind. I was wondering what would happen to me.

It was Palm Sunday. So I decided to go to church before facing this devil of a man. In church, I met an old friend, Thambiraja, who was the chief clerk under Kunichika. I thought meeting Thambiraja was a blessing. He was praying as most of us were praying in those dark days. I was impatient to know why I was summoned to Taiping.

Thambiraja was rather thoughtless in replying to my inquiry this way: "Hey, Morais, be careful. Kunichika is notorious for beheading people. So try to give him a satisfactory explanation for every charge he may have against you."

I was taken aback by this unexpected and uncalled for remark by Thambiraja.

I said one more short prayer and left the church. I went to look for one Attygale, our Taiping representative. I found him. He agreed to come with me after some persuasion. Poor fellow, he was also frightened. I had my rosary beads in my trouser pocket and I kept saying the rosary while holding it with one hand in my pocket.

As I moved closer to Kunichika's office, I became more and more troubled. He had already been told that I had arrived in his office. The moment I entered his office he shouted at me: "Baggero!" (You fool!) "You pro-British spy. You still use British names, eh?" He snapped at me like an animal. Out came a string of abuses in Japanese.

I blurted out something defensively but Kunichika ignored me when I said in Japanese, "Gomen Kudasai" (I am sorry). He shouted back "Damai" (Shut up.)

Then there was a short silence before he exploded again: "Baggero!" (Fool!) I stood hushed and frightened.

I did some instant thinking. He had a copy of my newspaper, The Yamato News, on his table. I realised that he was referring to the name and address on the last page of the newspaper which read "Edited and Published by John Victor Morais, 63, Belfield Street, Ipoh. Federation of Malaya!" which was underlined in red ink.

He said, "Don't you know, you fool, that there is no Federation of

Malaya now? This is Dai Toa Kyoaikan." (The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.) Prosperity for them and Co for us!

After a pause, Kunichika took out his sword from its sheath and placed it with a bang on the table. He stood up and warned me: "This will be on you if spies like you carry on pro-British activities. Understand?"

I shook with fright. Quite unwittingly, I pulled out my rosary. He saw what I had done. Then his telephone rang. He called out his secretary and barked out some instructions.

After that, he turned to me again expecting some explanation from me. My mind flashed back to the head at the Birch Fountain in front of my office.

An unasked question thundered within me: Will my head go too?

I wiped my forehead. I felt a pang of apprehension. I knew fear would not help me. So I said in Japanese, "Sumimasen." (Please forgive me.) Kunichika smiled for the first time. He was apparently pleased that I could speak Japanese. Then I knew my rosary saved me because he kept looking at it as I held it in my shivering left hand.

I promised that I would always obey his orders! He then told me to get out. I said, "Arigato Gosaimas." (Thank you.)

In typical Japanese style, I gave a low bow and left his office. Joy swept through me. I fled to my car parked outside the C.P.O.'s office. We drove straight to the Rest House for a drink, a cup of hot coffee for me and beer for Attygale.

In sincere appreciation, I told Attygale that he could expect an increase of \$25 (Japanese Banana notes) in his salary for his timely help. I shall never forget this episode in my life. It was my first brush with death.

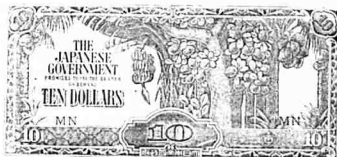
In our office, we had to face not only the Army officers but also their military policemen. Among these, the man we feared most was one Yoshimura* — the Japanese terror.

He was so cruel and hot tempered that he did not even spare Japanese civilians who fraternised with Malaysians. In fact, on one occasion he beat up the English-speaking Japanese propaganda chief of Perak, one Banno, in the local cabaret.

Banno was a friendly man. He approved a bonus for us after six months and also gave us liberal rations of Japanese cigarettes. I did not smoke, so I sold my cigarettes to buy rice and provisions which we needed most.

* Yoshimura was tried as a war-criminal in Ipoh after the surrender of the Japanese and sentenced to death.

OH! THOSE JAPANESE BANANA NOTES!



During war-time in Malaya the only currency notes available to the public were those issued by the Japanese military authorities.

In the early months of the Japanese occupation only the Japanese currency notes could be used for purchasing some of the necessities by Malaysians but soon they were found quite useless because Malayan traders did not place much value for the Japanese currency known as 'Banana' Notes. Hence the Japanese had to print notes to the value of \$100 and even \$1,000. Here are photographs of \$10, \$100 and \$1,000 Japanese notes.

Malaysians who had British dollar notes and coins hid them in the hope of using them when the British returned! And this many Malaysians did.

Yoshimura used to visit us at least once every week. We did our utmost to be on his good side. He was a well-built fellow. He always accepted our invitation to lunch or dinner every time he visited us. Because we feared arrest, we used to entertain him as lavishly as we could.

During this critical period, one of my senior reporters, Neral Moreira, a fine journalist and a gentleman, suddenly disappeared. From enquiries made, we learned that he had been detained by the Military Police. By this time, Japanese civilians had taken over the management of our newspaper.

We appealed to Nagai, the Japanese General Manager of our press, for his help in getting the release of Moreira. This we did several times without success.

Finally, one morning, Nagai told me that the Military Police would not release Moreira. Furthermore, he warned us that they were seriously thinking of detaining either me or my assistant.

"One of you may be arrested soon," he said.

We were both Malaysians of Indian origin. This news frightened us. It was enough for me to make no more move to help Moreira. We felt sorry for him. We feared that we ourselves might get into trouble if we interfered anymore.

DROPPING OF ATOM BOMBS

One of the most difficult jobs I had to perform during the war years was to make a *speech on Japan's Navy Day, recalling the great naval victory of Japan over Russia and their victories over the Allied Forces in the Second World War.

I was unhappy to do this but no one then dared to disobey the orders given by Japanese officers. This speech was to be made at a variety entertainment show at a local theatre. This I did.

Fortunately, we knew the war was coming to an end. We used to get secret reports from pro-British people who had radio contacts with the outside world. Finally, the truth came out when the Japanese Governor of Perak announced the surrender of Japan to the Allied Forces as commanded by Emperor Tenno Heika.

Meanwhile, rumour was rampant that the Americans had dropped atom bombs on Japan. Surrender of Japan was imminent.

Two days that will be remembered as the happiest days in human history are August 6 and August 9, 1945, the days of

* A copy of the speech prepared by the staff of the Propaganda Department was delivered at my house with instructions from Banno.

deliverance for the people in Southeast Asia, who were under the Nippon flag for nearly four years, years of tears and terror.

However, many people all over the world did not support the action of former President Truman in ordering the use of atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing hundreds of thousands of innocent people. Those were the most horrifying days in the history of mankind.

The plane that carried the atomic bombs was a B-29. It was named Enola Gay, after the mother of the pilot, Colonel Paul Tibbetts Jr. This is what Tibbetts said over the intercom as he sighted Japan: "This is for history, so watch your language. We are carrying the first atomic bomb."

Hiroshima was a city of nearly 400,000. It was Japan's eighth largest city. More than 100,000 civilians had been evacuated to the countryside but over 250,000 remained on this unscarred city. Two days before the atom bomb was dropped, over 700,000 leaflets fluttered from the sky warning the people that their city would be destroyed if Japan did not surrender at once.

But the people of Hiroshima felt that their city could be spared because they had thousands of relatives in the U.S. They were wrong. The bomb was dropped.

As the B-29 flew away, it left in its wake hundreds of thousands of people dead or dazed, including patients and nurses of a hospital with their hair burned off and their skin charred. It was the most terrible sight, according to the few who survived the holocaust.

In one day alone, in Hiroshima, more than 100,000 perished. Twenty-two of the victims were American prisoners of war. Another was rescued alive from the rubble only to be killed by an angry mob.

In Nagasaki, another 100,000 perished. So dreadful was the disaster that one of the American pilots, who took part in this unholy mission, exclaimed, "My God! What have we done?"

None other than the President's Chief of Staff, Admiral William Leahy, thought it was a barbarous weapon to use on a people already defeated and ready to surrender and that the Americans "had adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages."

The Americans could not forget the treacherous Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and the loss of more than 2,000 lives there. Thus President Truman's dilemma before the atom bomb attack on Hiroshima is easy to gauge though his decision to order the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was regarded by many as unjustified.

Today it is understandable if people in Japan and elsewhere, curse the day when the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Indicative of the feelings of the Japanese nation is what a

Japanese wrote recently. I quote: "I was about 20 kilometers outside Hiroshima at the time of the A-bombing. Whether you believe me or not, not a day has passed without my looking up several times to make sure the sky is sky and not the rainbow-coloured heavens I once witnessed.

"This planet had never looked safe enough to have a home upon since that day, and it never will till the last day on the earth, as far as I am concerned.

"Thousands and thousands of times, I've seen imaginary missiles cut across the heavens, till the whole space filled with purple light. Perhaps there are others like me, but I'll never know because these people never talk about it."

I know there are people who say that if it had not been for the atom bomb, hundreds of thousands of Allied soldiers and civilians would have died if they (the Allies) landed on Japan or Japanese-occupied countries.

FEARS BEFORE SURRENDER

In Malaya and Singapore, while the top commanders of the Japanese Forces were prepared to surrender as commanded by their Emperor, there were senior officers who wanted to carry on the fight.

As one officer told me, "Ours is the only army in the world that fights to the last man. We don't surrender. Death is preferable."

In fact, several officers and men committed "harakiri" (disembowelling) in Singapore and Malaya when the news reached them that Japan had agreed to surrender.

One Japanese officer told a gathering of Malaysians in Ipoh a few days before the war ended. "If we have to die fighting on the first of next month, we will see that you all die on the 30th of this month!"

In Malaya, we feared that we would be used by the Japanese as hostages and as shields if and when the British forces landed in Malaya. However, the Japanese eventually surrendered because the orders came from their Emperor.

An act of kindness that I had to perform was to give an undertaking in Japanese (Nippongo) before several prominent men of different races in Perak were released from detention in Taiping jail a month before the surrender.

Although there were objections from my family about my travelling to Taiping and undertaking this dangerous mission at a time when the fighting was still going on, I decided to do my bit because among those to be released were two elderly men who were my personal friends.

In the early days of the occupation, it was the advance party of

suicide squads who indulged in torture and killing of people suspected by them to be pro-British. In one instance several members of one family were taken to an open area and told to dig their graves before they were shot!

GOD-GIVEN GRACE

During those anxious days we took comfort in the thought so well expressed by Patience Strong:

"Life won't be all roses, honey, harmony and love. But when it is at its worst, look up to One above; Strengthening your spirit for the things you have to do

And depend on Him to get you home and see you through."

During the Japanese occupation, we did our best to keep our sanity and spiritual calm. This we did by prayer and by reading the Bible and by singing hymns. Occasionally, we preserved the grace of humour by smiling and laughing as often as we could. As I recall our harrowing war-time experiences, I am surprised by our survival.

Our experiences and our escape from the occupation forces serve as an inspiring example of that God-given grace under pressure. It is said that if you keep faith in God that faith will keep you.

Yes, it was with God's guidance that we emerged from the darkness of the Japanese occupation to renew and rebuild our lives when the British returned.

Released as we were from fear, doubt and dread, we looked forward hopefully to the days ahead to rebuild and to make up for the precious four years we had lost.

"NURSE EDITH CAVELL" OF MALAYA

What are my other memories of the Japanese occupation? They are many and varied. Like several hundreds, or rather thousands of families, my family too suffered many moments of anxiety and fear — fear over the arrests of relatives, friends and acquaintances.

One of the first to be taken by the Kempetai (the Japanese Military Police) was the late Joseph Rozario, husband of my cousin, Matilda. He was a Senior Hospital Assistant in Elphil Estate, Sungei Siput. He was accused of helping Force 136 members who were in the jungles in Perak. Two of them were European planters with whom Joseph had worked before the war.

It is true that he sent medical supplies and food parcels to Force 136 members. For this act of loyalty to his previous employers, Joseph had to pay a big price, a three-year stay in jail and undergo torture, this

eventually led to a stroke several years later. He passed away late in 1981.

A family friend, the late Mr. A.E. Pereira, a former Secretary of the Kinta Sanitary Board, was taken away from his home in Tiger Lane, Ipoh, while another friend, Thambiraja, chief clerk of the Police Department, Ipoh, was arrested while he was having breakfast in our home in Green Town on Christmas Day.

Yet another friend, one William Foenander of Kuala Lumpur, a printer, was arrested a few days after I had lunch with him in a restaurant in Kuala Lumpur.

Associates and friends of the people detained by the Japanese were questioned by the Kempetai and some of them were subsequently arrested and tortured.

Fear was our constant companion during this time. Despite the atrocities committed by the Japanese occupation forces, there were people including women who threw caution to the winds and helped in pro-British activities.

One such person was Mrs. Karthigasu, a midwife by profession. We knew her very well because it was she who attended on my wife during her confinement. It was she who helped deliver our first child, Herbert.

Mrs. Karthigasu was the wife of the late Dr. A.C. Karthigasu, a senior medical practitioner. Both she and her husband were detained by the Japanese. Mrs. Karthigasu had shown extraordinary courage by running a medical supply base for the anti-Japanese guerillas and some British soldiers in the jungles around the mining town of Papan near Ipoh. It was an important secret base for the anti-Japanese movement.

Unaware of this fact, I visited this place several times in search of news on the orders of my Japanese employers.

For more than two years, Mrs. Karthigasu had lingered in jail and undergone the worst possible forms of torture at the hands of the Japanese Gestapo. The story of Sybil Karthigasu is a story of selfless service and devotion to a cause to which she and her husband had dedicated themselves. Theirs is a story of dauntless courage and grim determination in the face of danger and death.

But Sybil Karthigasu cheated death. She was not forgotten by those for whom she and her doctor-husband risked their lives. On September 5, 1944, three weeks after the surrender of Japan, a deputation from Papan fetched her out from the Batu Gajah jail and took her to the General Hospital. Later, they took her to Pusing and back to Papan where she was given a heroine's welcome.

A HEROINE'S WELCOME

The people of Papan had not forgotten this woman, who in the darkest days of the Japanese oppression, gave them succour and who remained true to the code of silence when tortured and threatened with death by the Japanese Gestapo. Sybil Karthigasu had truly played the role of "Nurse Edith Cavell" to the guerillas.

Another episode that is still fresh in my memory is the trial of an Indian merchant for alleged looting. He was the elder brother of an English school teacher. He was tried by Lieutenant Nakagawa, the Ipoh Garrison Commander. He was sentenced to death in a Japanese court in Ipoh by Nakagawa who was both judge and jury.

Among the many people who were present in court was Y.M. Raja Omar, the Chief Civil Affairs Officer in Ipoh who knew the family of the merchant. A kind-hearted man, Raja Omar went on his knees to plead with the Japanese officer to spare the life of the prisoner.

Nakagawa stared at Raja Omar. He paused for a while and then said, "Raja Omar is a good man. For his sake I shall not carry out the death sentence. But other looters and those who go against our Government will be punished severely in future."

Fortunately, the merchant was released after several months following another appeal by Raja Omar whose wife was a Japanese lady, much liked by the people of Ipoh for her many acts of kindness.

Of the many instances of the inhumanity of man to man the story I cannot forget is the one told to me by my friend, the late Mr. A.E. Pereira, who was a prisoner of the Japanese for more than three years. During their confinement in small cubicles, some prisoners including Mr. Pereira received gifts of food and books smuggled to them by their well-wishers.

Once a small parcel was surreptitiously pushed into his cell at night. He was alone. He was so happy that he hurriedly opened the parcel thinking there was something good to eat. Alas, what it contained was human excreta!

According to Mr. Pereira this was not the work of the Japanese Military Police. It was done by a heartless Malayan.

Indeed, wartime conditions do sometimes turn human beings into beasts.

Early during the Japanese occupation we were ordered to learn Nippongo, the Japanese language. Many people resented this. They

**Papan and Pusing are small mining towns near Batu Gajah in Perak. They provided excellent hideouts for anti-Japanese forces during the occupation of Malaya.*

were in no mood to learn a new language. In our heart of hearts, most of us were confident that the British would return. Once when I was going to the office I saw anti-Japanese slogans scrawled on the walls of Government buildings. One slogan read: "Nippongo, English-come!"

What the Japanese lacked was a sense of humour. We seldom saw any of them laugh. They were utterly without a sense of humour. As a whole, they were a serious-minded people, fanatics as far as waging the war was concerned.

With ever so many problems of our own about food and education, we seldom had an opportunity to smile either. However, the occupation period was not altogether without its lighter side. There were a few occasions during our adversity when some Japanese officers and soldiers made us chuckle with amusement by their antics.

THE SPIRIT OF THE SAMURAI

What impressed Malaysians most was the courage of Japanese soldiers, sailors, and airmen. All of us had hopes that with the arrival of the British warships — the "Prince of Wales", the unsinkable, and the "Repulse" — in Malayan waters, we thought there was nothing much to worry. Furthermore, Churchill had broadcast to the world that Malaya would be defended and that two of their best warships were there to protect the people!

Many people approached me for my views on the prospects of British victory. They thought as an editor I could advise them. This I did. Fortified by the assurance of Churchill and other British leaders, I spoke like an expert and assured my friends that the whole British Empire would assist Malaya if the Japanese invaded. But the unexpected happened. The Prince of Wales and the Repulse were sunk by Kamikaze (suicide) pilots with one blow, a blow that shook not only the British but also the whole free world. Added to this humiliation was the hurried retreat of the British troops from Penang to Singapore. It was their first 'Dunkirk', a most shameful one at that.

One incident that is worth recalling is this. Soon after the sinking of the two British warships, Mr. Duff-Cooper, who was sent to Singapore to assist and advise Sir Shenton Thomas, the then High Commissioner of Malaya, broadcast a statement that was considered by many Malaysians as stupid. It was a magnificent statement of the obvious!

If I remember correctly, he said something like this: "Three months ago, we had no warships to protect us. Then came the 'Prince of Wales' and the 'Repulse'. Now we have lost these warships but I can assure you that we have adequate forces to defend Singapore and Malaya....."

This was the substance of the broadcast. What a way to allay the

fears of the Malaysians and that, too, by a British statesman! Mr. Duff-Cooper returned to England before the surrender of Singapore. I must add that many Malaysians were disappointed with the performance of General Percival as the Commander of the British forces in Malaya and Singapore. He did not impress Malaysians. We felt Malaya needed a man like Field Marshal Montgomery at that time.

PEARL HARBOUR DISASTER

Equally shattering to the nerves of Malaysians was the devastating attack on the American Navy in Pearl Harbour by the Japanese Air Force. It was soon after this that the Americans decided on all-out participation in the war on the side of Britain, which until then, was bearing the brunt of the German and the Japanese attacks in Europe and in Asia, especially in the Far East.

In 1958, I had an opportunity to see the exact spot in Pearl Harbour where several American warships still lay in the bottom of the sea as mute testimony to the treacherous attack by Japan because neither America nor Japan had then declared war on each other.

Every country has a spirit that gives hope to its people. What is the secret of Japanese valour? What forces have shaped the Japanese spirit?

The clue to the Japanese fighting spirit is their code of life called 'Bushido' or Seishin which has been the secret of success of the Japanese in war. Bushido is the spirit of the Samurai (knight or soldier).

Defying death is to the Japanese is their way to ensure life for the Samurai. Seishin demands every Japanese to sacrifice everything, even life, for their Emperor. This explains the superhuman exploits of their Kamikaze pilots and soldiers.

Let a Japanese author speak: "If we constantly keep death in our hearts we will be able to fulfill the demands of loyalty and filial piety, avoid all evils, disaster and sickness, live long and develop a character full of virtues."

It is said that as Buddhism declined, Bushido dominated the hearts of the Japanese. Another factor that has inspired the Japanese people is their love for, and loyalty to, their Emperor who during wartime was treated more like God than as a monarch. The Japanese monarchy has survived nearly 2,000 years and still is the most unifying force in the history of this island kingdom.

Some members of the Japanese occupation forces committed many atrocities but, on the whole, their record was nothing like that of Hitler's troops, who gassed millions to their death. I know several leading Malaysians who were detained by the Japanese. Many underwent

torture at the hands of the Japanese Military Police. But it is a fact that many lived for more than 25 years after their release. Some are still living!

I know it is unfair to accuse only the Japanese as the worst perpetrators of atrocities during the occupation period. Colonisers like the British and the Dutch have also committed similar atrocities in their colonies in Asia, Africa and elsewhere. For instance, in the history of the long Indian struggle for freedom, there are several stories of atrocities committed by the British.

Among these was the shooting of innocent men and women just because they had participated in non-violent agitation as urged by patriots like Gandhi, Nehru and Bose. In the early years of the freedom movement, the British hung bodies of hundreds of Indians on telegraph lines to serve as a warning to other trouble-makers.

But no crime was so heinous and so diabolical as the Jallianwalla Massacre in which one General Dyer ordered the shooting of people gathered in a hall for a political meeting. Machine guns were placed at the only entrance to the hall and Dyer ordered his Indian troops to shoot their own kind who had no chance of escaping.

MALAYANS AT BRIDGE OVER RIVER KWAI

In this incident alone, 379 people were killed and as many as 1,200 wounded. Nehru refers briefly to this holocaust in his autobiography. He writes that while travelling by train one night, he was kept awake by a red-faced General telling his British colleague how he had dealt with a crowd of natives in Amritsar.

The boastful man was Dyer. And what comes next beats all stories. Dyer was presented with a gold sword by the "Ladies of England" for his heroism!

This may sound unbelievable, but it is true.

One of the saddest events of wartime was the way thousands of people, mostly Indian labourers, both young and old, were taken by force — like cattle to the slaughter house — to the now infamous Death Railway and to the Bridge over River Kwai.

More than 100,000 Asian labourers and 10,000 P.O.W.'s lost their lives while hacking their way through dense jungles in order to build a railroad track of 230 miles between Thailand and Burma. The majority of them died of disease, malnutrition, exhaustion and maltreatment!

The people who suffered most were the labourers and yet the emphasis was given by the Western Press only to the sufferings of the white prisoners-of-war.

One Indian labourer, who survived the ordeal of the Death Railway,

told me that the Asians died from starvation. Discrimination, he said, was shown by the Japanese officers, who supervised the work on the railway, giving more food rations to the white soldiers.

"We hardly had anything to eat and no medicines were given when we were ill. I saw with my own eyes hundreds of our friends and fellow-workers die," he said.

When the war was over the P.O.W.'s were flown back to their countries of origin but the Asian labourers continued to suffer and die. They had to struggle their way back to Malaya. Only a few survived to tell their harrowing experiences.

In passing let me say this. Not all Japanese, especially the civilians, were cruel. In fact, several Japanese civilians who were English educated and who had worked in America or in Malaysia and Singapore were extremely helpful whenever we, journalists, approached them for their advice or assistance.

THE GOOD JAPANESE

Four names that come to mind are Japanese Governor Kubota of Perak, Kusaka, the Judge; Naito, the head of the Food Control Department; and Banno, the Chief of the Propaganda Department. They were not only fair-minded but also friendly and helpful.

According to Japanese officers, Malaya was captured for the sole purpose of crippling the British naval forces in Southeast Asia and for its tin and rubber. The Japanese demanded money and men from the people of Malaya. Those who did not co-operate and those whom they suspected as pro-British were subjected to torture and several even to public executions.

It was during the early part of the Japanese regime that thousands of Malaysians, mostly of Chinese origin fled to jungles where they formed the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA).

It was in 1943 that a group of British and Malayan officers known as Force 136 came from India secretly by air and by submarine to co-ordinate the work of the anti-Japanese forces.

Many of the British officers in the jungles received support from Malaysians loyal to the British. In this process several of them were caught by the Japanese — some were executed while others were jailed.

The Japanese invasion began on December 8, 1941 and ended in Singapore on February 15, 1945 when the once formidable fortress surrendered.

The sensational sweep of Malaya by the Japanese was mainly caused by the loss of the British warships, The Prince of Wales and The Repulse. Without naval and air power British forces were not able to meet the challenge posed by the well prepared Japanese armed forces who had the support of air power.

THE IMPERIAL RESCRIPT JAPAN EXPLAINS

Numerous documents and news bulletins were issued to newspapers from time to time during the Japanese occupation with instructions to editors to take note of them or to publish them.

As the Editor of the YAMATO NEWS of Ipoh, one of the important press releases sent to me was a copy of The Japanese Imperial Rescript which explained the reasons why Japan had to declare war on the United States of America and the British Empire.

As instructed by the Japanese military authorities I published the Rescript in the front page of YAMATO NEWS. For the benefit of students of history, I am reproducing the Imperial Rescript below.

WE, by grace of heaven, Emperor of Nippon, seated on the Throne of a line unbroken for ages eternal, enjoin upon ye, Our loyal and brave subjects:

We hereby declare war on the United States of America and the British Empire. The men and officers of Our Army and Navy shall do their utmost in prosecuting the war, Our public servants of various departments shall perform faithfully and diligently their appointed tasks, and all other subjects of Ours shall pursue their respective duties; the entire nation with a united will shall mobilize their total strength so that nothing will miscarry in the attainment of Our war aims.

To insure the stability of Toa (East Asia) and to contribute to world peace is the far-sighted policy which was formulated by Our Great Imperial Sire succeeding Him, and which We lay constantly to heart. To cultivate friendship among nations and to enjoy prosperity in common with all nations has always been the guiding principle of Our Empire's foreign policy. It has been truly unavoidable and far from Our wishes that Our Empire, has now been brought to cross swords with America and Britain. More than four years have passed since China, failing to comprehend the true intentions of Our Empire, and recklessly courting trouble, disturbed the peace of Toa and compelled Our Empire to take up arms. Although there has been re-established the National Government of China, with which Nippon has effected neighbourly intercourse and co-operation, the regime which has survived at Chungking, relying upon American and British protection, still continues its fratricidal opposition. Eager for the realization of their inordinate ambition to dominate the Orient, both America and Britain, giving support to the Chungking regime, have aggravated the disturbances in Toa. Moreover, these two Powers, inducing other countries to follow suit increased military preparations on all sides of Our Empire to challenge us. They have obstructed by every means our peaceful commerce, and finally resorted to a direct severance of economic relations, menacing gravely the existence of Our Empire. Patiently have We waited and long have We endured in the hope that Our Government might retrieve the situation in peace. But Our adversaries, showing not the least spirit of conciliation, have unduly delayed a settlement; and in the meantime, they have intensified the economic and political pressure to compel thereby Our Empire to submission. This trend of affairs would, if left unchecked, not only nullify Our Empire's efforts of many years for the sake of the stabilization of Toa, but also endanger the very existence of Our nation. The situation being such as it is, Our Empire for its existence and self-defence has no other recourse but to appeal to arms and to crush every obstacle in its path.

The hallowed spirits of Our Imperial Ancestors guarding Us from above, We rely upon the loyalty and courage of Our subjects in Our confident expectation that the task bequeathed by Our forefathers will be carried forward, and that the sources of evil will be speedily eradicated and an enduring peace immutably established in Toa, preserving thereby the glory of Our Empire.

The 8th day of the 12th month of the 16th year of Showa.

(Imperial Sign Manual)
(Imperial Seal)

CHAPTER 6

FROM FRYING PAN INTO FIRE

With the surrender by the Japanese, events moved quickly. The members of Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army (M.P.A.J.A.) who were conducting anti-Japanese activities from the jungle suddenly emerged from their hiding places and took control of most of the towns.

There were a few Police Stations still manned by the Japanese soldiers. In one instance, only three Japanese soldiers repulsed an attack by a group of 20 when they attacked their Police Station in Sungei Siput in Perak. This was just before the British reoccupation forces arrived in Ipoh.

The Malayan Communist Party (M.C.P.) and the M.P.A.J.A. organised victory rallies throughout the country. In Ipoh, all the newspaper editors were ordered by the M.C.P. to continue publication of their papers. It was a time of anxiety for most of us, especially the newspaper editors.

Stories of kidnapping and summary executions of so-called collaborators were many, in addition to rumours of kidnapping of several people by unknown persons. Many of the victims never returned to their homes.

Once, when I was busy preparing the paper of the day late in the morning, a stranger came to my office in the Eastern Hotel building in Brewster Road, Ipoh, with a note asking me to go to the Headquarters of the M.C.P. that afternoon.

The note mentioned that one Mr. Chidambaram would escort me to the communist Headquarters at 4 p.m. that day. This frightened me.

I was afraid because some of the people who had previously been summoned to see M.C.P. officials never returned. I was at a loss. I was so scared that I sat in my office and brooded for a while.

One G.T. Chitumbalam (not Chidambaram) was a member of the M.P.A.J.A. I had met him for the first time just before the outbreak of the war and had dinner with him and a few friends in his estate. It was he who came to my office later.

It dawned on me then that it was this same Chitumbalam who was to escort me. Chitumbalam told me not to worry. He asked me to go as instructed. I requested him to accompany me. When the time came for

us to go to the M.C.P. Headquarters, I asked my loyal watchman, a Sikh who had worked in my office for several years before the war, to follow me and wait for me outside the building where I was to meet the chief of the M.C.P. Bureau. This precaution I took because I feared that I might not return.

Soon after I entered their office, the leader of the Communist Party began to accuse me of collaborating with the Japanese. However, Chitumbalam, who could speak Mandarin well, interrupted to plead on my behalf. He told them that I was a good man, was helpful to the M.P.A.J.A. officers and men during the occupation by helping their underground agents. They kept me in suspense for nearly an hour before they allowed me to go.

THE TRYING TEST

Though I survived this test, I was not sure that I would be spared by the other Communists or M.P.A.J.A. leaders. I feared for my life. So I began to disguise myself a little so as not to be recognised easily when I cycled to work daily. I had no car then. It was taken away by Japanese soldiers.

During this uneasy period, both the members of the M.C.P. and the M.P.A.J.A. were trying to take control of the administration of the district. Some of them visited our office to inquire about our staff and their past connections with the Japanese.

To my dismay, I discovered that several people who worked for the Japanese occupation forces and gave them whole-hearted support, were also helping the M.P.A.J.A. during the occupation. Many of them claimed to have played this dual role. One such traitor was a former Malayan Police Officer. He told my brother one evening that I was "blacklisted by the communists".

This happened in the Sturrock Club in Green Town where my teacher brother used to go to play cards.

My brother returned home immediately to warn me to take precautions. After consultation with my wife, I took refuge at night in the homes of our friends in Green Town.

One night, I was asleep in my friend's house when my father-in-law came to call me. He was sent by my brother because an agent of the M.C.P. had come to take away his son because the agent alleged that the son was a close associate of the Japanese Military Police.

The agent happened to be a pre-war Malaya Tribune reporter who worked under me. He said he was "ordered" to fetch my nephew. He said the M.C.P. would send a car to take him and my nephew. My brother was at home. I pleaded with my brother to send his son away

into hiding. This he refused. He said, "I would not surrender him to anyone. If they want him, they will have to take him over my dead body."

That, of course, was foolish courage.

Fortunately, the M.C.P. did not send the car in time and the agent left with the remark, "I will come back later." He never returned. It was a close shave for my nephew.

This period of suspense did not last long. Soon, an advance party of the British occupation forces arrived in Ipoh. Intelligence officers, without wasting time, began arresting the so-called collaborators and supporters of the Japanese.

I feared for myself because of my role as the editor of a paper run by the Japanese. In fact, one of the senior Army Intelligence Officers saw a copy of my newspaper containing the speech I made on the Japanese Navy Day. It was a pro-Japanese and anti-Allies speech.

A COLLABORATOR

The British officer made enquiries in his office about me and my activities during wartime. One Chong, a friend, who worked for the British, told me what had transpired. The British officer said, "This Morais fellow was a collaborator? Look at the speech he made on the Japanese Navy Day."

Chong replied, "Sir, I don't think he was a collaborator. It is true he made that speech."

The officer asked, "Why do you say that?"

Chong replied, "You see, Mr. Morais began his speech by apologising for the interruption because, he said, they were enjoying the entertainment. He added that he was ordered by the Japanese Propaganda Chief to read that speech."

"How do you know that?", the officer asked him.

"Because I was one of those watching the entertainment that evening and I heard Mr. Morais speak," Chong went on.

Chong was indeed a friend in need. Thanks to him, I had a narrow escape from arrest. Some journalists in Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore were arrested by the British.

My troubles however did not end there. A few days later, I was summoned to the British Army Headquarters in Taiping to answer a charge of collaborating with the Japanese. I was escorted by one Capt. Pringmill. I appeared before one Colonel MacDonald, the head of the Intelligence Division of the Army. He had in front of him a big pile of newspapers. He was reading at that moment the editorial in one of the copies of the Yamato News edited by me in the early days of the

Japanese Occupation.

MacDonald began, "So, you wrote all these editorials, did you? They sound very spontaneous."

I remained calm. I explained, "If my editorials did not sound spontaneous I would have got into serious trouble. The Japanese would have labelled me as a British spy."

I also explained that under the Japanese Military rule we just had to obey their orders. "It was not for us to reason why. We either did what they said or die."

He smiled. Thereafter, he deviated a bit to enquire how I was progressing with the publication of the Malaya Tribune. When he asked whether I had any problems, I told him that there was an acute shortage of newsprint for the printing of the paper and lack of lead for use in the lino machines.

He assured me, "You can have all the newsprint and lead you want from the Custodian of the Enemy Property. Go and get all you need."

He then changed the subject, "Look you have been giving too much publicity to the Garrison in Ipoh. This is the Headquarters of the Army here. You should give us more publicity."

I then knew what he really wanted. I promptly agreed to do my best if he would only arrange for information about their activities to be supplied to me from time to time.

From then on, MacDonald and I became good friends. We met several times when he visited Ipoh. In fact, he even authorised a motor-car to be supplied to me for my use in Ipoh. I had to surrender this luxury of a car after a few months when its owner came to my office to claim it!

This reminds me that the Japanese also gave me a car. My Morris Minor was taken away by the Japanese soldiers while we were staying in a rubber estate in Batu Gajah.

The car that the Japanese Military gave me had also to be returned to its rightful owner when he called at my house!

CHAPTER 7

SUBHAS BOSE ARRIVES

Malayans In Indian Freedom Struggle

An important development during the occupation was the formation of the Indian Independence League with the arrival of veteran politician, Rash Bihari Bose, from Japan. With the backing of the Japanese Military, he formed an Anti-British Organisation to help the Japanese. It was called the Indian Independence League. Most of the Malayan Indian leaders joined the freedom struggle.

In the war against Britain, this movement received great fillip with the dramatic appearance in Singapore of Subhas Chandra Bose from Germany in March, 1943. Subhas Bose had earlier escaped from a British jail and had gone to Germany via Afghanistan.

Subhas was no relative of Rash Bihari Bose. He had hundreds of thousands of admirers in Southeast Asia, mostly Indians. He was a former President of the All India Congress, and was a great patriot. He aroused the feelings of the Malayan Indians by his speeches at public rallies, where he was greeted with deafening ovations of "Nataji Bose Ki Jai" (Netaji means leader and Jai means victory).

Bose was hailed as the saviour and benefactor of three million Indians in Southeast Asia. Branches of the Indian Independence League were already in existence throughout Malaya and Singapore before Subhas arrived.

When he was addressing a large gathering on the Ipoh Padang, he made this moving appeal: "Gird up your loins for the task now lies ahead. I had asked you for men, money and materials. I have got them in a generous measure. Now I demand more of you. Men, money and materials cannot by themselves bring victory or freedom. We must have the motive power that will inspire us to brave deeds and heroic exploits."

After this appeal, hundreds of people came forward as volunteers for Bose's Army of Free India. More people, including women, offered the gold jewellery they were wearing.

Things moved faster after the arrival of Subhas Bose in Malaya. Being a newspaperman, I was invited to serve as the Chairman of the Publicity and Propaganda Division of the Indian Independence League in Perak.

In those days, no one dared to say no when invited to serve in any organisation sponsored by the Japanese. I knew what was happening in Singapore and of the activities of Subhas Bose because one of my closest friends, the late J.A. Thivy, was constantly in touch with Bose in Singapore. Thivy was the Chairman of the League.

The next important event in the Indian Independence movement in Malaya was the formation of the Provisional Government of India on October 1, 1943 with Subhas Bose as its head, as well as the Prime Minister and Minister for War and Foreign Affairs.

Among the leading Malayans, who were assisting him, were Col. Dr. Lakshmi as the Minister in charge of the Women's Organisation and also as Commander of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment. Many young women including some housewives joined this regiment. Dr. Lakshmi, a leading gynaecologist in Singapore with a thriving practice, chose the uniform and hardships of military life, under the leadership of Subhas Bose.

Other Malayans who were Ministers in the Provisional Government were Mr. C.N. Raghavan, a leading lawyer of Penang, the late Mr. J.A. Thivy, also a lawyer of Ipoh and the late Dr. Lukshumiya, a private medical practitioner Kuala Lumpur.

Subhas Bose proved a unifying force for Indians in Southeast Asia. A new enthusiasm, as never seen before, swept the Indian community throughout Malaya. In my role as officer in charge of publicity and propaganda, I helped launch several publicity campaigns to raise funds for the Indian National Army, popularly known as I.N.A.

I am aware of several young Indians who faced the ravages of war and underwent incredible sufferings by going in submarines from Malaya to India to carry out underground sabotage activities there.

The Indian National Army, which comprised mainly the surrendered Indian members of the British Army, was renamed the Azad Hind Fauj (Free India Army) in keeping with the new Provisional Government of Free India.

Hundreds of Indian civilians joined this army and many of them went to the battlefield in Burma.

Subhas Bose created a great impression on the people of Malaya, especially the Indians, by his gait and his mode of speech. His eloquent utterances at public rallies were well received. His forceful voice and gesticulations aroused the people to such a pitch of excitement that his speeches were often interrupted by cheers from the crowd.

It was only after the war that I learned from a senior officer of the former Provisional Government of Free India that Subhas Bose was on the point of inviting me to serve on the Propaganda Section of the Go-

vernment of Free India on the strength of the reports given to him by my personal friends, Mr. Thivy and Mr. Raghavan.

Thank God, I was not approached by Bose who had more important matters than to worry about. Furthermore, I had not the courage to go anywhere near the battlefield, much less to fight. But there were others like the late Mr. Thivy who were prepared to die for the freedom of India.

Once Thivy shocked me when he said that he would go to the battlefield if asked by Subhas Bose. When I reminded him about his wife and children who were then in Ipoh, he replied: "Freedom of India is more sacred to me than my family . . . God will look after them . . ."

Bose was reportedly killed in an air crash as he was flying to Japan to escape the British who were then planning to land in Malaya. Many people still think that Bose was not killed in an air crash; it was a ruse by the Japanese military to prevent his capture by the British.

It was the charisma of Subhas Bose and his inspiring speeches that prompted thousands of Indians to respond to his call for volunteers to undertake dangerous missions. I know a few Malaysians who went by submarines and landed in India. Some of them perished during their perilous voyage while others were captured by the British soon after landing on the shores of India.

HE DEFIED BRITISH

Some of them were betrayed by one Malayan Indian in order to save his own skin. Although all of those who were captured were sentenced to long terms of detention, they were released soon after the war.

I, for one, cherish the memory of meeting Subhas Bose at a dinner that the League in Perak had organised, when he made his first visit to Ipoh. I was the Master-of-Ceremonies and I had to make a speech of welcome in Nippongo (Japanese language).

My friend, the late Mr. Lim Kean Hooi, a teacher of St. Michael's Institution, Ipoh, prepared the speech in Nippongo for me. I memorised it and delivered it quite effectively.

What was the secret of Subhas Bose's popularity? Indians, especially the youth of India, looked upon him as a hero, a great freedom fighter. Cambridge-educated, Bose was one of the first to pass the much-coveted Indian Civil Service examination held in London in 1920. He joined the I.C.S. but he served only for a short time. He could not persuade himself to work for his foreign masters. He resigned in April 1921 and returned to India to join the battle for freedom.

His many political activities aroused the patriotism of Indians both in India and elsewhere. It was he who defied the British, the then grea-

test power on earth, by attempting to stage a demonstration at the Black Hole of Calcutta known as the Holewell Monument. He wanted to smash the faked monument of shame "for there was no such hole in fact." It was the creation of the British to justify their barbarity. He was arrested when he and his followers attempted to march to the Monument.

In December, 1940, he was released from prison because of illness and because he had threatened death by hunger strike. He escaped from Calcutta by a devious route travelling through India and Afghanistan by using many disguises. Eventually he reached Germany.

The ruse he had adopted, the route he had taken and the broadcasts he had made are all now history. His dramatic escape from India made headlines in the leading newspapers of the world. Thus, there was happy excitement when he arrived in Kuala Lumpur to organise the I.N.A.

One fact that must be mentioned to the credit of Bose and his I.N.A. is that freedom of India came earlier than expected because of the stories of the formation of a Provisional Government of Free India under Bose and the launching of an attack by the I.N.A. for the liberation of India from the British. Stories of the exploits of the I.N.A. in Burma aroused the feelings of millions in India. The British were aware of this. Thus, to a large extent, he was responsible for the granting of independence to India by the Labour Government of Britain much earlier than expected by Indian nationalists.

CHAPTER 8

RETURN OF THE MALAYA TRIBUNE

After the reoccupation, publication of the Malaya Tribune was resumed. There was a great demand for news about developments, especially about the activities of the M.P.A.J.A. and M.C.P. and the steps taken by the British Forces to check activities of the Communist Party. With the big increase in circulation and the increase in revenue from advertisements, I was able to earn a profit of nearly \$60,000 in a matter of six months.

I kept the late Dato S.Q. Wong, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tribune in Singapore, informed about the progress of the Ipoh Branch since the resumption of publication. He was very pleased to hear from me that the entire machinery and equipment were safe and that the paper was doing well.

Meanwhile my old boss, Mr. E.M. Glover, who had fled to India with the invasion of Malaya by the Japanese, returned to resume work as the General Manager. He controlled all the operations of the Tribune Group throughout Singapore and Malaya.

The Japanese Occupation, despite tyranny and terror, taught us many a valuable lesson. One of the most important lessons I learned was to maintain our self-respect as free people.

We also learned that Asians were second to none not only during war but also during peace time. The change of attitude on my part was observed by Glover when I answered his numerous questions during his first visit to Ipoh after the war. He soon found out that I had increased the salaries of all the staff, including my own. He was very surprised by this and he once remarked, "Do you know Morais, Harper in my office, who is senior to you, does not earn as much as you do?"

I said, "That is his misfortune."

Glover replied, "You certainly have changed, Morais." To this my reply was, "Mr. Glover, the world has changed and we must change with the changing times."

Glover leaned back in his chair and said, "Yes the world has changed and you really changed."

Somehow or other, Glover always found an excuse to criticise me during his subsequent visits. Once he went to the extent of saying, "Do

you know, Morais, the Directors are not happy with the way you are managing this office?"

I was hurt by this remark. Without hesitation I said, "Why are they not happy? Is it because I have made as much as \$60,000 profit in six months?"

I felt time had come for me to be brave.

I paused for a while before I dropped this bombshell, "Do you know, Mr. Glover, that the Directors are not happy with the way you have been managing all the branches of the Tribune Group?"

I could see Glover's face change. He was shocked by this sudden outburst, the first of its kind during our association of more than 12 years.

He put his hands behind his head for a while and then said, "Come, come, Morais, I only bark. I don't bite. Come let us go for lunch."

On the way to lunch, he tried to fish out information from me as to who among the Directors was not happy with the way he was managing the Tribune Group of newspapers!

I did not give him names but I made it clear to him that Dato later Tan Sri Tan Cheng Lock, the most powerful member of the Board of Directors, knew me very well and that he called me whenever he came to Ipoh for political meetings of the Malayan Chinese Association, of which he was the founder and President. After this, our relationship improved and Dame Fortune smiled on me.

Glover even granted me leave to go to India with my family.

I returned from India via Singapore, where I saw Dato S.Q. Wong and explained to him how I looked after the Tribune machinery and equipment during the Japanese occupation. I produced a Statement of Accounts and expenditure for the first six months since the resumption of the publication of the Tribune after the liberation of Malaya. The Dato was so pleased with the work done and the profit I made for the company that he increased my salary by \$100.

Meanwhile I continued to get on well with Glover.

AN ACT OF FAITH

When I was appointed a member of the Perak State Executive Council, Glover's attitude towards me changed. He used to address his letters to me as follows: "The Hon'ble Mr. J.V. Morais, Managing Editor of Malaya Tribune, Ipoh".

Even in those days of the colonial era, he was humble enough to show recognition and appreciation of my achievements. Throughout my career as Managing Editor, he gave me his full backing in matters relating to the staff who worked under me. Once when the Advertising

Representative of the Malaya Tribune, Mr. Douglas Jansz, who was much older, asked Glover to appoint him as the Manager of the Ipoh office, Glover wrote him, "Mr. Morais is the Manager and Editor of the Malaya Tribune and I am afraid you have to continue to work under his direction"

Another episode worth recalling is the attempt of my former editorial assistant, one Goh, who wrote a confidential letter to Glover, pointing out that he could do better as Managing Editor. He alleged that I was engaged more in public activities than in running the office. He also asked for an increase in salary.

True to English tradition, he returned Goh's letter to me and asked for my views about Goh. He thought Goh's allegations were unwarranted. He felt that as the head of the Ipoh office, Goh should have informed me about the letter or given it to me for forwarding to Singapore. However, on my recommendation, Glover decided not to take any action against Goh, except to warn him that if he was not satisfied he could resign.

Another sterling quality of Glover was to express appreciation of my work from time to time. When Britain declared war on Germany, I brought out a midnight edition of the Tribune. He congratulated me on my initiative.

Glover retired from the Tribune in 1950 and returned to settle down in England. His place as the Editor-in-Chief and General Manager was taken over by my old colleague, Lim Keng Hor, who later joined a bank in Hong Kong.

Since his retirement 30 years ago, Glover and I have remained good friends. In fairness to Glover, let me say this. He was a man of vision. He was the first Press baron to introduce simultaneous publication of a national newspaper, the Malaya Tribune, in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Penang. This proved a big success.

I owe a lot to Glover. It was he who 'discovered' me, when he appointed me the first Ipoh representative of the Tribune when I was only 24 years old. Thanks to the encouragement he gave me I was able to reach the top by the end of 1937, when I was appointed the Managing Editor in Ipoh at the age of 27, probably the youngest man to head a newspaper organisation in Malaya in the 1930's.

Now when I think of my good fortune to become the head of a newspaper at such an early age, I cannot help admitting that Glover's decision was an act of great faith in a young man. Realisation of this fact then made me go all out to prove that Glover was not wrong in giving me the chance to show what I could do.

Indicative of our growing friendship is the Christmas greeting card

he sends us every Christmas. In 1975, he wrote: "We heartily reciprocate your wishes. We are glad Victor is doing well all of which confirms the opinion I formed of him when I engaged him as the Malaya Tribune representative in Ipoh in 1934. We wish him success in his literary work and I look forward to seeing the story of his own life in book form"

CHAPTER 9

LIFE AS A LEGISLATOR

Meeting With Datuk Onn bin Jaafar

In 1947, I was invited to stand for election as the president of the Kinta Indian Association, which is the largest Indian organisation in Perak.

With my election as President willy-nilly I got involved in local politics. Soon afterwards, I had the good fortune to be nominated as the first Indian State Executive Councillor of the Perak Government. It was a 'Cabinet' post in a State Government. All the members of the State Council and the State Executive Council were entitled to be addressed as "The Honourable Mr." I was then in my late thirties and this boosted my ego!

It may be fitting to record here that just before the Federation Agreement was signed, I had the pleasure of meeting the late Dato Onn bin Jaafar, the founder of the United Malays National Organisation. I met him several times when he came to Ipoh to meet Perak UMNO leaders.

Under the leadership of Dato Onn, a country-wide non-cooperation movement was launched with the backing of all the Malay Rulers. The Sultans were urged by UMNO to boycott the installation ceremony of the Governor and the Governor-General.

On June 29, 1946 UMNO asked Dato Onn to discuss the Federation Scheme with the Sultans and Britain. It was during this period that the late Tun Tan Cheng Lock, the founder and first President of the Malayan Chinese Association, and leaders of the other communities sent a telegram to London — to be exact, on July 8, 1946 — requesting Britain to consult all sections of the population. This was agreed to but no action was taken to allay the fears of the non-Malays.

On August 17, 1947 Tun Cheng Lock organised a meeting of all Malayan Chinese Chambers of Commerce, trade unions, guilds and associations. It opposed the Federation Scheme. A hartal was organised for the first time in Malaya but it failed in its objective.

The Malays opposed the Malayan Union Constitution which provided for the nine Malay States and the Straits Settlements of Penang and Malacca to be centralised under the direct control of a British Governor. Singapore was to remain a colony with its own

Governor.

Other provisions in the Constitution were: A British Governor-General was to preside over the Malayan Union, Singapore and the Borneo territories;

The powers of the Sultans were to be reduced. They were to retain supreme authority only over Islamic matters;

The States and Settlements were to deal only with local government and they were to remain under the direct control of the Central Government;

The British Governor was to rule with the assistance of an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

Malay anger was aroused mainly over the change from the prewar pro-Malay policy to that of equal citizenship rights for all. The Malays feared their special position and privileges would come to an end. They objected to the generous citizenship rights offered to the non-Malays.

There was fear of serious trouble in the country. Fortunately Malaya was lucky to have leaders of the calibre of Dato Onn not only to guard the position of the Malays in particular and other Malaysians in general but to guide them along the right path. I say this because as an editor I was receiving reports daily of feelings rising high everywhere.

Eventually Britain acceded to Malay demands when the Federation Agreement was signed.

DATO ONN'S ROLE

Dato Onn was then looked upon as the saviour of the Malay race. I attended the first big political rally addressed by the Dato which took place in Kuala Kangsar, the Royal Town of Perak. It was also attended by the British Parliamentarians, Gammans and Rees Williams who had come to study the situation in Malaya.

Never before had I seen demonstrations of patriotism by the Malays. For the first time, Malay women came out in large numbers to support Dato Onn. The UMNO under his leadership grew from strength to strength.

Then the unexpected happened. Dato Onn decided to resign as the President of UMNO. This caused a sensation among all communities especially the Malays. Everyone felt that he was the only man who could get what the Malays wanted from the British.

What next? Many of the admirers of Dato Onn asked. The Malay leader ignored appeals from his friends to stay on as UMNO President. Dato Onn did not waste time. He formed the Independence of Malaya Party (I.M.P.) I got an invitation from Dato Onn to attend the

inaugural meeting of the Party at Hotel Majestic in Kuala Lumpur.

I witnessed this historic meeting. But the IMP failed in the elections. Undaunted, the Dato formed yet another party — Party Negara.

I was asked by him to edit Berita Negara. But like IMP, Party Negara did not last long. All the same Dato Onn deserves credit as the one who blazed the trail to freedom by awakening the Malays to their rightful place in Malaya.

Indeed, Dato Onn did justice to his people but did not do justice to himself. He threw away the golden opportunity to become the first Prime Minister by resigning from U.M.N.O. Such is fate.

As a legislator, I also witnessed several other epoch-making events in Malaya. It was out of the ashes and rubbles of the much-hated and ill-conceived Malayan Union that the Federation of Malaya Agreement, 1948, came into being. As a result of that, a new constitution was established with effect from February, 1948.

For the first time, all the nine Malay States and the two Settlements of Malacca and Penang were brought together under the new agreement.

HISTORIC EVENTS

Perak was one of the States with a constitution which established a Council of State and a State Executive Council. I was fortunate enough to witness the historic events that took place soon afterwards as a member of the Perak State Executive Council — incidentally the first Malayan of Indian origin in Perak to serve on the highest government body in the State.

Like all other State Legislatures, we ratified both the new State Agreement and the Federation of Malaya Agreement, 1948 which was declared to have the force of law throughout the country. These developments gave us hope for early self-government.

The Executive Council was effectively a Cabinet. Its functions were many and varied. We even had the right to consider appeals from those who had been condemned to death. If we considered that there were sufficient grounds to show mercy, we recommended pardon to His Royal Highness the Sultan. In other cases we dismissed the appeals.

We began well as a sort of self-governing State. We looked forward hopefully to a bright era of peace, progress and prosperity.

Alas, hardly had we settled down to look into the difficult issues facing Malaya, the Communist Party of Malaya started their rebellion by staging raids on mines and estates and even on remote police stations.

There were several train derailments caused by the communists.

People were frightened to travel by railway. The event that shook Malaya was the brutal murder in broad daylight of three European planters in Sungei Siput, which is 18 miles from Ipoh. I visited the scene of this hideous crime to get a firsthand report for my newspaper.

During this period there were derailments of trains and burning down of houses. The situation was so serious that Sir Edward Gent, the then High Commissioner declared on June 18, 1948 a state of emergency in Perak and Johore. The next day it was extended to the whole country.

The Malayan Communist Party was banned and the war against the communists had officially begun.

In April 1950 General Sir Harold Briggs was appointed the Director of Operations. He introduced the Briggs Plan under which squatters from remote areas were resettled on new villages. By the end of 1952 more than 400,000 Chinese squatters had been resettled in 400 new villages.

After this, fear gripped the nation as more and more shootings and sabotage continued to take place throughout the country. The Federal Government was forced to declare a state of emergency — the longest and costliest ever experienced by Malaya.

Our hopes were shattered. Our idea of a brighter and better Malaya became a distant dream. We were under the shadows of torturing fear and uncertainty. It was during this period I was appointed a member of the State Detainees Review Committee. It was presided over by a judge of the Ipoh High Court, Mr. Justice B.G. Smith.

The role of this body was to consider appeals from the detainees and to recommend release of those we considered innocent.

We had to be very careful in dealing with each case. Some of the detainees were caught giving aid to communists while others were arrested on suspicion. The detainees often argued that they were under duress to offer assistance. They felt they were between the devil and the deep sea. Their argument was that during the day police visited their places of work for investigations and to arrest those found aiding the communists while at night the communists terrorised them by forcing them to do just what they wanted.

It was a nightmare for those who worked in the interior of estates and far-off tin mines. One man I know worked as a clerk in a rubber estate. On seeing the terrorists approaching his house he fled. He ran and ran until he collapsed and died! This happened in an estate in Chemor which is 12 miles from Ipoh.

I felt sorry for a few of the detainees who had families living in remote areas. They deserved sympathy and understanding for their

pitiful plight.

The Emergency took a heavy toll in men and money. A major incident occurred in the Perak Chinese Assembly Hall in Ipoh during the early stages of the Emergency when a handgrenade was thrown at the platform on which were seated the late Tun Tan Cheng Lock and the late Tun Leong Yew Koh, the then Secretary-General of the MCA who later became the first non-Malay Governor of Malacca. Both Tun Tan and Tun Leong were seriously injured.

As the editor of the only English daily, I was to have attended the MCA meeting but at the last moment I had something more urgent to deal with.

DEATH OF HENRY GURNEY

The biggest shock that Malaya experienced was when the then High Commissioner, Sir Henry Gurney*, was ambushed and killed by communists while he was on his way to the Fraser's Hill. It was on October 6, 1951.

The communists had their supporters in government departments and even among the employees of senior European Government officers. The news of Sir Henry's trip to Fraser's Hill was leaked by an amah working then in King's House while she was out shopping.

Then came General Sir Gerald Templer who master-minded a more dynamic campaign to check the communist insurrection. In this process, he neither spared the communists nor the civilian leaders who were criticised for spending too much time on the golf courses instead of helping the country that was passing through its worst crisis.

To a large extent, Templer, a man of action, was responsible for ending the Emergency earlier than originally hoped for. As a leader during this war against the communists he was without an equal. A brave man, Templer created confidence in the people and gave them hope. He was a highly qualified militarist whose main task was to enforce with firmness the Briggs Plan depriving the terrorists of food, money and information.

The Police force under Colonel Young of the London Police was enlarged. Also more troops came from the Commonwealth countries.

Meanwhile Templer toured the bad areas and urged the people to co-operate with the Government. More attractive rewards for

* I had the pleasure of meeting Sir Henry Gurney several times. Once he was the guest-of-honour at the Ipoh Rotary Club meeting at which I was installed as the President. The other occasion was the swearing-in-ceremony of Perak State Executive Council Members at Istana Iskandariah in Kuala Kangsar in 1948 when he congratulated me on my speech pledging the support of the Indian community to His Royal Highness the Sultan.

information were offered. The highest was \$250,000 for capturing Chin Peng, the MCP leader.

It was on July 31, 1960 that the ending of the Emergency was announced.

During the Emergency, I had to be careful about what I published in my newspaper, the Malaya Tribune. Once our paper carried a letter criticising the High Court judge who sentenced a Chinese girl to death for possession of firearms. The police, who summoned me to their headquarters for an explanation, threatened action against me and my newspaper. The investigating officer even accused me of being a communist sympathiser! Fortunately no action was taken against our paper.

Looking back, I rejoice over the opportunity I had in serving as a State Councillor. I learned and un-learned many things by being associated with some of those who were helping to write the post-war history of Malaya. Among them were leaders of the Malay, Chinese and Indian communities.

PERAK UMNO LEADER

Of the many, the leaders who deserve mention are the late Datuk Panglima Bukit Gantang, (Haji Abdul Wahab) a founder of UMNO and the then Mentri Besar (Chief Minister) of Perak and the late Datuk Mustapha Albakri, former State Secretary of Perak and Datuk Zainal Abidin bin Haji Abbas (now Tan Sri), a former senior civil servant and a founder of UMNO and his wife, Puan Sri Puteh Mariah, the first woman Federal Councillor and leader of the Women's Section of UMNO.

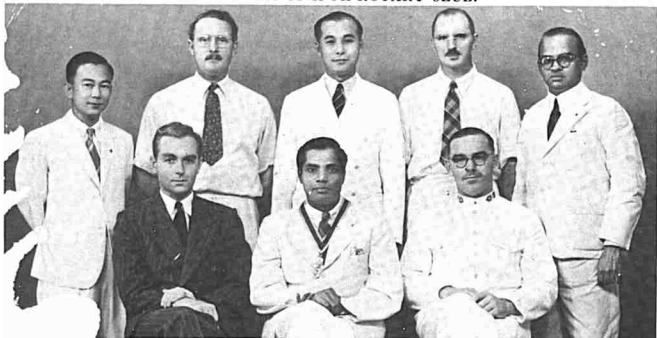
All the Perak leaders, especially Datuk Panglima Bukit Gantang, one of the first Malay lawyers in the country and Tan Sri Zainal Abidin were among the pioneers of the freedom movement.

Datuk Panglima Bukit Gantang might have become the Prime Minister of Malaya if he had not quarrelled with the then leaders of UMNO in the formation of which he played a key role with Dato Onn bin Jaafar, the founder of UMNO.

Datuk Panglima Bukit Gantang formed a new political party — National Association of Perak — with several former Perak UMNO leaders but this party did not do well in the elections that followed. Some of the Datuk's closest associates then left him and rejoined UMNO.

To sum up, my role as a State Councillor will remain as one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

DIRECTORS OF IPOH ROTARY CLUB.



I am seated in the centre in this picture with the Board of Directors of the Ipoh Rotary Club. Seated on my right is Rev. Hayter, the Vice-President and on left is Mr. Stanley Gordon, the Honorary Secretary of the Club. I was the President of the Rotary Club in 1949.

Standing from left are: Mr. Teoh, Mr. E.G. Harris, Mr. Tan Cheng Phor, Mr. Godwin and the late Mr. V.D. Kuppusamy, a former Principal of A.C.S., Kampar, who later became a lawyer.

SIR HENRY GURNEY AT ROTARY DINNER



The guest-of-honour at the installation of the new President of the Ipoh Rotary Club the late Mr. H.D.G. Jansz, on left, was Sir Henry Gurney, the then British High Commissioner of Malaya. Mr. Jansz succeeded me as the President of the Rotary Club. I am seated on right wearing the President's Badge.

Sir Henry was killed by terrorists two years later while he was on his way to Fraser's Hill for a holiday.



During a recent visit to Madras I was invited to address the members of the Zonta International (Women's Club). Here I am seen speaking to them in a humorous vein. I was quite nervous speaking to the ladies one of whom is Mrs. May George, the President of Zonta International who is the first woman engineer in the State. She is seated third from left.

SCHOOL SCOUT TROOP LEADER



I was the Troop Leader of the Fifth Ipoh Scouts of the Anderson School, Ipoh where I was a student then. I am seated fourth from left and on my left are Scoutmasters D. Caleb, Krishnan and Yusuf. Seated on the ground second from right is my friend and fellow Andersonian, Liew Whye Hone (now a Datuk and a Perak M.C.A. leader) of Ipoh.



I am with Tun Tan Siew Sin, the former Finance Minister of Malaysia. We are discussing the contents of my book on the life and times of Tun Tan entitled **PORTRAIT OF A STATESMAN**. It was the second book on Tun. The first was **BLUEPRINT FOR UNITY** which I was commissioned to write by the Malaysian Chinese Association several years ago.



I am recording my comments on the role of the Press at the All India Radio office in Trivandrum, when I was on a holiday in Kerala, South India. With me is Mr Menon, a senior officer of the All India Radio, Trivandrum.

CHAPTER 10

ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF ROTARY CLUB

From my position as Editor and State Councillor, I enlarged my range of activities to cover social, educational, cultural and sports fields. Indeed, it was the beginning of further advancement for me in public life.

With the co-operation of several friends I formed the Cos Club, a cosmopolitan organisation with aims similar to those of Rotary. We had the blessings of several eminent men like the late Col. Cecil Rae, the then senior member of the Federal Legislative Council, the late John L. Woods, leading lawyer and my good friend, J.A. Thivy, also a lawyer.

Experience I gained in Cos Club stood me in good stead when I joined and held senior positions in St. John Ambulance Association, the Ipoh Town Library, the Kinta Indian Association, the Y.M.C.A. and as the President of the Press Club of Malaysia.

In 1947, I was introduced as a member of the Rotary Club of Ipoh by my contemporary, the late Mr. K.L. Devaser, a lawyer and a former President of the Malayan Indian Congress. Soon after my admission I was appointed the Editor of the Rotary Club magazine, "RODA". This was followed by my promotion to Sergeant-at-Arms and later on to Honorary Secretary of the Club.

The President of the Club then was Mr. P.C.B. Newington, the then General Manager of the Great Eastern Life Insurance Company in Ipoh. Newington was neither a writer nor a speaker. So I had all the opportunities to be the spokesman of the Club at the various Rotary Conferences held in Ipoh, Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

Once I had the privilege of addressing the District Rotary Conference held at the Victoria Memorial Hall in Singapore. I spoke without notes but with some trepidation. Among the Rotarians present were several eminent men including Mr. H.R. Cheeseman, the then Director of Education of Malaya, Mr. A.W. Frisby, another senior educationist, Professor Silcock of the University of Singapore and Mr. George Thomson, a scholar and lecturer.

At the District Conference held in Penang, I was invited to speak. Among the delegates present was the late Mr. M. Saravanamuthu, a

Director of the Club, who was known among his friends as Sara. He was then the editor of the Straits Echo of Penang.

I had hardly completed two years as a Rotarian when nominations were called for the post of President of the Rotary Club of Ipoh. One man was more experienced and better qualified man any other Rotarian for the post of President. He was none other than the world famous plague expert, Dr. Wu Lien Teh, who was then in private practice in Ipoh.

As the editor of the only local English newspaper, I had a large circle of friends of all races including several Rotarians. Among the members of our Club were the Mentri Besar (Chief Minister) of Perak, the State Secretary of Perak, Managing Directors of firms, Federal Councillors and prominent community leaders. Some of my friends advised me to stand for election though I respected and admired Dr. Wu. He was so confident of success that Dr. Wu arranged a cocktail party at the residence of the late Mr. Lau Pak Kuan, the Perak Chinese leader.

Contrary to the expectations of Dr. Wu, I was elected by a big majority. Sad to say, Dr. Wu resigned soon afterwards, having served Rotary for almost 13 years.

My job as the President was made pleasant and easy by the support given to me by fellow Directors and the cooperation of all members of the Club.

My Vice-President was none other than the late Datuk Mustapha Albakri, the then State Secretary of Perak who eventually rose to the top-rung of the Malayan Civil Service, and our Honorary Secretary was Major Stanley Gordon, the head of the Salvation Army in Ipoh.

I also had the support of such stalwarts of Rotary as the late H.D.G. Jansz, Y.C. Kang, J.T. Chappell and J.D. Mead, who had served in the Malayan Government.

During my term of office as President, the Club revitalised the Ipoh Welfare Home for youths involved in juvenile delinquency and orphans.

Things were then moving very favourably for me. I had the pleasure of having as guests of honour the late Sir Henry Gurney, the High Commissioner of the Federation of Malaya, and the late Rt. Hon'ble Malcolm MacDonald, the then British Commissioner-General for Southeast Asia, at my installation as President and when I handed over the badge of office to the new President, the late Harold Jansz, the former Managing Director of Charles Grenier & Co., Ipoh.

However, professionally I was about to face the most difficult days of my career. Owing to clashes of opinion among the Tribune Directors, they decided to suspend publication of the paper throughout Malaya and Singapore.

This was the most trying moment of my life. An uninterrupted career of more than 16 years as the Managing Editor of the Tribune in Ipoh had come to an end.

With the closing of the Tribune, the future looked bleak and all my dreams were shattered. Mention of dreams reminds me of the dream that my wife had a few days before the news of the suspension of the Tribune. She saw in her dream that I was seated on a throne and someone suddenly appeared and removed the crown that I was wearing!

CHAPTER 11

ENTER THE DAILY NEWS

— The Progress Was Good But

I was at a loss as to what I should do next. The only job I knew was editing a newspaper. I consulted a few friends. Then I met the late Chan Lai Hong, a local tin miner and sports promoter. He was interested in buying the machinery from the Malaya Tribune. Also interested were Mr. M.C. Tsai, an old friend of mine and Cheong Sum, a miner.

With financial backing from them, I decided to launch a new newspaper, The Daily News. Our biggest problem was a licence to print the paper.

I telephoned Mr. Vincent Del Tufo, (later Sir) the acting Chief Secretary, Federation of Malaya. He was a former member of Ipoh Rotary Club when I was its President. He approved a licence immediately. Thus, I was able to bring out the first issue of the Daily News the day after the Tribune had ceased publication!

This constituted a record in the long history of newspaper publishing in Malaya. References to this fact were made in some of the other newspapers. The Daily Mail of Singapore paid a tribute to me for my achievement.

The people of Perak, especially those in Ipoh, gave me their support. We grew slowly but steadily with more and more commercial firms taking advertisements, the life-blood of newspapers.

On the occasion of the launching of the Daily News, Mr. Justice James Thomson (now Tun Sir James.), who was the High Court Judge in Ipoh, congratulated me and the Directors of the Daily News for our courage and foresight in continuing to give the State its own newspaper.

He stressed the need for a newspaper. He spoke on behalf of the late Dato Panglima Bukit Gantang (Haji Abdul Wahab), the Mentri Besar of Perak. He expressed the hope that the public, especially the businessmen in Ipoh, would give their full support by advertising in the Daily News.

The Directors were heartened by the good wishes so well expressed by Mr. Justice Thomson. This augured well for us.

But our joy was short-lived. Before we could complete our first year,

we received a letter from the office of the State Legal Adviser, Mr. M.G. Neal, asking us to quit our office. Mr. Neal later was appointed a Judge of the High Court in Ipoh.

We were then occupying a building in Brewster Road, Ipoh, which belonged to the Government. The Government asked us to vacate because they wanted to use the building as Government offices.

We pleaded with the Mentri Besar to give us some more time or provide us with alternative accommodation. However, our appeals fell on deaf ears.

This was the cruellest blow from a Government that I had served first as State Executive Councillor and later as a member of the Council of State.

Eventually, we surrendered to persistent pressure from the Government. And, with no alternative accommodation, the Daily News had to cease publication after a period of only one year.

I was very, very disappointed at this shabby treatment by the State Government. To this day, I find it difficult to forget this episode. Perak has always boasted that it is the premier State in Malaya and Ipoh was described as the Hub of Malaya. If my memory serves me right, Perak had English newspapers as early as 1921.

With the closing of the Daily News, I was again at a loss as to what to do. But I remembered what a successful businessman once advised, "If opportunities do not present themselves, then look for them or manufacture them!"

I had a brain-wave. Why not publish a Perak WHO'S WHO? Soon I got to work.

Because of my connections with various organisations like the Rotary Club, the Perak Library, of which I was a Vice-President, the St. John Ambulance Association, of which I was the Chairman, the State Executive Council and the Kinta Indian Association, I was able to count on the support of many friends.

Within 16 days, I obtained advertisements to the value of \$5,000 in addition to 200 biographies and orders. This was most heartening. I felt confident of making this new venture a financial success.

On the fifteenth day of my campaign for advertisements and biographies, I was in a leading department store in Ipoh trying to get an advertisement for the 'WHO'S WHO' when an old friend, the Principal of the Trade School in Ipoh, Mr. Thomas, came with the sad news that a mutual friend, R.G. Senan, a leading contractor of Penang, had passed away. He asked me to go with him to Penang for the 16th day ceremony.

Senan was a well-wisher of mine. I decided to go in my new car.

Thomas told me he would assist in driving. My brother, J.M. Morais, said he was not happy about my going just to attend the ceremony. He suggested that it would be better if I went with the family for a holiday after a few weeks instead of just going for one day.

I explained what had transpired between me and Thomas. After this, my brother did not say anything more. We left for Penang with Thomas and his wife and my eldest son, Herbert, who was then nine years old.

We had a tearful meeting with Mrs. Senan and her young children.

The following morning, we decided to return from Penang. At Bagan Serai, about 50 miles from Penang, Thomas agreed to take over from me. While nearing Taiping, Thomas attempted to overtake a lorry. In this process we nearly had a head-on collision with an oncoming car which was travelling at high speed.

To avoid an accident, I pulled the steering wheel violently and the car turned turtle twice just after overtaking the lorry.

All in the car escaped unhurt except myself. I found blood on the left sleeve of my shirt. Then I discovered that I could not lift my left arm, the upper arm had fractured. I was in a state of severe shock. I was removed to the General Hospital, Taiping, by a passing lorry and admitted to the first class ward.

The first person to rush to see me was my cousin, Mrs. Matilda Rozario. She looked after me until my wife, Gladys and my brother, J.M. came from Ipoh.

Throughout my stay in Taiping Hospital, J.M. was with me every night, while Gladys and children found accommodation in the home of Matilda who was of immense help.

As a State Councillor, I was entitled to the best treatment available. And I got it. But it was of no avail.

CHAPTER 12

BACK TO INDIA FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

Although three English surgeons treated me, one in Taiping and two in Ipoh, there was no improvement in my condition. There was fear that gangrene might set in as more than five months had passed since the accident.

I decided to go to India, where I could be treated by a wellknown Ayurvedic doctor in Pudur, 70 miles from Madras. Before going there, I was told that several patients, who had been sent away by the General Hospitals in the cities because they could not perform certain bone operations, were cured by the Ayurvedic doctor at Pudur.

With my friend, Richard Job now of Television Malaysia, I went to Pudur first by train and then by a horse carriage. The Ayurvedic Hospital was away from the town centre. After a very tedious journey, we reached it. We noticed more than one hundred patients in the various wards in small buildings around the medical centre.

I was shown the office of the head of the Hospital. He was not in because it was a day of silence and prayer for him! I was advised by his assistant to come the following day.

My first impressions of the place and the people there were far from encouraging. Then I remembered the warning given by my teacher brother J.M. Morais that "those bogus doctors may give some treatment which might do more harm than good." He had urged me to see instead the surgeons at the General Hospital in Madras.

Remembering the advice of my brother, a man of worldly wisdom, I returned to Madras. I contacted the orthopaedic surgeon, one Dr. Thaimanaswamy. He examined the X-ray I took from Malaya and told me that I would have to undergo two operations.

Dr. Thaimanaswamy said that he would first perform a minor operation involving the removal of pieces of dead bones in the broken arm and clearing up whatever "foreign body" that might be inside the wound. After that, I was to go for a rest and then return for a major operation within three weeks. I agreed and a date was fixed for the first operation.

On the day of the operation, Dr. Thaimanaswamy consulted his assistant surgeon about completing the surgery the same morning. The

assistant disagreed saying that it was dangerous to do the whole operation at the same time.

"Never mind. It's worth taking the risk! Let's go ahead 'plating' the broken arm." So Thaimanaswamy took a risk at my expense'.

The operation was over in three hours. He visited me late at night to make sure there were no complications following surgery. Thereafter, I moved about like a robot with a plaster around my entire chest and left arm. My plastered left arm was permanently connected to my chest plaster at an angle of about 90 degrees. It was a most weird and uncomfortable arrangement. When I changed after reaching my ward, I felt so uncomfortable that I burst out crying like a child. Seeing my plight my wife too cried. I cried through fear.

I was discharged from hospital after three weeks. I was told to return after two months for the removal of the plaster.

MOST ANXIOUS PERIOD

On the morning before we went to see Dr. Thaimanaswamy, Gladys and I went to church to pray. It was the most anxious period of my life. With all my hopes gone by the accident, I was hoping against hope that I would get my arm back to enable me to resume work as a writer and publisher.

During this time of anxiety, I could not sleep. The warm and uncomfortable plaster made it worse. Both my wife and I used to discuss often our future because we were not sure if the operation would prove a success. Often, the bed I lay on was a bed of bad dreams, dreams of amputation of my arm and dreams about life without one arm. Our prayer then was our strength. I recalled the old words, "If you keep faith in God, that faith will keep you." Never before had I gone to church and prayed as often as in those days of uncertainty.

THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

When I went to the General Hospital on October 14, 1952 in Madras with my wife, I was prepared for the worst. Tension mounted as the nurse attempted to cut open the plaster.

Eventually, she succeeded in removing the plaster without hurting me much. My arm presented an ugly sight.

The surgeon then came in. He ordered an X-ray to be taken. Later he examined it. We waited for his decision. He was satisfied with the progress I was making. I could not believe my ears when he said, "Your arm is all right now. It is as strong as your right arm. But you must not strain it for a few weeks."

We were so happy that we decided to go back to church to give

thanks before returning to our temporary home in Madras.

It was the first time that I had undergone surgery in India. Thank God, it proved a success despite doubts expressed by some of our doctor friends in Malaya.

I am grateful to the Indian doctors for their dedication and real concern for the welfare of their patients.

"A HAPPY ACCIDENT"

Following my successful operation and before going to my home town, Trivandrum in South India, I stayed on in Madras for a few days. During this time, I called on Mr. Paul Schebert, the Public Affairs Officer of the American Consulate-General in Madras. I told him I was looking for a suitable job in India, if one was available.

A few months later, while I was hopefully looking forward to receiving letters from Malaya about job offers, Schebert wrote me a letter asking me to contact one Mr. Ladden, the Chairman of Amalgamations Limited of Madras, who had an opening as the General Manager-Director of Higginbothams, the biggest book-selling firm of India. Mr Ladden is an Englishman.

When I called at Ladden's office in Mount Road, Madras, I was told that he had gone to Ootakamund (Ooty), the hill station. His secretary advised me to see Mr. Krishnan, the Managing Director of the company. After a short discussion, Krishnan told me to visit the Higginbothams office to see the set-up there and to offer suggestions, if any, for the improvement of the business.

That afternoon, I told Krishnan that I could manage Higginbothams and improve its business. After outlining the terms and conditions of service, he asked me to return to Trivandrum promising to let me know the decision of the company about employing me after consulting Ladden.

I volunteered to remain in Madras until the return of Ladden because I wanted to know the result of my interview. Krishnan advised me against it. Disappointed, I returned to Trivandrum. However, I felt sure of getting that job.

A few days later, I received a letter from Krishnan saying that "the company wants a local man who knows local people". Though an Indian by birth, he regarded me as an 'expatriate'. So I was disqualified. But I was wrong.

From enquiries made on my way back to Malaya late in September 1953, I learned that the General Manager of Higginbothams whom the company was trying to replace was the brother-in-law of Krishnan!

What an irony! An American, Schebert, thought I was good enough

for the job and an Englishman, Ladden, wanted me to join the company, But it was an Indian, Krishnan, who denied me the job and an opportunity to show what I could do.

I decided not to despair. A few weeks later, I received a letter from Martin Hutton, Editor of the Malay Mail, offering me a job as a Sub-Editor. This was the result of the initiative of my brother J.M., who had applied on my behalf when he heard that there was a vacancy in the Malay Mail!

I have no regrets now. If I had landed the Higgingbothams job, attractive though the salary was then, I could not have resumed my journalistic career in the Malay Mail and begun the writing, editing and publishing of several books since my return to Malaya in 1953. So my setback in Madras, I consider, was a happy accident.

I was with the Malay Mail until 1960 when I decided to go into publishing books on my own. I was then the Chief Sub-Editor. After leaving Malay Mail, I took up a part-time job as the Federation Appeals Organiser of Lady Templer Hospital in Kuala Lumpur. Meanwhile I continued publishing the WHO'S WHO IN MALAYSIA and writing other books.

During the period with the Lady Templer Hospital I had the pleasure of meeting Lady Templer, the wife of Sir Gerald Templer, the then High Commissioner of Malaya. She took a keen interest in the Hospital. It was named after her.

Among the Board of Governors of the Hospital with whom I worked were Tun Sir Henry Lee, the late Tan Sri Nik Kamil, Mr. John Drysdale, former Chairman of the Board, Dr. P.P. Narayanan and Dr. Snelling, the Medical Superintendent of the Lady Templer Hospital.

CHAPTER 13

THE SAGA OF CANCER

What My Family Doctor Discovered

Mention of medical treatment in Madras reminds me of another poignant drama in my life. For several years, I had been suffering from hoarseness of voice, coughing and irritation of the throat. At times, I had difficulty when speaking. This necessitated my consulting several doctors and some specialists.

Everyone of them prescribed some type of medicine to ease the discomfort. However, I continued to suffer.

I was quite annoyed when people repeatedly asked me what was wrong with my voice. Some friends, who were well versed in Indian Ayurvedic medicine, prescribed certain medicine which I took. All this treatment was of no avail because I continued to suffer hoarseness of voice.

Once I went to see one Mr. Ooi, a Chinese friend and a senior Selangor Government official. He gave me a herb which he guaranteed would prove "a miracle cure". He told me to suck the herb and swallow the juice. The herb was very bitter. But this too proved unsuccessful.

In desperation, I went to see Dr. M.J. Snelling, the Medical Superintendent of the Lady Templer Hospital. He performed a biopsy and diagnosed that I was suffering from acute laryngitis! He gave me some medicine. This too had no effect.

As a last resort, I went to the E.N.T. clinic of my friend, Dr. Rashid Mallal, our family doctor. After a thorough examination of my throat, he advised me to see the E.N.T. specialist, Dr. K.K. Lam of the Kuala Lumpur General Hospital.

Dr. Lam did a biopsy under general anaesthesia. He advised me to go back to him after ten days to find out the result of the biopsy after analysis by the Institute of Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur.

As soon as I entered Dr. Lam's consultation room, he looked at me and spoke in a grave tone. He said, "I am afraid, Morais, your vocal cord is affected. It is in bad shape"

I asked him to spell out what was really wrong with me.

"Well," he went on, "you have cancer. You better go either to Colombo or Bombay for treatment. You may have to undergo radium treatment or surgery."

"How soon, doctor?" I asked.

"Immediately," was his reply. This shook me mentally and physically.

I never suspected anything like cancer. My world was almost destroyed. I was shaken. I was shaken because cancer had already claimed the lives of many Malaysians, including some I knew.

I broke this news to my wife. But I didn't tell her everything I controlled my emotions. I said to myself, "This is my problem, let me face it. Why should I bring misery to the rest of the family?" So I did not draw attention to the seriousness of the malady I was suffering from. This was early in September, 1963.

Already there were many cases of well-known people who got the best of treatment but succumbed to this much-dreaded killer. Soon the members of my family knew what I was suffering from. Thereafter, thoughts of death came to me often.

Being a journalist, I was more aware of the dangers of this disease than anybody else in my home. I made arrangements to see the specialists at Tata Memorial Hospital in Bombay. Meanwhile, I feared that I would lose control of my emotions. So I tried to remain calm. Then came the time I had to leave for Bombay.

Close friends and relatives called on us daily. On the day of my departure, we had a short prayer session in our home conducted by a personal friend, Mr. Koruth, an accountant.

SHATTERING NEWS

My wife wanted to accompany me. But I dissuaded her from making the trip in order to spare her the ordeal of witnessing the treatment and trial that I was to undergo.

It was a night flight by Air India Boeing, from Kuala Lumpur to Bombay. Sitting beside me was a young Indian lady who was returning to Bombay, which I had not visited before.

I asked this lady whether she knew anybody in Tata Memorial Hospital. She replied, "Oh yes, I do. There is a famous surgeon, Dr. Borgess, a Goan, who treated my mother. She had cancer of the stomach".

Before she could proceed further, I asked her how her mother was. Calmly and coolly she replied, "Dr. Borgess is a wonderful doctor. He looked after my mother very well indeed but, Mr. Morais, my mother died!"

I could feel a shiver running down my spine as I heard this reply. I talked no more to this lady but started brooding over this "Sword of Democles" that was hanging over my head.

After landing in Bombay, I went to the Ascot Hotel in Colaba Causeway where accommodation had been arranged for me by the airline. The following morning, I asked the Muslim Manager of the hotel for directions for my trip by taxi to Tata Memorial Hospital. From his surprised looks I knew he guessed that I had cancer. He told me, "Mr. Morais, go and see Dr. Borgess. He will make you all right. And do not worry, Mr Morais".

I asked him if he knew Dr. Borgess. He answered, "Of course, I know him. He was the one who treated my wife. Poor thing, she suffered for nearly four years from breast cancer. Dr. Borgess did his utmost for her".

I noticed tears in his eyes. Then in slow, halting voice, he said, "My wife passed away two years ago!"

You can imagine my reaction. All sorts of fears thronged my mind about the fate that was awaiting me.

I saw the Superintendent of the Hospital, one Dr. Paymaster. I gave him the biopsy report from Dr. Lam. I held on to a thread of hope that Dr. Lam's diagnosis of cancer might be wrong.

After studying the report from Dr. Lam, he ordered a series of tests. The following morning, Dr. Paymaster told me, "Mr. Morais, there is no doubt that Dr. Lam's diagnosis is correct. You have cancer".

He repeated, "You have cancer of the vocal cord. We can treat you. Please come with me. Let us see Dr. Vohra, the radiologist. He will examine your throat and arrange treatment for you".

Dr. Vohra made the necessary measurements below my chin to pinpoint with black ink the area over which the radium would be directed. After all the preliminaries, he advised me to go to the next room where I saw a huge machine, the likes of which I had never seen before.

The technician, who was to do the work of applying the radium, asked me to lie on a raised platform. Then he fixed the machine so as to direct the radium to the left side of my throat, where the affected vocal cord was. He placed the instrument in the place which had been darkened by black ink on my throat. Then he pressed the machine closer to my throat. He told me that it would take a few minutes and asked me not to move. After that, he left the room and closed the door behind me.

This gave me a fright. The closing of the door, I thought, signified a bad omen. I was all alone with this monster of a machine over my throat. From the glass window at the entrance to the room, the technician could see whether the machine was functioning or not. But I could not see the technician.

Soon, I heard a buzzing sound coming from the machine after it was switched on. The clicking and whizzing of the machine frightened me. Like a child, I wept. I prayed as the machine did its work.

The time taken for the application of radium was only seven minutes. But it seemed to me much, much longer. To pass time, I recited the Rosary I carried in my shirt pocket!

PICTURE OF SUFFERING

In the midst of praying I could not forget the picture of suffering and agony of the patients I saw on my way to the Deep-Ray Treatment Room. I kept on asking myself: "Will I come out of this treatment in one piece or will I follow those who passed away during or after treatment?"

These were not morbid thoughts but the thoughts of most cancer victims I have met. Only cancer patients know what they go through from the moment they are told that they suffer from this killer disease. Fear, anxiety and despair are written on the faces of most cancer patients.

My treatment continued for six weeks. After three weeks the skin around the neck and below the chin started drying up and getting darker and darker. I noticed that I was losing my voice rapidly. The prospect of dying loomed large.

In the third week of radium treatment, I told Dr. Vohra that I was losing my voice. Without hesitation, he said, "You will lose your voice completely".

I was stunned. I asked him, "What did you say, doctor? Do you mean that I will lose my voice completely?"

"Yes, I meant that".

There was a pause. Then he added, "But it will come back to you in about seven weeks!"

Meanwhile I suffered a lot of discomfort when speaking. My tongue and lips were not behaving normally. The food I took was tasteless. Eating fruits and other items of food was difficult. I coughed and coughed and spat out thick sticky mucus.

After another three weeks of treatment, I went back for the final verdict — to find out whether I was responding to the treatment.

I was called to the room of Dr. Paymaster who said, "Mr. Morais, I think we have succeeded in controlling the disease from causing more damage. Take care. Do not strain your throat. Go for a check-up by

Rosary in a string of beads used in praying. It is also a Roman Catholic devotion consisting of meditation on sacred mysteries during recitation of Hail Marys.

Dr. Lam regularly. No more speeches. No shouting, you know", he warned.

During the period I was undergoing treatment, I felt like a man who was moving, and moving fast, towards a precipice. So when Dr. Paymaster gave the heartening news, I felt like one rescued from the jaws of death!

As a patient I asked for a prognosis.

I was told both by Dr. Borgess and Dr. Lam that if I did not suffer any recurrence of cancer within five years, I would be 95% safe from cancer. Only 95%.

The suspense thereafter was killing me.

THE YEARS OF SUSPENSE

The next five years were indeed years of fear and suspense. Soon after my return from Bombay, news was received from Kerala, South India, that my friend, Philip, a well-built 50-year-old man, had passed away. He had had radium treatment for cancer. He returned to Malaya to resume work but he retired to India before long in order to be with his family because he knew his days were numbered.

I was shaken by the news because it was Philip who gave me a letter of introduction to one Dr. (Mrs.) Sirsat, the head of the Cancer Research Centre in Bombay. Dr. Sirsat's office was next to the Tata Memorial Hospital, She was very helpful during my treatment in Bombay.

Two years later I had another big shock when one Mr. Mathew, formerly of the Rubber Research Institute, Kuala Lumpur, died. We used to meet quite often to discuss our common affliction.

I thank God that I am still alive and well, 20 years after my treatment. Only recently, I had something of a jolt when I consulted an E.N.T. specialist in Madras, Professor Dr. Kamaswaran, about hoarseness of my voice. He diagnosed that I had a minor growth in my throat near the left vocal cord. Like other professional people, doctors also make mistakes sometimes. So, I sought a second opinion from one Dr. Ramamurthi, a former head of the E.N.T. unit at the Madras General Hospital. He not only confirmed Dr. Kamaswaran's diagnosis but also warned me that the growth known as polyp must be removed within three weeks!

I telephoned my home in Petaling Jaya from Madras. My wife would not agree to an operation or even a biopsy in Madras especially under general anaesthesia. So I had to fly back to Kuala Lumpur to convince my family that a biopsy was both necessary and urgent. So with my wife, I went back to Madras where the biopsy was performed. This

restored my normal voice. No hoarseness now.

However, there was one snag. Following some tests before the biopsy, it was discovered that I am a diabetic! Now it is diabetes that I have to battle for the rest of my life. No sugar, no bananas and almost everything that is sweet!

Life is indeed a mixture of joys and sorrows. I find consolation in the thought that few people, if any, go through life without some kind of health problems. I am thankful to God for all the blessings. The trials when they come serve as a period of cleansing and purification of mind and soul. So I grin and bear the crosses that come my way.

A DOCTOR'S DILEMMA

This story of my cancer and treatment will be incomplete without mentioning another episode. While I was undergoing treatment in Tata Memorial Hospital, I wrote to my wife that the doctors there, especially one Dr. Desai, who was Dr. Borgess' assistant, and Dr. Sirsat were very helpful.

Without my knowledge my wife wrote to Dr. Desai and asked his frank opinion about the treatment I was receiving and also for his advice on the chances of my recovery.

In the course of a long letter, Dr. Desai wrote to my wife, "If the radium treatment does not prove successful, your husband will have to undergo surgery to remove the diseased vocal cord or the voice box. In that case he will lose his voice. He will then have to come for speech therapy to enable him to speak. Please rest assured we are doing our best for Mr. Morais".

As a layman, I do not think that it was necessary for Dr. Desai to warn my wife about what would happen if the radium treatment failed!

Opinion is divided as to whether a doctor should tell the truth about the condition of a patient or whether he should not divulge everything that he knows.

It is a doctor's dilemma. Another anecdote worth quoting is what a woman teacher told me. Just before an abdominal operation the surgeon asked this patient if she had taken anything. To this she confessed she had her morning coffee!

The surgeon was visibly upset when he heard this and in anger he blurted out, "Then it's your funeral!"

After that uncalled for remark, the surgeon went ahead with the operation which he had planned.

According to a doctor friend of mine, the surgeon should not have used the word funeral especially on an operating table. What he could have done was to have postponed the operation to another date.

CHAPTER 14

GLIMPSES OF THE GREAT

Lives of great men all remind us,
We may make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

—Longfellow

Most of us are influenced in our thinking, in our writing and in our behaviour by what we read, by what we see and by what we hear. Contacts with people who have achieved greatness have brought about changes in our own lives.

I have been fortunate to see, meet and hear several leaders of destiny, leaders who have attempted and accomplished many things some of which remain as monuments to their work.

By meeting them, I have obtained intimate glimpses of the working of their minds as to how they have attained their goals in life.

MAHATMA GANDHI

The first name that comes to mind is that of Mahatma Gandhi, the man of two millinia. In the struggle between the forces led by Gandhiji and the British in India, the Mahatma emerged as the hero. There were and still there are Englishmen who backed Gandhi while he was living. Others have praised his work after his death.

My memory of Gandhi was as early as 1925 when I was a pupil in St. Joseph's School in Trivandrum. He came there with hundreds of thousands of followers to preach his gospel of non-violence. I heard him speak in a voice that was charged with passion — passion for the Absolute or God or Truth. I distinctly remember him saying, "Truth transcends everything..... Be brave to fight for freedom. That is our birthright....." Gandhi transmitted a touch of the Absolute, a something of staggering directness. His gentleness, his humility, his humanity and, above all, his sense of service won him millions of disciples and admirers all over the world. He was not merely a man and not merely an institution, but a nation.

Some of the sayings of Mahatma Gandhi that I am able to recall as I write this are: "Our happiness and peace of mind lie in our doing what

we regard as right and proper; not in doing what others say or do..... Religion is not something apart from life. Life itself should be regarded as religion. Life divorced from religion is not human life, it is animal life."

"You should be pioneers in presenting a living faith to the world and not dry bones of a traditional faith which the world will not grasp. It can grow from within; it cannot be acquired vicariously. Nothing great in this world was ever accomplished without a living faith."

Yes, Gandhi did not belong to India alone. He was a universal man who kept the windows and doors of his mind always open for people of all lands and all cultures. The late Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India, writing on his first meeting with the Mahatma said: "Gandhi is rather like a little bird, a kind of sweet, sad sparrow perched on my armchair."

He was the one man who was able to stop the riots which had plagued Calcutta for over a year and had cost 10,000 lives. In Bengal his force consisted of one man and there was no rioting. He is the "one-man boundary force. He performed the same miracle again when riots broke out in Delhi."

Eminent men and women of the world assessed his value as a world figure and as a man for all time. No wonder that more than 100 countries observed his birth centenary in 1969. The great scientist, Einstein exclaimed: "Generations to come would scarce believe that such a man ever in flesh and blood walked this earth."

As Walter Lippmann once wrote. "In the life and death of Mahatma Gandhi we have seen re-enacted in our time the supreme drama of humanity."

As a leader, as a sage and as a seer he sought to shape the course of world events as it was by his example of non-violence. That was his legacy to mankind.

Gandhi gave his life for a cause in which he believed — the cause of unity of the nation especially the Hindu-Muslim unity. His conquests were conquests of the minds and hearts of his countrymen. A man of action par excellence, he stood for a classless and casteless society. Though he is dead, his spirit still lives to inspire millions.

FIRST PRIME MINISTER

The next leader I had the privilege of meeting twice was Pandit Jawarhalal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister and father of Mrs. Indira Gandhi who now heads the Indian Government. To him goes the credit of ushering in a new era for India. — the era of the freedom struggle. Though he came into politics in December 1921, he became

known all over the world in 1929 when he presided over the historic Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress which declared independence as India's political goal. From that day he assumed a legendary status, as a hero without compare. He dominated the Indian scene for more than 40 years. He injected new values and dimensions into Indian thinking. What amazed me was his charisma.

In 1935 when Nehru first visited Malaya, thousands of people left their jobs just to get a glimpse of him in Ipoh. I then saw this human dynamo in action. This happened whenever he travelled outside New Delhi. Police always found it difficult to control the huge crowds. But the moment he spoke there would be silence with everyone so eager to listen to him.

What is the secret of his spell? The nation was aware of the great sacrifices that the Nehru family made to the freedom struggle. Not only did they give their all but spent the best part of their early lives in prison. Few statesmen, if any, in the world have had so many books written about them as Nehru who himself is the author of several books.

CHURCHILL'S TRIBUTE

Once when Mrs Vijayalakshmi Pandit, sister of Nehru, visited Chartwell, the country house of Winston Churchill, he asked her to convey his warm regards to Nehru.

"There," Churchill said, "is a man I admire. You know why? Because he had mastered fear and conquered hate."

This rare tribute from Churchill, who once said that he would never preside over the liquidation of the British Empire and was opposed to independence for India, proved beyond doubt the esteem in which Nehru was held by leaders of other nations. Such was the greatness of this born leader and national hero of India.

To Nehru goes the credit for always fighting the British in the open. There was never an element of hatred or conspiracy in all things he did. He achieved freedom without violence. He took the road less travelled by freedom fighters in other lands. In short, the nation arrived at independence without hatred thanks to his inspiring leadership.

SUBHAS BOSE

Another outstanding freedom fighter whom I had the pleasure of meeting was Subhas Chandra Bose, the youngest man ever to become the President of All India Congress. As Officer-in-Charge of Publicity of the Indian Independence League, I organised a dinner and a public meeting during his first visit to Ipoh in 1943 during the Japanese

Occupation of Malaya. He was one man who had the courage of his conviction to oppose the views of Gandhi on some national issues.

Bose came to Malaya to intensify the freedom struggle of Indians overseas. He practised what he had preached by leading the army of the Provisional Government — the first of its kind — in an epic march through the jungles of Burma to Imphal, to the borders of India. The odds were heavily against the freedom fighters because the tide of war was already turning against Japan, who were backing the Indian freedom movement.

Though Bose, who was called Netaji, failed in his mission to liberate India by armed force, his activities aroused the desire of the Indian nation for independence. Thus after the war people were ready to seize power.

The British Labour Government, under Clement Attlee saw the writing on the wall and gracefully agreed to grant independence to India, the brightest jewel in the British Crown.

If Bose had lived, there would not have been a division of India because he was dead against partition and the creation of Pakistan. His war-cry "Chalo Delhi" (On To Delhi) and his slogan "Jai Hind", (Victory For India), had become household words in India. Many thought that Bose would have become the first Prime Minister of India or the Deputy Prime Minister if he had lived.

But fate decreed otherwise. He was killed in an air-crash in Indo-China as he was flying to Tokyo after the surrender of Japan. He is referred even to this day as Netaji, the great leader by Indians all over the world.

POET TAGORE

I also had a glimpse of another illustrious son of India — Poet Rabindranath Tagore — who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. This was just before the war in late 1930's when he addressed a meeting of English and vernacular school teachers of Perak in the Town Hall, Ipoh. I was one of the more than 1,000 people who came to hear him.

In the course of his speech Tagore observed: "In order to do good, one must be good." He also gave this thought-provoking message: "Our society exists to remind us, through its various voices, that the ultimate truth in man is not in his intellect or his possessions. It is in his illumination of mind, in his extension of sympathy across all barriers of caste and colour, in his recognition of the world, not merely as a storehouse of power but as a habitation of man's spirit, with its external

music of beauty and its inner light of divine presence."

Tagore was a patriot but he was also a merciless critic of his country and his countrymen. His greater loyalty was reserved for the brotherhood of men the world over.

To understand the working of the mind of Tagore, one should read this verse of his entitled "The Child Angel":

"Go and stand amidst their scowling hearts, my child, and let your gentle eyes fall upon them like the forgiving peace of the evening over the strife of the day. Let them see your face, my child, and thus know the meaning of all things. Let them love you and love each other."

I left after that lecture with this thought which still lingers in my mind, "The world has been left the richer by Tagore — the man whose poems have given millions faith where there is doubt, hope where there is despair and light where there is darkness."

LORD BADEN-POWELL

Another important world figure that I remember meeting was Lord Baden-Powell, the first Chief Scout. He came to Ipoh in November, 1934 when I was a reporter with the Times of Malaya.

As an old Scouter I was asked to cover the event — the rally at the Anglo-Chinese School, Ipoh. It was a pleasure to shake hands with the founder of the world-wide scout movement.

I was immensely impressed by the way he spoke and by the way he walked. Here was a great man who cared for the youth of the world. Humility was his motto.

As the founder of a movement which has been of invaluable help to boys and girls in many countries, Baden-Powell will always be remembered with affectionate admiration. One is tempted to ask with A.P. Herbert, "Did any man before him ever see such a dream come true or any leave so many monuments? The Brotherhood of Scouts is his living memorial."

Other eminent men whose names come to my mind are Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, former British Commissioner-General for Southeast Asia, Sir Edward Gent, the Governor of the Malayan Union, Lord Avon (formerly Anthony Eden) and Sir Donald McGillivray, the last High Commissioner of Malaya.

FORMER BRITISH PREMIER

Lord Avon, a former Prime Minister of Britain, impressed me immensely by his courtesy and his humility. He showed keen interest in Malaya and Malaysians of all races. He was the Deputy to the great Sir Winston Churchill for several years before he succeeded as Prime

Minister. It was in the Ipoh Club that I had the privilege of a conversation with this great statesman.

A GIFTED STATESMAN

Mr. MacDonald was one diplomat with a difference. He was one who could walk with kings and move with the humblest of people of all races, a man who could remember faces and names even after long intervals. He always had a word of cheer for friends and acquaintances.

When he was British High Commissioner in New Delhi I sent him a copy of the WHO'S WHO IN MALAYSIA which contained a short profile of him with his photograph. Promptly he sent me a letter with a hand-written note: "Dear Morais, This comes like a message from home. In Malaya I have numerous friends. I appreciate your gesture....."

As John Drysdale, Director of Asia Research, wrote: "Of all representatives of Britain's imperial past, Mr. MacDonald was the least representative — he was not in the slightest degree imperious."

He was one who had the extraordinary gift of being able to make everyone he met feel important. When he addressed the Ipoh Rotary Club dinner meeting at which I was installed as President, he was gracious enough to mention that, "I have come because I had promised Mr. Morais that I would attend this function."

How many Malaysians do care to respond to our invitations?

MacDonald, among other things, will be remembered for breaking down the barriers of colonial superiority and social privilege. It was he who was responsible for the formation of the Communities Liaison Committee with the sole aim of bringing the Malays, Chinese, Indians, and other community leaders together in an attempt to find common political ground. He was also the originator of the idea of Federation of Malaysia incorporating Singapore and the Borneo countries at that time: Brunei; Sarawak and North Borneo (Sabah).

MacDonald who was British Commissioner — General for South-east Asia from 1946 to 1965, knew Tunku and Dato Onn "extremely well" and had many friends in Malaysia and in Singapore.

MRS. INDIRA GANDHI

Another world leader who deserves mention in this chapter is Mrs. Indira Gandhi whom I had the pleasure of meeting in Kuala Lumpur twice.

H.Y.P. Sharada Prasad, Director of Information, Prime Minister's Department, New Delhi in a letter dated August 29, 1972, acknowledged receipt of an autographed copy of my book, "Selected

Speeches of Malaysia and Singapore".

The book contained a speech of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore who paid a glowing tribute to the contribution of Indians of Singapore for more than 140 years. The speech was made on the occasion of the official visit of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, to Singapore.

In the course of that memorable speech, Mr. Lee said: "It is more than courtesy that makes Singapore extend a warm welcome to you as the head of a government which represents a people who have given us part of ourselves and more than part of our inspiration Your visit reaffirms our affinity in many respects. May I express our hope that it will lead to more meaningful co-operation between us."

Let me now hasten to quote again the letter from Sharada Prasad: "Dear Mr. Morais, The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for sending her a copy of your book specially inscribed for her. She sends you her good wishes. Yours sincerely, (H.Y. Sharada Prasad)".

I recall these incidents deliberately because I had several disappointments when some of my letters were either ignored or were unanswered by less important personages! They were too busy to show the elementary courtesy of a reply.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of the largest democracy in the world, had amazed the world by her statesmanship and her ability as an extraordinary leader.

I had the privilege of meeting this remarkable lady first when she visited Malaya with her father, Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru soon after the war, and also when she made her first official visit to Malaya as the Prime Minister of India.

Since assuming power in 1966, she had faced many tests. Such stalwarts of the Indian independence struggle as Jayprakash Narayan, a Gandhian, and Morarji Desai have opposed her and criticised her policies. I do not intend to discuss Indian politics. However, this much must be said in her favour. With the actions taken by her Government, a new India has emerged. At last there is discipline in every government department and real progress in almost all fields. Visitors to India have nothing but praise for the rapid advances the country has been and still is making.

During my recent visits to India, I witnessed the great transformation and all those to whom I spoke, were unanimous in paying tributes to her leadership.

Mrs. Gandhi's unique record of achievements as Prime Minister shows that she is a mature personality and an astute politician, with a strong sense of India's manifest destiny. After seeing India and

speaking to Indians of almost all walks of life in recent years, I cannot agree with critics that "Mrs Gandhi wants to be a dictator and is going to be one!"

None other than Mr. Michael Foot, the leader of the House of Commons, defended the Indian Prime Minister when he described the recent claim of one British columnist that she is a dictator as a monstrous lie.

I am convinced that her only aim is the peace, progress and prosperity of India. Most of the measures her Government has taken are for the well-being of the nation. This is not a retreat from democracy. Far from it.

SAGE OF MALAYSIA

A literary figure who won the distinction of being honoured as the first and probably the only Malay to be conferred the title of Sage, 'Pendita' during his life-time was my former contemporary and friend Tan Sri Haji Zainal Abidin bin Ahmad, B.A. (Hons.), London, D. Litt.

Za'ba, as he was affectionately known among his numerous friends and admirers, was best known for his highly critical analysis of the Malay language. He was also noted for his progressive writing on education, economy, religion and culture.

Za'ba was awarded the Honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by University of Malaya in 1959 and by University Kebangsaan on June 23, 1973. Few Malays have risen to such great heights as Za'ba and as I write this I am reminded of the popular Malay saying:

Lebih berharga mutiara sebutir.

Daripada pasir sepantai.

(It is more valuable to have one pearl than a whole beach of sand).

ORATOR AND LEGISLATOR

One of the 'greats' of Malaya was Raja Sir Chulan ibni Sultan Abdullah, the Raja di Hilir of Perak, a fearless fighter and fluent speaker. As an orator and legislator he blazed the trail for Malaya's independence struggle when he was a Member of the Federal Legislative Council. I had the privilege of meeting this Malay patriot early in 1933 when I was a reporter in Ipoh. He was then watching a cricket match from the Ipoh Club.

Sir Chulan was the second son of Sultan Abdullah who was banished by the British to Seychelles Island for his alleged involvement in the murder of J.W.W. Birch, the first British Resident of Perak. He was educated at Seychelles before he went to Paris for higher studies. On his return to Malaya early in 1930's he was appointed an Assistant District Officer in Grik where he served under Captain Berkley, the then District Officer who was known as the uncrowned king of Upper

Perak.

It was Sir Chulan, uncle of Sultan Iskandar Shah of Perak, who had fought all his life to improve the lot of Malays. In recognition of his services the Federated Malay States especially for Perak he was knighted by the British. An important road in Kuala Lumpur is named after Sir Chulan.

A REAL GENTLEMAN

Of the British administrators who served in Malaya, Sir Edward Gent impressed me by his humility and understanding of Malaya's problems — difficult and insurmountable though they appeared.

Britain lost a humane and lovable administrator when he was killed in an air crash on his return to Britain to report on the latest constitutional developments in Malaya.

I met Sir Edward in my capacity as the Chairman of the Ipoh Citizens Advice Bureau which was established soon after the liberation of Malaya. He showed sincere concern for the welfare of all Malaysians.

TWO FAMOUS WOMEN

Brief profiles of two famous women and their work must be included in this chapter. They are Mother Teresa, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and Lady Edwina Mountbatten, a former head of St. John Ambulance Association in the British Commonwealth.

I had only a fleeting glimpse of Mother Teresa during my recent visit to New Delhi. She has won the hearts of millions in India and elsewhere for loving the loveless in the slums of Calcutta.

She received the Nobel Prize for her dedicated services to the impoverished citizens of Calcutta. For more than thirty years she has been feeding the starving thousands and bringing hope to those who had nothing and who would otherwise have been forgotten.

Malcolm Muggeridge wrote the book "Something Beautiful For God", on the humanitarian work of Mother Teresa who has been described by many as a living saint. She founded the Missionaries of Charity Convent to serve the poorest of the poor. Today she is well-known all over the world.

In the midst of the extreme poverty, hunger and sickness and epidemics in Calcutta, there was a light shining in the darkness — the light of Mother Teresa.

Lady Mountbatten, who had been a pillar of the St. John Ambulance Association in the Commonwealth, travelled in the cause of the S.J.A.A. and did a remarkable job in supervising and strengthening the organisation and inspiring the volunteers associated with the work

of St. John Ambulance.

Lady Mountbatten, hailing from a famous family in Britain, was the wife of Lord Louis Mountbatten, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Southeast Asia and later the last Viceroy of India.

Sacrificing all her comforts and privileges she chose to work for St. John Ambulance Association and it was during a tour of Southeast Asian Branches of S.J.A.A. that she passed away suddenly.

I met this illustrious daughter of Britain when she visited the Perak Centre of S.J.A.A. of which I was then its Chairman.

HEAD OF ASIA SOCIETY

One famous American who showed that he was humble and had qualities of world citizen was the late Mr. John D. Rockefeller III, one of the richest and one of the ablest men in the United States.

During the tour of Southeast Asian journalists, we had the pleasure of being entertained by several eminent American leaders. While we were in New York, I was one of the two Asian guests of Mr and Mrs Rockefeller. What amazed me was the quiet dignity in which he entertained us to a candle-lit dinner at his residence.

Both he and his wife were charming hosts. We became good friends and he never failed to send me greetings during Christmas every year.

Both John and I shared many thoughts — thoughts on Malaysia in particular and Asia in general.

That we have today the Asia Society with its noble aims is due to the dream and dedication of this illustrious son of America. He had a single-minded pursuit in the cause of nurturing human understanding and international collaboration inspired by the ideal that the world is our neighbour.

According to John we have enough if we cared enough. For to know is to care. That was the cardinal principle of all his thoughts and his endeavours. The Asia Society is the creation of John's thoughts and his dream. No wonder thousands of Asians and others have visited the headquarters of Asia Society in New York.

THE PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE



One of the historic events that I had the privilege of witnessing was the proclamation of independence of Malaya by Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, the first Chief Minister of Malaya. This took place on the Selangor Club Recreation Ground facing the Clock Tower in Kuala Lumpur.

Among those present were Their Highnesses the Rulers and Sir Donald McGillivray, the last British High Commissioner in Malaya. Thousands of Malaysians of all races witnessed this ceremony.

—Picture By Courtesy of Museum Negara

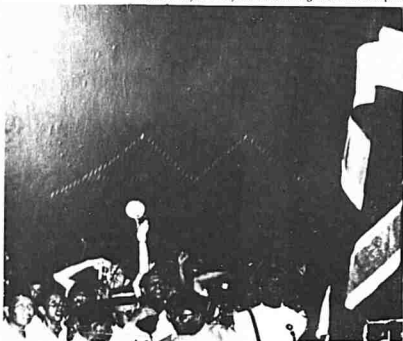
THE MALAYAN FLAG GOES UP.....



The replacement of the Union Jack with Malaya's own flag on the occasion of Merdeka Day (Independence Day). Witnessing this historic occasion are Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, the then Chief Minister of Malaya, Tun Tan Cheng Lock, the Malayan Chinese Association President, Tun Sardon bin Haji Jubir and Tun V.T. Sambantan, the former Malayan Indian Congress President.

..... AND UNION JACK DOWN.

— Pictures by courtesy of Museum Negara, Kuala Lumpur.



WELCOME FOR LADY MOUNTBATTEN IN IPOH



The late Lady Mountbatten, the head of the Commonwealth St. John Ambulance Association, visited Perak to inspect the various units in the State early in 1950. Welcoming her at the airport in Ipoh were Mr. J.G. Black, the then British Adviser and myself. Below she is photographed with the Members of the Committee of the S.J.A.A. Seated from left are Mr. Black, Lady Mountbatten, myself and Raja Musa, a former Chairman of the Perak Centre of S.J.A.A.

GOING FOR TALKS WITH CHIN PENG



For the first time in the history of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman, the first Prime Minister of Malaysia took the unprecedented step to meet Chin Peng, the Communist Party leader, with a view to bringing to an end the 12-year-old Emergency. This proved futile because Chin Peng refused to consider the demand of the Tunku to stop the insurrection.

From left are: Dato David Marshall, the then Chief Minister of Singapore, the late Tun Cheng Lock Tan, the M.C.A. leader, the Tunku, Mr. Too Joon Hing, a former Assistant Minister of Education and Tan Sri T.H. Tan, Secretary of the Alliance.

Behind the Tunku is Tan Sri Yaacob bin Dr. Abdul Latif.

CHAPTER 15

FRIENDS AND LEADERS I HAVE KNOWN

A Human Being Is Never A Total And
Permanent Stranger To Another Human Being
Man Belongs To Man And
Man Has Claims Upon Man

All too often we forget to appreciate the contributions made by some people in their respective fields of work. Of them some have already achieved recognition both nationally and internationally while others are working unseen and unheard. Both big and small have in their own have done much and still are doing their bit towards nation-building.

Of our leaders, my first vote goes to Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al Haj. He won the hearts of all loyal Malaysians by his sense of justice and fair play. No other Malaysian leader has earned the love and affection of the people as he has.

He is unlike other leaders — always cheerful and approachable to both the rich and the poor. I, for one, am deeply indebted to him for consenting to write the Foreword to the second edition of the WHO'S WHO IN MALAYSIA. I got him to do this without observing the usual rule of protocol. In fact I literally 'ambushed' him as he was leaving the Selangor Club after attending a function one evening in 1956.

I knew the difficulty of communication with him because of the barriers put up, quite unnecessarily, by his aides. Noticing me moving towards him, the Tunku stopped. As I approached he put his arm on my shoulders and asked, "Yes, what can I do for you, Morais?" When I explained what I wanted, he agreed to write the Foreword.

The dominant theme of most of his utterances has been the paramount need for goodwill among all races. In a multi-racial society like ours, we must all learn to live with one another, to respect one another's rights, religions and customs.

Tunku carried on the freedom struggle begun by Dato Onn who raised the battle cry of "Down With Malayan Union, Hidup Melayu." Malays rallied to his call, determined to fight the British to the bitter

end. Under the Tunku "Hidup Melayu" gave way to the cries of "Merdeka."

It was Tunku who beat the first drum on election day in 1952. Later when the British insinuated that Malaysians were not ready for the general elections, the Tunku objected and broke off friendly co-operation with the Federation Government. In the end the Alliance got its way and the first national elections were held on July 27, 1955.

One of the memorable events that I still cherish is the historic declaration of Independence on August 31, 1957 by the Tunku from the Selangor Club Grounds. It was of great significance to all Malaysians. On that day there was no Malaysia. There was only the Federation of Malaya which consisted of what is generally known as the Malay Peninsula.

Because of his generosity in dealings with non-Malays he has often been misunderstood and even criticised by his own people — the Malays. Though a Prince he was the common man's choice as their leader. No wonder he served as Prime Minister for 15 years.

Today there are several monuments in his honour all over Malaysia but the most enduring monument of his patriotism and his sagacity is the one he himself built — a free Malaysia that has a just, multi-racial society and leadership.

While the Tunku deserves the honour of being the Father of Malaysia, the greater honour goes to the late Dato Onn bin Jaafar, the founder President of the U.M.N.O.

It was Dato Onn who showed the way to fight for Independence. Under his leadership the whole Malay race became united as never before. He fought against Malayan Union which represented a virtual annexation of the Malay States and the reduction of the status of the Malay Rulers. Britain saw the seriousness of the situation and gave in and introduced Federation of Malaya Government.

THE SADDEST DAY

The saddest day was when Dato Onn announced his resignation as the President of U.M.N.O. By this unexpected act he gave up the right to become the first Prime Minister of Malaya. Those close to him pleaded with him to continue the leadership but it was all in vain. He formed the Independence of Malaya Party and later Party Negara.

I had the privilege of knowing this great Malay leader from the time of the anti-Malayan Union agitation when he used to go to Ipoh to confer with Perak Malay leaders like Datuk Panglima Bukit Gantang and Tan Sri Datuk Zainal Abidin, two of the founders of U.M.N.O.

A man of great courage, Dato Onn spoke without fear even when the British were supreme in Malaya. To him fighting for the rights of the Sultans and the people was more urgent and more important than his own personal ambition to remain as the leader of the nation.

I think, and many others also think, it was the greatest mistake Dato Onn made in quitting U.M.N.O. at a time when the nation needed him most. All the same he is being remembered as a great hero of Malaya.

M.C.A FOUNDER.

The leaders who were close to Dato Onn during the early days of the freedom struggle were the late Tun Tan Cheng Lock, the founder President of the M.C.A. and Datuk Panglima Bukit Gantang, Tuan Haji Abdul Wahab, one of the first Malay lawyers .

Though they had had differences of opinion on the way to achieve independence, Tun Tan Cheng Lock later on gave his support to Dato Onn in the fight for independence from the British. Tun Cheng Lock was easily the best known and respected Chinese leader in Southeast Asia and his greatest gift to Malaysia was his only son — Tun Tan Siew Sin who served the Malaysian Government with distinction in various capacities.

Tun Cheng Lock was offered the Governorship of Malacca but he declined and proposed the late Tun Leong Yew Koh who was his comrade-in-arms in the M.C.A and also his legal adviser.

Datuk Panglima Bukit Gantang had excellent credentials to succeed Dato Onn when the latter resigned as the President of U.M.N.O. but he preferred to remain as the Menteri Besar of his home State of Perak. Thus he gave up the chance of becoming the Prime Minister as the head of the U.M.N.O. of which he was a founder.

FATHER OF DEVELOPMENT

Another leader who has written a chapter in letters of gold in the history of modern Malaysia was the late Tun Razak, the Father of Development. No leader had worked so hard and travelled so far as the Tun in search of peace and progress in this region. It was he who sponsored the concept of neutrality for Southeast Asia.

In my book on the Tun, 'Strategy For Action' I wrote these words; 'His tenacity of purpose, his energy and his capacity for hard work have injected the spirit of all Malaysians especially the Malays. From the beginning he was aware of the monumental difficulties facing him but he was one who would rather light the candle than curse the darkness'.

Tun Razak set an example of dedicated service throughout his

career. This he did, as we all know now, at the risk of his life. Even when he knew that he was dying, he cared more for the well-being of the nation than for his own health by keeping his illness a secret from his own Cabinet colleagues and others near and dear to him. That was uncommon courage of a true patriot.

He was one of the pioneers who paved the way for Malaya's independence. The Tun Razak Memorial opened by Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir on May 6, 1982 stands today as a fitting monument to this patriot at Sri Taman, his home both when he was the Deputy Prime Minister and later Prime Minister.

A FINANCIAL GENIUS

One who has made a name as a financial genius is Tun Tan Siew Sin who served the Malaysian Government as its Minister of Finance for 13 years. Here is a leader who had considerable financial means. Yet he chose to tackle the ever increasing problems of a new independent nation. It was a case of service above self.

Tun Tan was a Rotarian and it was at a Rotary function in Singapore that we first met some thirty-two years ago to be exact in 1949 when we were Presidents of the Malacca and the Ipoh Rotary Clubs respectively.

True to Rotary ideals his first and foremost concern was the welfare of the country. He once outlined his political philosophy as early as 1959 in this way: "Man has a soul and was not born to be a slave of the State. Today free enterprise is on trial. The verdict will be delivered by the hungry masses of Asia."

Tun Tan has faced public wrath with equanimity. Statesmen from other countries have paid glowing tributes to his performance as a Finance Minister. The leader of the World Bank Investigating Team, once said, "Thanks to God, to the high price of rubber and to your Finance Minister, Mr. Tan, Malaysia is financially sound."

It was a pleasure when the Malaysian Chinese Association of which he was President, commissioned me to edit *BLUEPRINT FOR UNITY* — on his biography and his speeches. My second book on Tun Tan is *Portrait Of A Statesman*. Tun Tan has the rare distinction of having served as the Chairman of the Electoral Review Commission for Seychelles, being the first foreigner in British history to be made Chairman of a Constitutional Commission.

Today Tun Tan's portrait hangs in the House of Commons in recognition of his services as the Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Two Johore brothers who were of immense help to the Tunku and Tun Razak during the early years of the independence struggle and

later with the advent of Merdeka were Tun Dr. Ismail and Datuk Sulaiman. Tun Ismail was an able administrator with a no-nonsense approach in dealing with national problems.

Though he had resigned from the Tunku Abdul Rahman Cabinet owing to differences of opinion, he returned to the Government after the May 13, 1969 riots. He responded to the appeal of Tun Razak who was then the Director of National Operations Council.

As the right-hand man of Tun Razak, Tun Ismail was firm when he warned the extremists that he would show no mercy to those who attempted to create any more disturbances. In recognition of his services to the nation he was buried after his sudden death in the National Mausoleum — the first Malaysian to be so honoured.

Datuk Sulaiman, a lawyer passed away when he was serving as Malaysia's High Commissioner in Canberra, Australia. Previously he was a Cabinet Minister. A quiet man he fought for independence without showing any malice towards the British.

TUN HUSSEIN ONN

Of the other leaders, Tun Datuk Hussein Onn has amazed Malaysians and Malaysia's friends in other countries by his unwavering dedication to justice and fair-play. In his case, greatness was thrust on him. For four years, he had shown that he had, like his illustrious father, Dato Onn bin Jaafar, the courage and wisdom to lead the nation to a period of greater peace, greater prosperity and greater progress.

In dealing with crucial national problems, he had taken decisions that had won him numerous admirers. He himself said not long ago, "I do not decide in response to demands and pressures.....I will not take a decision that can make it look as if I were yielding to some demands and pressures. I will stand by what is right and make decisions in honesty and sincerity. Let us surrender ourselves to Allah....."

"Malaysians, who love this country, must build this nation. My father's generation has passed. It is my generation's turn to struggle. Those who follow must continue," he said on the eve of his retirement as the Prime Minister of Malaysia in July, 1981. He set an example that many would or should follow.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir, the new U.M.N.O. President and Prime Minister paid Tun Hussein a glowing tribute when he said: "U.M.N.O. and the nation are proud of Tun Hussein, a true statesman. He is a leader who is loved as a statesman. He is firm, sincere and dedicated."

EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS

Few political leaders have had such fine credentials to become the head of a Government as Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has. He has already proved himself as a doer and innovator of courage. I have had the pleasure of writing his biography in my book, WHO'S WHO IN MALAYSIA from the time he began medical practice in Alor Star.

Early in his life he took an interest in politics. He had the courage to put into writing his thoughts on the various aspects of the administration. Thus the once controversial THE MALAY DILEMMA was born. What happened after its publication is now history.

Dr. Mahathir, who was elected unopposed on June 9, 1981, was officially confirmed as the new President of UMNO at its General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur on June 26, 1981. By virtue of this he became the Prime Minister on July 18, 1981. As the head of the Government he has established a record of dedicated service. Today he expects his fellow ministers and other Government officials to do likewise.

In 1974 Dr. Mahathir took part in the elections as a Barisan Nasional candidate and was returned unopposed in the Kubang Pasu Parliamentary constituency. In 1973 he was appointed a Senator. Since then his rise to the top of the UMNO heirarchy has been rapid.

His contribution to educational advancement has been considerable. He was appointed the Chairman of the first Higher Education Council in 1968 and in 1972 he was appointed a member of the Higher Education Advisory Council. He was appointed a member of the University Court and the University of Malaya Council. In April 1974 he was appointed the Chairman of the University Kebangsaan Council.

THE BIGGEST SETBACK

The biggest setback in his life was when he was expelled from UMNO for the strong criticism he voiced in THE MALAY DILEMMA. He was only re-admitted in 1972 and re-elected a member of the Supreme Council of UMNO. At the UMNO General Assembly on June 21, 1975 he was elected one of the three Vice-Presidents defeating five other candidates.

Dr. Mahathir was chosen by Tun Hussein Onn as the Deputy Prime Minister in 1976. As the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr. Mahathir had done much to promote trade by visiting countries like the U.S., Europe, Britain and Japan. In August 1979, he led the biggest ever Malaysian investment promotion mission to Europe. It was a big

success. He had gone out more often in search of investments and trade than any other Minister especially when he was the Minister of Trade and Industry.

Speaking in Parliament early in 1982 he said, "The need is for a more resilient society able to adapt to the change of situation. We from the Government Bench will identify ourselves completely with the Government and the national effort. We hope the people will do the same."

My book on his life and times entitled "MAHATHIR — A PROFILE IN COURAGE" was published in March, 1982. Having written this brief profile of Dr. Mahathir I feel I must end with the words of J.S Holland which aptly sum up Dr. Mahathir's character and career:

God give us men. A time like this demands
Strong minds great hearts, true faith and ready hands.
Men whom the lust of office does not kill
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy
Men who possess opinions and a will
Men who love honour. Men who cannot lie.

PRAISE FROM ALL

When Datuk Musa bin Hitam, BA., MA., SPMJ., SSIJ. — was chosen by Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed as the Deputy Prime Minister there were many Malaysians who wondered if he would do well in this high office.

The UMNO, the ruling Party, chose Datuk Musa as its Deputy President in a closely fought contest with Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, the Finance Minister. Contrary to earlier expectations Datuk Musa scored an overwhelming victory with a 205 vote majority.

The year that Datuk Musa spent in Leiden, Holland, proved a valuable experience. He is a pioneer in national student movement and played a leading role both in the Federation of Malay Students and the Pan-Malayan Students Federation.

When the late Tan Sri Datuk Syed Jaffar Albar resigned as the Secretary-General of the UMNO, Datuk Musa was appointed the acting Secretary-General. Datuk Musa is the elected Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Executive Committee for a three-year term. He is the first Asian to hold the post.

Speaking after his appointment, Datuk Musa said that he regarded the appointment as a great honour for Malaysia, "indicative of the faith that the Commonwealth has shown in our country is recognition of our strong belief in and practice of parliamentary democracy."

Datuk Musa is regarded by many as one of the best speakers in Bahasa Malaysia and English among the Malaysian Cabinet Minis-

ters. He has a voice that commands attention. It is too early to say how he will fare in the years ahead. However he has shown a genius for discovering areas and projects that need greater attention or improvement.

FUTURE WORLD LEADER?

Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh bin Tengku Hamzah — D.K., SPMK., PSM., the Finance Minister of Malaysia, is one of the 150 men and women named by Time Magazine in July 1974 as future leaders of the world. He achieved the distinction of being elected the Chairman of the Asian Development Bank and the Islamic Bank.

All these constitute a record for the Malaysian Finance Minister who is one of the youngest politicians to hold the Finance portfolio. An economist by training he graduated from the Queen's University, Belfast in 1959 and then read Law at Lincoln's Inn, London. Tengku Razaleigh's success in business drew him to politics. Chairman of Ulu Kelantan UMNO division, he is also the Chairman of the Kelantan Liaison Committee.

Tengku Razaleigh was unanimously elected by the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry as the Father of Malaysian Economy. He was the architect of the Barisan Nasional's victory over PAS in the State Elections in Kelantan in March 1978 and the general elections that followed soon after in July, 1978. In the election for Deputy President of UMNO on June 26, 1982 he was defeated by Datuk Musa Hitam who obtained 722 votes as against 517 votes for Tengku Razaleigh.

Razaleigh watchers believe that he has the makings of a future Prime Minister.

TUNKU'S FRIENDS

Two comrades-in-arms of Tunku Abdul Rahman who have remained always loyal to him are Encik Mohd, Khir Johari and Datuk Senu bin Abdul Rahman. They are two of the pioneers of the freedom struggle and both served the Malaysian Government as Ministers.

Encik Khir had held the portfolio of Minister of Education first before becoming Minister of Commerce and Industry while Datuk Senu was the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. Khir was Malaysia's Ambassador to the United States and Permanent Representative to the U.N.

In addition to his busy role as a Minister, Khir had found time to serve as President of the Badminton Association of Malaya, as the Chairman of the Federation School for the Deaf, as the President of the Malaysian Zoological Society and also as the President of Malay-

sian — South Korean Friendship Society.

A popular leader Khir is Patron of Young Men's Christian Association of Kuala Lumpur, the Lawn Tennis Association of Malaysia, the Karate Association of Malaysia, Sepak Takraw Association of Malaysia and Tae Kwan-Do Association.

Despite serious illness in 1981, Khir, the man with an indomitable spirit, continues to serve his fellowmen in various capacities.

DRAFTED MERDEKA PROCLAMATION.

Datuk Senu has identified himself with several activities in Malaysia. He was one of the few associated with the drafting of the historic independence declaration on August 31, 1957. Important positions held by him were as the Ambassador to Indonesia and later as Malaysia's Ambassador to the Republic of Germany in 1962.

Before becoming the Secretary-General of UMNO Datuk Senu served as the National Leader of UMNO Youth for several years. He and a few friends published a book called Revolusi Mental or Mental Revolution and another book by him is Keselamatan Kita Sudah Tidak Terjamin (Our Security Is Not Guaranteed).

A former teacher, he graduated with a B.A. degree from University of California. Early in his life he was involved in political activities as the Secretary General of Sabarkas, Kedah. He has served as a Member of Parliament for the Kubang Pasu constituency, of Kedah. He is a fearless parliamentarian.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS EXPERT

National solidarity can only be assured if the Malays continue to feel secure and peaceful because they form the thrust of national solidarity. This can only come about by bringing Malays into the mainstream of the national economic, social and political development in a balanced, just and equitable manner.

These thoughts give some idea of the political philosophy of Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, the Foreign Minister who is the most senior member in the Mahathir Government and an expert on international affairs. He was educated at Raffles College, Singapore, the University College of Wales, Lincoln's Inn, London, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies.

He was a member of the University of Malaya Council and on the Board of Management, University Hospital. Now he is the Chairman of the Governing Council, Institute of Technology MARA: President, Arts Council Malaysia; Member of Board of Trustees, National Art

Gallery, President of Malaysian Amateur Athletic Union; Patron of Selangor Malays Badminton Association and Selangor Football Association and President of the Royal Selangor Flying Club and the Chairman of the Olympic Council of Malaysia.

PENANG CHIEF MINISTER

One of the most experienced politicians in the country is Dr. Lim Chong Eu, the Chief Minister of Penang. He has been in politics almost since the liberation of Malaya.

A former President of the M.C.A., he helped to form Party Gerakan which did so well in the Penang State Elections that he became its Chief Minister a position he has held for the past several years.

I had a long talk on Malaysian politics with him while we were travelling by train from Ipoh to Penang in the early days of the M.C.A. Dr. Lim has done a fine job in making Penang one of the most industrialised States in Malaysia if not in Southeast Asia.

A FOUNDER OF ALLIANCE

A diplomat's diplomat! That is how the friends of Tun Omar Yoke Lin Ong, Malaysia's former Cabinet Minister, Ambassador and then President of the Senate describe him.

The Alliance that we know today as a political organization owes a lot to his political acumen and foresight. It was Tun Omar Ong and Datuk Yahya who jointly conceived the idea and brought about the formation of the first ever U.M.N.O — M.C.A Alliance. He had taken a leading role in the fight for independence for Malaya and had the honour of being one of the signatories of the agreement establishing Malaysia.

Tun Omar's retirement from the Senate marks the end of an era. He has served Malaya and later Malaysia as a parliamentarian and as a diplomat. He was Malaysia's Ambassador to the U.S. and concurrently Permanent Representative to the U.N.

After such a colourful career, he is looked upon as one of the nation's elder statesmen who is now active in business especially as the Chairman of the Asian International Merchant Bankers Berhad and as the Chairman of its Executive Board.

MINISTER FROM KELANTAN

One of the most popular Ministers in the Malaysian Cabinet is Tengku Datuk Ahmad Rithaudeen Al-Haj bin Tengku Ismail, SPMP., PMK., the Minister of Trade and Industry. He was the Minister for Foreign Affairs under Prime Minister Hussien Onn.

The fact that the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir has

chosen him to take over as the Minister of Trade and Industry, which position he himself had held, speaks volumes for the success of Tengku Rithaudeen as a Minister. Tengku Rithaudeen is the Member of Parliament for Kota Bharu Hilir. He was returned unopposed in Kota Bharu, Kelantan in 1974 General Elections.

Tengku Rithaudeen graduated from the University of Nottingham before returning to Malaya in 1957 to become a Magistrate. He resigned while he was the Legal Adviser to the Kelantan State Government to go into private practice. He was appointed Minister with Special Functions on August 13, 1973 and was later appointed the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

On June 26, 1981 Tengku Rithaudeen was elected one of the three Vice-Presidents at the UMNO General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur. I was touched by the sentiments he expressed about me at the launching of my book on Dr. P.P. Narayanan, the President of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

MAN FROM MALACCA

Few Malay leaders have achieved as much as Encik Abdul Ghaffar bin Baba, Member of Parliament and former Federal Cabinet Minister, undoubtedly one of the most outstanding leaders Malacca has ever produced. He served the State as its Chief Minister from 1959 to 1967 before his appointment as the Chairman of MARA and later as the Minister of National and Rural Development.

In May, 1975 when Tun Razak was overseas, Encik Ghaffar acted as the Prime Minister of Malaysia. Now he holds the key position of Secretary-General of the National Front.

A successful businessman he presides over the affairs of the giant commercial enterprise known as Komplek Kewangan Malaysia Berhad. He was Chairman of MARA Educational Foundation. He has visited U.K. as the guest of the British Government.

A much loved Malay leader he is a Vice-President of U.M.N.O.

A LEGEND IN HIS TIME

A great central banker. That is how the Press and the public described Tun Ismail bin Mohamed Ali when he retired in June 1980 after nearly two decades as the Governor of Bank Negara. He has become a legend in his own time.

Today Tun Ismail is the Chairman of Guthrie Corporation Ltd. and also Chairman of Permodalan Nasional Berhad, Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad, the Commodities Trading Council, the Malaysian Kuwaiti Investment Company Sdn. Bhd. and a Director of the Sime Darby Berhad.

He has been described by the former Prime Minister, Tun Hussein Onn as a national leader with proven qualities. "His wide experiences," said Tun Hussein Onn, "his ability and his intelligence have enabled him to carry out his duties and the administration of the financial institution efficiently and effectively. In my opinion the Government, particularly the leaders at that time made a wise decision in appointing him as the Governor of Bank Negara."

Born on September 16, 1918 in Port Klang, he was educated at Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur, University of Cambridge, the Middle Temple and the Inns of Court, London.

GOVERNOR OF MALACCA

A personal friend and fellow Catholic who made a mark in Malayan politics was the late Tun Leong Yew Koh, the Ipoh lawyer. He was the Secretary-General of the M.C.A and a staunch supporter and adviser of the late Tun Tan Cheng Lock, the founder President of the M.C.A.

Tun Yew Koh had the distinction of serving as the Governor of Malacca — the first Malaysian of Chinese origin to hold this position. A sincere leader he was loved for his humility, sincerity and integrity.

FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT

Another leader who deserves special mention is my friend, Tan Sri Mohamed Noah, the first elected Speaker of Parliament whose biography I had the pleasure of writing.

The book, *WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR*, was well received by the reading public. His daughters Datin Suhaila and Tun Rahah were married to the Deputy Prime Minister and Prime Minister respectively of Malaysia — Tun Abdul Razak and Tun Datuk Hussein Onn. Tan Sri Noah achieved success through his own efforts.

MAGSAYSAY AWARD WINNER

On the Malay politicians, one who has had varied experiences in Government and in public service is Tun Sardon bin Haji Jubir whose "Crowning glory" was his appointment as the Governor of Penang.

The first Malayan to get the Magsaysay Award, Tun Sardon has many achievements to his credit. During his tenure as Governor, Penang made remarkable progress in various fields. He inaugurated the Sardon Foundation. In conferring on him the award of a Honorary Doctorate of Laws, the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia, Tan Sri Hamdan described Tun Sardon as "a dynamic leader and a well-known statesman at home and abroad."

One of the first Malays to graduate as a lawyer, he first practised in Singapore and later in Johore before entering into politics. He had served as a Minister of the Federal Government for several years.

A former Chief Scout, he was awarded "Semangat Padi", the highest honour of the Malaysian Scout Movement. At one time he was Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the U.N.

TUN JUSTICE SUFFIAN

Leaders in other fields especially in education and in the judiciary who deserve special mention are Tun Justice Mohd. Suffian, the Lord President of the Federal Court of Malaysia and Raja Tan Sri Azlan Shah, the Chief Justice of Malaysia.

Tun Suffian, the Pro-Chancellor of the University of Malaya, has done much to promote higher education for several years as the Chairman of the Council of Higher Education in Malaysia. He has also distinguished himself as one of those closely associated with the drafting of the Constitution of Malaysia in addition to being the author of "An Introduction To The Constitution of Malaysia."

Undoubtedly his most valuable contribution is the translation of the Malaysian Constitution into Bahasa Malaysia, which, as Tun Tan has rightly described, was a stupendous task for any one man. It was my concealed admiration of his sterling qualities as a man, as a judge and as an educationist that prompted me to write, "A MAN OF HIS TIME", on the life of this remarkable man. This was followed by a second volume on the life and times of Tun Suffian who has been elected a member of the International Commission of Jurists.

Tun Suffian has the rare distinction of being invited to deliver the first biennial lecture of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the Chitaley Memorial Lectures in India and also to deliver lectures on Malaysian Constitution in the United States. Another unique honour was his election as the President of the Commonwealth Magistrates Association, the first non-English to hold this position.

Tun Suffian is not only a lovable and friendly personality but a humble man always ready to help the needy, mainly students of all races. In his foreword to my book, A MAN OF HIS TIME, Sir James Thomson, the first Lord President wrote: "Sufficient to say that in the end Suffian has attained the highest post in the Judiciary of his country and that is his country's gain."

ANOTHER FAMOUS JUDGE

I lived the best years of my life in Perak where I was educated and worked. I have always admired people from that State who have distinguished themselves in various fields. One such person is Y.A.M. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Chief Justice Raja Azlan Shah ibni Al Marhum Sultan Sir Yusof Izzudin Shah, who is a leader in three distinct fields — Royalty, Judiciary and Sports — mainly hockey.

Firstly as Raja Kechil Besar he is third in line of succession to the Throne of Perak. Secondly, he is the youngest judge in the Commonwealth to be elevated to the High Court Bench on June 17, 1965 and thirdly he is a Malaysian sportsman and sports promoter of the highest calibre.

Though a prince and a judge he has given much of his time for sports for the benefit of the young people of Malaysia. He is probably the first judge in any country to have led his nation's hockey team as its manager to the Munich Games and as the Chef-de-Mission to the Montreal Olympics. He was the Organising Chairman of the World Cup Hockey Tournament held in Kuala Lumpur in March, 1975.

In the field of education too he has taken a leading role. He is the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia and was the Chairman of the Higher Education Advisory Council. Raja Azlan Shah is noted for his impartiality. He is a humane judge who is firm, fair and just. Also he is a warm-hearted and public-spirited individual.

JUDGE ARULANANDAN

A judge with a robust common sense and quick mind was the late Mr. Justice Datuk F.C. Arulanandan, who died early in 1982 of cancer in Penang. According to Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman, the Attorney-General, Justice Fred, as he was known among his friends, "faithfully carried out the intention of Parliament and never entered into any captious or irresponsible criticism of what Parliament had done, nor displayed a want of confidence in Parliament."

Justice Fred received his early education at the Victoria Institution in Kuala Lumpur and the Raffles College, Singapore and the University of London. He was a friend and contemporary of the late Tun Razak, former Prime Minister who recommended him for the judgeship.

A Federal Judge — I had the pleasure of knowing well was the late Tan Sri Justice S.C. MacIntyre, formerly of Johore. He practised as a lawyer, before being appointed Malaysia's High Commissioner to India, then as a High Court Judge and later as the President of the Industrial Court.

His public service record had spanned more than 35 years and he had lived through the anxious period of the Japanese Occupation during which he also served the people.

AUTHOR OF LAW BOOKS

A distinguished fellow Andersonian is Datuk Justice Hashim bin Yeop Abdullah Sani, B.A., Bar-at-Law, DPMJ, JMN. — a High Court Judge, Kuala Lumpur. Among his publications are: "How Our Laws

Are Made" and "Bagaimana Undang-Undang Kita Diperbuat."

Justice Hashim was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the King for services rendered for restoration of law and order after May 13, disturbances in 1969. He was an old student of my late brother, J.M. Morais, the Geography specialist at Anderson School, Ipoh.

SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER

An illustrious son of Sarawak I had the pleasure of meeting is Datuk Patinggi Amar Haji Taib bin Mahmud, the Chief Minister of Sarawak. He had held such portfolios as the Defence Minister, the Minister of Information and as Federal Territory Minister before he became the head of the Sarawak Government.

After obtaining law degree from University of Adelaide, Australia, he was admitted to the Supreme Court of South Australia where he had served as Judge's Associate in South Australia in 1961. I had a long conversation with him when he was the Minister of Information, Malaysia and I found him to be courteous, kind and helpful.

A school friend and fellow Scouter who rose to the position of a Federal Judge, is Tan Sri Justice Chang Min Tat, a brilliant scholar. He was a teacher before he took up law and began own private practice.

Now let me turn to educationists who had made notable contributions. Foremost among them are Royal Professor Ungku Aziz, the Vice-Chancellor of University of Malaya; Tan Sri Hamzah Sendut, a former Vice-Chancellor of University Sains Malaysia, Tan Sri Datuk Haji Hamdan Sheikh Tahir, the Vice-Chancellor of University Sains Malaysia and Tan Sri Datuk Arshad Ayub, a former head of the Mara Institute of Technology.

They worked like the knights of old. They saw the opportunities and did everything possible to enlarge the horizons for the present generation.

Under Ungku Aziz, the University of Malaya has seen the greatest expansion in its history. Since he assumed the high office of Vice-Chancellor in October 1968 he has brought about numerous changes in keeping with the increasing demands of modern education. A far-sighted educationist, he has stressed the importance of English in the University of Malaya. This is as it should be.

The longest serving Vice-Chancellor in Southeast Asia, Ungku Aziz has already carved a niche in the temple of fame as an educationist, innovator and reformer. Ungku Aziz is the first Malaysian to be appointed a Royal Professor and also the first Malaysian to receive the national award from the Tun Abdul Razak Foundation on June 10, 1978. He was given an Honorary Doctor of Education degree by the Chulalongkorn University, the first Malaysian to be so honoured by a

Thai University.

Sixteen years ago he had the honour of being awarded a doctorate in economics by the Waseda University of Tokyo. His speciality is Rural Economics. A Fellow Member of World Academy of Arts and Science, he was made a Doctor of Humane Letters by the University of Pittsburgh, U.S.A. Indeed he has achieved a unique record in the field of education.

NOTED EDUCATIONIST

Apart from extensive world-wide experience on educational reforms, Tan Sri Hamdan had led Malaysian delegations to various countries. In addition to education he was also involved in the Scout Movement, in Youth Movement and also in Adult Education. In recognition of his services he was presented a Certificate of Patriotic Service by Federation of Malaya Adult Education Association in 1953 and the Scout Medal of Merit in 1953.

As Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sains, Tan Sri Hamdan has introduced several innovations to improve the education system. I first met Tan Sri Hamdan when we were both stationed in Perak. He was a colleague of my eldest brother, J.M. Morais, formerly a teacher in Anderson School.

Professor Hamzah Sendut was described as the "Human dynamo" behind the tremendous progress and development achieved by Universiti Sains. His achievements in urban development planning and university education earned him the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Law from Kyung Hee University, Seoul in 1970.

Under Tan Sri Sendut's guidance the Universiti Sains made rapid strides in education in keeping with big increase in enrolment. A professional planner, he was U.N. Adviser on Urbanisation and Urban Development and Visiting Lecturer in Urbanisation at University of Chicago.

Our friendship began when we were members of the Town Board, Petaling Jaya. It was he who proposed me as the Chairman of the Parks and Gardens Committee of the Town Board, now known as the municipality.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

The other Malaysian educationists whom I have known are Tan Sri Professor Emeritus Chin Fung Kee, a former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of University of Malaya, Professor Wang Gungwu, a well-known historian who was previously with the University of Malaya and Professor Francis Morsingh, Dean, School of Chemical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Professor Chin was once the acting Vice-Chancellor of University

of Malaya. He was made a Honorary Fellow of Science by Civil Institute of Engineers, the first Asian to be honoured in its 150-year history. His contribution in the field of engineering was given due recognition by Malaysian Scientific Association. He was conferred a Doctor of Science Degree (hons) by the Singapore University.

A fellow Andersonian, Professor Dr. Wang was educated at Anderson School, Ipoh, University of Malaya and University of London. He was Head of the Department of History before he migrated to Australia. Author of several publications, he edited a volume of essays, "Malaysia", Pall.

A fellow Catholic and dedicated educationist is Associate Professor Chua Tee Tee. He has specialised in helping to educate the handicapped especially the blind.

Now Deputy Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Malaya, he has served on such organisations as the National Association For Remedial Education, Chairman Malaysia Guild of Educators of Blind and Vice-Chairman, Ministry of Education Contracted Malay Braille Code Committee.

Those who know him — and I am one of them — admire his services to the community and the country.

Professor Francis Morsingh is the son of that pioneer of education in Malaya, my old friend, the late Mr. Morsingh, the founder of St. Michael's School, Ipoh. Francis Morsingh was educated at University of Malaya and Oxford. He is a Queens Scholar and the Dean of the School of Chemical Sciences at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang.

Taking over as the Director of the Mara Institute of Technology in its infancy, Tan Sri Datuk Arshad Ayub expanded it into the giant that it is today.

ENGINEER TURNED EDUCATOR

Recognition of Arshad's achievements in the field of education has come not only from the Malaysian Government but also from overseas. The late Tun Razak described him as "a man of endless drive and boundless vision" while the Ohio University, in conferring on him an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, said in its citation, "He is an administrator and innovator in Malaysian education who has pioneered new curricula and new approaches to learning with determination and integrity."

Arshad is now the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture.

"Heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight; but they while their companions slept were toiling upward in the night."

That is the motto of Mr. V.A. Thomas, M.S.E. (London), C. Eng., F.I.E.E. (London), P. Eng. FIEM (Malaya), a chartered engineer by profession, he is now the Principal of Institute Teknologi Jaya, Kuala Lumpur. He was the Controller of Telecoms, Johore and Penang and a Director of Stores and Workshop Headquarters before his retirement.

Since assuming the post of Principal, he has built up the Institute Teknologi Jaya to such an extent that it is now playing an important role in providing education for hundreds of students seeking admission every year.

WON COLWYN MEDAL

Among Malaysians who have won international recognition, one of the most outstanding is Tan Sri Dr. B.C. Sekhar, Chairman of the Malaysia Rubber Research, who has the distinction of being the first Asian to win the Colwyn Medal, the highest award of the Institution of Rubber Industry.

In 1973, he received the Magsaysay Award for Government Service and the Chemistry Gold Medal for his work in Polymer Chemistry by the Malaysian Institute of Chemistry in 1975. In 1970, he was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by the University of Singapore for achievements in initiating and sustaining a logical revolution of natural rubber.

I have known Tan Sri Sekhar from his early years in RRI. He received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Universiti Sains on June 28, 1980. Sekhar was conferred the 1982 Tun Abdul Razak Award for his outstanding services in rubber research and for his active role in raising the standard of living of rubber cultivators in the country.

DISCOVERER OF "ACTINONIN"

Another Malaysian who deserves mention is Dr. Bhagwan Singh, a former Director of Institute for Medical Research, who has to his credit the discovery of a new anti-biotic — "ACTINONIN" — for which a joint patent has been taken out. The National Research Development Corporation, London, is responsible for the exploitation of this invention. A Member of New York Academy of Science, 1960, he is a member of Academy of Sciences of Malaysia since 1969.

A good Samaritan once helped Dr. Bhagwan Singh when he was desperately in need of money to complete his medical studies in India. On May 6, 1982, he donated \$50,000 and all his property to the National Scientific Research and Development Fund which was set up in November 1975 to promote research and development activities in science.

He said his relatives had no say in his decision, "That is why I never got married. I wanted to be my own boss!"

A FOUNDER OF ALLIANCE

A pioneer in the national struggle for independence is Tan Sri Colonel Henry Hau Shik Lee SMN, KBE, CBE, J.P., who is the first Finance Minister of Malaya. He was closely associated with Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Razak and Tun Ismail in the independence movement.

Sir Henry was one of the members of the Merdeka Mission to London as an Alliance representative in January, 1956. One of the founders of the MCA, UMNO and MIC Alliance, he was a member of the Financial Mission to London in 1957.

As a banker he is the founder Chairman of Development and Commercial Bank Ltd. Berhad, Kuala Lumpur, Chairman of Chartered Bank (M) Trustees Berhad and D & C Finance Berhad, Kuala Lumpur. The Chairman of the Lady Templer Hospital, Kuala Lumpur for the past several years, he has raised millions of dollars by public donations to maintain and improve the quality of services given by the Hospital. I came to know him well when I was the Federation Appeals Organiser of the Lady Templer Hospital Fund. I admire his leadership qualities.

A HERCULEAN TASK

Datuk James Peter Chin DPMS, DWJS, J.P., B.A. (Malaya) and M.A. (Missouri), is a remarkable man. I have known him for the past 25 years. He serves on as many as 42 committees — a Herculean task for any ordinary Malaysian. But Peter Chin is a man of boundless energy and drive.

His main concern is for the sick and the needy that is why he is on the Board of the Assunta Hospital, Petaling Jaya, a Life Member of several other welfare and other organisations.

In the Rotary Movement he has done a lot to become the Governor Rotary District 330. The King and the Sultan have honoured him.

He is now the Group Communications Manager of Sime Darby Holdings Bhd., Kuala Lumpur.

POPULAR SIKH LEADER

Teacher, Parliamentarian and businessman. That has been the career of my friend, Datuk Mahima Singh of Seremban, a popular Sikh leader. A widely travelled man, he has participated in and promoted several activities in Negeri Sembilan.

A former Alliance Member of Parliament, he visited Britain to study Parliamentary procedures. He had been associated with Rotary, St. John Ambulance Association and the Boy Scout Association besides serving as the President of N.S Indian Association and the Malayan Sikh Union.

FORMER SENATOR

Few leaders in the Indian community can equal the record of service rendered by Tan Sri S.O.K. Ubaidullah who has been involved in several activities especially as a legislator and as a community leader.

Tan Sri Ubaidullah served as a member of the Federal Council from 1948 to 1959. Indicative of his valuable contribution as a nation-builder was his appointment as a Senator in 1959 and later as the Deputy President of the Senate of Malaysia.

As a founder member participating actively in the affairs of the Malaysian Indian Congress in which he served as a Vice-President, Tan Sri Ubaidullah has done much to improve the image of MIC economically and politically.

In the field of trade he has played a significant role as the President of Associated Indian Chambers of Commerce, Malaysia Employers Consultative Association from 1963 and as the Deputy Chairman of National Chambers of Commerce and Industry. I have known him for the past 40 years.

Among the leaders of the Ceylonese community, the late Datuk Sir Clough Thuraisingam, stood head and shoulders above others of his community. He was a member of the Federal Council and the State Council. His finest hour came when he was chosen as the Chairman of the Communities Liaison Committee. It was in this position that his skill became so apparent that Mr. Malcolm MacDoland described him as "One of the most influential and trusted leaders of Malaya."

As a member for Education of Malaya he distinguished himself by introducing several schemes for the rapid expansion of education. Justice Douglas of the U.S. Supreme Court in his book, "NORTH FROM MALAYA" wrote, "Templer and MacDonald speak of the day when Malaya — rich, strong, unified and independent — will be a proud member of the Commonwealth. They contemplate political equality for all her people. There is no reason why equality among the races cannot be achieved the democratic way. There is no reason why national independence cannot be achieved. But it can be done if — Only if — Thuraisingam's words are heeded and the secret of the melting pot discovered in America is rediscovered in Malaya."

"PAK SAKO" — THE NOVELIST

Two Bumiputras who have impressed me a lot are veteran novelist Ishak Bin Haji Muhammad @ Pak Sako and Dr. Ismail Salleh, the blind young man who distinguished himself as a scholar despite his handicap.

Pak Sako, as he is well-known in literary circles, won countrywide recognition as a writer with his novel *Putra Gunung Tahan* in 1967. In fact he has written several novels and short stories. He is now resident writer with *Utusan Melayu*. Pak Sako was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by University of Malaya in 1973. He was one of the six who were conferred the *Literary Pioneer Award* and a prize of \$10,000 by the former Prime Minister, Tun Hussien Onn.

A LIGHT IN DARKNESS

Dr. Ismail Salleh has a brilliant academic record. Educated at Princess Elizabeth School For the Blind, Johor Bharu, Ismail showed considerable skill in his studies at Sultan Ismail College, Kota Bharu and St. John's Institution, Kuala Lumpur.

Going to the US he did extremely well to get his B.A. (Hons) in Economics and Political Science from the State University of New York and then went on to obtain M.Sc. and Ph. D. from University of Illinois. Now he is a lecturer in Public Finance in University Kebangsaan, Bangi.

One of the outstanding Malaysian novelists and poets is Usman Awang who is called the People's Poet. A founder of the writers' movement he has received the *Hadiah Pemenang Sastra*, the literary pioneer award and a prize of \$10,000. He has also won the *S.E.A Writer Award* open to leading men of letters in the ASEAN region. His selected works have been translated into Russian and is awaiting publication in Moscow.

THIS DOCTOR A.V.V.I.P.

Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Mohamed Said is the first elected Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan. He has a fine record of service to the State and the nation. Even to this day he is being treated by the Negeri Sembilan Government as a V.V.I.P. of the State.

In Dr. Said, the country has an example of dedication and honesty and sure mindedness in doing what he believes. During my time as an editor I had the pleasure of meeting this illustrious son of Negeri

who used to write to the Press on matters Malaysian from time to time.

Little known to the public is the fact that he is an author and editor as well. He translated Wilkinson's "Sungai Ujong" into Malay and also made partial translation of Parr and McRay's "Rembau" for "Majallah Guru". In 1955, he published a paper on "Kwashiorkar".

CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

A member of the Perak Royalty who has a distinguished record of service to the Malaysian Government is Raja Tan Sri Mohar bin Raja Badiozman SPMS., PSM., JMN. Raja Mohar had served the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for several years before his appointment as the Chief Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister.

Chairman of the Malaysian Airline System, Raja Mohar also served as the Chairman of the Foreign Investment Committee, the National Productivity Centre, the Standards Council of Malaysia and as the President of Malaysian Institute of Management.

He spoke on "Foreign Investment — The Malaysian Experiences" — at the annual lecture of the Malaysian Economic Association on October 29, 1976. The selection of the speakers for this was based on the tradition of inviting those who have contributed significantly to the economic development of the country.

Raja Mohar is indeed one of the most outstanding Malays I have known.

CONCERN FOR SPASTICS

Devoting most of his time in retirement for the benefit of spastic children is Professor Dr. A.A. Sandosham, a former Principal of the University of Malaya and a personal friend of mine.

For the past several years he has been spending several hours daily as the Honorary Director of Spastic Children's Centre of Selangor. He has served as the President of the Confederation of Medical Associations of Asia and Oceania and Joint President of the Commonwealth Medical Association.

A senior Malaria and Filarisis Research Officer, he has served as the Director of the Institute of Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur. He is the author of "Malariology" with Special Reference to Malaya" and co-author of "Microscopical Diagnosis of Human Malaria." He was the Coordinator of Studies in Malariology, W.H.O., Manila in 1960. As a humorous speaker he has no equal in Malaya.

A BRIDGE — BUILDER

One who has done a lot for the promotion of higher education in

Malaysia and Singapore was the late Dr. Thio Chan Bee, a former senior educationist and later Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association for the Promotion of Higher Education in Malaysia (APHEM). I knew him when he was stationed in Petaling Jaya as Education Secretary of the Methodist Mission.

Dr. Thio had held key positions in political and educational organisations. He was responsible for the dramatic reconciliation between the leaders of the Malay and the Chinese communities at a secret dinner meeting in Johore Bahru on December 29, 1948 when both Dato Onn bin Jaafar, the President of the U.M.N.O. and Tun Tan Cheng Lock, the President of the M.C.A., realised that a fresh approach had to be tried. Thus a new formula for unity was worked out.

Dr. Thio helped in the historic decision. He was a true bridge-builder whose main aim was inter-racial harmony.

AN UNFORGETTABLE MAN

Tan Sri Dr. Tan Chee Khoo, MBBS is a prominent Malaysian. In spite of the fact that he suffered from a stroke two years ago he continues his medical practice one or two hours a day by helping the sick and the suffering. He is now more involved in writing a popular column — WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR — in The Star every week. He is a man of considerable means but work, write and speak up he must. He does just that.

A former leader of the Opposition in the Malaysian Parliament he has not stopped taking up various issues and fighting for the rights of all Malaysians. He could just take things easy — rest and relax and watch the scenery but he is so dedicated a crusader for justice and fair play, that he keeps himself extremely busy.

He has advised the people, "Give your support to the Government but also exercise your voice through the ballot box to curb their excesses and bring about changes. Let not the lights of democracy be extinguished; let not our children become serfs."

Indeed, Dr. Tan, who is also a Church leader, is an unforgettable Malaysian patriot.

WELL—KNOWN AUTHOR

Tan Sri Sheikh Abdullah bin Sheikh Abu Bakar, LL.B. (Wales) needs no introduction to Malaysians. He is well-known as a former senior civil servant and as an author and columnist. He has served as a President of the Sessions Court, Secretary of Parliament and Secretary-General of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

A former Chairman of the Public Services Commission he is now

the Chairman of the New Straits Times Press (M) Berhad. Author of "PONDER", a collection of his articles, he also writes a daily column in the Berita Harian and a weekly column in the Sunday Times under the title of Talking Point.

His motto is, Loyalty to the Creator, Country and Conscience. He is an unusual philosopher with an unusual sense of humour.

PERAK EDUCATIONIST

The late Mr. Teerath Ram, AMN, PJK, PMP, former Principal of the Methodist High School, Ipoh was one of the leading educationists in Perak where he served as the Principal of the ACS for 16 years.

During his time with A.C.S. a new library was built and several educational innovations were introduced. As a leader he was the Chairman of the Teachers' Panel, National Joint Council for Teachers, Federation of Malaya, 1957-1966; President National Conference of Heads of Secondary Schools, 1962—1964 and a Member Court of University of Malaya, 1963—1967.

A Past President of Ipoh Rotary Club I have known him as a dear friend from the days we were in Ipoh. When he was the Principal of the A.C.S. Kampar, I addressed the school assembly early in 1937. I was then the Managing Editor of the Malaya Tribune, Ipoh.

AMBASSADOR TO PEKING

The late Mr. Nedyam Raghavan, B.A. (Econs, Politics and History), Bar-at-Law, Inner Temple, London, the former Penang lawyer and President of the Central Indian Association of Malaya.

Mr. Raghavan showed his leadership qualities during the Japanese Occupation when he joined Subhas Chandra Bose to form the Indian Independence League of which he became the President. Later he was chosen as a Minister in the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. During wartime in Malaya he was the senior adviser to Netaji Bose. It was during that period I came to know him well.

It was in recognition of his services under Subhas Bose that Pandit Nehru invited him to serve as a diplomat in the Indian Foreign Service although he was a Malayan. He served as India's Ambassador to Peking.

NOTED CIVIL SERVANT

The late Datuk Haji Mustapha Albakri rose to the top of the civil service by sheer merit. He was a very courageous leader. He was no "Yes-man" even during the days when the British ruled supreme in Malaya.

Datuk Albakri earned a name for himself as a fair and just man when he was a Magistrate in Perak. Both Europeans and Asians were treated alike whenever they appeared before him. He was a popular judge and administrator.

The first important role he played was as the Representative of the Malayan Rulers at the Defence Treaty Talks in Kuala Lumpur and later in London. A humble man he did his duty as he deemed fit. It was a measure of his fine qualities that he served as the Vice-President of the Rotary Club of Ipoh when I, a much junior man, was its President. Datuk Albakri eventually became a Rotary Governor.

WAS LAW MINISTER

Coming from a poor family and completing his education with the help of scholarships, Tan Sri Datuk Haji Abdul Kadir bin Yusoff, PMN, SPDK, SPMJ, BJK, ADK, rose from the position of a clerk to that of Attorney-General and Minister of Law, the first Malaysian to hold this position.

Also, he and his wife, Tan Sri Fatimah binte Hashim, the former Minister of Welfare Services, have the unique distinction of serving in the Cabinet at the same time, the first couple in Asia to gain this honour. I wrote a feature article on them for *The ASIA MAGAZINE*.

Tan Sri Kadir has attended several international law conferences including the International Conference on Human Rights in Canberra in 1963, the Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference in London in 1965, the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee meeting in Baghdad and the Youth Commonwealth and Empire Law Conferences in New Delhi in 1971.

He has been associated with UMNO from its early years. He was appointed a member of the UMNO Supreme Council by Tun Hussein Onn in January, 1978. When he was appointed a Magistrate, Tan Sri Kadir told me, his father advised him to be fair when he dealt with wrong-doers because "the greatest judge — Allah — watches all our actions."

NEW EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

Datuk Samy Vellu, DPMS., AMN., PGM., SMS., the Minister for Works and Utilities, Malaysia, has proved himself as the most dynamic of all the Malaysian Indian Congress leaders of the past.

In the short period of two years he has enhanced the image of MIC as a leading political organisation with an ambitious programme to promote higher education among Malaysians of Indian origin. In this respect he has established the Malaysian Institute of Educational

Development. The MIC has purchased the Vanto Academy, one of the biggest private educational institutions in the country.

Other institutions sponsored by the MIC are the Institute Teknologi, Negeri Sembilan. The School of Construction, Industry, Sungai Siput and the School of Building Construction Science, Kuala Lumpur.

Datuk Samy Vellu has restored discipline at MIC meetings and the MIC membership has increased by thousands. He has plans to raise \$10 million to carry out all MIC projects for which he has received the backing of many intellectuals of the community and other well-wishers including Malays and Chinese.

Of the political leaders of Indian origin the first name that comes to my mind is that of the late Tun V.T. Sambanthan, a former Minister of the Malaysian Government. He had served the longest period as the President of the Malaysian Indian Congress.

During his tenure of office as President of the MIC he was responsible for launching the National Land Finance Company with a view to improving the lot of Indians especially the estate workers. This venture, the first of its kind involving Malaysian Indians, has proved a big success.

The other Indian leaders who have impressed me are the late Tan Sri Manickavasagam, a former President of the MIC who had proved himself an able organiser. He was mainly responsible for putting up the prestigious MIC Headquarters building at Jalan Tun Ismail in Kuala Lumpur.

Tan Sri Manickavasagam had been a politician for more than 20 years during which period he had served on the Committees of various organisations.

ATTENDED PEACE TALKS

An Indian leader who made his mark in the development of Malaysia was the late Tan Sri Datuk Athi Nahappan, Bar-at-Law, who held the key positions of the Deputy President of the Malaysian Indian Congress, as a Member of the Supreme Council of Barisan Nasional in 1974 and as a Minister in the Malaysian Government.

A great task that was entrusted to the late Tan Sri Nahappan was as the Chairman of the Royal Commission of Enquiry on Local Authorities in Peninsular Malaysia in 1965.

He was appointed the Secretary of the Alliance Parliamentary Group on External Affairs, a member of the Court of the University of Malaya; a member of the Panel of National Arbitration Tribunal; a

member of the Federal Capital Advisory Board (1964—1968), a member of the Committee appointed to prepare a report for the revision of the law relating to the rent controlled premises in West Malaysia and a member of the Parliamentary Select Committee to review the Bill on Marriage and Divorce for Non-Muslims 1973—1974.

He was a member of the Malayan Delegation, led by former Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak to the peace talks with Indonesia and the Philippines in Bangkok in 1964.

MR. K. L. DEVASER

But the one man who won admiration for showing "guts" in fighting for the rights of Malaysians of Indian origin was my friend, the late K.L. Devaser. As President of the M.I.C. which he helped to form under the leadership of the late Mr. J.A. Thivy, Devaser was one who had the courage of his conviction.

A contemporary of mine during our school days in Ipoh, he consulted me and other elders of the community when he was a Member of the Federal Legislative Council and later as a Parliamentarian. In this way he was able to present the views of the Indian community whenever issues relating to their welfare came up for discussion in Parliament.

It was Devaser as the President of the M.I.C. who brought the organisation into the Alliance, the forerunner of the National Front.

A LIVING MUSEUM

"Just as the Museum is Shahrum's life, he has made it part of the life of fellow Malaysians." This tribute to Datuk Shahrum bin Yub, **DPCM., JMN., SMS., PJK., B.A.(Hons), Leeds, AMA** — the Director—General of Museum, Malaysia, comes from the Trustees of the Magsaysay Foundation of Manila.

He was young when he was appointed the head of the Museum Negara 17 years ago. Like many of his friends I have watched with keen interest how he has built up Malaysia's leading Museum in Kuala Lumpur. How did he do this? He has visited the national museums in several countries including Britain, the United States, Russia and India.

So impressive has been his achievements that the Board of Trustees of the Magsaysay Foundation has conferred on him the Magsaysay Award for outstanding Government service.

In the course of the citation accompanying the award, the Foundation Trustees said: "He is giving his people an educational institution that carries the heritage of past into their modernising society. In

conferring the Magsaysay Award for 1978 the Board of Trustees recognise his making a living museum, an enlightening experience for all ages, fostering a national cultural awakening."

TRADE UNION PIONEER

One of the important events of post-war Malaya has been the advent of trade unionism. Malaysia has been fortunate to have the services of several redoubtable unionists.

The foremost among the pioneers is Dr. P.P. Narayanan, the President of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions — the first Asian to hold such a position. He was re-elected as President of I.C.F.T.U. recently.

From its inception the National Union of Plantation Workers, has been having the guidance of Dr. Narayanan as its General Secretary.

P.P. was conferred the Magsaysay Award and a Honorary Doctorate in Law by Universiti Sains Malaysia.

As the leader of the world trade union movement P.P. has done a lot to enhance the image of Malaysia where workers enjoy many benefits.

Thanks to P.P.'s leadership Malaysian plantation workers are now able to discuss their problems with employers on an equal footing.

WORKERS' INSTITUTE FOUNDER

Another leader of the Trade Union Movement in Malaysia is Mr. V. David, former Parliamentarian and now Secretary-General of the Malaysian Trade Union Congress. A founder of the Transport Workers Union of Malaya, he has been one of the pioneers of the union movement in this country.

As an unionist he has done a lot for the workers. In recognition of his services David was conferred a Gold Medallion by the people of Bangsar and Brickfields in 1958 with the inscription "Public Servant". He also received the MTUC Gold Medal in 1966 and a Gold Medal in 1970 by the George Town City Council Transport Employees Union who conferred on him the title of 'Bapa Perkerja' (Father of Wokers).

David visited the US in 1954 on a scholarship for six months during which period he attended courses in the University of Louisville, Kentucky. Also he attended courses in Economics, Political Science and Industrial Relations. He is a founder of the Workers Institute of Technology of which he is the Director General. In 1962 he visited England as a guest of the British Government.

TEACHER TURNS LAWYER

Two Malaysians of Indian origin who have been prominent in the field of education are Professor Chattar Singh, Foundation Professor and Dean of the School of Physics and Mathematics, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang and Mr. K.T. Joseph, a senior educationist and now a lawyer.

Mr. Joseph is one who has shown commendable courage to take up and pass law after more than 30 years as an educationist.

A Past President of Rotary Club, he has helped to form two Rotary Clubs in Malaysia.

Among the publications he has edited are **COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO MALACCA** and **HISTORY OF MALACCA LAND LAWS**.

PRESS CLUB PRESIDENT

A leading bumiputra journalist is my friend, Encik Mazlan bin Nordin JMN, the Editor-in Chief and a Director of Utusan Melayu, President of the Press Club of Malaysia, and Vice-President of the Press Foundation of Asia and Chairman of Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation.

Encik Mazlan also serves as a member of Board of Governors of BERNAMA, the national news agency, as a member of National Advisory Council on Culture and on the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO, in Malaysia.

He was a member of the late Tun Razak's Delegation to Peking in 1974 when Malaysia reestablished diplomatic relations with China. He went to Jakarta with Tunku Abdul Rahman after the confrontation. Mazlan is a columnist in the ASIaweek, the Hongkong English weekly.

FIRST CLASS HONOURS

A journalist with excellent credentials is Dr. Mohamed Noordin bin Mohamed Sopiee, the Editor-in-Chief of the New Straits Times. He is the first Malaysian to get First Class Honours Degree at London School of Economics. After B.S.C (Econs), he obtained Ph. D. in Political Science from London University. Dr. Noordin was on a three-month attachment with Thomson Regional Newspapers in Britain from February—April, 1975 when he studied newspaper management, planning and lay-out. He joined N.S.T. in 1972.

Dr. Noordin is the author of such publications as: "From Malayan Union to Singapore Separation", "A Story of Political Unification" and "Contemporary Issues In Malaysia." He was the Secretary-General of London Union of Malaysian Students from 1963 to 1965.

A GIFTED WRITER

Teacher, journalist, dramatist, novelist, translator and interpreter. One who can claim to all these is Cik Adibah Amin, Special Assistant to the Group Editor of the New Straits Times. She is a gifted writer.

Adibah has attended a series of courses during her stay in England in February, 1978 when she participated in two senior Thomson editorial courses followed by a personnel management course at Ashridge Management College in Hertfordshire.

Before joining the Straits Times as writer and columnist, she was a teacher at the Malay Girls College in Kuala Lumpur.

A quiet unassuming lady she can speak, write, act and sing effectively.

An honours graduate of the University of Malaya she was voted as the Best Supporting Actress for her role in "Adik Manja" in the 1980 Malaysian Film Festival.

"MALAYA UPSIDE DOWN"

Mr. Chin Kee Onn, teacher, diplomat and author, has been involved in many activities for more than 40 years.

I have known Kee Onn from the days he was a teacher at the A.C.S. in Ipoh. He has written several books including MALAYA UPSIDE DOWN and MA — RAI — EE on the Japanese Occupation. The inclusion in his story of specific guerilla and Allied operations makes his work a historical novel.

FOUNDER OF "STAR"

Mr. K.S. Choong, KMN., PJK., J.P., FIPR., is a fellow journalist, who has served Malaysian Government as a diplomat after a career in journalism in Penang. He was the founder Editor-in-Chief of The Star and its first Managing Director. He is a Fellow of the British Institute of Management.

A POPULAR COLUMNIST

Few journalists in Malaysia are as popular as my former colleague, S.H. Tan. S.H., as he is known to his friends, rose from the ranks to become the Editor of the Malay Mail.

He is better known as a columnist and author than as an editor. He has written three books — So This Is America, Saya Yang Tahu (I Who Know) and Born Sway (Born Unlucky).

S.H. had been a columnist of the Malay Mail for more than 25 years. Truly he is the Mark Twain of Malaysia. When asked what

makes him write humour and satire more than anything else, he said: "Because I can't write anything else."

FAMOUS LAWYERS

Of the many Malayan lawyers, two who deserve mention are the Seenivasagam brothers who dominated the political scene in Ipoh for several years. Their party — P.P.P. — controlled at one time the Municipal Council of which S.P. was President. The P.P.P. had several members in Parliament and in the Perak State Legislative Assembly. For several years the Seenivasagams remained unbeaten in the elections in Perak.

A popular leader from Kelantan was the late Tan Sri Nik Kamil, a former Speaker of Parliament, who was a lawyer by profession and had a large circle of friends of all races.

Soon after the independence of Malaya, he entered into politics and served the country in various capacities. I served with him as a Member of the Petaling Jaya Town Board and found him to be friendly and helpful to others. He was Chairman at one time of the Lady Templar Hospital and Chairman of Rothman. Humility was one of his virtues.

THE CHIEF SCOUT

Two senior civil servants of the East Coast who impressed me are Datuk Haji Mohamed bin Yaacob, Bar-at-Law, PGDK, PMK, SMT, SPMK, the Menteri Besar of Kelantan and Dato Wira Jaya, the popular State Secretary of Trengganu.

Datuk Mohamed has had an excellent career not only as a lawyer but as a civil servant. He held the portfolio of Minister of Education and later as Minister of Public Enterprises before he was appointed M.B. of Kelantan.

He has done much to promote Islamic activities in Kelantan while striving at the same time to intensify the State's progress as an industrial centre. Since 1975 he has held the position of Chief Scout of Malaysia — an honour befitting his fine qualities as a statesman and gentleman. I am grateful to him for the warm welcome he gave me during my first visit to Kota Bharu, the State capital when I had the pleasure of meeting heads of several State and Federal Departments.

"SERVICE WITH A SMILE"

There should be more leaders of the calibre of Dato Wira Jaya — Che Wan Khalid bin Nong, the State Secretary of Trengganu. A lawyer by profession, he was educated at Sultan Suleiman School,

Kuala Trengganu before going for Law studies at Middle Temple, London in 1962.

Dato Wira Jaya had held such positions as District Officer and State Financial Officer before becoming the State Secretary in May, 1971. Among the awards he has received are: Dato Wira Jaya on June 26, 1971, Dato Paduka Mahkota Trengganu (DPMT) and Darjah Setia Mahkota Trengganu Yang Amat Di Hormat (SMT).

"Service With A Smile" seems to be his motto because he was extremely courteous and helpful when I met him twice in Kuala Trengganu.

FOUNDER OF M.I.C.

The one leader who has been forgotten by many members of the community is the late Mr. J.A. Thivy who was a leader in a class by himself.

Handicapped though he was for lack of funds and sometimes even sincere friends he had carried on the struggle to improve the lot of Malaysians of Indian origin. With a small band of dedicated colleagues he formed the Malayan Indian Congress.

Recognition of his services to the community came from none other than Pandit Nehru, the first Premier of India who appointed him as India's Representative of Malaya. Later on he served as India's ambassador to other countries.

TRIBUTE TO RAMANI

One lawyer who stood head and shoulders above his contemporaries was the late Mr. R. Ramani, a partner in the law firm of Braddel and Ramani. He represented Malaysia at the United Nations where he distinguished himself by his utterances and his actions.

Mr. De Beus of the Netherlands said when he took over from Mr. Ramani as the President of the Security Council on June 3, 1965: "I think we can say with confidence that rarely in the history of the UN has the Security Council had more reason to honour its past President than we have today to honour Mr. Ramani for the way in which he conducted our debates with the legal clarity of an experienced lawyer, the impartiality of a judge and with a sense of humour such as only wise men possess."

"Furthermore, those of us who have cooperated closely with you in informal discussions outside this chamber have had an opportunity to admire your solutions in almost insoluble problems and your gift in drafting formulas for that purpose."

It was a tribute richly deserved by Mr. Ramani. As a lawyer he was regarded as one of the outstanding members of the profession. He

attempted to bring all Indian organisations together by forming the Federation of Indian Organisations. I pledged him my support when he came to see me in Ipoh where I was the President of the Kinta Indian Association. But the F.I.O. did not get the support that it needed from the community. This was due to the fact that Indian interests were then being looked after by the M.I.C.

Another distinguished member of the legal profession in Malaysia was the late Tan Sri H.T. Ong whom I had known since the early 1930's in Ipoh. As Chief Justice, he strove to ensure that the independence of the judiciary remained unaffected and untainted.

The first Malaysian of Chinese origin to become Chief Justice, he was at all times firm but fair regardless of the rank, the position or the class of the persons who appeared before him.

A man with a vigorous mind, he showed a mastery of the law as exemplified by his many judgements. Few in this country can equal his record as an advocate and later as a judge. Suffice it to quote the tribute paid to him by Lord President, Tun Suffian who said:

"The felicity with which Tan Sri Ong expressed difficult concepts of the law bore comparison with that of the best legal brains anywhere in the world."

THE VETERAN POLITICIAN

Datuk Mohamed Sopheie, the veteran politician and my old friend, is the founder of the Malayan Forum, in London. He also helped to form Pan-Malayan Labour Party and the Public Relations Institute of Malaysia.

Sopheie served as Malaysia's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and later to Pakistan. Also he served on various organisations including the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association. He was a brave back-bencher in Parliament. He was never afraid to speak out even when he was in conflict with the stand of the Government. As Dr. Tan Chee Khoon once wrote: "Blind obedience was not for Sopheie."

An unofficial member of the Federal Council 1954—1955, he grew a beard as a protest against Education Ordinance and the suggestion to raise school fees.

FIRST ARCHBISHOP

The privilege of being the first Catholic Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur goes to Tan Sri Rt. Rev. Dominic Vendargon who has served as the first Bishop of K.L. from February 25, 1955. Ordained priest in December, 1934, he is noted for his humility and simplicity. He has spent much time cycling on missionary expeditions in Kedah, Perlis

and Perak. He has been responsible for putting up several churches and chapels.

It may be mentioned that after his first year of theology he served as a Professor at Singapore Seminary. As priest and later as Bishop he has attended several religious conferences in Rome.

POPE HONOURS HIM

Augustine is a household word in Kedah thanks to the contribution made to the State by the family of Chevalier J.F. Augustine, a former educationist. The Augustine's Family Cricket XI was mentioned in Wisden's 1948 — probably the only family in Asia, if not in the world, to be so honoured.

The Augustines have identified themselves with various activities in Kedah and were honoured by the State and Federal Governments by the award of A.M.N., J.P., and P.J.K. to Mr. Augustine and A.M.N. to Mrs. Augustine.

Mr. Augustine was conferred by the Pope the Knight Grand Cross of Order of Pope St. Sylvester in recognition of his services to the Church in which the late Mrs. Augustine had also participated as an organist for many years.

ASIAN ANGLICAN BISHOP

Another religious leader I have had the pleasure of meeting is Tan Sri Rt. Rev. John G. Savarimuthu, PSM., the first Asian Anglican Bishop of West Malaysia.

He is the "Rottler Prize" winner on competitive thesis on Comparative Religion. He attended the 1963 Anglican Congress at Toronto; 1965 Consul Nations on Theological Education in Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and the Leadership Training Course for Christian Leaders in Seoul, Korea and World Council of Churches Conference on Church Union in Toronto, 1975.

Bishop Savarimuthu is the National Vice-President of the Council of Churches of Malaysia and Singapore and a Vice-President of Assunta Hospital, Petaling Jaya.

ANOTHER THOMAS DOOLEY

A Malayan prominent in humanitarian work was the late Swami Satyananda. Like Thomas Dooley, the famous medical missionary, he worked in a field where his guidance was urgently needed.

I met the Swamiji soon after the war when he gave up his government job to start a welfare organisation, now known as the Pure Life Society of Puchong, Kuala Lumpur.

Like Thomas Dooley, the Swami had tremendous faith in his fellow-men. Despite what appeared to be forbidding obstacles, he refused to give up his ambitious project of setting up an institution to promote the welfare of orphans and other less fortunate children.

Author of several books on comparative religion, psychology, philosophy, and history, he had represented Malaya at several international conferences and organised and led several local organisations. During his lifetime he met Gandhiji, Tagore, the poet, and several other prominent people.

SISTER MANGALAM

Whenever I go to the Pure Life Society, especially to its orphanage, I am reminded of the Boys Town In Nebraska, U.S.A. Alas, Swami Satyananda died following a car accident but he had already ensured that the Society would continue its noble work under Sister Mangalam who assumed leadership after the untimely passing away of the Swami.

In fact she was with the Swami from the very inception of this unique establishment which has won the admiration of such eminent visitors as Field Marshal Gerald Templer and his successor, Sir Donald MacGillivray. She has served as the Vice-President of Malay-Asian Inter-Religious Organisation.

Recognition of Sister Mangalam's services to the nation came when she was chosen as one of four prominent women in Malaysia to receive the Tun Fatimah Gold Medal from the National Council of Women's Organisations in March, 1977. She won the award for outstanding social service amongst the needy in Malaysia.

Sister Mangalam edits DHARMA, a quarterly for Pure Life Society. She has attended several Malaysia and international conferences including the first conference of world religion in Tokyo.

Today she follows the footsteps of not only Swami Satyananda but also the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mother Teresa.

It has been rightly said that woman are the barometers of the rise and fall of a nation. In Malaysia we have several women who have acquitted themselves creditably by their performances as politicians, as educationists and as social welfare workers.

OUTSTANDING WOMAN LEADER

The first Malay woman to blaze the trail in politics in Malaysia is Puan Sri Puteh Mariah, the wife of Tan Sri Datuk Zainal Abidin bin Haji Abbas, a founder of UMNO. Both she and her husband were closely associated with Dato Onn bin Jaafar during the Malay agitation against the MacMichael Tready and the Malayan Union.

I have witnessed her participation in the historic political move-

ment that led to Malaya's independence from the British. She has served on the Perak State Council with me and the Federal Council. She also headed several women's organisations and welfare and religious bodies. She was mainly responsible for commissioning me to edit *HIDUP MELAYU*, on Malay nationalism and its growth in 1946.

Another outstanding woman leader is Tan Sri Fatimah binti Haji Hashim, the first woman Minister of the Malaysian Cabinet. Wife of Tan Sri Abdul Kadir bin Yusof, a former Minister of Law and Attorney-General, she has done extremely well to climb to the top of the ladder by sheer hardwork and determination.

This is really commendable considering the fact that she had had only a humble educational background. She has served as the founder president for several years of the National Council of Women's Organisations of Malaysia.

WOMAN AMBASSADOR

The only Malaysian woman to serve as a diplomat is Miss P.G. Lim, M.A. (Bar-at-law), former Malaysian Ambassador to the E.E.C. in Brussels, to Yugoslavia and Austria, Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and also Malaysia's Permanent Representative to International Atomic Energy Agency.

She had been invited to speak at several international law conferences. She was a member of the Malaysian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in 1967.

As a lawyer she has distinguished herself in many important cases. Right Honourable Sir Dingle Foot, the former British Solicitor-General presented her a Red Bag for assisting him in representing Railwaymen's Union of Malaya in his successful bid to win recognition for its members as Government servants.

HEAD OF GIRL GUIDES

The first Malay lady to hold the position of Chief Commissioner of the Malaysian Girl Guides Association is Puan Hendon binti Haji Din, AMN., PJK.

A popular educationist she had been the Principal of the Datu Abu Bakar School II in Kuala Lumpur. Puan Hendon has done much to promote the growth of the Guide Movement. She has attended several international Girl Guides conferences. She has been awarded the Silver Swift in recognition of her outstanding service to the Guides Movement.

As one writer put it, "She is one who sings and smiles under all difficulties."

MEMBER OF ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mrs. Rasammah Bhupalan, B.A. (Hons.), the former Headmistress of the Senior Methodist School, Kuala Lumpur, spearheaded the equal pay for women issue as the founder president of the Women's Teachers Union. Besides being the Chairman of the Education Committee of the National Council of Women's Organisation she has been active in the executive committee of NCWO.

Mrs. Bhupalan was a member of National Advisory Council on Integration of Women in National Development. She spoke at a 11-day Asian Regional Seminar on working and living conditions of plantation workers in K.L. in 1979. She visited Russia in June, 1969 and toured the U.S. in 1963. She feels that responsible women should be motivated to provide assistance in nation-building.

RANI OF JHANSI REGIMENT

Puan Sri Datin Janaki Nahappan AMN, PJK., State Commissioner of Girl Guides Association of Selangor and an Executive Committee Member of the National Council of Women's Organisations and a member of the National Advisory Council on the Integration of Women in Development.

Now the women's leader of the Malaysian Indian Congress, Puan Sri Nahappan was with the Rani of Jhansi Regiment started by Subhas Chandra Bose, former National Indian Congress President.

She was recently appointed a member of the Malaysian Senate, the first Indian woman to be so honoured.

AUTHOR OF "TAPPING TALENTS"

Among the Malaysian women educationists one of the foremost today is Miss Joan Lim Pek Bee, PJM., BA., ACP., MRST., a former Principal of the Methodist High School, Penang.

She has served as a member of the Higher Education Advisory Council, Malaysia, and a member of the State Museum Board, Penang. Her motto is: Attempt and Achieve. She has indeed achieved many things of which the most important are her former pupils who are doing well in various professions.

"Tapping Talents" and "This England: This English" are two of her recent publications.

I came to know her better after launching my book "A MAN OF HIS TIME" on the life of our friend, Tun Justice Suffian who has described her as "one of the most scholarly, dedicated and experienced teachers, whose enthusiasm and gift for firing the young with the

desire to learn, is an example to be emulated by all educationists."

FIRST WOMAN JOURNALIST

Believed to be the first Malay woman journalist, Datin Paduka Aishah Ghani studied journalism during her four-year stay in Britain in 1955. On her return she joined the editorial staff of the *Berita Harian* when I was with the Malay Mail.

She entered politics in 1946 and was returned unopposed in the parliamentary elections in Kuala Langat. She has been active in the affairs of the UMNO for nearly 17 years and has been President of *Kaum Ibu* for the past ten years.

Datin Paduka Aishah has also served as a member of National Unity Council of Malaysia and as a Vice-President of Red Crescent Society. She has represented Malaysia in goodwill missions overseas, attended U.N. General Assembly and visited Russia at the invitation of the Soviet Women's Committee in 1968.

THE OTHER LEADERS

Among other women leaders who have established a reputation in their respective fields are Datin Ruby Lee, the Secretary-General of the Malaysian Red Crescent, Datin Zakia Hanum Nor, the Director-General of National Archives and an UMNO *Kaum Ibu* leader and Puan Azah Aziz, the founder President of the Women Journalists Association of Malaysia.

A former journalist, Azah Aziz is the author of *Anthology of Traditional Malay Nursery Rhymes* and *Anthology of Modern Poetry for children*. She is the wife of Royal Professor Ungku Aziz, Vice-Chancellor of University of Malaya.

Datin Hanum has been associated with the National Archives for more than 20 years during which period she enlarged the status and usefulness of this vital department of the Government.

She serves on several organisations including *Pertivi*, Malaysia Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, University of Malaya Court, Malaysian Historical Society and Southeast Asian Branch of International Council on Archives.

Ruby Lee's association with Red Crescent spans three decades. She has been mainly responsible for the day-to-day running of the Society. The Red Crescent Society did its work well whenever major calamities occurred in the country so much so it was the only organisation to receive the Tun Razak Foundation Award for 1982.

An excellent organiser the Red Crescent under her leadership rendered valuable services during the great flood in Kuala Lumpur.

A doctor whose memory I cherish to this day is the late Dr. C.R.

Paul of Ipoh. I had shared with him many years of happiness prewar and also experienced the horrors during the Japanese occupation.

I came to know him better we both served on the committee of the Perak Indian Independence League. He was the President of the I.I.L. and I was the Chairman of the Press and Publicity Committee.

Dr. Paul participated in several activities in Ipoh — both before and during the war. Later I was shocked when I heard that his legs were amputated.

On hearing this news I rushed to Ipoh to see him. I expected Dr. Paul to be in bed. No, he was examining a patient in his clinic in the ground floor of his clinic at Belfield Street, Ipoh. He gave me a smile when he saw me.

Dr. Paul used to come down every morning from the first floor in a mini 'lift' specially made for him. He carried on his medical practice for sometime. He passed away a few months later. What amazed me was his courage, the like of which I have never seen.

A close friend and colleague who served as the Vice-President of the Selangor Indian Association when I was President of S.I.A for several years is Mr. N Raghavan, who has had a colourful career as a Senior Hospital Assistant, and as a Lieutenant in the Indian National Army under Subhas Bose, during wartime on the Burma War Front and in Thailand. He was detained and later released by the British after the war.

An amateur actor Raghavan, with his friends like Bosco D' Cruz, G.O. Kennet, George D' Silva and others, has given excellent performances in several plays especially in the Cross Of Calvary which was staged not only in Malaysia but also in London. Raghavan took the key role of Jesus.

A born actor, Raghavan fasts and observes silence for several days before taking part in the play as Jesus Christ. He has directed and produced several plays staged by the Kairali Arts Club of Kuala Lumpur.

TWO AWARD WINNERS

Two Malaysian national literary award winners — Prof. Datuk Haji Shanon bin Ahmad, the Dean of the School of Humanities of Universiti Sains Malaysia and Haji Kamaludin Muhamed, better known as Keris Mas, deserve special mention in this chapter.

As an editor I have written their profiles in my WHO'S WHO IN MALAYSIA and also in the Malay Mail when I was its Chief Sub-Editor.

Professor Shanon is a writer who has portrayed all levels of

Malaysian society through his literary works with full conviction and philosophy. Two of his books — *Ranjau Sepanjang Jalan dan Rentong* have been translated into English, Dutch, Danish, Japanese and Russian.

Malaysia is indeed proud of the achievements of Keris Mas and Shanon who have already inspired the budding writers of this country to emulate their examples.

One of the pioneers who had done a lot to promote education in Malaya is Mr. K.K. Nair, the founder of K.K.M. School of Commerce, Kuala Lumpur. His son is Prof. C.P. Ramachandran until recently of Universiti Sains Malaysia and now with World Health Organisation.

Another notable educationist was the late Mr. Elias Pereira, the founder of CYMA College, and the Stamford Group of educational institutions in Malaysia and Singapore including the Stamford Centre for Executive and Commercial Training. He was elected the President of International Council on Correspondence Education at its eight session in Paris.

WELL DONE, DATUK

Datuk Syed Kechik, the Chairman of the Malaysian Film Producers Association, has been playing an important role in the healthy growth of the film industry in Malaysia. He was the Chairman of the 27th Asian Film Festival held in Kuala Lumpur recently. The Datuk has under taken to bear the cost of setting up a permanent secretariat in Kuala Lumpur and running it for the first two years. That is indeed a generous gesture on the part of Datuk Syed Kechik. A lawyer by profession, he is one of the most successful Bumiputera businessman in Malaysia.

In St. Paul's Cathedral in London that Christopher Wren rebuilt, there is an inscription, written by his son, also named Christopher Wren, which says:

"Si Monumentum Requieris Circumspice" (If you seek his monument look around you).

IN the Federal Capital and in other parts of Malaysia there are institutions and organisations which today serve as monuments to Malaysian leaders who have left their marks by their many achievements.

Before I end this chapter I wish to make it clear that I have written only about leaders I have known. Of course there are several others who have given valuable services to this country and have won national and international recognition.

May their examples inspire other Malaysians.

CHAPTER 16

THE BRITISH LEGACY

— And The Enduring Links

Recalling the events of the past, as a journalist I cannot forget the lessons that Malaya had learned by our association with British administrators, their captains of trade and industry and their educationists.

During my career as an editor, as a legislator and as a community leader I met hundreds of British officials and heads of various Government Departments, senior educationists, planters and miners. They were not perfect in everything they did but there were many who fought corruption and did justice in a fair and just manner.

It was only after the nightmare of the Japanese occupation that Malayans had begun to appreciate the good the British had done during the 125 years they ruled this land. No doubt, there were shortcomings during the colonial regime but the British, it must be mentioned, left a viable country with an efficient civil service, one of the best, in Asia.

Also from the British we have learned to value the spirit of liberty and the ideals of tolerance and fair-play, ideals that should be cherished by Malaysians at all times.

Although some of the British officials who served in Malaysia and Singapore occasionally assumed an air of superiority, there were many who did their jobs well and helped establish several institutions including centres for higher learning, such as the University of Malaya, the Institute for Medical Research and the Rubber Research Institute. All these owe their existence to the vision of British pioneers in Malaya.

I must say that Britain's greatest gift to Malaya was their priceless language—English, which has become an international language. More people in the world now use English than any other language.

As Sir James Thomson, the first Lord President of the Federal Court, once said, "Whether we like it or not we must accept as a matter of historical fact in Malaya that the Law is based on the Law of England, and that the tribal customs of the indigenous people of Southern Britain, and the machinery for its administration, the

Courts, are modelled on the English Courts."

The fact that our courts have established a reputation for doing justice in a fair and just manner speaks volumes for the work done by the Colonial regime.

Thus when Merdeka came it was possible to build up a Judiciary and a Legal Service composed entirely of Malaysians. That also is a tribute to the way the British helped train Malaysians to take the place of British judges and lawyers.

Britain has been blamed for its education policy. For instance the colonial administrators insisted on Malay pupils studying in vernacular schools for six years. This did not prove beneficial to Malay boys and girls because by the time they had completed the six-year studies in Malay schools most of them were overage for admission to English schools. As a result quite a number chose to work at the age of 14 and 15. The Malay pupils who studied in English schools made slow progress and only a few graduated from secondary schools to go for higher studies in Universities.

The only school — the Malay College enrolled students from well-to-do families and all of them made the grade when they joined the Raffles College in Singapore or the University of Malaya.

One of the outstanding British educationists was Dr. R.O. Winstedt, who recommended the setting up of a central training college for Malay teachers in Tanjong Malim, Perak. It was opened in 1922.

One who deserves special mention is Mr. H.N. Ridley, who persuaded planters of coconut and coffee to plant rubber. He carried out several experiments to solve some of the early problems of rubber planting and tapping. His interest in rubber was so great that he was called "Rubber Ridley".

Organised by the British the International Chamber of Commerce, the Rubber Growers Association, the United Planters Association of Malaya, the All-Malaya Mining Association and the like helped Malaysia in its progress in commerce and industry.

In matters Malayan, and later Malaysian several Britishers made notable contributions. Foremost among them was the late Sir Roland Braddel, eminent lawyer and constitutional expert, who served as the legal adviser to UMNO from 1944—1948 throughout the negotiations which led to the creation of Federation of Malaya. He was one of the draftsmen of the State and Federation Agreements in 1948. He was also private Legal Adviser to the Conference of Rulers from 1948 to 1951 and from 1954 to 1960. He was the first Chairman of the Council of the University of Malaya.

Another prominent Briton who has identified himself with Malaysian activities is Tan Sri Mubin Sheppard, former British Adviser to Negeri Sembilan. He had served as the Keeper of Public Records in 1957 and as the Director of Museums in 1958. He is the founder of Federation Arts Council and was President of the Gurney Boys Club in Seremban. He has written books on Malay culture and customs including *The Adventures of Hang Tuah*, *Historic Malaya* and *Malay Courtesy* — all of them are of great historical value.

Among those who served as members of the State Councils, the people I remember are the late Mr. J.S. Ferguson of Perak, former Senator for 16 years, Dato Seri J.P.S. Crawford, both of whom served with me on the Perak State Council, Mr. J.T. Chappel of Osborne & Chappel of Ipoh and Mr J.D. Mead, who served as a Federal Councillor. In their respective fields they made significant contributions.

An Irishman who has a number of firsts to his credit in Malaysia is Tan Sri Vic Hutson, who was one of the few responsible for the establishment of Zoo Negara and for the formation of Malaysian Zoological Society. A Past President of Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur, he has served as the Chairman of the Outward Bound School, Lumut, as a Governor of the Lady Templer T.B. Hospital and as President of Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

A distinguished Malayan civil servant who has made a name for himself is Mr. J.S. Cunyngham-Brown of Penang. He had served as the Penang City Council President, as Resident Commissioner and as Deputy Chief Secretary until 1957. A Consular Agent for France he was conferred the French Nation Order of Merit in 1974. He is the author of several books including *The Traders*, a story of Britain's Southeast Asian commercial adventure.

In the field of sports, the British had done a lot to encourage various games. It was the late Mr. John L. Woods, a leading lawyer of Ipoh, who took the lead to form the Badminton Association of Malaya. He wrote the Foreword for my book, "*Badminton In Malaya*" under the penname of "Recquet" in 1934. I was then Honorary Secretary of Perak Badminton Association.

To encourage sport several Britishers made generous donations and also obtained from business magnates, trophies for inter-club and inter-state competitions. The popular Brander Shield cricket competition in Ipoh was made possible by the presentation of a shield by Mr. J.M. Brander, a former Chairman of the Kinta Sanitary Board, Ipoh. There are also several other competitions which had the patronage and financial support of heads of British individuals and firms.

Pioneering work to improve the lot of the aborigines (Orang Asli)

was first undertaken by a Briton by the name of R.O.O. Noone whom I had the pleasure of meeting when he was engaged in field research in Orang Asli settlement in Sungai Siput, Perak just before the war. Educated in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Noone did field research work among the Malayan aborigines from 1939 to 1942.

One Britisher who carved a niche on Malaysia's road to independence is Sir Neil Lawson who was the legal adviser to the Malay Rulers in their negotiations with the British for independence.

Sir Neil was an invited guest of the Malayan Government when the first shouts of Merdeka rang out 25 years ago. It was he who presented the Rulers proposals to the Constitutional Commission. He was present when the Union Jack was lowered and the Malayan flag was hoisted.

Sir Neil had given legal coaching to Tun Syed Barakbah, the first Malayan Lord President and several other Malaysians. When Tunku Abdul Rahman was called to the English Bar in 1948 he dined with the Court Treasurer of the Inn in a borrowed wig and gown from Sir Neil who is indeed a real friend of Malaysia.

An important legacy of the British is the trade union movement which was introduced after the Second World War. No doubt the labour movement in Malaya has benefitted immensely. However there are those who criticised some unionists for following the negative attitude towards work of the British labour movement.

In this respect Malaya was fortunate to have Mr. John Brazier as the first Trade Union Adviser. Under his guidance several young men assumed leadership of trade unions. Among them were Dr. P.P. Narayanan, M.P. Rajagopal, Mohamed Yusof and V.M.N. Menon. They learned quickly the trade union principles and practices.

Thanks to leaders like P.P. plantation workers have grown in stature to bargain on a footing of equality with their employers.

Today Malaysia holds a key position in the world trade union movement. Dr. Narayanan, the founder General Secretary of the National Union of Plantation Workers, now has the distinction of being the President of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the first Asian to hold this prestigious position.

The British introduced rubber, oil palm and tin industries from which Malaya has benefitted. These industries have improved the country's economy.

A former Malaysian Business Adviser of a leading British bank told me that the vast majority of the British companies made a lot of money but most of it was eventually invested in the various industries in Malaysia. The British did not do the ugly things some other colonial powers had done in their former colonies in Southeast Asia. Their actions caused bitterness when they left, whereas in Malaysia

goodwill and good relationship continued to flourish after the independence.

The success of the industries in Malaya was made possible by the excellent roads and railways, the best in the East established by the British, to say nothing of the technique and expertise provided by the Colonial administrators.

When so much is now being done to eradicate corruption in Malaysia I feel I must mention that the British initiated anti-corruption measures before the Second World War. In fact several Government servants were arrested and charged in court. Among them were some British civil servants including the head of an important Government Department in Kuala Lumpur.

Thanks to the training they had received during the colonial regime, most of the senior Malayan civil servants were able to carry on smoothly the administration of the country when Malaya gained independence.

As in many newly independent countries there were doubters and prophets of doom who had predicted that the country would go to pieces when the British left the country. But this did not happen. Credit for this should go to the colonial administrators.

The ability of Malaysians in all departments of the government soon became clear as they filled the high positions vacated by British officials after the independence. Today Malaysia is ruled solely by Malaysians.

A BETTER RECORD

It is to the eternal credit of the British that our top civil servants, the members of the Judiciary, the Legal Service, the Armed Forces and the Police Force are now more than able to hold their own with their counterparts in other countries.

It is true that more rapid progress could have been made by the British especially in the field of education. However, we cannot and should not forget that many of our institutions are modelled after the British. To mention only a few, our voting system and the ballot papers are all 100 per cent British.

On the whole the British have left a better record of achievements than any other colonial power in other parts of the world.

Indeed there are countries in the Commonwealth which even to this day retain many things as they were left by the British. There are many enduring links that people in Malaysia, Singapore and several other countries including India and Sri Lanka still cherish.

It is wrong for anyone to indulge in a blanket denunciation of many things British.

CHAPTER 17

SOME WORDS OF APPRECIATION

If I can write before I die
One line of purest poetry;
Or crystalize for all to share,
A thought unique, a moment rare,
Within one sentence clear and plain
Then I shall not have lived in vain

— Lady Harold Wilson.

What are the lessons you have learned? What are the disappointments you have had in your life?

These questions are sometimes put to me by friends and associates.

I am aware that no one goes through this world without some kind of problem or other. Let me confess I too had my share of problems and disappointments. But what I cherish most is the support and encouragement I have received from people whom I have known as friends or just as readers of my books both in this country and elsewhere.

To begin with let me mention that some people I assisted in their early careers failed to express any appreciation of my help to them. There are other people I know who have similar complaints. However, there are a few sincere friends and others who have spoken or written to me in glowing terms. For this I am most grateful.

It is a fact that most people welcome some kind of appreciation for their services or for their acts of kindness.

As I write this I am reminded of the tribute paid to me by Mr. A. V. Benson, the Past District Governor of Rotary District 696 of the United States.

In acknowledging receipt of two copies of my book, *The Golden Wheel* which recorded the various activities and achievements of the

Rotary Clubs and the Rotarians in Southeast Asia, he wrote: "Never before in my forty years as a Rotarian have I ever seen anything like this book. I found it very interesting reading and certainly very informative relating to District 330. You may be assured that this book will be discussed in my District 696. Your Past District Governor Dr. L.S. Sodhy is fortunate to have Rotarians like you in his district."

Humility is one of the virtues of Tun Suffian, the Lord President of Federal Court. It gave me great pleasure when he presented me some years ago a copy of his book, AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CONSTITUTION OF MALAYSIA. But what I considered a greater pleasure was his reference to me as "Guide, Friend And Philosopher" when he autographed his book before handing it over to me.

Indeed, Suff, as he is affectionately called by his close friends, is the epitome of the often quoted Malay proverb — **bak rasmi padi makin berisi, makin tunduk**. (The bigger you are, the humbler you remain).

Judge Sansern Kraichitti of Thailand in thanking me for sending him an autographed copy of A MAN OF HIS TIME, on the life and career of Tun Justice Suffian, wrote:

"I have had the honour and real pleasure of getting acquainted with THE MAN for the last decade. Now thanks to you I have been enabled to go back to the time of his birth and upbringing, which may also be considered as a piece of Malayan history."

Mr. C.K. Tseng, a senior public relations consultant of Singapore whom I have known for the past 20 years, took the trouble recently to write this rather unexpected tribute:

"I have read about you in ASIA WEEK. I am happy to see your many accomplishments in Malaysia. Good journalists are rare. You are an honour to the profession."

Also writing in ASIaweek on "A MAN OF HIS TIME", Mr. Chin Kee Onn, the Malaysian author, teacher and diplomat had this to say:

"It is a tribute to the investigative skill of veteran journalist, Victor Morais, that he has managed to draw so much information out of Tun Suffian, by nature a modest man. The result is an inspiring account of a kampong (village) boy who made good from Cambridge to London's Inns of Court, to All India Radio and more.

"The book's intrinsic value lies in the insight it gives to Suffian's philosophy, his motives and his ideals....."

Mr. Benson ordered two copies of the GOLDEN WHEEL for which he paid.

On June 14, 1971, Tun Suffian wrote me a brief note after reading the first volume of the *SELECTED SPEECHES* edited by me. Among other things his letter contained these inspiring words:

"My speeches are included in it, and so I should not really say very much about the book — but this much I feel bound to say, and that is that you have done a wonderful job of selection. There is something for everybody in it, and it should make not only a good bedside book, but also a good bedside book for the citizen who wants to know something about his country.

"May you long flourish — to produce more such worthwhile books in the future."

But one letter that touched me a lot is from my old colleague, Loh Chiew Wah, a journalism graduate of the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.

A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

I quote:

Dear Mr. Morais.

It is with deep regret that I submit my letter of resignation. These four months that I spent with your organisation have been most enlightening to me and have been a rewarding and meaningful experience.

You have taught me more than any man could. For this I am deeply indebted. I have enjoyed working for you and always will. Unfortunately, I am leaving the country to pursue my Masters in Business Administration in the United States. Prior to leaving the country, I have decided to accept a government appointment due to family pressure.

I am sorry to leave at such a time when work is piling up, but please understand my position. I hope to work for Who's Who in my spare time and I hope this will be acceptable to you.

No amount of words can describe my gratitude to you — you were more than an employer. You were my mentor. I apologise for any mistakes that I have made for I know that I am not perfect. There will always be a part of you in me. For you taught me to seek the truth and not to compromise on quality. I shall carry this lesson with me.

Before I leave, let me wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Once again thank you for letting me learn from you. —

Loh Chiew Wah.

Never before have I received a letter like this couched in such affectionate language. It is indeed most poignant now to record

that dear Loh is no more. A young man in his late twenties, he passed away a few months ago from a serious illness.

I deliberately include Loh's letter in this autobiography because he has set an inspiring example for other young men and women who forget to show appreciation in some form or other to their benefactors and well-wishers.

In my opinion no duty today is more urgent than the duty of giving thanks when it is due.

Another heartening letter I have received is from the well-known educationist, Miss Joan P. LIM, P.J.M., M.R.S.T., A.C.P., B.A., who, in thanking me for an autographed copy of my book, MAHA—THIR, A PROFILE IN COURAGE, writes: "The book is well planned and written. The many quotations used are apt and shows your wide reading and scholarly mind. Tun Mohamed Suffian's foreword is brilliant and I enjoyed reading it."

A WARM WELCOME

Meeting after an absence of twenty years was my schoolday friend, Datuk Shelley Yap Yeok Siew, advocate and solicitor of Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. I was pleasantly surprised at the warm welcome he accorded me in his office and later when he entertained me to dinner at his residence.

It was a happy, very happy reunion. I was also Shelley's guest at the dinner of the Sabah Lawyers Association of which he is a Past President.

A few days after my return to Kuala Lumpur from Kota Kinabalu I received a letter from Shelley who wrote, among other things: "You are real Great in the field of editing. Your name will long live and be handed down to History. I admire you. You are a high-power light whereas I am only a candle light..... Still we shine, you in your world and I in my corner."

It is nice to know that there are still people who care for their 'old' friends.

Didn't author Hilare Belloc write:

From quiet homes and first beginning,
Out to the undiscovered ends,
There is nothing worth the wear of winning,
But laughter and the love of friends.

CHAPTER 18

THE MILESTONES IN PRINT

“Strong is the soul and wise and beautiful
The seeds of God-like power are in us still
Gods are we, Bards, Saints, Heroes, if we will”

These words of Mathew Arnold come to my mind often. I think that even ordinary men can achieve something notable, if only they will try.

Thus from an early age I have had a passion for reading and writing. Whenever I read anything I felt inclined to comment on it. As I said earlier in this book, my first adventure in writing was in 1934 when I published “BADMINTON IN MALAYA”. I was then only 23.

I continued to write special articles and edited a magazine on the progress of St. John Ambulance Association and its Brigade in Perak. I was on the committee of the Perak S.J.A.A. before becoming its Chairman.

My next big venture was when I was commissioned to edit “HIDUP MELAYU” (Wake Up Malays) under the sponsorship of the Perak Malay League, one of the first Malay political parties in the country. Among its leaders were the late Datuk Panglima Bukit Gantang (Haji Abdul Wahab), one of the first Malay lawyers; Tan Sri Datuk Zainal Abidin bin Haji Abbas, a former Secretary-General of U.M.N.O. and his wife, Puan Sri Puteh Mariah.

The book was about the birth and growth of Malay nationalism. It contained a foreword by the late H.R.H. Sultan Abdul Aziz of Perak and a portrait by me of Dato Onn bin Jaafar, the then Menteri Besar of Johore and father of former Prime Minister, Tun Hussein Onn.

I had several opportunities of meeting Dato Onn every time he came to Ipoh to address political rallies which opposed the Malayan Union and condemned the MacMichael Treaty. In this way I was one of the few journalists who had the unique opportunity of witnessing the momentous events that took place after the liberation of Malaya.

With my early success in publishing I became bolder. While I was the Chief Sub-Editor of the Malay Mail, the English daily of Kuala

Lumpur, I published a book of reference under the title of "LEADERS OF MALAYA AND WHO'S WHO". Later I enlarged the title to "WHO'S WHO IN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE".

To begin with there were difficulties and obstacles to clear. I went to see my good friend, R.K. Panicker, the then Managing Director of Economy Printers of Kuala Lumpur. He was appalled at my audacity in planning such a costly project. He did not think it would prove successful financially.

He said: "Victor, many people I know failed when they published similar reference books. So, for heaven's sake don't make the same mistake. Not worth it."

There was something deep in the inner recesses of my heart telling me to 'Ignore all the Moaning Jonahs and Doubting Thomases. Do what your conscience dictates to you.'

So, I went back to R.K. He again refused to budge. He asked me to think it over. I went to see him again and again. Finally he relented and gave me his quotation for publishing a 300-page book of biographies.

I had little savings after nearly one year of unemployment and stay in India following my accident near Taiping. But I had one thing in abundance — a lot of confidence. I am an incurable optimist.

This was in early 1955 — two years after my return to Malaya. I went to see my old friends who were heads of commercial firms and those who knew the big wigs in the business world for advertisements. Most of them obliged. The response from firms was indeed most encouraging.

HAPPIEST MOMENT

The day the first edition of the LEADERS OF MALAYA AND WHO'S WHO came out was one of the happiest moments of my life. It was a big success. My teacher brother, J.M. helped me in the promotion of the sale of the book. Soon all the copies were sold, thanks to favourable reviews in the Malayan newspapers.

The Malay Mail published a detailed review by Joyce Pumfrey, an English journalist. She wrote: "Until this year, there were few reliable handy books of reference on Malaya and in particular on the Federation.

"Now this has been remedied. Two months ago, the Federation Year Book was issued, and now in the bookshops is the first "LEADERS OF MALAYA AND WHO'S WHO".

"This book serves a double purpose. It is a reference book for businesses, schools, associations and clubs. It is also a souvenir

record of the Malaysians who are making the news in 1956.

"The 380—pages of art paper in an attractive hard-backed red cover give the reader a comprehensive coverage of the Malayan scene and Malayan personalities — both in Singapore and the Federation.

"There are biographies, many with photographs, of more than 3,000 men and women — leaders in different spheres — in the government services, in politics, in industry, in commerce, in social welfare, in music and art and in sports.

"The foreword has been written by Sir Sydney Caine, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malaya. In it he wrote: "I have wished many times that I had a work of reference at my elbow that would give me the essential details of the background of leading public characters, people I have had occasion to meet in the course of University business or simply men and women whom I have heard of through the Press or otherwise and would like to know more about."

"LEADERS OF MALAYA AND WHO'S WHO" gives this information, impartially and objectively, set out for quick reference.

"The compiler and editor of the book, J. Victor Morais, has produced a volume worthy of a Malaya on the brink of independence. Mr. Morais, born in Southern India, was educated at the Anderson School, Ipoh, and he has had a long and successful career as a journalist.

"This book is not his first independent publication. In 1934 he wrote *BADMINTON IN MALAYA* and later *SJAA REVIEW* and *HIDUP MELAYU*, a book on the growth of Malay nationalism.

"If there is fault in the book, it is that not every name of note is included. There are gaps in education services, in the planting and mining worlds and in other walks of life.

"This has been due to the difficulty of contacting either personally or by letter those persons living out of the radius of the larger towns, and by the refusal of some people to give biographical information about themselves.

"However, as *LEADERS OF MALAYA AND WHO'S WHO* is to be an annual publication, one can expect a larger coverage next year and a willing response from all Malaysians."

I launched the second edition in 1957. That too was successful. Since then *WHO'S WHO* has continued to flourish.

"The *WHO'S WHO* has been reviewed in several newspapers both in Malaysia and overseas. It is also listed in numerous reference books, guides and publications not only in Malaysia but also in publications in other countries including *International Media*, published in London.

It has also penetrated the Iron Curtain and the Bamboo Curtain for I have received orders from our sales agents in Britain, the United States, Europe and Asia for copies of the WHO'S WHO to be sent to the libraries in Peking, Moscow, London, Paris, Delhi and other capitals of the world including the libraries of the United Nations and the House of Commons.

REVIEW IN BOOK NEWS

The British Book News of London, which contains reports on selected books from all over the world, reviewed the WHO'S WHO more than once. I am glad to say that the WHO'S WHO IN MALAY—SIA AND SINGAPORE has today a worldwide subscription. In undertaking this publication which has been in existence for more than 25 years, I feel I have contributed my share to the writing of the history of Malaysia. For what is the history of a nation but the biographies of its famous people.

Here I must pay a tribute to the patience and understanding shown by my colleague, Martin Hutton, the Editor of the Malay Mail, who knew that I was editing the WHO'S WHO and another book SOCIAL WELFARE I was then on the editorial staff of the newspaper as its Chief Sub-Editor.

I must say I did not neglect my work. Though all of us on the staff were expected to do seven hours of work daily, I finished mine in four and sometimes five hours before I devoted the rest of the time for my own publications!

However when a senior member of the staff, an Englishman, complained once to Martin that I was doing WHO'S WHO work during office time, he called me to his office and said, "Old boy, all of us have to do at least seven hours work in this office. You too have to do at least seven hours work in this office. You see, I am told you spend a lot of time on your WHO'S WHO....."

I interrupted to ask, "Do you judge your staff by the number of hours they spend in the office or by the quality of the work they do? If there's anything wrong with my work, say so."

"Your work is all right — only I just can't ignore what I hear or what I see. That's all old chap," added Martin.

In all I published three editions of the WHO'S WHO before I resigned from the Malay Mail in 1960 when I decided to go into publishing on my own on a bigger scale.

After my resignation from the Malay Mail I continued to write, edit and publish several more books in addition to the WHO'S WHO. I also took up a part time job as the Federation Appeals Organiser of the Lady Templer T.B. Hospital. During my six years in the Lady

Templer Hospital I edited a Review of the work done by the Hospital.

The next book venture, also the first of its kind, was the Educational Directory of Malaysia and Singapore. This I undertook with a dear friend, Philip Pothen, who holds a Master's degree and Diploma in Education from the Michigan University, U.S.A. This also proved a success.

SELECTED SPEECHES.

And two years later, to be exact in 1967, I produced the first volume of SELECTED SPEECHES of prominent people both in Malaya and Singapore, which carried the title — "SELECTED SPEECHES — A Golden Treasury of Asian Thought And Wisdom". This book was favourably reviewed in Malayan newspapers and also in overseas publications including the British Book News which said this:

"This volume contains 103 speeches made by thirty-two leading figures in Malaysia and fourteen in Singapore in recent years. There is a brief biography and portrait of each speaker before his speeches.

"The editor's purpose seems to be primarily that of providing examples of public speaking for those wishing to study the art, but the book's wider value lies in its reflection of many aspects of the life of Malaysia and Singapore since the examples chosen include policy statements, and other authoritative reflections, from varied points of view on matters of political and social concern."

One of the first Malaysians to say a word of encouragement about my book of Selected Speeches was Tun Justice Suffian. He wrote to me: ".....You have done a wonderful job of selection. There is something for everybody in it and it should make not only a good deskside book, but also a bedside book for the citizen who wants to know something about his country. May you long flourish — to produce more such worthwhile books in the future."

Having recalled what Tun Suffian has written, I am reminded of this popular Buddhist saying:

"There is a destiny which makes us brothers
None makes his way alone
All we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own."

Following the success of the first edition of Selected Speeches I produced another volume in 1971.

A big break for me as an author came early in 1969 when I was invited by the late Tan Sri Ferguson, the then Consultant to the Malayan Government who offered me the job of writing the biography and editing the speeches of late Tun Abdul Razak, the then Deputy Prime Minister. The title of this book, which contained many of the

important speeches of the Tun, was "STRATEGY FOR ACTION."

I was paid a handsome fee for doing this job by the Malaysian Centre For Development Studies of the Prime Minister's Department. I was later thrilled when I was requested by the Malaysian Chinese Association to write the biography of their President, Tun Tan Siew Sin, the then Finance Minister of Malaya and now Financial Consultant to Malaysian Government.

I regarded this as a great honour for a Malaysian of Indian origin to be asked to write the biography of the foremost leader of the Malaysian Chinese. This book is called "BLUEPRINT FOR UNITY." It also contains selected speeches of Tun Tan. A second volume PORTRAIT OF A STATESMAN, on Tun Tan, was published in 1981.

Two other books — one on the history of the Rotary Movement in Southeast Asia and another on the Boy Scout Movement in Malaysia have given me much satisfaction because I was involved as an active participant in these two movements. I served as the President of the Rotary Club of Ipoh in 1949 and as a Scout Troop Leader during my schooldays.

"THE GOLDEN WHEEL"

Entitled "THE GOLDEN WHEEL," The Rotary review was well received by Rotarians and Rotary Clubs all over the world. Typical of the favourable reaction was the following letter from Mr. A.V. Benson, Past District Governor of Rotary District 699 of the U.S.A who bought two copies of the book. He wrote to me as follows:

"Thank you very much for sending me two copies of the Golden Wheel. My cheque is enclosed."

Then Benson went on: "Never before in my forty years as a Rotarian have I ever seen anything like this book. I found it very interesting reading and certainly very informative relating to District 330. You may be assured that this book will be discussed in my District 696. Your past District Governor, Dr. L.S. Sodhy is fortunate to have Rotarians like you in his district. Kindest regards."

The book on the Scout Movement, entitled "LAW AND PROMISE," was commissioned by the Boy Scouts Association of Malaysia.

What I consider as the most satisfying achievement of my journalistic career is my book entitled A MAN OF HIS TIME, on Tun Justice Suffian, the Lord President of the Federal Court of Malaysia.

This book I undertook as my own venture with my own money. It proved a best-seller. It has been hailed by friends and leaders both in Malaysia and overseas as one of the best biographies, written by a Malaysian about a great Malaysian!

None other than Tun Sir James Thompson, the first Lord President of the Federal Court, who is known to both Tun Suffian and me, wrote the Foreword for this book.

After the publication of the book I was delighted when Sir James wrote to me from Scotland: "I have read with very great interest and enjoyment and appreciation your book called A MAN OF HIS TIME".

"May I add my warmest and most sincere congratulations on a most competent piece of work which would be (and I mean it) of the greatest historical importance as the years go by."

A well-known educationist of Malaysia, Miss Joan Lim, the former Principal of the Methodist High School in Penang, who has served on the Higher Education Council with Tun Suffian as Chairman, had this to say about A MAN OF HIS TIME in her review of the book published in The Star, the popular English daily.

MAN FOR ALL TIME

"In fact I was thinking of writing a book on him (Suffian) some day but Victor Morais has stolen a march on me. He has done it first and he has done it well and that is really what matters. Like Sir Thomas Moore's, "A Man For All Seasons", Tan Sri M. Suffian is "A Man For All Time". We are thrilled with the series 'From Rags To Riches', impressed by the story of 'Dick Whittington' who became the Lord Mayor of London. But Suffian has risen to great heights.

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness, some have greatness thrust upon them," so said Shakespeare. Let John Victor Morais tell the Suffian story (history in his inimitable way). In writing of him, Morais has done justice to Justice Suffian, now Lord President. Read the story and find out the secret of Suffian's success."

A former Malaysian educationist, diplomat and author, Mr Chin Kee Onn, in a review of 'A MAN OF HIS TIME' in ASIAWEEK published in Hong Kong wrote:

"It is a tribute to the investigative skill of veteran journalist, Victor Morais, that he has managed to draw so much information out of Tun Mohamed Suffian, by nature a modest man. The result is an inspiring account of a kampung boy who made good — from Cambridge to London's Inns of Court, to all-India Radio and much more.

"The book's intrinsic value lies in the insight it gives to Suffian's philosophy, his motives and his ideals, his advice to young lawyers, his outspoken views on the role of universities and the value of the English language."

SAR — a lawyer by profession — has written a review of A MAN OF HIS TIME in the Law Journal section of the INDIA REPORTER.

After referring to some of the shortcomings in the book he writes: "This is the biography of the supreme head of the judiciary of Malaysia. It is an inspiring book that cannot fail to win for Justice Suffian admirers all over the world who would be fired by his example to work out their destiny by dint of hard work, character and ambition.

"The book is well written and all praise is due to the author for having brought out such a book."

Needless to say that tributes such as these serve not only to inspire authors but also help them think that their labour of love has not been in vain.

Yet another book I have undertaken is the one I was commissioned to write on Dr. P.P. Narayanan, the General Secretary of the National Union of Plantation Workers of Malaysia by his friends.

P.P. is the first Asian to be elected as the President of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, an honour richly deserved by him. He was re-elected as President of ICFTU recently for a second term.

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR"

Another book by me is, "WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR", the biography of Tan Sri Mohamed Noah, the first elected Speaker of the Malaysian Parliament and later the President of the Senate of Malaysia and father-in-law of two former Prime Ministers, Tun Abdul Razak and Tun Hussein Onn.

I was commissioned to write this book which outlines the many achievements of Tan Sri Noah, as a civil servant, as a politician and as a businessman. None other than Tun Datuk Haji Omar Yoke Lin Ong, the former President of the Senate of Malaysia says this in his Introduction to this book: "In many ways this is the profile of one man's determination to live life to the fullest extent, giving a great deal of himself to the service of his country, his religion and his fellowmen. His outstanding public service should serve as a shining example for us all."

In a review in the SPECTRUM of the Sunday Times of Kuala Lumpur, the late Mr. Allington Kennard, wrote: "To the limited literature on notable Malaysians, the life of Tan Sri Noah which J. Victor Morais has so patiently compiled is a welcome and inspiring addition. He is a man, as Mr. Morais says, of many manifestations, whose contribution as a civil servant, magistrate, district officer, politician, as the first Speaker of Parliament and later as the President of the Senate has left its distinguished imprint on Malaysia's history."

One of the assignments that I enjoyed very much was as the correspondent of The Asia Magazine in 1970 when my former colleague,

Alan Castro, the then editor of TAM, invited me to contribute articles on Malaysia and matters Malaysian.

In his letter to me Alan wrote: "I am delighted that you have agreed to represent us in Kuala Lumpur. This is surely an important happening for TAM — to have such an eminent and experienced journalist as you are writing for us. Personally, I am delighted to resume contact with you....."

Among the pieces that I contributed to Asia Magazine were profiles of Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, the first Malaysian Prime Minister and on Tan Sri Fatimah Hashim, the first woman Minister of the Malaysian Cabinet.

A TRYST WITH DESTINY

Since then I have written four more books. They are a second volume on the life and times of Tun Justice Suffian, Portrait Of A Statesman on the life of Tun Tan Siew Sin, A Tryst With Destiny on the life of Tun Hussein Onn, former Malaysian Prime Minister and Dr. Mahathir — A Profile In Courage.

My philosophy of writing and publishing books is based on my optimism which makes me undertake the writing of more and more books with a burning commitment to succeed. I don't go in search of publishers. They come to me. When I decided on editing for instance the WHO'S WHO I had no options. Only something in me urged me to do it and I did it despite the warning by some friends about the likelihood of failure, I persisted but I did not compromise my professional integrity in any way.

I am happy to recall that after the publication of the first edition of the WHO'S WHO — my main publishing venture — the very people who criticised me first became my staunch supporters by sending me their biographies before even being asked!

When a representative of the WHO'S WHO approached the head of a British firm who was then a Federal Councillor he refused to give his biography. But I published a few details obtained from newspapers. When he saw in the second edition of the WHO'S WHO the biographies of other leaders of trade and industry he sent not only his biography but also his photograph!

I derive much satisfaction over the fact that most of my books have been well received by subscribers in Malaysia and by those in other parts of the world. I also rejoice, that some of my books, especially the WHO'S WHO, are now in the libraries of the United Nations, the House of Commons, the Foreign Ministries and leading universities of other countries.

The WHO'S WHO, in particular, has stood the test of time because over the past twenty-five years I have produced as many as fourteen editions without interruption.

If in a small way, my books have contributed towards projecting the right image of Malaysia and Malaysians then my efforts will not have been in vain.

CHAPTER 19

IMPORTANT MALAYAN EVENTS IN REVIEW

In many respects I have been a very fortunate man. I had many opportunities to meet many famous people when I was a State Councillor, the President of the Rotary Club, Chairman of the St. John Ambulance Association, the President of the Selangor Indian Association and as a Director and Trustee of the Kuala Lumpur Y.M.C.A. besides being author and editor of several publications.

My first major break was when I was appointed the Chairman of the Ipoh Citizens Advice Bureau soon after the liberation of Malaya. Among my colleagues then were Puan Sri Puteh Mariah, the U.M.N.O. women's leader, the late Towkay Lau Pak Khuan, the Perak Chinese leader, Mr. F.G.H. Parry, the President of the Perak Eurasians Association, the late Mr. M.S. Mahendran, lawyer, Datuk Yusof Ahmad and the late Mr. C.H. Yin, the founder Chairman of the Perak Clerical Union, one of the first trade unions in Malaya.

The arrival of the Commonwealth Constitutional Commission to Malaya gave me a golden opportunity to meet such eminent men as Lord Reid, the leader of the Commission, Sir Ivor Jennings, an authority on constitutional law, the former Chief Justices of India, Pakistan and Australia.

I was selected to preside at the Selangor Indian community dinner held at Hotel Majestic, Kuala Lumpur in honour of Lord Reid and Lady Reid and other members of the Commission which was set up in 1956 to work out a constitution for Malaya. I was then the President of the Selangor Indian Association.

Among the guests were leaders of various communities, the captains of trade and industry and senior Federal and State Government officials and several journalists.

With so many eminent men and women present, it was with some trepidation that I delivered my speech — the most important in my career as a legislator and community leader.

I think my performance was quite good. None other than Lady Reid, who was sitting next to me at the dinner, congratulated me.

"You said the right thing at the right place and at the right time Well done, Mr. Morais," she said.

Several other guests including Mr. Oscar Spencer, the then Economic Adviser to the Malayan Government, also congratulated me after the dinner.

Excerpts of that speech are reproduced here.

A CALL TO CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION

"Ladies and gentlemen, as you will agree there is an air of happy excitement in Malaya today because the Reid Commission is at last in this country to prepare a constitution for Malaya in consultation with leaders of all communities. In fact we are eagerly and rather impatiently looking forward to seeing the charter on which all our hopes and aspirations are centred.

"We are anxious because we are aware of the many advantages of parliamentary democracy. With such distinguished jurists to help draft the constitution we have no doubt that it will prove to be one that will do justice to all races including those who have made Malaya their permanent home and the object of their undivided loyalty.

"We are supremely confident that the constitution will be one that will safeguard the interests of all citizens irrespective of caste or creed. We hope it will also serve as a model constitution for this multi-racial nation of ours. Let me here hasten to add that the Indian community will give its wholehearted support for special safeguards for the benefit of the Malays.

"We realise that for the success of the present discussions between the leaders of various races there must be a spirit of give and take. This is not only necessary but important.

"We support the proposition that in a multi-racial country like Malaya there must be a national language. And it goes without saying that Malay must remain the lingua franca of this country and as our official language. At the same time we hope the languages of other races, like the Chinese and the Tamil will also have their rightful place in the educational system of Malaya.

"In order to ensure the elimination of the imbalances and inequalities that exist today, Malays should continue to enjoy certain privileges including reservation of land, scholarships and sufficient opportunities to improve their economic position.

"While Islam should remain the official religion of Malaya, we hope that the constitution will safeguard the fundamental rights of non—Malays who are citizens, to practise their own religions and maintain their own religious institutions.

"Ladies and gentlemen:

"We hope the Commission¹ will draft a constitution that will not be

subject to frequent and unnecessary amendments. I say this because we know there are countries, even in the Commonwealth, where there have been so many amendments to their Constitutions that one senior parliamentarian was recently prompted to exclaim, "We have now no Constitution. We have only amendments!"

"It is the hope of all Malaysians that the Constitution will serve as our guide and as our inspiration and that it will enable us to fashion together a new Malaya where we can enjoy for all time equality, justice and fair play."

THE OBLIGATION OF ROTARIANS

As a Rotarian, especially as the President of the Rotary Club of Ipoh in 1949, I have made several speeches in Malaya, Singapore, the United States and in India.

As a delegate from Ipoh, I had the privilege of addressing the Rotary District Conference held at Victoria Memorial Hall, Singapore in 1949 when I was the Secretary and Mr. P.C.B. Newington, the President who preferred to remain a silent observer.

That conference was attended by several eminent men of Malaya and Singapore including such distinguished educationists as the late Mr. H.R. Cheeseman, Mr A.W.Kirby, Professor Silcock, Mr G.G. Thomson and Dr. Thevesan.

Following are parts of my speech:

"Friends, our obligation today is mainly to help others to help themselves. There are many ways we can be of assistance to the less fortunate members of the society. I cannot help saying that today there are too many cold hands and cold hearts around us. We need warm fellowship and sincere friendship.

"Time and time again I have heard people, including Rotarians, complain about lack of sincerity on the part of some of their fellow members.

"I am sure you will agree with me that all true Rotarians should illustrate the motto of their movement by the conduct of their lives. Let all of us bear in mind that life is service and service is part of life. Rotary is also service and from Rotary's existence let others see a great example of it.

"Malaysia, this land of many races and religions, is a miniature United Nations. It offers many opportunities for service. Our heritage is racial harmony. Rotary with its membership comprising people of

Although no Malaysians were represented, the Reid Commission consulted the UMNO, the MCA, and the MIC from time to time.

all races and religions can play, and does play, an important role in maintaining this harmony. Therefore more and more people should learn to live in unity with one another. I say this because today we hear discordant and divergent views on various issues.

"Today, tensions bedevil relationship between man and man, robbing life of its infinite promise.

"This is the time for Rotarians to stay together and work together with other organisations concerned with nation-building.

"A criticism that is levelled at Rotary is that some people — I repeat some — join Rotary clubs more for what they can get out of Rotary than for what they can do for Rotary. It is said that some join Rotary Clubs in order to qualify for its membership card which can serve as an international passport for travelling pleasure!

"Also there is no use being always a yes-man. We have already many of that tribe in our society. In times like this we must speak out if society is to be saved from stagnation. The world has changed. The old era has ended. We live at a time of great changes. We are daily witnessing the processes of change — both the creative and destructive ones. Therefore, Rotary must change, and change soon with the changing times.

"In my view, the old ways will not do for Rotary. In order to bring about a change, criticise, if you must. No man is good enough and wise enough to dispense with the tonic of criticism."

WHAT NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN U.S. REVEAL

In 1958 I was selected as a member of the group of Southeast Asian journalists invited by the State Department to tour the United States. The other member from Malaya was my former colleague, H.C.M. Paul. I was the most senior journalist and I was asked to be their spokesman.

In the course of a speech at a luncheon given by the Press Club of Washington at the Mayflower Hotel. I said this among other things:

"Despite your virtues and your achievements, you will agree that America has its faults too. We have already been amazed by the diversity in climate, in land forms and the great resources within the political boundary of your country.

"The saga of America has impressed the world. It is the saga of a land where distressed and hopeful peoples of other countries come to find new homes. They have added their blood and their strength, their tears and their hopes to make the great American dream what it is today.

Didn't Stephen Vincent Benet write?

“Out of the flesh, out of the minds and hearts,
Of thousands upon thousands of common men
We made this thing, this dream
This land unsatisfied by little joys
This peaceless vision, groping for the stars.”

“Friends, we admire not only your great inventions, your skyscrapers, your achievements in science and space exploration but also the legacy of your great leaders like Washington and Lincoln. We have just seen the Washington Monument, which represents ideals and principles which are part of your heritage. It inspires admiration. We note also that it is part of your own inspiration.

“We have also been immensely impressed by the Lincoln Memorial, one of the most revered in all the world. We are inspired by reading Lincoln's immortal words carved on the memorial..... “with malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right — Let us strive on to finish the work we are in — to do all as we may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations

“Ladies and gentlemen, this is only the beginning of our tour of your country — the land of opportunity. Hopefully we look forward to seeing democracy in action, to see more and more monuments of the greatness of America and its numerous achievements in education and science.”

PRESS PLEDGES LOYALTY TO GOVERNMENT

As the President of the Press Club of Malaya, I made a speech at our annual dinner and dance at the Federal Hotel in Kuala Lumpur in 1960 when journalists pledged their loyalty to the Government.

Our guest—of-honour was the late Tun Abdul Razak bin Datuk Hussein, the then Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Parts of my speech on that occasion are given here.

“Friends, it is my privilege to welcome Tun Razak, our popular Deputy Prime Minister, who has been and still is a friend of the Press. We are therefore very happy to extend a hearty welcome to him and to Toh Puan Rahah.

“As men and women dedicated to the commitment to write the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth at all times we shall continue to do our duty as best as we can in the interests and the welfare of the nation. In this process we are sometimes misunderstood

whenever we criticise the Government. We have from time to time advocated that Government should rectify deviations in implementation of various programmes of the administration.

"We realise that it is not always easy for the Government to formulate policies that are acceptable to every section of our population. Needless for me to point out that in a democratic society criticism from certain quarters is to be expected. It is the duty of a good government to withstand pressure. It should not resent criticism which is the very breath of democracy.

"Friends, you will agree with me that it is only natural that there should be an Opposition to keep the Government of the day on its toes and to be alert.

"We feel that criticism from the Press will enable the Government to remove anomalies where they may exist and eliminate inequalities and injustices. We do criticise but we do it only when it is necessary. We feel our criticism is constructive.

"On behalf of the journalists let me assure you, Sir, that our golden rule is to be fair in our criticism. We give praise when praise is due both to the Government and to the private sector. I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to all Government officials, to give us every help possible in our difficult task of news gathering and publishing.

We pledge our loyalty to the country. In return we expect understanding and co-operation to enable us to maintain our editorial independence. We feel we are entitled to Press freedom, our priceless heritage."

RELIGION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Speech At University Forum

I was among the panel of speakers invited to attend a Forum organised by the Christian Student Movement of the University of Malaya. Excerpts from my speech follow:

"What is happening today in some countries tends to make religion a sham and its practice a mockery. It is therefore fitting that the Christian Student Movement of the University of Malaya, this citadel of higher learning, should sponsor this forum on religions at a time when we are going through the crucible of anxiety.

"Friends, I am sure you will agree that spiritual concepts and values are the very foundation of our civilisation. A forum such as this affords us all an opportunity to re-examine — for re-examine, we must — the various religious doctrines and dogmas because there is still much for us to learn.

"The story of religion is the story of man's never-ending crusade to transform himself from an animal into something better — a straight-thinking animal and not a crooked thinking animal!

Our belief is based on the teaching of Christ. That is why we are known as Christians.

"The basic tenets of Christianity are the same as those of other religions especially in their complete unanimity in all essentials. But this undeniable fact remains unknown and unread by many. Christianity is a religion of love and tolerance, of faith and courage.

"Friends, like all religions Christianity seeks to unite man with God. Our first and foremost belief is that there is a supreme being, God. We believe there is an after-life and we also believe that our soul is immortal.

"We may differ in race, in creed, in language and in our political convictions, but all religions agree on the principles of truth, justice and charity.

"Through our religion, we have learned to strive for social justice, the pillar of good life and the illuminating concept that gives meaning to democracy, freedom, justice and dignity of man.

"Christianity has always stood forth as a bulwork against the claims and passions of brute force. We, Christians, are taught to show tolerance and respect for the views of others including those who belong to other religions. Our firm conviction is that he who has room in his heart for others will find accommodation everywhere."

"LIGHT GONE OUT OF OUR LIVES" — ON GANDHI

One of the most important speeches of my early career was the one I had to make at the open-air condolence meeting in Ipoh early in 1948. It was organised by all Indian organisations in Ipoh on the occasion of the sudden death of Mahatma Gandhi.

More than ten thousand people including representatives of the Government, and of the various commercial, political and educational organisations were present. Among the large gathering were my eldest brother, Mr. J.M. Morais, the teacher, and another relative, the late Mr. C.H. Almeida, father of the Deputy Police Officer of Perak, Mr. Bruno Almeida.

Parts of that speech follow:

"Today we have gathered here to mourn the passing away of the greatest son of India. All of us know that it was he, more than anyone, who kindled the flame of freedom in the hearts of his people. Indeed he was the soul of the freedom struggle and the saviour of the nation.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, the unexpected has happened. Gandhi

is no more. This is the end of an era. The symbol of peace who preached the gospel of peace, tolerance, goodwill and non-violence has fallen — cut down cruelly by an assassin's bullet. Alas, the man who spent many years of his life fighting for India's freedom and who shook the British Empire down to its roots has died a mere six months after Indian Independence.

Friends and fellow Malaysians, must we mourn, for nothing really dies that is not born again?

Gandhi was not merely a man and not merely an institution but a nation. He was a universal man who kept his doors and windows wide open for peoples of all lands and all cultures to come in. He was a statesman, a seer and a prophet whose teachings were like those of Christ.

"Let us take comfort in the thought that India is eternal. India, the many-millioned nation, cannot die.

The life-long struggle of Gandhi will continue to produce more Nehrus, more Patels and more Boses. Of course no one, now or in the near future, will measure up to the level of Mahatma Gandhi.

"Gandhi's self-effacing charm, the detachments behind the unshakable commitment to his beliefs and his humility and humanity had shown that he was someone who had to strike no postures to prove that he was great. In fact, he was just that. The whole of India, nay the whole world, knew he was a leader extraordinary.

"Brothers and sisters, the symbol of peace, hope and progress has gone to his Master. The light has just gone out of our lives. There is darkness everywhere but, 'this light', as Pandit Nehru said, 'shall return to shine for more than a thousand years.' Though he is no more with us, his example and his indomitable spirit will guide us along the righteous path."

FRIEND, GUIDE AND PHILOSOPHER

On the occasion of the launching of my book entitled — Tun Suffian, His Life and Times, I was invited to say a few words as the author of the book. Among the gathering present were Tun Tan Siew Sin, former Finance Minister and several other distinguished guests. What I said on that day follows.

For me this evening no duty is more urgent than the duty of giving thanks — giving thanks to Lord President Tun Suffian. I wish to thank him for giving me an opportunity seven years ago to interview him for my first book on him — A MAN OF HIS TIME.

At first he was unwilling to grant me an interview. He was unwilling because he felt then that he was not important enough to be the

subject for a biography. Several others including some foreign authors had also attempted to write his story but he declined. It is in the nature of newsmen to seek opportunities for stories. So I kept on trying until he relented. That was the turning point.

You may now ask why I chose Suff, as he is affectionately known among his friends. The reasons for this are not far to seek. Suff and I hail from Perak. He was in Clifford School, Kuala Kangsar while I was in Anderson School, Ipoh. We both were Scouts. We both had the privilege of being guided by that well-known educationist, the late Capt. Preedy who took a personal interest in the progress of his students. It was Preedy who discovered Suff. Yes, it was he who predicted that Suff would one day be the pride of the Malay race. Today he is the pride of all Malaysians.

I had the pleasure of writing news reports about the achievements of Suff as a student in my newspaper, the Malaya Tribune. Finally he hit the headlines when he won the Queen's Scholarship — being the first and last student from a rural school to achieve that distinction.

Now what prompted me to write "A MAN OF HIS TIME". Here I must make a confession. Some nine years ago when my son, Herbert, returned from Harvard with a doctorate in law, I presented him a book on Lord Norman Beckett, one of the greatest British advocates and judges of all times. After reading that book I began to look around among our judges. I had known several eminent British judges and lawyers who had served in Malaya but I wanted to write on one of our own judges. And who was then better qualified than Suff? Suff had, by then, carved a niche in the temple of fame. By 1974 he already served as Pro-Chancellor of the University of Malaya for seven years. He was also serving as the Chairman of the Higher Education Advisory Council and the Chairman of the Council for the Promotion of Higher Education, a non-profit organisation.

What is generally regarded as a monumental achievement is his translation of the Malayan Constitution into Bahasa Malaysia — a stupendous task for one man as Tun Tan Siew Sin has rightly described it. Suff has also written that important and useful book — AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CONSTITUTION OF MALAYSIA. He is also the co-editor with F.A. Trindale and H.P. Lee on the Constitution of Malaysia — Its Development 1957 — 1977.

Mention of his many achievements reminds me of the plaque in Westminster Abbey in London dedicated to Christopher Wren, the man who designed it. It says, "If you want my monument look around you."

Friends, we may liken Suff to Christopher Wren because the books

Suff has written, the celebrated speeches he has given and the important judgments he has delivered are his heritage to the present and future generations.

Of his many qualities the ones that stand out are his humanity and his humility. He has, and has in abundance, what Lord Devlin called the virtues of a judge — balance, patience, courtesy and detachment."

A man of compassion, life to Suff has been a long lesson in humility. He is always approachable, kind and considerate. He has a deep concern for his fellowmen. He is one who can find some kind of kinship with almost anybody. He would meet everybody on their level provided they don't ask for free legal advice!

Today there are few Malaysians like him. All these years Suff has remained the same old Suff — helpful, cheerful and incorruptible. As one who has known him for many years I am inclined to think that his philosophy is based on the stirring words of the poet, I quote:

I expect to pass through this world but once,
Any good thing therefore that I can do,
Or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature,
Let me do it now, let me not defer or neglect it,
For I shall not pass this way again.

Well, some of you may ask why another book on Lord President Suffian? The reason is this. Since the publication of "A MAN OF HIS TIME", his name and fame has spread far and wide. He was conferred the much coveted Magsaysay award. He is now the President of the Commonwealth Magistrates Association and the Vice-President of the ASEAN Law Association. Some of his celebrated speeches and judgements were delivered in recent years.

Although my first book, A MAN OF HIS TIME was well received by the reading public including our first Lord President Sir James Thomson, I must admit there are gaps in that book.

Friends, the postwar period in Malaya has been a period of momentous events in which many leaders have played important roles. Today history is in the making in this part of the world. Tun Suffian is one of the few who are contributing, in a big way, to the writing of the history of modern Malaysia. Indeed he has become part of Malaysia's history. Yes, Suff is the continuing expression of the great awakening that has been taking place in Malaysia.

Emerson has said there is probably no history but only biography. Hence this second book on Tun Suffian is offered to the reading public in the confident hope that it will serve to inspire Malaysians especially the younger generation.

In passing I wish to make one observation. Local literary scene is thriving but Malaysian writers are not receiving enough encouragement from the public or the Government. I am aware Suff has encouraged hundreds of budding authors in various ways. I know that he has organised collections of funds to help needy students over the past thirty years.

Friends, in this context I make bold to suggest that time has come for a more organised effort to assist not only needy and deserving students, but to promote the further development of Malaysian practitioners of the fine arts; to give due recognition and encouragement to budding writers, poets, painters, sculptors and dramatists of all races. I am suggesting the launching of a foundation dedicated to these objectives — a foundation named after Tun Suffian, the foremost benefactor of the student community and an acknowledged patron of the arts. I am confident that leading commercial organisations and concerned individuals will readily respond with generous donations for such a venture.

Yes, friends, today Suff is not only a judge extraordinary but also a great patriot. He has already earned a place in our history and in our hearts.

That is why when Encik Hamid Ibrahim, the Managing Director of Law Publishers asked me if I would revise and update "A MAN OF HIS TIME," I agreed to write this, the second book on Tun Suffian.

Lest I forget, let me hasten to add that much of the credit for the success of Suff in various fields of human endeavour is due, in no small measure to the constant support and encouragement he received from Toh Puan Suffian, the ideal partner of Suff and a real friend to many high and low.

As judges say, time has come for me now to sum up my thoughts on Suff in the following verse:

Friend, guide and philosopher,
Live on Suff, live long,
You are the force and inspiration,
Behind us and the younger generation
Keep helping us as you pass along,
Cheer us, if need be with a word or song,
Tell us if we are travelling wrong,
Remember you still have promises to keep,
And miles and miles to go before you sleep,
You are no doubt Malaysia's pride,
So remain, Suff, as our friend and guide.

INSIDE A SUBMARINE OFF HAWAII



Under the watch-ful eyes of our Escort Officer, I am seen at the diving plane of a submarine, during our visit to Pearl Harbour. The submarine dived another 50 feet before it surfaced while I was at the "Control".

Six hours later, after we left the scene, another submarine was involved in a collision with a ship in the same place. What a fright I had when I read the news in the Hawaii newspapers the next morning!



I am seated extreme left in this picture of members of the Petaling Jaya Town Board, now known as the P.J. Municipality. On my left are Tuan Haji Ramli, Mr. Low Choon Boon, Mr. S. Singaram, Mr. Michael Teh Khoon Heng, Mr. Seow Yew Boon and Mr. Lee Boey Hoey, the Senior Engineer of the P.J. Municipality.



The officials and members of the Parent-Teacher Association of Assunta Secondary School, Petaling Jaya. This picture was taken when I was the President of the Association.

Seated left to right are: The late Mrs. Sarah Thomas, Sister Enda, Headmistress, Mrs. M. Nair, Miss Lucy Khoo, Mrs. Annie George, Sister Paulines, Mr. S. Alexander, Sister Anthony, Mr. Maurice Cheong, Mr. A.J. Morris and Mrs. Lim.

Back row from left Mr. Boler, Miss Carmel Pillai, Mrs. Chin, Sister Bosco, sixth from left Mrs. Boler, Sister Cecilia, Mr. Paul.

Sixth from right Mr. Surgit Singh, Mr. Fernandez, Mr. M. Thomas and Mr. Nair — Extreme right Sister Jane.



The Kinta Indian Association of Ipoh gave a party to the late Mr. J.A. Thivy, a former President of K.I.A. when he visited Ipoh after his appointment as India's representative in Malaya and Singapore. Fourth from left in the front row are the late HRH Sultan Yusof Izzudin Shah, myself, Mr. Thivy, Mr. A.V. Aston, the then British Resident of Perak, Datuk Lau Pak Khuan, the Perak Chinese leader and the late Mr. M.S. Mahendran, the Ipoh lawyer. I was then the President of Kinta Indian Association.



Keenly interested in sports, I have taken part in inter-club competitions in tennis, table tennis and badminton.

The only cup I won was in the Perak Indo-Ceylonese Tennis Tournament with Miss Joyce LaBroov, as partner in the Mixed Doubles Event.

In this picture taken in Penang I am seated first from left and next to me are the late Theophilus Appaduray, a teacher, late Mr. J.A. Thivy, the Ipoh lawyer and former Indian diplomat, S. Retnam and N. Caleb, a teacher and former Perak tennis champion. The Penang players are standing.



Members of the Inner Wheel Club of Ipoh. Seated extreme right is my wife, Gladys, and on extreme left also seated is the late Mrs. H.D.G. Jansz. Mr. Jansz was the President of the Rotary Club. He took over from me.



Among the three ladies selected by the Malayan Government to go on a study tour of Thailand was my wife Gladys seated extreme right in this picture.

CHAPTER 20

IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICA

INTRODUCTION

A friend of Abraham Lincoln in the first convention that nominated him for the Presidency had worked and spoken with great effect. Afterwards, in thanking him for his enthusiasm Mr. Lincoln said: "But I am afraid, sir, that when you spoke for me, you prevaricated just a little." "Prevaricated, Mr. Lincoln?" said the other. "Prevaricated? Why I lied like the devil."

As I write this I fear that I may be accused of "lying like the devil" too. Let me therefore hasten to assure the readers that what I have written are just random reflections of an admirer of a great country and its people.

Five weeks in America to me are like twenty years in Malaya. For in the short period I saw not a country but a continent of stupendous dimensions. Its provincial cities are bigger than any European capitals and its lakes are small seas.

By travelling from east to west and north to south, we moved from one marvel to another. Every state and city had something new to offer. All I saw then gave me a clear idea of the immensity of America.

For instance, the distance from New York to San Francisco is much greater than the distance from London to Leningrad. When flying we had to repeatedly set back our watches, for when it is noon or midnight in New York it is eleven o'clock in Chicago, ten o'clock in Denver and nine o'clock in San Francisco.

Flying from city to city I had the opportunity of seeing more places and more people than I have seen all my life. In fact, thanks to the generosity of the State Department and the U.S. Air Force, I have met more people and visited more places in five weeks than many others could have done in several months.

Therefore, I feel justified in putting on record my impressions of a well worthwhile tour of a great country. In doing this I am encouraged by what a famous author recently said: "Remain a few weeks in America and you will be able to write a book about it. Stay a year and your material will fill a booklet; two years, maybe an article; longer, nothing."

However, let me here mention that it is impossible for any one writer to learn, understand and present fairly and fully the immense diversity of background, growth and tradition of America and the American nation.

That being so, I do not suggest even for a moment that this chapter contains everything about the United States — far from it. It is just a record of my impressions.

Knowing my limitations I have sought the views of fellow Asians and others who have also visited the States. This is done in order to ensure a greater measure of accuracy in the picture of America that I am attempting to present.

Lady Juliet Allen, the wife of a former British Ambassador to Burma who had read my piece on the U.S during her last visit to Kuala Lumpur, endorsed nearly all that I have written. What she has written follows:

"I have read Victor Morais manuscript with great pleasure and find it fair comment. This should give an unbiased picture to Malaysians of various aspects of life in America and a cross-section of the American people. I, having lived in various parts of that great country, stress, this is a thoroughly objective picture. I wish the author every success."

AN EXCITING MOMENT

One of the most exciting moments of my life was undoubtedly my departure from Malaya for a tour of the United States. I was one of the two Malaysians in the group of South East Asian journalists who were invited to visit various centres of interest in America. Our tour was sponsored by the United States Air Force and the United States Department of State and arranged by the Governmental Affairs Institute, a national organisation for research, surveys and foreign leader exchange programmes in Government affairs. Let me add that my inclusion in the group was made possible by my former chief, Martin Hutton, the then Editor of the Malay Mail, Kuala Lumpur, who had recommended me for the trip.

Among those in the group was former colleague, Henry Paul formerly of the Straits Times office, Ipoh. We started off as acquaintances and returned home as good friends.

The arrangements made by the Governmental Affairs Institute were superb. They deserve our congratulations not only for the splendid reception accorded us everywhere but also on the programme put out for us. The only aspect of the tour that we did not always welcome were the briefings by the big wigs of the Air Force. At times they tended to be somewhat boring and I must confess that once or

twice I nearly dozed off in the ultra-modern airconditioned conference rooms.

Briefings apart, the programme was interesting. It could have been more worthwhile if we had been given a little more time in Washington, D.C. New York, Los Angeles and in the smaller cities. It was indeed a shame that when there was so much to see and learn, so little time was available.

Let me begin with the most memorable occasion of our tour — the flight to the United States! Our tour covered over thirty thousand miles —

Our first stop after leaving the Philippines was at Guam — a dot of land in the vast Pacific, just long enough for a plane to land and take off. After refuelling we took off to drop on Wake Island, another tiny American possession after an eight hour flight. From Wake to Hawaii, (two thousand and four nautical miles), took nine hours.

The beauty of Hawaii with its palm-lined beaches and several volcanoes, is indescribable. It is a garden paradise of flowers and foliage. Never have I seen so many flowers of so many colours. There are four hundred and sixty ornamental trees, more than five thousand hybrid hibiscus and four hundred thousand acres of tree ferns on the island of Hawaii alone.

PEARL HARBOUR

Hawaii had a cosmopolitan population of more than five hundred thousand in 1958. In 1852, the first Chinese came. Then the first Japanese arrived, and between 1905 and 1914, Portuguese, Spanish, and Russians arrived. Other Europeans followed in increasing numbers. Today Hawaii's population represents most of the races of the world.

Our first opportunity to see how the United States is responding to the contemporary challenge of world events was afforded at the briefing given by top U.S. Air Force officials in Honolulu. The Air Force and Navy here gave us a reception with a lunch, cocktails and a dinner.

We toured the naval stations and the Pearl Harbour area. As we went round Pearl Harbour I recalled the anxious days we in Malaya experienced after the surprise attack on the U.S Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbour by the Japanese on 7th December, 1941, an event that shook the free world.

The Japanese attack on Malaya and Pearl Harbour took place simultaneously. The Japanese considered the invasion of Malaya as important as the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour.

The landing in Kota Bharu took place only one hour and twenty

minutes before the Pearl Harbour attack.

We saw the rusted and twisted hulk of the battleship U.S.S. Arizona as she remains at her berth — an everlasting memorial to the one thousand and hundred and two men who went down with their ship that Sunday morning.

Some idea of how wars are planned was given when we saw a captured photograph showing a large scale model of Pearl Harbour area used by the Japanese military staff.

The last lap of our flight to the United States was the most exciting — all of us were anxious to see America.

We arrived at Travis Air Force Base, San Francisco about 4.30 p.m. Then we drove to the "Queen City of the West". We reached the city proper in the last light of day. We drove over San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, the world's longest bridge (8¼ miles). It was a very cold reception that we got there. We had put on all the woollen clothing we had. Still we shivered! From the top of the Mark (Mark Hopkins Hotel) we had a view of the city of lights. We were put up at Canterbury Hotel.

THE CHINA TOWN

I was rather fascinated by the old-world type of furniture that I found in my room. What, old-fashioned furniture in ultra-modern America! I wondered. But then tastes differ. California being a new state, relatively emphasises anything old — genealogies, furniture etc.

Taking a stroll out in the chilly evening we soon came dramatically upon China Town. It is the largest Chinese settlement outside the Orient (excepting Singapore) with one of the city's famed cable cars lending a quaint note to the mysterious, colourful atmosphere where East meets West. There are Chinese restaurants, temples, oriental art studios, old-world Chinese buildings and curio shops. Here I went to one of the first Catholic churches to be built in America. What amazed us were the long highways — some of them so steep that one gets jitters when travelling in cars.

While going down a very steep road at a terrific speed — in the heart of the city, I asked the cab driver: "What happens when your braking system fails?"

"You just crash"; he replied.

After the nine-hour flight from Hawaii to San Francisco, we thought it was the longest flight we would have to endure. No! We were wrong. The flight across the continent from San Francisco to Pensacola in Florida, taking twelve hours, was the longest. What a flight and what a fright!

Believe me, some Americans who fly to the U.S. from overseas, once on the mainland go by train or car in slow motion rather than undertake a trans-continental flight with the ever present danger of crash or collision, owing to the thousands of planes using American skies almost at the same time.

Pensacola is known as the "cradle of naval aviation," and the "city of five flags." Here we saw the relics of foreign powers that once ruled this area. The third of Pensacola's five flags is the Union Jack. The city reverted in 1781 to Spanish control. The war of 1812, however, brought the British back. They took the city in 1814, only to be driven out in November of that year by the fiery American general, Andrew Jackson. Jackson returned the city to Spain and left with his army to New Orleans where he again defeated the British, returning to Pensacola four years later to settle the Greek Indian uprising. Two years late he was back again, accepting the transfer of flags, for Spain had ceded all of Florida to the fledgeling United States in 1819.

Peace at last seemed to have settled on Pensacola and after a yellow fever epidemic in 1830 reduced the population to 2,518, the city began to grow as never before. The Navy yard was established and Pensacola became the lumber capital of the world.

It was the first white settlement on the North American continent. It was here that we saw trailer-homes of nomadic Americans. It was also here that we learned that there was a radio station exclusively for broadcasting Black rythm music mainly for Black listeners. Of course, this is not the only Black radio station in America. There are dozens of such stations whose output is beamed mainly to Blacks. There are even others in the south as well as in major cities such as Chicago.

The following morning, like Alladin and his lamp, in twenty minutes, we found ourselves at Elgin Air Force Base — the largest air base in the world.

Diplomats and representatives of forty-two countries, Governors of States, Senators and newspapermen from all parts of the free world were there for the air power demonstration. The most modern weapons of warfare were used in the demonstration.

It created a tremendous impression on the six thousand people present.

Our next stop was at Washington where we stayed at the Sheraton-Park Hotel which has more than one thousand five hundred rooms.

Washington D.C. has been the seat of the U.S. Federal Government since 1800. The city was planned and designed by the French engineer, Charles Pierre L'Enfant. We had a big thrill when we went

to the Pentagon which houses the office of the Secretary of Defence. It is the world's largest office building — three times more floor space than New York's Empire State Building. It cost \$M 249 million to build and each floor is of a different colour.

It is a town by itself. It has seventeen and a half miles of corridors and a population of more than 33,000. It has a bank, a post office, an airport office, a railway booking office, barber shops, cafeteria, a beauty parlour, bakery, jewellery store, floral shop, drug store, shoe-shine and repairs and While-U-Wait service. You can also attend Church services — Catholic, Protestant and Jewish — in the immensity of the Pentagon. Despite all these it is considered ugly. But I like the Capitol Building.

The stirring story of America's progress and of the builders of the nation can be read in this great building. There are drawings and statues depicting the story and glory of America.

Our sight-seeing tour included Mt. Vernon, the home of George Washington and Mecca of all tourists, the Washington Monument, the Arlington Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial. Situated nearby in Virginia, Mount Vernon offered George Washington peace and relaxation during the latter years of his life. Many things used by him are preserved in a museum here.

The Washington Monument rises 555 feet above the ground, the tallest in the capital. The stones used in this monument to "the Father of his country" were contributed by the people and associations in the several States in America. Some came from abroad.

One of the most revered of all monuments is the Lincoln Memorial which was crowded with hundreds of people. Thousands of Americans daily visit this shrine to pay tribute to the great Emancipator.

Of special interest to us South-East Asian newsmen was the visit to the Brightwood School in Washington. We saw white and coloured children studying and playing together in perfect harmony. There were white and Black teachers in this model school.

"Have you any problems?" I asked the headmistress.

"Oh no. No problems of any kind. We get on fine in this school. The neighbourhood is very helpful too," she added.

At 4 p.m. on May 9th, we left for New York. As we flew into this great city, the first thing that caught my eyes was the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour, symbol of inspiration to both the immigrant and the native-born.

On the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty are these inspiring words:

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,*

*The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*"

These words are symbolic of the fact that America is a land of opportunity and haven of refuge to those needing a new home.

It took us nearly half an hour to land because there were so many other planes in the air and we had to queue up for our turn! New York settled in 1624, is the commercial capital of the U.S. It has not only one of the tallest buildings in the world (the* Empire State Building) but also the most modern United Nations Building.

In this great city everything moves fast — very fast. No one seems to walk. They raced to their offices or homes. The roaring river of cars (automobiles to the Americans) never stops, even at the dead of night. It goes on and on. Incredible. There is a kick in every breath you take! It is just the city if one decides to do nothing but stand and stare! As dusk fell over the city we were greeted by innumerable posters and neon signs — neon signs on our right, neon signs on our left, neon signs behind us and neon signs in front of us. They say not one thing but many things — so bewildering and confusing. But one stops at them all right — to know their meaning.

As the evening advanced we peeped into night clubs — just to see what was happening. A couple here and there having their drinks, some eating their hefty dinners and some young couples busy necking and kissing — right in the midst of the crowd!

We walked out after a while for fresh air — then moved into a neighbouring park. There were many people — many couples — holding hands and walking about aimlessly or sitting at close quarters in shaded areas like honeymoon couples. But I must confess that I did not see romantic scenes typical of the banks of the Seine in Paris where one can nearly always see semi-nude lovers lying inter-twined in each other's arms — merely to embarrass innocent onlookers rather than to amuse themselves.

We visited the National Art Museum. So vast and so varied are its exhibits that it will take at least a week to see them all. There are more than three thousand museums in the U.S. and their investments total some \$250,000,000.

Despite its size, its great seaport, its famous shops and restaurants, its striking architecture and its rich historic background, New York is also a city of contrasts. Not far from the skyscrapers and the

*The tallest building in the United States today is the SEARS TOWER in Chicago.

huge department stores, the picture palaces and cultural centres, there are such "eyes-sores" as the dirty China Town and Harlem — the Black settlement.

Nevertheless, New York is a great city — a city worth visiting. It is the tourist's paradise with its eight million population. It is not always a New Yorker, nor for that matter, an American, that you meet in this bustling city. More than one million tourists come into New York and one million leave the city daily.

One of the greatest attractions of New York, if not of America, is the Empire State Building. This one thousand four hundred and seventy two foot high structure dominates Manhattan. There are sixteen thousand people within the one hundred and two storey Empire State — the eighth wonder of the world. Visitors to offices, observatory and stores total more than thirty-five thousand every day. Among the features of this tallest of all man-made constructions is a voice recorder on the eighty-sixth floor. Like many other curious people I have had my voice recorded in this automatic machine.

As I stood on the top floor of this building of majesty and unrivalled beauty, my thoughts went with my eyes until they were lost in a monstrous fantasia of great buildings, church towers, great ships, docks, the great white ways and the sea down below and the star-studded sky above. What a breathtaking view! The night time view from Empire State Building is exciting while the daytime view is thrilling. As I surveyed the world below and around me from the unbelievable Empire State I was reminded of these stirring words of the poet:

*O grey, O gloomy skies! What then?
Here is a marvellous world of men;
More wonderful than Rome was, when
The world was Rome!
See the great streams of life flow by!
Here thronging myriads laugh and sigh;
Here rise and fall, here live and die.
In this vast home,
Who will not heed so great a sight?
Greater than marshalled stars of night,
That move to music and with light:
For these are men.*

The tour of New York is incomplete without a visit to the famous Rockefeller Centre located in the heart of New York city centre. It is the largest privately-owned business entertainment centre in America. More than 75,000 men were directly employed in the construction of its 15 buildings.

The part of Rockefeller Centre comprising theatres and radio and

television studios is often referred to as Radio City. It comprises approximately one-fifth of Rockefeller Centre.

The daily population of Rockefeller Centre is 160,000. More than 34,000 work there and 126,000 people visit there every day. In the Centre are the offices of more than 900 firms.

There are 20 eating places and 800 car-parking garage, a post office, Government passport bureau, landscaped roof gardens and consulates of twenty foreign governments. The Radio City Music Hall is the largest infloor theatre in the world with accommodation for 6,200 people. Truly the whole of Rockefeller Centre is one of the most spectacular attractions of the United States.

Indeed, our stay in New York was a memorable one. Several prominent citizens of New York — members of the Asia Society — played hosts to us on the eve of our departure for Malaya. I had the privilege of being the guest of Mr. And Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd who visited Malaya recently.

Mr. Rockefeller was the President of the Asia Society and its Executive Director was Mr. Paul Scherbert, formerly of the U.S.I.S. in Madras, an old friend of mine.

TOUR OF U.N.

The tour of the United Nations building was an education for all of us. The various sections of this beautiful structure — joy of architects — gave an insight into the work of this unique world organisation. It symbolises the hope of mankind for peace.

The permanent headquarters of the United Nations, on an eighteen-acre, six-block tract on Manhattan Island from 42nd to 48th Street between First Avenue and the East River, comprises the General Assembly, Secretariat, Conference and library buildings.

On the river side of the General Assembly and Secretariat Building and connecting with both is a long, low-lying structure containing three chambers — for the Economic and Social, Trusteeship and Security Councils — each with similar dimensions-seventy two feet wide by one hundred and thirty five feet long, with twenty four foot ceilings, each equipped with interpreters, press, radio, television and film booths. Beneath the Council Chambers are three large conference halls and six smaller rooms serving the main committee of the General Assembly and their sub-committees,

The Chamber of the Trusteeship Council combines colour and fine woods to achieve a strikingly light, clean, harmonious effect. There is a striking mural painted by the Dominican artist, Jose Vela Zanetti, in the public corridor outside the chamber. It represents man's quest for peace.

Arnstein Arneberg, of Norway, designed the Security Council Chamber. He worked around a large mural painted by the Norwegian artist Per Krong, symbolising a future of peace and individual freedom through the United Nations. The walls are marble panels topped by tapestry; the doors are set with inlay wood. All furnishings, including the tapestry for the walls and curtains, and the delegates' Secretariat chairs, were supplied by Norway. The grey carpet came from Britain.

There is a circular reflecting pool and fountain in front of the Secretariat Building, a gift from the children of the United States and its territories.

I, for one, left this august assembly of all nations, this parliament of mankind with a fervent prayer that it will continue to uphold the lofty principles for which it has been established.

THE REAL AMERICANS

From New York, we flew to Omaha in Nebraska. At the Air Force Base, we were given a clear picture of the way operations will be carried out at the Strategic Air Command (S.A.C.) in the event of war. We were taken round the underground Command Headquarters, the nerve-centre of operations.

Our visits to the various military installations and the briefings we attended had given us an opportunity to see and understand the new concepts and modern weapons which have so radically altered the techniques of military, naval and air operations.

If you want to see real Americans, then go to the small cities. New York is not the United States. Nor is Washington. The small towns in the United States possess a charming individuality of their own. But one must visit them and meet their citizens to understand this. To begin with, we were taken completely by surprise by the people of Lubock. We heard and read stories — some tall stories too — about Texas and Texans. They look big and talk big and so on. But the Texans in Lubock really gave us a rousing welcome. Believe me, they rolled out the red carpet when our plane dropped us at Lubock. The Mayor of Lubock, City Commissioners, the editor of the Lubock daily Mr. Charles A. Guy, the president, Mr. Dub Rogers, and members of the Chamber of Commerce were among the reception committee.

Our sponsor was the genial, Dr. Gustav Ernst Giesecke, chairman of the Foreign Visitors Committee and a former vice-president of the Texas Technical College. We took part in a very interesting discussion with city commissioners, leaders of trade, representatives of the press, television, petroleum, banking, municipal and city administra-

tion and the Technological University.

Lubbock is a city of churches. Almost every road has a church. Lubbock has one hundred and forty churches representing all denominations — the largest of them all is the First Baptist costing \$M 6,900,000. And, of course, there are plenty of ministers too! But I was told that church-going Christians are few.

Lubbock has commission-manager municipal government with a mayor, four city commissioners and a city manager. It has thirteen hospitals and twenty seven clinics. The population is one hundred and seventy thousand one hundred and seventy nine.

Probably the smallest town we visited in America was POST in Texas. The town is small but the people here are large-hearted. A.B. Slagle, assisted by Dr. D.M. Wiggins and O.L. Byrd escorted us to Post where fourteen representatives of Post citizens turned up.

What amazed me was the eagerness of "Postians" to show us their homes, their offices, their factories and their cotton mills. It has only a population of two thousand, but it has its own newspaper. Almost every businessman in Post supports this paper by advertising in it and reading it. Post is a shining example of civic-consciousness.

MORE "TEXAN"

People of El Paso, Texas, tried to be more "Texan" than the Lubbock Texans. It is one of the best known cities of Texas. It is a port of entry through which conquistadores trudged their way many years ago, leaving imprints of Spanish culture. The city is on the Rio Grande River just opposite Juarez, Mexico. It is the centre of Mexican handicraft work and a tourist health resort.

Our sponsor in this city was Fred Hervey, a former Mayor of El Paso and Manager of Hervey Interests. A charming personality, he was with us throughout our stay in that city. Opportunity was taken by us to visit Mexico's "Sin City" of Juarez. Some of our younger group later returned to Mexico to see night life in Juarez. They all came back!

Also of interest was our visit to the bull-fighting stadium in Juarez. There is a chapel in this stadium where the contestants — mostly Catholics, we were told — pray before they take part in bull-fighting.

Here and in other cities we had a peep into the slum areas — the districts of despair — where mostly the Blacks and Puerto Ricans live. If conditions here are not as good as they are in the white neighbourhood, the Black and Puerto Ricans have to accept some of the blame.

Prescott, in Arizona is a town of charming people. For me, Prescott is the darling of the United States cities. The citizens, especially the

women, were really nice to us. They welcomed us with open arms, entertained us in a big way, took us to their homes and finally gave us a big send-off. It was indeed a touching farewell — one that many of us will never forget.

The Prescott Rotary Club, headed by their then popular president Jim Marsh, held a banquet in our honour. The elite of the city were present. Being a past-president of the Ipoh Rotary Club, special mention was made of my presence by Rotarian Marsh.

In Prescott, our sponsor was Miss Lela Roach, a school teacher. She arranged for us to see the archeological and historical museums around Prescott, and a ranch. Lela and Jim did everything they could to make our stay a very pleasant one.

THE GRAND CANYON

Probably the most memorable of all the places we had visited in the United States was the Grand Canyon, one of the wonders of the world. There are two ways to this place. One along the rocky road with precipices on either side for miles. We took this rather perilous path to the Grand Canyon. On our way we stopped at America's largest ghost town — the once mining town of Jerome. During its boom Jerome had a population of sixteen thousand, but today there are only a little over fifty people. And these few are there to do business with the tourists. Nearly all the houses — both big and small are closed. Some on the point of collapse. They are reminders of how cities and peoples change with changing fortunes in the United States.

Up in the Grand Canyon, we stayed in the Bright Angel Lodge — a name in keeping with its sublime surroundings. Never have we seen a more grand, a more inspiring or a more stirring scene. The Grand Canyon of the Colorado is two hundred miles long, five thousand to six thousand feet deep and five miles to twelve miles across at the top. From there you can see layers after layers of rock. Yes, golly, what a gully! .

As you got down into the earth you go down into the past. That is going back not through thousands of years, but millions of years. Buried in the rocks of each period are the signs of life at that particular time. The Grand Canyon is indeed a rock calendar of the history of life on earth. Thousands of people visit this scenic wonder of wonders often. Among these are people who go down to the lower regions of the canyon on mules, along narrow trails. A false step would mean certain death. But these people, including some elderly women, have blind faith in those mules of the Grand Canyon. The

mules, they assert, never take a false step! Let us hope so. Did I go on that mule ride? Oh no, not me! One look into the deep unknown was enough to send me back a few hundred yards. I admired the beauty of God's creation from a safe distance. That was enough for J.V.M.!

I had forgotten to say there is a railway station, two good hotels, a post office, rest rooms and a dispensary right on top of the Canyon. Mountain lions and deer abound in this area but no one is allowed to shoot them or trap them.

Now from a small city to a large city. I refer to Los Angeles. In area it is the largest city in the United States, and in the world. It has the largest number of cars (two and a half cars to a family), largest number of planes, largest number of religious sects and strange as it may seem, the largest number of divorces and suicides!

Millions of tourists visit this city of sunshine, beautiful scenery and informal outdoor way of life. Hollywood, movie capital of the world, is in this city but with the fast growing popularity of television, the future of Hollywood is threatened. So they say in Los Angeles. All this ballyhoo about Hollywood is just ballyhoo! Hollywood did not impress me or my colleagues. In fact, we were disappointed. Most of the film stars, including Lana Turner, were not in the silver city. And mind you not all the beautiful girls of the world are in Hollywood!

THE MAGIC KINGDOM

Disneyland — the magic kingdom — in Los Angeles gave us a full quota of thrills. Our "flight" in a "spaceship", our tour of the jungle lands of the world, the Fantasyland, the Adventure-land and Tomorrowland have plenty to offer the tourists seeking fun and excitement. Disneyland is a private venture employing thousands of people. It is easily one of the biggest tourist attractions in America. I wish Malaya could have a Disneyland type of attraction for tourists.

THE CHANGING SCENE

Several years ago I wrote this story, the Impressions of America. Since then many changes have taken place in America. According to latest reports farmers are failing as fast as crops in a hurricane, unemployment stands at ten million, more than one in three steel workers are out of jobs and the Government has said that it would borrow \$100 billion to finance Federal deficit.

The bright spots are: Inflation has slowed down, wage demands are fewer and production is going up. Is the great American dream becoming a nightmare? I doubt it. Bigger and more important events have taken place in the U.S. since 1958.

CHAPTER 21

THE AMERICAN: HIS AIMS AND HIS ASPIRATIONS

What fascinated me most in America? The skyscrapers? The millions of cars? The miracle of mechanisation? Or, the film stars of Hollywood? No! Oh no, no. It was the average American, or, to be exact, his unique way of life that made the greatest impression on me. I say "unique" deliberately and not haphazardly.

The chief thing to love and understand is man. There is a lot to interest a visitor in America. First and foremost, the study of America is the study of the American I mean his habits and his customs, his eccentricities and peculiarities, his likes and dislikes, his interests and idiosyncracies and, above all, his aims and achievements.

To begin with, Americans are incurable optimists. In this respect they are frighteningly alike! They all assume that tomorrow will be better than today and that the best is yet to be; his belief in tomorrow is never shaken — recession or no recession, war or no war. His low spirits are much more uproarious and enlivening than an average Asian's high spirits.

Therefore, to understand America, one must understand the Americans. And who are these Americans? Before I go any further, this is what Dorothy Thompson, noted columnist once wrote:

"An American is a fellow whose grandfather was a German fort-yeighter who settled in Wisconsin and married a Swede, whose mother's father married an English woman, whose son met a girl at college, whose mother was an Austrian and whose father was a Hungarian Jew and their son in the twentieth century right now is six feet tall and goes to a State college, plays football, can't speak a word of any other language except American."

From the dawn of American history immigrants from all parts of Europe came to this land which was then inhabited by two or three million scattered redmen. Mixed with the European immigrants and the natives were Chinese, who came to help build the transcontinental railroads. Later Japanese, Filipinos, Mexicans and Canadians joined them. They brought with them their vices and virtues, their customs and habits, their culture and their civilisation to be poured into the American melting pot.

One American writer put it this way: "Our roots reach back to the Steppes of Russia, the plains of Greece, which Plato knew, mysterious Turkey, sunny Italy, colourful France, conglomerate Austrian-Hungary, pageant-like Central Europe, teeming Germany, thrifty Holland, Belgium and Denmark, well-poised Scandinavia, dour Scotland, stubborn England, distinctive Wales, eerie Ireland, troubled Spain, friendly Canada, strange Japan, old China and struggling Mexico!"

Thus the visitor will not find it difficult to understand why there is so much variety in the America national make-up. But a visitor sometimes gets a jolt when he hears an American say — "I am English," "I am French" or "I am German."

Lest I am misunderstood let me add that they are all truly and sincerely, honest Americans, very loyal ones too. But all Americans are grateful to the lands of their forefathers and for the contributions in blood, sweat and tears they have made to the richness of the present day American way of life.

Some Americans confessed to me that "we were too hasty in kicking out the English whose culture and civilisation we cherish most." They also readily admit that the technical skill and inventive genius brought by English immigrants had greatly accelerated the progress of America.

THE FAMILY LIFE

First let me look into their family life. Nowhere in the world are the people such slaves to a credit system as in the United States. The house many live in, the motor-cars and furniture they use and their television and radio sets, their refrigerators and electric cookers are all paid for by instalments. Their philosophy is buy with the low salary and pay with high salary, or as an American would put it, "Get into debt on the high dollar and pay off in the low dollar".

Credit plans range from go-now, pay-later trips abroad to fill-your-tooth in-time services. Instalment paying is possible in the United States for nearly all contingencies from cradle to the grave. Yes, you can even buy your own coffin on credit, if you wish!

There is yet another system, the lay-away plan. A customer can go to a store, choose an article and pay a part of the price. The rest must be paid in instalments, but the article will be his only when he has settled all the instalments.

Baffled by the fantastic womb-to-tomb credit system, I told an American, "We Asians just can't understand how you Americans can

get along in this way." He replied, "We can't understand it either, but you may not know it, you Asians too have been living on credit for centuries, in some way or other." Well that is his view!

The only time an average American gets out of debt is when he is dead, that is the confession of an American friend I met in the United States. But according to another, "The facts are that savings are at a record high, running into tens of billions of dollars. In other words," he told me, "many millions of Americans have healthy savings accounts. These same Americans, however, may still continue to purchase many items on the instalment or time plan..... so much down, so much a month..... your hire-purchase system."

Most of these details are based on what I was told or read during the tour of the U.S. in 1958.

"The reason for this is that many Americans want to have savings against a rainy day. They do not consider themselves in debt because they buy on the instalment plan because they can stop payment on an item and have it repossessed. They lose the item, but they are not indebted; that is they no longer owe any money for such a repossessed item," added my friend.

This American mania for buying things on the instalment system has now spread to Britain. A recent survey revealed that nine out of ten families in the United Kingdom buy on credit in one form or another. According to Board of Trade figures, Britain's annual hire purchase debt now tops the five hundred million pound sterling mark! As a businessman, the American is without an equal. No setback will dampen his spirit. In fact, failures to him are stepping stones to success. Unfettered and unrestrained, each man, animated with the spirit of industry, forks for himself. He is a lord unto himself.

Sheer confidence in the future and rugged individualism take the American from one venture to another. Normally if an American fails in an undertaking in one place, he does not hesitate to move to another and start life afresh. I have heard of men who failed as professors but succeeded as hotel keepers.

A newcomer to a district gets plenty of encouragement from the neighbourhood — that is something for Asians to note. They do not despise him or ignore him. On the other hand, they help him to succeed for they believe all are fellow workers for the greatness and glory of America.

Each state boasts of its own industries and novel and ingenious methods are used to promote industry and business ventures. In Louisiana, for instance, businessmen use the time-honoured American device of beauty queens to make known or advertise their undertakings.

Here is the story of a Texan — and Texans are sturdy fellows — who, despite several setbacks became a millionaire. He was a farmer but, in Lubock for five years it had rained only one of those five years. And this Texan lost heavily. However, from low-paid jobs, he soon saved enough to buy more land to plant potatoes. He prospered, but late in the second world war, prices dropped and he became almost bankrupt. In a year he planted cotton on his land and made up his losses. Now he is worth several millions. Such rags-to-riches stories are common in America.

Incidentally farms in the United States are highly mechanised. And most of the farmers live very well. Some have eight-roomed houses, two or three cars, swimming pools and golf courses. Some use aeroplanes to get about their extensive farms.

If an American fails in business he keeps the secret to himself lest his business talent should be in doubt. If one speculation fails, he finds remedy in another. He goes on trying — unlike most Asians who, if they fail in business, give up further attempts. Why, I know of Malayans who behaved as if they had lost a part of themselves when their ventures failed. Some even have resorted to the unholy practice of hara-kiri.

Whereas an American marches from success to success, an Asian is more often than not, content with his first successful effort. He will even think of retirement. An American does not retire — life is perpetual motion to him. So he works on and on.

How does the American become rich? The dynamic system of free enterprise encourages competition in all fields of human endeavour. He is able to gain wealth through scientific and industrial advances that create the modern tools necessary for efficient production. Thus almost every American becomes a capitalist by investing his savings in any venture of his choice.

But success in America is fast and violent! You must be able to take it! Americans are accused of having too great a passion for money-making. It is true money-making seems to form the main purpose of their existence. Money is made in the United States not because an American wants to become rich and independent but because it has become a habit. He makes money because he has nothing else to make.

Out in the East, Asians have been under the impression that the Japanese and the Chinese are the hardest working people on earth. But after seeing the Americans in America, one has to revise that opinion. A Japanese who recently visited the United States, confess-

ed that Americans worked harder than his people.

I was told by a friend in the United States that a serious problem facing many women in America is to keep their husbands from over-work!

The American derives greater pleasure and thrill from the process of making money than from it. I have heard of, and seen, men of great wealth, leading lives of almost monastic simplicity. In support of their passion for money this much must be said. Had it not been for the money-making habit of the Americans, America would not have seen such unparalleled expansion of industry, such prosperous cities with huge mills and factories and such great wealth, and above all, given away so much wealth as foreign aid.

The Americans make money — some make more than they need. But few people give away so much of their wealth to others as the Americans do.

"The Americans are the most generous people in the world individually and collectively," said Mr. G.L. Mehta, a former Indian Ambassador to the U.S.A.

THE THREE 'VICES'

Although they measure reward in material terms and although they measure many things in terms of dollars their acts of generosity are an expression of their human feeling and innate goodwill. The average American citizen seemed to be sincere in helping all underprivileged countries irrespective of whether they are pro-West or pro-East. He will endow universities, schools, hospitals and museums.

The largest philanthropic donation ever made in the United States..... and in the whole world, too..... was announced on Dec. 12, 1955 by the Ford Foundation in New York City. It allocated \$500,000,000 to be distributed during the next 18 months to 4,157 privately supported colleges, universities and hospitals throughout the United States. This exceeded by \$50,000,000 the total amount donated by the Foundation since its organisation 19 years before by the family of Henry Ford. Based entirely upon the profits of the motor-car industry, it was a dramatic demonstration of the contribution of private enterprise to the nation's welfare.

Speed, punctuality and efficiency are three American vices. They will tell you to relax, as I was told several times during my visit to the U.S.A. Except for a few we did not notice a single American relax throughout our tour of the U.S! He hustles, he rushes and he drives fast. He seemed to believe what the character called Red Queen in Alice in Wonderland said; "It takes all the running you can to keep in the same place. If you want to get to somewhere else you must run at least twice as fast as that."

You bet the American runs all right..... almost all the time. That is why he makes all the money he wants.

An American seldom builds himself a home; he builds a house. The reason is that he likes to shift from place to place, from time to time.

By habit an American is a nomad, nomadism has become almost a hobby in the United States. I have been told of families who have shifted their homes from city to city — and sometimes even to the wilderness!

As we the Asian journalists drove deep into the countryside we could see hundreds of caravan homes. Most of them had gone away from the hustle and bustle of the cities. On enquiring, we were told some of them were big industrialists seeking peace and tranquility amidst nature. Men and women were seen roaming in the forests just for the thrill of it. Apparently, they were few who believed in relaxing in America!

Americans are crazy about building and rebuilding. Towns and cities spring up like mushrooms in the United States. Not only individuals but also industries — lock, stock and barrel — are moving west to seek new lives and new opportunities. As I write this a mass movement to the West is in full swing.

MOST VALUABLE FUNCTION

The majority of Americans go in for business. To them it is the finest and most valuable function of a man. America invests the businessman with the qualities of a hero. That is why successful businessmen and leading industrialists are in demand, by the government and government agencies.

A recent survey conducted by the Harvard Business Club in Washington showed that the consensus among high government officials is that the Federal Government would benefit greatly if more business executives would spend a couple of years or more in the public service.

BUSINESS OF AMERICA

The Eisenhower Administration was called a "Businessman's Government." No wonder it is said that the "Business of America is business!"

Talking of business, I must mention the opportunities afforded for handicapped workers in the U.S. More and more disabled men and women are finding jobs. Statistics of the U.S. Employment Service reveal that in 1957, there were 296,700 handicapped workers in jobs.

American employers are offering jobs to the handicapped as a matter of business practice. They have found from experience that the partially disabled workers, moved by a keen desire to prove them-

selves capable, often produce work of better quality with less waste. Furthermore, it has been proved that the disabled are morale builders, their general cheerfulness is contagious.

Credit for the rapid increase in the number of handicapped people in business goes to Abilities Incorporated, a private profit-making company which employs only disabled workers, paying usual wages. Abilities Incorporated was founded in 1952 by four men with but 'one leg and five usable arms.'

Every American is proud of his city. The interest of the cities comes before that of the country. He guards with zeal all things peculiar to that city. He will do anything to enhance the prestige of the place in which he lives. I was rather surprised when I was shown a newspaper printed in the tiny town of Post in Texas.

Belive me, it has a population of only two thousand and yet it can boast of a newspaper. I feel bitter as I recall the day I had to stop publishing a daily of which I was the editor. It was in Ipoh, a town with a population of two hundred thousand, and in the midst of the Kinta Valley (Malaya), the richest tin district in the world.

That reminds me of the civic sense and civic pride of Americans.

In America, there are signs and warnings all over the place — along the highways, in the markets and in the stores and shops. No smoking, no trespassing, no shoplifting, no this and no that. Along a road in Los Angeles I read: "You will be fined \$500 if you break this rule....." And in a shopin Hollywood was this grim warning:

"This shop will prosecute any shoplifter.

Shoplifting is a crime,

Punishable by law.

California Penal Code Sec. 484

provides 6 months imprisonment or

\$500 Fine or both for Petty Theft."

In Arizona, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, Florida and Kentucky there are laws to make arrests of suspected shoplifters easier. Nearly two hundred and fifty million dollars' worth of goods are stolen from United States supermarkets each year. Defence devises against shoplifters include close circuit T.V. to spot the "heisters." Among the warning notices that I have seen was the following: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of apprehension."

These notices may sound childish but they serve a useful purpose in keeping down accidents and crime.

Americans as a rule, support anything and everything that is good for the community and the city they live in. In a way they are rather

parochial in their outlook. But in the cause of the nation — they are ready to serve at all times. The progress and prosperity of America is to be found in the make-up of the American character.

The world is amazed at the wealth of America and the generosity of Americans. Many people think that America is God's paradise on earth with its gold mines, its valuable ore deposits, its coal and oil fields, its wheat lands and its cotton districts, its great forests and its huge supply of water. But there are countries like South America, China and South Africa with conditions similar to these in North America. So it is the American people and they alone, who are responsible for the great prosperity they enjoy. It is their passion to be up and doing that has opened up the earth, tilled the fields, created industries and developed techniques unknown in other parts of the world.

Now a word or two more about the American character. He is amiable, cordial, frank, anxious to oblige and ready to make friends. He will take a lot of trouble over you, spend time with you, drive you about and secure you privileges. His hospitality is overwhelming. He wishes to be liked by others. If you like him, he will like you.

The Big EYE

Here it may be fitting to recall the notice I read at Travis Airport outside San Francisco, obviously meant for all Americans going overseas. It says:

"The world is one big E Y E and it's on you. Your conduct has a great influence on public opinion and you have to further American interests overseas by proper conduct and strict attention to duty..... You will find that people will want to like you. Meet them half-way."

A guest in an American home is treated like a member of the family. He is shown all parts of the house — including the bedrooms, the dining room, the sitting room, the children's rooms with their innumerable toys and even their kitchens with their labour-saving appliances. They even tell us stories or legends connected with the different pieces of furniture in the house.

Surely the home is the best place to discover people as they really are. At least that is my experience after visits to several homes in America. In the few evenings I had spent in some American homes, I learned more about American character and the American way of life than I could have learned by other means in years!

There is one weakness in many Americans I have forgotten to mention. They are crazy about size — they not only want to be known as the biggest, the richest and the mostest but like to have big buildings

around them, big boots to wear, big meals — I just can't forget the huge broiled chicken I was served in Lexington Hotel, in New York.

What my friends and I were happy to learn was that there is no such institution as aristocracy in America. Every American assumes he is the boss of his own affairs and he is second to none. There is no stand-offishness and arrogance on the part of employers. It will not shock an American boss to hear his junior employee shout to him. "Say, where is this chap's working kit?"

It is also common to hear a company executive walk through a plant and wish a labourer 'Good morning Tom.' And the invariable response to that is, 'Good morning John.' That is symptomatic of American democracy.

No descendants of heroes or sages, statesmen or politicians get any recognition other than that accorded any other citizen. On the other hand, children of disreputable parents do not suffer in the public estimation from that cause. A man is judged by what he is today and not on the records of his parents or grandparents.

Americans are intensely interested in conversation; but conversations are invariably short. The topic of conversation can be almost anything including politics. Only short and incomplete sentences are often used by many. They are better listeners. But I noticed monotony in the tone of talk and opinion.

Almost everybody holds the same view about things. They welcome criticism and they will submit to any amount of it, if that is fair. You may be as severe as you please, even in their own homes. But now I begin to think of it as a case of suffering the insufferable. But this much must be said: Americans do believe in criticism. True enough, the biggest critics of America are Americans!

Once the President of the U.S. could not be present for the annual White House correspondents' dinner and the members were hurt about it. So they noted on their programme that this was the first White House dinner since the time of Coolidge at which the President had not been present, and in a skit, there were some tooting references to the fact that Mr. Eisenhower had a choice of week-end company with the White House correspondents or the cows at his Gettysburg farm, and he had evidently preferred the cows. It was typically American — frank and plain spoken.

The Americans are outspoken in their criticism, no matter who their victims are. After Rotary dinner in Prescott in our honour, I was introduced to an old lady who is/a noted book critic. When I told her that I was planning to write a book about my impressions of America

and Americans, she said, "Oh, I would love to read your book." "It will contain at least 50% criticism and 50% appreciation of things American," I added. "Why only 50%? Make it 75% criticism. We want to know what people like you think about us and our way of life," she said.

The Americans are genuinely interested in the views of other people. The saddest of our experiences was the lack of knowledge about Asia shown by many of the so-called educated Americans we met during our five weeks in the States. To begin with, they showed ignorance about Malaya and Malaysians. Most of them were in the same plight as the middle-aged woman in England, who, according to Macaulay, did not know whether Bombay was in India or India in Bombay.

Even senior pupils of schools could not say where Malaya was, or whether it was an island or a peninsula, whether it was in Africa or in the Philippines or in India! Some of us had to give them a lesson in geography before we left!

It seemed to us that little or no attention is given in the curriculum of American schools to Asia or matters Asian. To be frank, some of us felt rather piqued about this indifference to our part of the world which has given a lot in the past to the West. It has also made us realise that pupils in Asia know more about countries in the West than their counterparts know about the East. Of course they know more of their own American history than Malaysians know about Malayan history.

WHERE IS MALAYA?

Time must come soon for a change of attitude on the part of America on this vital issue of knowing and understanding Asia. Asia may be poor but she is rich in her heritage of civilisation and culture. No thinking man will deny that.

During the whole month I was in the U.S there was hardly any news about Malaya in American newspapers. The only item that I noticed was about killing of a tiger in Templer Park near Kuala Lumpur.

Those who had a smattering knowledge of this part of the world thought Malaya was in Singapore, and that all the people in Malaya were Muslims. The only time I really got angry was in Washington — so angry that I wanted to explode. One important — looking American asked me, "Oh, so you come from Malaya. Plenty of tigers roaming your roads, eh?" I was sizzling with rage and just retorted, "Oh, no, wild animals in America! I saw some of them in your Pentagon!"

That was only the beginning of the jolts we have had. There were occasions in the early stages of our tour, when our escort spoke on our

behalf to thank our hosts.

Speaking about our part of the world, he made this shocking statement: "When they are given political freedom they tend to use it to upset whatever governments they have and to replace them with the other party. In most non-Communist Asia, the other party is the Communist party."

The underdeveloped nations he mentioned included all countries in Asia with the exception of Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Israel and Turkey. As far as Malaya is concerned he is entirely mistaken. He should make another tour to see things in their proper perspective.

We had to explain to many people that Malaya is a peninsula and the inhabitants include Malays, Chinese, Indians, Europeans and also peoples from many countries. The national language is Malay and the state religion is Islam. Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists live side by side, and that there is religious tolerance. The country has a Paramount Ruler, known as the Yang di Pertuan Agong (King). In short, we told them that Malaya is a miniature United Nations—a United Nations without its heated debates and its unwholesome vetoes! We also told them that Malaya is a fine example of a flourishing democracy. Here true democracy is practised, here we have a Government of the people, by the people, for the people.

While on this subject I am reminded of an article by William Foster. I was rather surprised when he wrote about his experiences in New York thus:

"Why, why, why are Americans so ignorant about Britain? Why, for example, did the taxi-driver who drove me to my office ask if it was true American money was being used to buy jewellery for the Queen? And why in the name of all that's wonderful, did the barber who cut my hair remark, 'I bet you enjoy seeing television over here. When is it starting in Britain?'"

"I was so speechless with anger that I forgot to tell him T.V. is a British invention. And having forgotten to tell him so, that made me angrier still!"

Fortunately neither the barber — the French American, I believe — who cut my hair in Washington — not the taxi-man who drove me about in New York and Los Angeles asked such silly questions. Of course, they would have been quite right in asking, "I bet you enjoy seeing TV over here and when is it starting in Malaya?" Our friends from Thailand, Hong Kong and Phillipines who have TV would not have liked the question. But to us from Malaya it was a new experience.

One of the things that I discovered in America is that Americans do not discuss religion with the visitors. The American Constitution and the Bill of Rights clearly recognise the existence of religious ideals, while guaranteeing to each person freedom to worship according to his own religious connections.

A fellow journalist from London who was with us in New York made this discovery. "The Yanks don't swear, you know." Yes, I agreed. The nearest to this unholy practice is "Oh, Brother" — that is when you try to tread on their toes.

The Lord's Fourth Commandment — "Love thy neighbour as thyself" is followed with religious fervour by most Americans. Rendering help to a neighbour when he is in need is a popular custom. Help is given in various ways. This is what a friend of mine — a woman teacher — told me when I was in the United States:

"The summer vacation I spent very leisurely while looking after my father, aged eighty-five and helping to care for an aged friend of the family."

Of course I have heard of similar stories.

AN OFFENCE

It is a criminal offence in America not to stop and offer help to a motorist in trouble. But to some visitors this has proved a nuisance.

A friend of mine who was taking his girl friend for a long drive along one of America's transcontinental highways had to stop — just to relax and to take it easy. No sooner had he stopped than there came a passing motorist offering help. He thanked him but this was only the beginning of an avalanche of American kindness. More motorists came and went. At last one man came and asked: "Do you need anything?"

My friend exploded: "Yes, a few moments of peace and quiet, please." Of course, after this my friend kept moving!

Honesty is the watchword of workers. An Indian friend in New York who was taking me round New York had a little trouble with his car. He thought he would be fleeced if he went into a shop for repair. But he had to go. There we saw the guardian-angel of a mechanic who took a quick glance at the engine of our car and blew away some dust from the carburettor. Then he started it.

"Right, all okay," he said and signalled us to go.

"How much?" my friend asked.

"Keep your money," said the man and then he moved away.

"Thank you, John," said my friend. Yes, his name was stitched on his overall.

Another striking feature of American character is their sense of

humour. It was typically American. Soon after our arrival in Lubbock in Texas, we were made Temporary Texans with the award of suitably printed certificates. This was followed by making us Honorary Citizens of Lubbock and Life Members of the Chamber of Commerce

Honorary Citizenship was also conferred on us when we visited El Paso. The Citizenship papers, signed by the Mayor of the City, says — "Issued to J.V. Morais. In recognition of many achievements he is hereby designated as an honorary citizen of the city of El Paso, Texas, May 2-, 1958."

It was at Fort Bliss, Texas, that we were appointed to the distinguished degree of the Twenty Four Hour Expert Oozlefinchling."

Our citation, signed by none other than General Sam G. Russell, Chief Oozlefinchling 11 states: "He has been exposed to the fleeting fragments of erudition in the abstruse and lofty field of guided missiles. He has endured the persistent sun, wind and sand of the fabulous Southwest without losing direction or suffering cerebral fatigue. He has submitted unflinchingly to the pitfalls of the Border without relinquishing his punctilious pride and martial bearing.

He has earned the right to fly tail foremost, and to wear earplugs and blinders at all occasions attended by the weaker sex."

Don't ask me what Oozlefinchling means. Oozlefinch is a legendary bird, if I remember correctly, protecting the Air Force or other parts of the armed forces.

But this much can be said. That we South East Asian journalists were not the only people honoured with the award of the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Oolefinch.

Many eminent Americans from New York, Chicago, Washington and Oklahoma also received these certificates from General Russell.

In Honolulu, we visited a submarine and after an exciting time during which the vessel once dived and remained under water for nearly an hour, we were presented with a certificate of "Honorary Submariner." The certificate of Honorary Submariner had this to say:

"Know ye that Victor Morais was this date received into the realm of Neptunes Rex and indoctrinated in the mysteries of the deep while visiting on board the U.S.S. Sabalo (SS320) and is hereby designated as Honorary Submariner of the Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, 29. May, 1958."

It was signed by W. Masek, Jr., L. Cdr., U.S.N., Commanding, Navy-Pearl Harbour.

While I was in the underground headquarters of the Strategic Air Command I was surprised to notice among the grim looking faces and frightening mechanical devices, a huge map of the world — showing

strategic bases — most of these bases had laughterprovoking code names such as Jane Mansfield, Marilyn Monroe and so on. Another indication of the sense of humour of the Americans.

Baseball competitions were in full swing when I was in the U.S. For instance, there was the World Series — note 'World series'. When I asked an American friend why they called the competition world series when only teams in the U.S. were participating, he coolly replied: "We thought the world began with us and ended here!"

All these illustrate the simple but friendly way of the Americans. All the same, some of their actions to many of us Asians, had a smacking of tom-foolery or is it a case of jokes being carried too far?

Talking of humour, I am reminded of the stories or rather the yarns I heard about Texans and Texas when I was in Texas. They have a terrific sense of humour.

To begin with, according to Texans, Texas is the only State in the Union which, by constitutional provision, can divide itself into five separate States without asking leave of anybody. It was part of the deal with Uncle Sam when the United States joined Texas!

Why Texas ticks? Because Texas is fun, if not funny, but Texans are funnier. Texans have fun from necessity — that without a sense of humour they could not live sanely amid the extremes of good and bad that nature has bestowed upon this mighty Empire — that is Texas!

Bragging is second nature to a Texan. Texans get a kick out of admitting that a Texan once had to visit a psychiatrist and his trouble was that he was not proud of Texas!

Texans even tell strangers it is not hard to find Texas. "Just drive on until you come to the place where the folks are working, praying, building, planning, growing and bragging in a big way — and stop right there. That's Texas."

Texan jokes are sometimes carried too far. Here is one instance. In trying to illustrate the size of Texas a Texan told a Briton: "You can get on a train headed west from Houston one morning and the next morning you will still be in Texas."

Replied the Briton, a Scot at that, "We have some slow trains in Britain, too, old chap."

And here is one story to the credit of a Texan. Some folks in Illinois decided to show a visiting Texan that they could brag too. They put two big turtles in their visitor's bed. When the Texan retired, he felt them, reached down into the dark and pulled them out. Calling to his host he asked what they were.

"Just Illinois bedbugs," was the calm reply.

"Little fellows, aren't they?" drawled the Texan more calmly and then went off to sleep!

But when talking to a Texan be careful to draw lines of distinction between fun and facts, fancy and fiction. Texan jokes are really 'Texantic' — only Texans can create them and enjoy most. Here are two popular expressions: If all the hogs in Texas were one big hog, he could dig the Panama Canal with three roots and a grunt.

And if the cotton crop of Texas were made into one big mattress, all the people of the world could take a siesta on it at the same time. So mighty big are Texan products!

There is fun even in the names Americans give their cities and towns and even villages. Towns with girls' names include Alice, Bettie, Irene, Peggy and Rosita. And with boys' names: Anthony, Benjamin, Charlie, Dennis, James and Thomas. Among other names of towns worthy of mention are Cee Vee, Choice, Fairplay, Fate, Goodnight, Needmore, Time, Shiner and Wink. Also there are places called Plainview, Friday, Petty, Cross Roads, Structure, Stout, Venus, Content, Comfort and Tarzan. Looking elsewhere we find Hell Michigan and Paradise Michigan! There are even towns called Telephone without a single telephone and Coffee Mill where you cannot even get a cup of coffee.

Among the funniest surnames I heard in the U.S. are Gergle, Gasser, Coffin, Goon and Spitoon. The Texans have a favourite dish known as Son-of-a-gun stew — a chuck wagon favourite, they say.

In spite of all these boasts, the best known Texans we were told, won their greatest fame not in Texas but outside their mighty Empire of Texas! I trust my Texan friends will forgive me for quoting what an Ohio columnist wrote: "Seeing a Texan would be embarrassing to anyone except a Texan!" An American can chuckle even when he is the goat.

Now what are the hobbies of Americans? They are many and varied. Some resort to the harmless pastimes of walking, talking and just star-gazing. But to the large majority hobby means work, more work and still more work. Most of them return home from work to work again!

There is one thing that did not create a good impression on me. That is the rather unimpressive clothes worn by many American men. Only a small percentage of the men were smartly dressed. Most of the working men seemed to adopt a "couldn't care less" attitude about their clothes. They appeared to be happy with any kind of combination of clothes — gaudy loose shirts and baggy trousers and cowboy hats. Few, very few — bothered about wearing ties. More preferred bow-ties. But the vast majority wore no ties and no

moustaches!

Casual glances at American newspapers and magazines gave me new knowledge of American habits and customs. Like some of the magazines and papers in India, I saw pages and pages devoted to advertising "Strictly Personal" notices by men and women of all ages.

Under the heading "The Gift of Love" one ad. said, "Professional man, 30's, cultured, youthful, atheletic, 5' 7", clean cut appearance, honest, warm-hearted and generous, emotionally matured, affectionate, possessing sensitivity, strength and tenderness, offers loving heart, kindness, understanding to lonesome miss, pretty, petite, affectionate, 18 — 23, who desires physical and spiritual expression of love. Share mutual interests, music, theatre. Sincere friendship or marriage. Religion no barrier. Fond of children. No objection to divorcee. Snapshot appreciated!"

One American seeking an Amazon had this published: "Male 30, 5' 7" handsome, wealthy or aggressive, wishes to hear from mature independent lady, 5' 7" to 6' 3", rather unconventional and preferably buxom, with long or dark tresses. Age, weight or race no matter. Will answer all letters."

Another was very frank when he advertised "Temporarily broke" but....." Young photographer, gentleman, 30's good appearance, college educated, understanding and broadminded, seeks romantic friendship with mature woman. Age, religion, nationality, no barrier."

As I have said earlier, young and old play this game. Here are two ads put in by more than middle-aged women: "I'm 58, feel young, gay, optimistic, and I'm happy, shapely lady, home loving and true. Seek gentleman, Canada, my own age. Marriage. No triflers. Maryland only."

The other: Seeks marriage-minded gentleman under 60, tall, truthful, secure, good character. My qualifications are as mentioned above. I'm attractive, Italian descent, fine home maker, and, above all, a ONE MAN WOMAN. Only those similarly qualified please reply giving telephone number, address, snapshot."

Why, some guys even offer scientific introductions to lonesome men and women. One advertisement boasted: "Meet the right one at the only authentic Scientific Introduction Service. Our Introductions work out! We use modern scientific methods and an "Electronic" brain. Absolutely confidential." And this is no joke. Recently one couple out of thirty-five accepted the advice of the Electronic Brain in Hollywood — the first to be chosen by a machine. They married.

The Brain chooses couples who seemed to be best suited to each other. Each week personal details of applicants are fed into and sorted by the "cupid with coils" on the television show, "People are Funny."

The "Brain's" advice may or may not be accepted. But there you are — even machines to help choose our better halves!

BELIEF IN DEMOCRACY

Lastly let me turn to more serious things. Americans not only believe in democracy but practise democracy. A shining example of this is the case of the U.S Representative, D.S. Saund, who was born in India. He won re-election in November, 1958 to the U.S. Congress. Democrat Saund had 46,312 votes against 28,678 for his Republican opponent. Saund represents California's 29th Congressional district. His margin of victory, nearly 17,000 is considerably greater than the 4,000 vote margin which took him to victory five years ago against the well-known Mrs. Jacqueline Cochran Odlum. That victory made him the first Asian to serve either United States House or Senate.

Saund went to the U.S in 1920 to study agriculture. He graduated in 1924 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Mathematics. Shortly afterwards he married an American girl and they moved to the Imperial Valley where they engaged in farming. He later became a member of the powerful U.S. House of Foreign Affairs Committee.

Saund, the Indian, is a living example of "how democracy works in America." Saund himself has said, "I believe that many people just thought it was an opportunity to demonstrate that they believed in democracy and fair play."

And finally, you may ask, "What do you think of journalism in America?" To begin with there is nothing more American than American newspapers.

After 40 years of newspaper experience in Malaya I was more than shocked at the size of some newspapers in the U.S. Why, you will need a station-wagon to carry a few copies of the Sunday edition of New York Times. It takes hours and hours, if not days to go through the Sunday edition. But I doubt if many people read them..... at the most they take a cursory glance at them and then they go out of sight for all time. What a waste of effort and what a waste of money.

Americans proudly claim that freedom of the Press is jealously guarded but my investigations in the U.S revealed that some of the newspapers only present news and views favourable to parties who own them or support them.

One Malayan who spent more than six months in America told me: "Free thinking in the U.S. is muzzled....." I for one was much impressed by the impartial display of news..... both favourable and unfavourable in the U.S.

The outlook of some newspapers is commercial. They act as vendors of goods and render services of all kinds. The news columns trade largely in sex, crime and gossip. It was a change to learn that in San Francisco and Los Angeles, the Press is regarded as a terror. It lays down the law for the politicians and the people.

A rather disturbing fact in the U.S. political life is the way in which papers, subscribe liberally to election campaign funds to make some congressmen and senators virtually their prisoners.

THE AMERICAN INDIANS

No story on America can be considered complete without some reference to the American Indians, who have continuously inhabited North America for more than 30,000 years. The American Indians are the only native ethnic element in the American mosaic. According to the 1980 census there are now only 1,361,000 Indians.

On the whole the progress of American Indians has been slow — very slow indeed. It was only in 1972 that the office of Indian Education and the National Advisory Council on Indian Education were created to provide bilingual/bicultural enrichment programmes, teacher training and adult and early childhood programmes.

Also only in recent years that efforts have been made to protect the Indians in the possessions of their lands, resources and rights.

We, South East Asian journalists were not given an opportunity, to visit any American Indian settlement or a group of Indians. The only Indians we saw were the few who were "exhibited" in The Disney Land! Today American Indians have a unique legal status under the U.S. constitution — that of sovereign tribes.

"They at times have encountered difficulties in ensuring that the Federal Government fulfill its obligations toward them. They have never forgotten what their rights were and, especially over the past two decades, they have asserted these through judicial means", says Michael Doris, Professor of Antropology, who is the Chairman of the National American Studies Department of Dartmouth College, U.S.A.

"GOLDEN WHEEL" IN U.S. SPACE CENTRE



Among the many publications I have edited the one that had a world-wide subscription is **GOLDEN WHEEL**, which records the activities and achievements of Rotary Clubs in Southeast Asia.

One copy of the Golden Wheel was sent to Houston, Texas, U.S.A. In this picture members of the Space Centre Rotary Club are going through the Golden Wheel.

From left to right are: Dr. Dinanath D. Nadkarni of Technical Engineering Staff Lockheed Electronics Company, Houston Operations. Member of the Space Centre Rotary Club, Roger F. Hobart, Personnel Manager, of General Electric Company, Houston Operations. Out-going President of Space Centre Rotary Club, Astronaut Rusty Schweickart of Manned Spacecraft Centre, NASA, Houston, Texas, USA. He was the Lunar Module Pilot of Apollo IX space flight. A member of the Space Centre Rotary Club, Gene Lindquist, Vice-President-Director of the Webster State Bank, near the Manned Spacecraft Centre at Houston, Texas, USA and the new President of Space Centre Rotary Club.

PERAK STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR



His Royal Highness the late Sultan Abdul Aziz of Perak giving me the letter of appointment as a member of the Perak State Executive Council. I was the first Malay-
an of Indian origin in Perak to become a State Executive Councillor from 1948 to 1949.
From 1951 to 1952 I served as a member of the Perak Legislative Council. The presen-
tation of the letters of appointment to all State Councillors took place in the Throne
Room of Istana Iskandariah (the Palace) in Kuala Kangsar, the Royal Town of Perak.



I am with my good old friend, Lawyer Shelley Yap Yeok Siew, the Hon'ble Tan Sri Lee Hun Hoe, the Chief Justice of Borneo and Mrs Yap. This picture was taken at the Kinabalu International Hotel after the Sabah Lawyers Association dinner. I was the guest of Mr. Shelley Yap.

FIRST CLUB OF ITS KIND



A few friends and I formed a new organisation for social and cultural activities early in 1933. It was called the Cos Club. I am seated first from left and next to me are Dr. Puran Singh and Lim Kean Hooi, a senior teacher of St. Michael's Institution, Ipoh. Standing from left: Chin Mook Loy, a teacher, Dr. Goh Teik Wah, a medical practitioner of Ipoh, G.E. Pavee, a former Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police and Hussein, a senior Co-operative Officer. The Cos Club was the first organisation of its kind in Malaya then.

THEY HELPED PURE LIFE SOCIETY



With the officials and helpers of the Pure Life Society, Puchong, Kuala Lumpur. I am standing on extreme left and in front of me seated is the late Mr. Paramalingam, a former Public Trustee. Seated in the centre is Datuk Yusuf and on his left is Sister Mangalam, the President of the Society and next to her are my wife, Gladys and on extreme right Mrs. Shanti Zachariah.

WITH THE VICTORIOUS SOCCER TEAM



With the Selangor Indian Association Soccer Team that won the Kuala Lumpur Football League Competition when I was the S.I.A. President. Third from left standing is Clement Soosay, the Captain of the S.I.A. team and next to him is Santock Singh, a Committee Member. In the front row on right is Xavier, the S.I.A. Soccer Coach and well-known Selangor sportsman.

CHAPTER 22

BATTLE AGAINST PREJUDICE

"America is magnificently free from intolerance," wrote an English journalist. But is she? We, South East Asian newspapermen asked our American friends many questions about this when we were in the U.S. One American leader said: "The intelligent victim of intolerance suffers worse punishment than the old-fashioned whipping-post would ever provide..... millions of intelligent Blacks know it to be true."

"This was the kind of punishment that caused Negro singer, Paul Robeson, to become a Communist sympathiser. He just couldn't take it. He was impatient with the slow process of democracy. His feelings are movingly illustrated in one of his famous songs..... "Nobody knows the trouble I have seen, nobody knows my sorrows."

If there is tolerance, why was there a situation such as the one in the infamous Little Rock, Alabama and the ghettos of Chicago, Cleveland or Omaha? Americans lose no time in pointing to their critics "the greatest social injustices existing in South Africa and India."

The battle against prejudice is being waged but it will take time to win. The first and foremost job all thinking Americans must do, and do it soon according to an American Black leader, is to eradicate the cancer of all prejudices. The Southerners must concede the error of their views and ways.

I agree that it is difficult for whites to understand the effect that three centuries of slavery, exploitation and indignity have had on the fabric of Black society.

My voyage of discovery gave me a new insight into the Black society. I had thought that most of the Blacks were poor and discriminated against. But I was wrong. I found out during our visit to various cities that there were Blacks who have two-storey mansions in garden towns with spacious garages for their cars. Why, once I saw a Black maid arriving in a huge car — auto they call it — to report for work in the house next to the house of my friend, an Indian diplomat, Victor Shukla. Maids are paid handsome wages in the U.S. — they are better paid than some of our teachers in Malaya.

Let us see the Black problem in perspective. Dramatic changes in

his outlook and his earning power have taken place all over the country. Today, the Black worker gets four times what he made in 1940, though it is still half the wage of the average white worker. Happily this situation is changing. There are occupations such as waiters and porters where Blacks get as much as the White man for the same type of work.

A Black who works in a leading hotel in Hollywood where I stayed admitted this. In fact, there is no salary discrimination between people, be they white or coloured if they are at the same job.

There is a widespread impression in most of the Asian countries that the Blacks, by and large, are illiterate, irresponsible and mischief-mongers. This is not true. There are thousands of eminent men and women of Black origin who have been and still are playing no small a role in building the prosperity and prestige of the American nation today.

BROOKE AND BUNCHE

Until recently there was a Black in sub-Cabinet post and another on the White House Executive staff. One of the foremost is Edward Brooke, former Attorney-General of Massachusetts and once the nation's highest elected Black official in the U.S.

Brooke was elected Massachusetts Attorney-General in 1962 and re-elected in 1964 by a staggering 800,000 majority. He was the only Black Attorney-General in the U.S. His victory in Massachusetts was remarkable because this State has one of the lowest proportionate Black populations — a mere two per cent.

Says Brooke: "I was a Protestant in a Catholic State, a Republican in a Democratic State and a Negro in a Caucasian State. In addition, I was poor, but I got over one million votes when I first ran for a state-wide office in Massachusetts in 1960."

That is a striking demonstration of the reawakening that is taking place in the U.S. today especially among the white Americans.

America has produced many outstanding Black poets and philosophers, scientists and scholars and statesmen, diplomats and educationists. Of them one of the most remarkable was Booker T. Washington. Though born in slavery, he rose by his vision and dedication to a position of leadership and power. Author of several books he is the founder of the well-known Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Harvard conferred on him an honorary degree of Master of Arts — the first New England College to honour a coloured American. Another outstanding American Black was Dr. Ralph Bunche, former Under-Secretary General for Special Political Affairs of the

United Nations.

He was easily one of the greatest Americans of all times. Bunche received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950 and 13 years later, he was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honour that America can bestow on a civilian.

Bunche owed his success mainly to his grandmother — Nana. His parents died before he reached the age of 13. He saw with his own eyes how his grandmother used to fight prejudice and discrimination. She never gave up. She had the satisfaction of seeing Bunche coming first in his class and striving successfully for his doctorate. He was a symbol of what a Black can accomplish in society despite the handicap of race.

"It is all too clear, from the wars, bigotry, intolerance and inhumanity we see all about us, that we desperately need her kind. Nana believed in the essential decency and goodness of the human race. That was the lesson of her life to me. It sustained me in my work at the United Nations for peace, freedom and human well-being", said Bunche just before his death.

As an Asian newsman, I was happy to hear that a reporter in the New York Herald Tribune was a Black J. Ernest Wilkins. He was one of the youngest men (he was only nineteen) to get a Ph. D. at the University of Chicago.

Despite the high positions in Government held by some Blacks the majority of them are still struggling to eke out an existence by all sorts of menial and other jobs.

When I was in Los Angeles, I went to a shop..... or rather a shack at the side of a building. It was owned by two young shoe-shine Blacks. While one of them was at work with my shoes, I looked around. There in front of me was this notice: "Please don't ask for information, for if we know all, we won't be doing this."

That was really touching..... touching the hearts of all who have a conscience.

After the tour of the U.S. I am convinced that reports of anti-Black feeling were often exaggerated. It is not as bad as portrayed in the Asian press.

However, we, the Asian journalists, were disappointed because we were not provided an opportunity to meet Black leaders or visit Black institutions or homes. There was no mention of any of them during our tour. Why? I wonder.

The Blacks are not without blame. They must show the power to endure wrong. They must bear in mind that Civil Rights demonstrations are quite different from riots — riots such as those in Watts

which shook the American public. These riots were the work of unruly, frenzied mobs and were typified by senseless bloodshed, pillage and looting. On the other hand the Civil Rights March on Washington in 1963 was intended to be constructive. To a large extent the march was responsible for the Civil Rights Act.

CRIES OF DEFIANCE

The angry cries of defiance by segregationists, let us hope, are only a temporary tantrum. Sooner or later the sooner the better — the South must find its future, in the national pattern.

Symptomatic of the grim determination of the average Black to fight for and even to die for his rights as a citizen is the following Black calypso:

“Ain't gonna let nobody turn me round,
Gonna keep on awalking,
Keep on atalking,
Marching on to Freedom Land.”

In the battlefield the coloured and the white Americans live, work and die together with a comradeship devoid of discrimination or racial tension. And if Vietnam war proved nothing else, it provided an inspiring example of unity between the white and the coloured Americans.

Indications are that hatred and bitterness that cloud the vision of the rabid racists will fade away before long.

It goes without saying that unless we believe in the divine essence in all people irrespective of colour, creed and in the unity of God — expressed as a whole — United Nations and the concept of one world have no basis.

To use the words of the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the most famous of Black leaders. “I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brother-hood can never become a reality.”

The American Blacks are confident of ultimate success.....but it is a slow process. Meanwhile most of the Blacks walk with their chests forward and heads up. They fear no one.

Here is a true story I heard from a Black himself. An elderly Russian woman was staying in the hotel where the Black was a head-waiter.

Out of curiosity, the Russian lady enquired: “Are you an African?”

“No,” replied Joe, the Black.

“Are you an Indian,” persisted the Russian.

“No, No,” said Joe.

"Then what are you?" continued the woman.

"I am an American," said Joe proudly.

"What kind of American are you?" she retorted.

"I am an American, American," added Joe and turned away in disgust.

An attorney-at-law whom I had the pleasure of meeting while in Texas gives a vivid picture of the racial issue in a letter he wrote to me: "We are still plagued with the racial question in this country," he says, "and my beloved Southland, I am ashamed to say, is still leading the fight for the preservation of a system that we know to be morally, legally and economically unsound. However, we are making some progress."

My friend who was a District Judge, continues: "Less and less people whose only qualifications for office is their bigotry are being elected to office. I stood for office again this year (1958) and publicly took a stand for preservation of law and order in the racial question.

"I was beaten by a man who received 55% of the votes, and took a stand for the old dying question. No one likes to lose, especially when he thinks his position is sound but there is some solace in the number of votes I received after taking my stand."

This comment of his is more significant: "Thirty years ago I could not have remained in my community after taking such a stand, twenty years ago I would have been considered a traitor and only ten years ago I would not have received 10% of the votes..... I shall return to private practice of law here in Texas with no regrets."

I don't agree with the writer who said only the Black can make himself equal. What, if you close your doors and don't let him in?

SOUTH MUST CHANGE

Many eminent Americans are outspoken in their criticism of the anti-Black South. Among them is Editor Harry Ashmore of Arkansas Gazette.

"Little Rock's segregationists called the Gazette, "that nigger-loving paper," and the Local Citizens Council labelled him "Public Enemy No. 1."

Ashmore said the South must change with the changing times before changes were forced upon it from outside. He maintained that the vital issue was "the supremacy of the Government of the U.S. in all matters of law."

Despite a massive crusade against his paper, Ashmore remained determined to fight segregation and other evils.

The Pulitzer Prize Committee gave Editor Ashmore and his paper a double prize "for demonstrating civic leadership, journalistic responsibility and moral courage in the face of mounting public opinion."

As the foremost leader of civil rights movement, the late Martin Luther King spoke eloquently for the 20 million Blacks of the U.S. when he said during his acceptance address on receiving the Nobel Prize in Oslo in December, 1964: "I accept this award on behalf of a civil rights movement which is moving, with determination and a majestic scorn for risk and danger to establish a reign of freedom and a rule of justice.

"I am mindful that..... in Birmingham, Alabama, our children, crying out for brotherhood, were answered with firehoses, snarling dogs and even death. I am mindful that in Philadelphia and Mississippi, young people seeking to secure the right to vote were brutalized and murdered. And, more than 40 houses of worship in the State of Mississippi alone were bombed or burned because they offered a sanctuary to those who would not accept segregation. I am mindful that debilitating and grinding poverty afflicts my people and chains them to the lowest rung of the economic ladder.

OBNOXIOUS TRADITIONS

"Therefore, I must ask why this prize is awarded to a movement which is beleaguered and committed to an unrelenting struggle, to a movement which has not won the very peace and brotherhood which is the essence of the Nobel Prize.

The tortuous road which has led from Montgomery, Alabama to Oslo is a road over which millions of Blacks are travelling to find a new sense of dignity. This same road has opened for all Americans a new era of progress and hope. It has led to the Civil Rights Bill, and it will, I am convinced, be widened and lengthened into a superhighway of justice as Blacks and white men in increasing numbers create alliances to overcome their common problems.

"I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and non-violent, redemptive goodwill proclaimed the rule of the land. And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid. I still believe that we shall overcome....."

These stirring words speak for themselves. I hope they will help change those who cling to obnoxious traditions of the 'black' days of slavery.

The winds of change for the better are now sweeping the country. A white sergeant serving in Vietnam paid this splendid tribute to Capt. George Forest, a Black, 29, of the U.S. First Cavalry Division: "He is the greatest I have served under during 11 years of the Army. He is right 98 per cent of the time and no one does better than that. When I call him 'Sir', I mean it."

There are countless stories of Blacks rescuing wounded whites from the bullets of no man's land. The awards of America's highest military decoration — the Congressional Medal of Honour — posthumously awarded to an 18-year-old Black killed in action in Vietnam should stir the conscience of all Americans, even those segregationists.

In presenting the medal to the father of Private First Class Milton L. Oliva, at a special White House ceremony in April, 1966 former President Johnson said, with a crack in his voice: "Let us not for one moment disguise in the grandest justification of policy the inescapable fact that war feeds on the lives of young men — good young men like Milton Oliva. I cannot forget it. I am reminded of it every moment of every day."

Private Oliva was the eighth Black to win this award.

Suffice it to say that he made the supreme sacrifice when he threw himself on a Vietcong hand-grenade and saved the lives of four of his comrades. Heroism of this type is rare in any theatre of war and that a young American Black has earned the gratitude of the nation should open the eyes of die-hard segregationists and their kind.

Of late several coloured Americans have risen to the top. Some of them head important diplomatic missions. One Miss Barbara Watson was America's Ambassador to Malaysia when Jimmy Carter was the President of the United States.

One fact that made me and some others to sit up and think is the existence of churches — yes, churches — exclusively for Blacks.

SEGREGATION IN CHURCHES?

Segregation in churches? Thank God, such churches, I was told, are few. There are no two ways to heaven. So why different churches for different people? Religious workers are facing the greatest challenge of all times but, undaunted, the vast majority of them are carrying on their missionary work to save souls for Christ.

It was a revelation to me to be told that of late more and more Americans are following Buddhism and Hinduism: There are temples, mosques and synagogues in almost every city in America.

One more word before I conclude this chapter: My observations during our tour of America give me this important impression: On the whole there is a growing understanding of the problem of the coloured Americans. More and more people are now prepared to do their utmost to improve the lot of the Blacks.

Despite some disturbing signs sometimes, here and there, I am convinced that the American Blacks — I mean the entire race — has a bright future ahead living in democratic America.

CHAPTER 23

THE MOST POWERFULL MILITARY FORCE

If you want to see some semblance of the shape of things to come, then go to the United States. There you will not only witness the greatest ever demonstration of military power but of the determination of the nation to be on the alert at all times.

The first big impact on our minds came when we arrived in Clark Air Base, the biggest of its kind in Asia. In this "Little America" we were given some idea of what to expect in the United States.

In Honolulu we saw the growing military might of the United States. Grim memories of the last war came to our minds as we toured Pearl Harbour where the Japanese launched their attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet which resulted in the loss of three thousand and sixty seven American servicemen.

From the carnage of 7th December, 1941 has grown the magnificent base of the Pearl Harbour of today — ever vigilant and ready for any emergency.

From San Francisco we flew to the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, in Florida, the nucleus and nerve centre for the Air Navy. Located here is the headquarters for the Naval Air Training Command, the Naval Base Training Command, Naval Hospital, the Commissary and the main Naval Exchange.

It was however in the Elgin Air Force Base — the largest base in the world — we witnessed the biggest ever air power demonstration.

All kinds of latest aircraft, missiles and guns were seen in action. New and better weapons of warfare to blow the enemy into eternity were on display.

Today the U.S. Air Force is capable of carrying in a single nuclear weapon more power than was contained in all the bombs dropped by the U.S. in the combined efforts of World wars I and II and the Korean conflict.

It was also in Elgin Air Base that we saw some of the latest intermediate and intercontinental ballistic missiles. Included in the vast Elgin Base is the Elgin Gulf Test Range. It has radar control and tracking sites, elementary equipment and range safety devices.

In the climatic laboratory in Elgin we were shown how climatic test-

ing of all types of equipment used by Air Force and other services of the Department of Defence is carried out. The laboratory operated within a temperature range of plus one hundred and sixty five degrees to minus sixty five degrees Fahrenheit. We had the greatest thrill of our lives when we walked through this laboratory over man-made snow. There is an All Weather Room in this laboratory in order to simulate weather conditions in all parts of the world for testing aircraft.

Indicative of the growing military strength of the U.S. is the strategic Air Command headquarters in Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. This thirty million dollars (Malayan) building has six storeys — the control tower being buried forty-five feet beneath the earth.

Facilities in the underground command post include a communications centre, a global weather control station, connections to a worldwide radio system and a closed circuit telephone system connecting the centre to each S.A.C. base in the U.S. and overseas. This gives the S.A.C. commander complete control over S.A.C.'s global operations, and the ability to order his strike force of bombers and missiles into action within seconds.

In the event of an emergency the control centre would automatically be sealed off and would become self — sustaining. It has its own air-conditioning system, independent water supply, an emergency electrical power system, complete communicating systems for teletype and voice transmission and a thirty day supply of emergency rations.

During our stay in the underground command, far-flung air bases were contacted and messages given and replies received in a matter of seconds.

S.A.C. is recognised as the most powerful military force ever created, and was established on 21st March 1946. Since then, it has been maintained as a combat-ready force on a wartime basis. It has more than forty home bases and more than ten overseas bases. The might of the S.A.C. may be gauged from its personnel strength of one hundred and ninety eight thousand airmen and officers.

Air refuelling gives S.A.C. planes global range. Furthermore S.A.C. wings can conduct combat operations outside the United States for thirty days independent of outside support. S.A.C. trains around the clock so that it can be ready to launch an immediate nuclear attack on enemy targets if war should be declared.

General Thomas S. Power, S.A.C.'s Commander-in-Chief, says, "S.A.C. is prepared to win the air power battle in any war, big or small. Behind the continuing operations and training are the people

of S.A.C. and their understanding that world peace is the Command's primary mission. They are the heart of the deterrent force which is our best hope of preventing war while we continue to work toward a peaceful solution to world problems."

Sir Winston Churchill once remarked, "The U.S. Strategic Air Command is a deterrent of the highest order and maintains ceaseless readiness. We owe much to their devotion to the cause of freedom in a troubled world. The primary deterrents to aggression remain the nuclear weapon and the ability of the highly organised and trained U.S. Strategic Air Command to use it."

One must see it to believe its strength and readiness. Most of us felt that we were in the midst of the nerve-centre of real war operations — the determination and dedication reflected in the faces of the officers and men in the underground S.A.C. headquarters strikingly demonstrated the power for peace and the power for victory that is the Strategic Air Command.

In the first U.S. Army Air Defence School, which we visited in Fort Bliss, Texas, there are formal courses in the theory and technique of guided missiles. The first course was held in 1946 with only five officers in the class. Today the school has over five thousand officers and enlisted men as "Students." It also trains personnel of S.E.A.T.O. countries in guided missiles. Twenty-eight nations were represented at the time of our visit.

The "Power for Peace" is maintained all over the United States. The U.S. armed forces — its men, ships, planes and missiles — are now strategically located around the world.

Today a good portion of U.S. jet bombers are on a fifteen-minute runway alert. In Alaska, England and Morocco and across the U.S., the crews and the sleek B47's stand twenty-four hour watch. At other forward points, the U.S. Air Force is poised for instant reaction should a radarscope pick up the blips of an attacking force. Never before was the nation so well prepared in its mission of maintaining peace as it is today. What we, the South East Asian newsmen saw strengthened our faith in the future of the free world.

Before I close this chapter I wish to refer to one event that remains and will always remain in my mind.

It is probably the most memorable of all impressions of people and places in the United States. I am thinking of my meeting with the world's first space-man, Colonel David Simons of the American Air Force. This thirty-nine year-old scientist risked life and limb by soaring above the world in a balloon. He reached the fantastic height of one hundred and two thousand feet. Never before had man been so

high and for so long.

In doing this, Dr. Simons underwent a harrowing ordeal. And this is what he told me in a few words after describing his flight:

"I was running low on battery power. So I cut off the capsule cooling system. Then the temperature went up to 84. I was feeling miserably hot in my pressure suit. As a doctor I knew what was happening.

"I was becoming panic-stricken partly due to carbon dioxide poisoning. The heat was also unbearable.

"A period of suspense and anxiety. And then a break in the clouds. From ninety-five thousand feet I descended slowly but the balloon picked up more heat, the gas expanded and I rose again".

"I felt fear again," continued Dr. Simons, "but after thirty-two minutes in the air, I landed."

"Oh my, oh my," I exclaimed.

"Will you go up that way again?" I asked.

With a broad smile, "Of course, if need be," he added.

In passing I must say that the United States' "Power for Peace" is made up of more than just military force.

Former President Eisenhower emphasised this by saying: "The defence of the United States is accomplished by all the United States, not merely by defence forces. The armed forces themselves are nothing but the cutting edge of a great machine that must have power and must be sustained in all its strength before it can be effective."

My observations gave me this important impression. By and large the American people are business-minded, indulge in money-making pursuits and may appear to have a "couldn't care less" attitude about what their Government is doing. But there appeared to be no doubt whatsoever that the whole nation will rise as one man in case of a national emergency.

CHAPTER 24

FAREWELL TO AMERICA

America seen is more incredible than America imagined. It is a land of peace and plenty. It is a land of goodwill and harmony. It is a land of skyscrapers and magnificent bridges. Above all, it is a land of friendly and hospitable people. Yes, it is also a land of do gooders.

More things are attempted and accomplished in five weeks in America than are done in five years in South East Asia. Truly it is a dream-land, a land of excitement, a land of wealth and beauty, a land of fantastic speed and a land of the highest living on earth.

Foremost among my impressions of America and the Americans are:

1. The high tempo of life and the amazing array of life's luxuries in American homes.
2. The diversity within unity of the American people and their friendly and kindly attitude to visitors.
3. The complete preparedness of the armed forces for any emergency.
4. The engineering and architectural wonders like the towering 102-storey Empire State Building and the Pentagon, the world's largest office building.
5. And the indescribable beauty of the Grand Canyon, the master-piece of awe in Arizona and the magic kingdom called Disneyland.

The United States was in a pondering and reflective mood over the recession when we arrived in March, 1958. There were references in the newspapers about the recession. But there was no sign of anxiety over the economic situation besides the big campaign to boost the sale of cars as one of the measures to beat the recession. Everywhere we saw bill boards with the slogan: *You AUTO Buy Now!*

The Americans we met everywhere greeted us in a friendly way. 'You are welcome', 'A good trip and a happy time' and 'We hope you'll enjoy your stay here.' These words dominate my memories of our travels in America.

In summing up my experiences in the United States, the most

striking impression that keeps crowding in on me is the way of life of the Americans. There, I mean in most places, I saw democracy in action. In most places there was equality, there was dignity of labour, there was respect for law and order and there was tolerance in almost every sphere of human activity.

The Americans were very helpful. We were shown courtesy by all those we had the pleasure of meeting. Indeed, one must go to America to understand the Americans.

Vice versa, Americans must come to Asia to study Asia and Asians. Student exchanges on a much larger scale than at present will be a move in the right direction. Meanwhile schools in America should fill a glaring gap in the curriculum.

I refer to the deplorable lack of knowledge on the part of American students about the East.

My observations leave me with this impression. The Americans are moving too fast in all directions. The individual seems to be in a hurry to hit the top. In doing so he takes little or no interest about others outside his country.

A famous American film star was once warned by his mother: "Don't go so fast son, or you'll miss the scenery."

True enough. Today there is need — an urgent need — for a pause now and again to enjoy not only the scenery but the rhythm and symphony of life. Those who don't stop and think and relax may not only miss the scenery but also the sense of where they are going and why.

Americans I must say, in passing, gladly give aid to countries and people in need, but more often than not their gestures of generosity are misunderstood in this part of the world. We think American generosity is being pushed beyond the merits of a virtue.

It may well be for the U.S. to realise that mere giving aid to under-developed countries will not alone produce the goodwill they are seeking. What is needed is understanding on the part of America of other peoples and their problems. Then and only then, will Asians be convinced of the sincerity of America in giving foreign aid.

In my opinion more and more Americans of all walks of life should visit the East to study the Asian way of life, their customs and habits and their culture and their civilisation.

Asia has changed and is changing fast. The East is in ferment. Asia is awake and is on the move. I am sure there is much that Asia can show the West. They can learn and unlearn many things from one another. If they only visit and understand each other.

The time has arrived for the East and West to settle down to some

form of peaceful co-existence. America can and should play an important role to bring this about. The sooner, the better it will be for the world.

America should give due recognition to the growing importance of Asian countries in world affairs if feelings of Asians are not to be hurt and their friendship lost.

My Malayan and other Asian friends returned from America with varied impressions. But all of us are agreed on this. Though most of us may not see our American friends again, we often think what better understanding our people and those of the U.S. could have if more ordinary people were afforded the opportunity of freely and frankly expressing their views — as we did in America.

We would of course never agree on all things nor should it be necessary that we do, but we do believe that we would learn to respect the other man's opinion and not try to force our will upon others..... as the poet has said:

“For there's so much good in the worst of us
And so much bad in the best of us,
That it ill behoves any of us,
To find fault with the rest of us.”

“THE PRICELESS VISION”

I am reminded of the words of a prominent American — a judge — with whom I had a very long discussion during my visit to the U.S.

I quote: “The United States is perhaps an immature child upon whose head the mantle of world leadership has been placed too soon. We are not perfect and we know it. We have made and are making mistakes that a more matured nation would not make. But they are the mistakes of a sincere, if confused people. As time goes on we will learn to wear our mantle with humility rather than brashness, that must be so evident to the world.”

Indeed, in human personality genuine greatness and humility are almost always linked together.

Despite its shortcomings — and which country is perfect — there are many outstanding American achievements and aspects of life that have had their impact on people in this part of the world.

Now, what of the future? The life of every American is being affected by the big technical strides of the past few years. But so fast are changes taking place that no one can for certain say what will be the shape of things yet to come. The life of every American is being changed by events taking place in factories and laboratories all over the land. The progress of 100,000 Stone Age years is surpassed in a single year. Indeed the pace of change is incredible in America. The

frontiers of achievement in the U.S. are being advanced every minute.

The American scene is bewildering, if not, puzzling. The hustle and bustle of cities will continue. Despite the apparent chaos and confusion and the terrific speed and noise, the inexorable march to greater progress and still greater standard of living will go on in this mighty Utopia..... that is America.

Both friend and foe, will derive inspiration from the many things they see in this land of Uncle Sam. Criticise if you must, the ugly and unholy things you don't like about America. But let us be fair. Let us put our own house in order before attempting to find fault with America and things American. Let me put this way. 'Give the devil his due. The American by his hard work and ingenuity has produced wealth and a way of life which is the envy of many. Most of the hatred stems from jealousy of America's unique prosperity.'

If you want to know more about the faith of the American nation then read these words of Stephen Vincent Benet:

"For there's buried thing in all of us
Deeper than all the noise of the parade
The thing that haters never understood
And never will, the habit of the free.
Out of the flesh, out of the minds and hearts
Of thousand upon thousand common men.....
We made this thing, this dream
This land unsatisfied by little ways
This priceless vision groping for the stars."

So, farewell to you, America!

CHAPTER 25

LOOKING BACK: AS AN EDITOR

Many a time in the past people including visitors to this country have asked me questions about freedom of the Press in Malaysia, the role of the newspapers in this country, the ownership of newspapers and magazines and about censorship and other matters relating to the Press.

To begin with, let me say at once that the standard of journalism in Malaysia is high and our editors and our newspapers can hold their own with their counterparts in Western countries. But let me hasten to add that there are still areas which call for improvement.

The Constitution of Malaysia guarantees freedom of the press. The editors can appeal to the sacred charter if confronted by reprisals or interference from any quarters. Despite this fact there appears to be a tendency on the part of some newspapers to gloss over events that call for correction and shrink from exposing abuses and practices not beneficial to the general public.

More than a century ago The Times of London defined the role of the Press when it wrote: "The powers and the duty of the Press cannot be compared in any way with the power exercised by governments. Nor is the Press bound by the same limitations or the same liabilities.

"The dignity and freedom of the Press are trammelled from the moment it accepts an auxiliary position. The first duty of the press is to obtain the earliest and most correct intelligence of the events of the time, and instantly, by disclosing it, to make it the property of the nation."

Governments which believe in democracy and which have faith in the open dialogue as the foundation of a stable society, cannot reject basic rights which are the source of press freedom.

Most of our newspapers appear to toe the line of the Government in nearly all matters. What is needed today is clean, efficient and fearless journalism.

The press as an established institution need not necessarily go all out to support all social and political changes of any community or the country. Both the Government and the private sector are not infal-

lible. There have been and there will be occasions when the Press should, without hesitation, point out the inadequacies of unpopular measures.

Seldom, the critics say, our newspapers criticise the Government or any sections of the private sector. It is essential that newspapers keep clear of even a suspicion of obligation to authority or to the conscience. It is only by its vigilance and timely warnings that the Press can and should eliminate occasional abuses by constituted authority.

As the watchdog of the public the Press should always unhesitatingly and courageously draw attention to malpractices.

There is yet another aspect of the role that the press has to play in reporting current events. It is true that by and large most of the newspapers give objective accounts but some stoop low. As a result, the press, as a whole, is disgraced.

What the Press lords and the journalists in general should do is to add to the glory of journalism at all costs.

In other words the Press should serve as a Public Affairs Ombudsman. It is common knowledge that some people at the helm of affairs in Government and in private sector sometimes exercise undue and insidious influence over those who serve under them. There have been cases of some heads of firms and government departments behaving in an unfair and unjust manner in the treatment of those working under them.

TRUTH AND NEWS!

I know of some people whose careers have been ruined and those who have been compelled to resign because of the inhuman treatment meted out to them by their bosses.

The appointment of an Ombudsman I have suggested will be able to check these abuses by taking up complaints to higher authorities.

Newspapers may criticise if they must but criticism must be constructive. Freedom and responsibility must go hand in hand. It is an indisputable fact that in times of national crises some form of official control or check is necessary. The right to criticise must not be exercised in such a way as to undermine the social fabric of the nation.

What our editors should bear in mind is the fact that the paramount aim of a newspaper is the propagation of truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. It is the duty of the Press not to deviate from this fundamental function under any circumstances.

Mention of the word truth reminds me of this humorous story told by Lord Chalfont in an article in the London Times about the Russian Newspapers, "Pravda" which means Truth, and "Izvestia" which

means News. He recalled how his Russian tutor, who loves puns would often say, "In TRUTH there is no News and in NEWS no Truth!"

Whereas the newspapers give us news in which there is truth, there is need for more news and more features covering a wide range of subjects.

As a woman editor said recently, "A newspaper or a magazine must hit the readers where they live and think."

Do our newspapers hit all the readers? I doubt.

I for one would like to see more and more profiles of famous Malaysians and other outstanding people of all countries. After all what is the history of a nation but the biographies of its great citizens?

Profiles in achievement will serve to inspire the young readers of today who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Regarding freedom of the Press, not all our editors appear to write as freely as they should. There is hardly any criticism of individuals or institutions including the government. Why? Are they all perfect? In my view no one is too important to dispense with the timely tonic of criticism.

I recall that during the last Emergency some of our editors spoke out freely and fearlessly on national issues. My newspaper, the Malaya Tribune, once carried a front page story with this headline: "GRAY MUST GO". Colonel Gray was then the Commissioner of Police, Malaya. His policy in some matters was criticised by several sections of the public.

BRUSH WITH AUTHORITY

My first brush with authority came also during the last Emergency, when I was called to the Perak Police Headquarters over a letter from a reader our paper published about the rather unjust sentence passed on a suspected young woman Communist sympathiser. She was convicted for possession of arms and sentenced to death. This created a stir.

I explained to the Police Officer that it had been our practice to publish letters from our readers even if they criticise us or the Government.

In reply to a question I told him that the letter was edited by my Australian assistant and published in the front page in my absence. The State Legal Adviser, Mr. M.G. Neal who later became a High Court Judge, decided not to take any further action.

Also in connection with the case of the Chinese girl, the Tribune Group published a front page editorial in all their papers except the

Perak Edition. As the Perak Edition was published in my name, I could have got into serious trouble because the appeal was pending. My decision not to publish the editorial in the front page of the Perak Edition was supported by the late Tun Tan Cheng Lock one of our directors whom I had consulted by telephone.

I have mentioned this episode just to show the courageous action of our Editor-in-Chief, one Mr. D. F. Ludlow, who felt the judgement was rather severe.

In my opinion every editor should have a commitment to truth and justice which should be upheld at all times. Challenges to the Press come in different ways. Every responsible editor should have the courage of his conviction to stand up and fight for truth even if it is likely to cause his fall.

Coverage of news differs from paper to paper. It is not unusual now to see only the speeches of Ministers when reporting on various events. The readers expect a more comprehensive coverage of events including speeches of other participants at a function or a meeting. In the good old days the reporters submitted accounts of functions in detail.

SEX AND SCANDALS

Another charge against some of our newspapers is that they give far too much emphasis on sex and scandals following the example of some newspapers in the West.

By inquiry and investigation our reporters can do much more to bring to light cases of maladministration where it exists, corruption, drug abuse etc. I am not suggesting that they should resort to sensationalism in writing about mini "Watergates" and the like.

Editors, in my opinion, should publish as many letters from readers as possible — whether they praise or condemn individuals and institutions or even our government. The reading public has a right to know what is happening.

After all the most important coverage is the coverage of the readers. The genesis of a good story lies in a reader's needs, his fears, his hopes and his problems.

That being so reportorial beats should cover all sections of the public concerned with food, shelter, clothing, health, welfare and education in addition to features on advances in science, technology, medicine and national management of human affairs. Today, there is a paucity of features of human interest.

More important is the role the newspaper should play in provoking public debate on important political and social issues. In doing so

they will keep the Government of the day on its toes most of the time.

Everyting possible should be done by newspapers to enrich the lives of Malaysians and broaden the horizons of all citizens.

I agree with a famous publisher who wrote, "The ideals of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence — "that all men are created equal and have an inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" — are not ideals for Americans alone. They are for all mankind."

ROLE AS A CRUSADER

Every editor with integrity of thought, word and deed should take on the role of a crusader to do justice to his profession without fear or favour. Editors should not fail to point the way to reforms where and when necessary.

Newspapers will earn the lasting gratitude of millions if they will take editorial positions on such vital issues as spending of public funds, corruption, the hazards of cigarette smoking and drugs and industrial safety to mention only a few.

No task is more urgent today than the task of promoting discussion on important public issues.

Needless to say — but say, I must — editors should not swerve from the path of truth and justice for prizes or prestige. It goes without saying that an editor should not succumb to the temptation of sacrificing principles for the sake of getting advertisements. They should not surrender to the whims and fancies of publishers some of whom may have ulterior motives.

One word of advice to those journalists who aspire to become editors. They should observe a prosaic approach to their job by first of all, sitting down and analysing the factors that have contributed to the growth of several leading newspapers throughout the world.

Editors will do well to carry unceasingly a crusade against everything that is likely to ruin the younger generation. They should advocate new laws, if need be, to safeguard our children. In this connection I am reminded of a case in a Los Angeles court when a judge ruled that attempts to censor sex and violence in televisions shows for children was unconstitutional and a limitation of freedom.

To my lay mind, this seems ridiculous especially at a time when there is a public out-cry against sex and violence in films and television. The press should continue to advocate new laws to prevent anti-social television programmes and their like.

Editors should avoid giving any publicity to stupid and sensational statements, by fanatics and eccentric people. One such announce-

ment that has drawn the wrath of millions of right-thinking people, especially Christians all over the world, is the proposal of a Danish producer to shoot a film on the sex life of Jesus Christ! This is most revolting. It is a pity that some newspapers published this as a news item!

There is no historical evidence to produce a film on the sex life of Christ. Announcements such as this should be avoided in order not to offend people of various religions.

MORE NEWSPAPERS NEEDED

It is a pity that we have had to witness the premature obituary of such giants as the Free Press of Singapore, the Malaya Tribune, the Singapore Standard, the Eastern Sun and the Malayan Times. We have today fewer papers than before the war. Several young and promising papers had to close down for want of support from the Government and the business houses. It is the duty of the Government and big business to encourage the publication of more newspapers and magazines.

During my tour of the United States in 1958 with other Southeast Asian journalists, we saw a daily newspaper published in Post, Texas, a small town of only 2,000 people. This was made possible by the civic-mindedness of its citizens who not only bought copies of the paper but also gave advertisements for publication.

In Malaysia, places like Ipoh, Taiping and Malacca had their own newspapers before the Second World War but today it is another story — no papers in these fast growing towns now.

A sign of progress? I think every State in Malaysia should have its own provincial newspaper with adequate subsidy, if need be, from the State Governments.

In this connection let me say that it is unfair for commercial houses to give all their advertisements to the national newspapers and deny provincial papers their support. It is time that this attitude was changed.

Our newspapers and editors are continuing to play an important role in the life of the nation. Those who are inclined to criticise the Press and the pressman should remember that press freedom is not a luxury but a necessity for any self-respecting society.

THE DO'S AND DONT'S FOR JOURNALISTS

Often I have been asked the do's and dont's for journalists especially for reporters. Let me therefore give my guidelines for those especially the youth interested in journalism.

First and foremost, journalists should tell the facts in a comprehen-

sive and in an intelligent way by using simple words. To quote what Arnold Bennet once said, "Have something to say and say it as clearly as you can, that is the secret of style."

A good reporter not only must write clearly but must express himself lucidly. He must describe people and places so vividly that the reader can visualise them. Brevity is the rule and the idea is to let every word count. Too many words confuse the readers.

The main function of a newspaper is to define national objectives, to interpret and explain and, when necessary, to criticise government policies.

As newspapers are an important educational agent, there should be ample coverage of events relating to education, culture, religion and sports. Journalists should observe impartiality and objectivity in order to write stories truthfully.

They should get the news by every possible means, if need be, even with a disguise. However, they don't have to get admitted to a mental hospital, as one American reporter did, in order to investigate how the patients are treated by doctors, nurses and other members of a hospital staff.

Reporters and editors should refuse gifts or other favours which would put them under some obligation. They should never violate the confidence of the people who give them news. In this respect they can and should fight for laws that guarantee that a reporter or an editor cannot be forced to reveal the source of his news.

They should develop the science of human relations to enable them to tackle people of different temperaments. Be penetrative and persuasive but never be aggressive, even with people who are belligerent or hot-tempered.

Under all circumstances the newspaperman should remain calm and cool in order to carry out his assignment successfully.

They should keep abreast of latest developments not only in their own country but also in other parts of the world. To do this every journalist should become a trained observer of people and events.

A reporter should be a stickler for accuracy. Every story should be checked and rechecked before handing it to the news editor. It is better to be safe than to be sorry later.

As a newshound a reporter must have a keen sense of news. He must sift facts from fiction. He must have his eyes and ears open all the time because a chance remark from a friend or even a stranger may lead him to a "Scoop" — every reporter's dream.

Reporters should at all times try to keep within the law because

there is a danger of libel creeping into their stories published in newspapers.

Libel is the defamation of a person's character and his reputation. Sentences written inadvertently may impute dishonesty, fraud or guilt for a crime. Also they should avoid such words as rascal, liar, villain, swindler and quack in their reports.

Therefore beware of using words that are likely to injure a person in his profession and trade or words that will hold a person up to ridicule, contempt or even hatred.

Editors should avoid publication of photographs of lurid sex scenes and also pictures showing depressing reaction of relatives of people killed by robbers or kidnappers and of people killed in tragic accidents.

WHAT MARK TWAIN SAID

They should also avoid printing of an-obituary when a person is living!

Mark Twain, the famous humorist, once cabled to the U.S. after hearing that certain newspapers had published his obituary "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated"!

As there are no Mark Twains in our region, reporters should check before writing obituaries of people. Otherwise they may face court action.

Journalists, by what they write and publish, should show that their newspaper is really independent and is subservient to no one including their own proprietors.

Some young readers may want to know how to qualify for the profession of journalism.

They can either undergo training in a College of Journalism or get absorbed as an apprentice or as a trainee reporter. During the training they are exposed to all aspects of journalism.

Those interested can begin by taking to free-lancing. They should write articles on subjects for which they are qualified and send them to the editors. They may also go news-hunting and if they get a good story they should send it to the newspapers in their towns. If any one shows skill in news-gathering and presenting facts in newspaper style, he or she may become a 'regular'.

Sometimes they will be surprised at the talent they have. If their articles show promise, editors will write to them when they need them. They should establish contacts with senior journalists and editors to find out what they need.'

Who knows in course of time one of them may become quite a romantic figure by the articles and stories he writes. One need not be

a university graduate to become a successful journalist. University degrees are no doubt helpful. Some of the famous editors and authors never entered any university or even graduated from secondary schools!

Typewriting is essential for a reporter and knowledge of shorthand, especially for verbatim reporting, is a distinct advantage. It is an effective weapon against those who make thoughtless remarks during speeches and later deny that they had ever made them!

Qualities necessary for success are personality, cleanliness in dress, courtesy, patience and politeness. A reporter should also be prepared to suffer snubs occasionally.

Every reporter should acquire a reading habit — not sex novels and detective stories. Good English books such as those by Dickens and Arnold Bennet are guides for descriptive reporting.

Study of contemporary newspapers like *The Times*, *The Observer*, *The Manchester Guardian*, *The Daily Express* and the leading Malaysian dailies will help a journalist learn quickly to develop "the nose for news."

A reporter should be a critical but accurate recorder of current history without taking sides. He should note down important points or words used in articles in a scrap book which can be used profitably later on.

NOTE OF WARNING

Here I must sound a note of warning. Newspaper work is often a never-ending job. Not many people are aware that reporters and editors are on call almost 24 hours of the day.

Often reporters work against the clock. Seldom, if ever, people hear how long and how well they work.

Whereas in other countries, journalists are given annual awards, this practice has not been introduced in most of the countries in Asia. For the splendid work the journalists have been and still are doing they deserve recognition from some foundations and universities, if not from the government itself. It is heartening Malaysia is now doing something in this direction.

What do I think about my past role as the editor of a daily newspaper? In short, the editor's job is one to cherish. It is not only stimulating and satisfying but also exciting. I say exciting because there is never a dull moment for an editor. He is on the move all the time because the readers of his paper keep him busy with never-ending letters, telephone calls and visits.

An editor should have the patience of a Job to retain his sanity to do his duty. Also he has to respond to the views and wishes of his assi-

stants who may not always agree with him. But the final decision in all matters is his own.

The editors have a very difficult task to perform during an emergency especially during war-time as some Malayan editors found out during the Japanese Occupation.

In Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Ipoh the editors of the Malay Mail, the late Mr. Francis Cooray, the late Mr. M. Saravanamuthu of Straits Echo and I had to devise various ways to convince the Japanese that we were prepared to carry on editing the newspapers under the guidance of the Japanese military officers. But soon some editors found themselves in prison suspected as British spies.

Strange as it may sound, Sara, was jailed by the Japanese and later by the British despite his many acts of courage and heroism during the early days of the Japanese occupation. I had the pleasure of meeting him after his release from prison at his Northam Road residence in Penang.

SECOND TO NONE

Both Cooray and I faced a lot of problems with the Japanese and with the British Military Administration after the surrender of Japan.

Sara and Cooray have long gone now but their heroism and their services to the public will never be forgotten.

To return to the role newspaper people play. It is second to none and no institution is more essential in a democratic country than an honest and independent Press.

A famous statesman once said, if my memory serves me right: "If I were asked to choose between a Government and a free Press, I would gladly choose the latter."

CHAPTER 26

EPILOGUE SOME REFLECTIONS ON DUTIES OF MALAYSIANS

As an author, editor and publisher, I have had the opportunity to meet thousands of Malaysians and Singaporeans during the past forty years. Of the present day journalists only a few have witnessed what I have witnessed during three of the most momentous periods in the history of Malaya.

I refer to pre-war Malaya under the British, the terror and trials during the Japanese occupation and the historic events leading to the independence of Malaya.

Like thousands of other Malaysians, I witnessed the eight important milestones of Malayan history — the proclamation of independence by Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, the first general elections, the 12-year emergency, the formation of Malaysia, the Indonesian Confrontation, the sudden separation of Singapore from Malaysia and its emergence as a sovereign State and the peace pact with Indonesia and the May 13, 1969 disturbances in Kuala Lumpur following the General Elections. All these events have left their imprint on the lives of people of Malaysia in particular and those of Southeast Asia in general.

I am glad I have had the privilege of being a witness to this crucial era in the history of Malaysia. As human history is the history of events and people, I have written about people I have known and admired. That is also my reason for writing at length on the great people of the world I have had the good fortune to see and hear and also about those Malaysians who have been and still are contributing to the progress of this nation.

I feel I have already seen a good deal of human nature in my time. I am aware of the many fine qualities of people, their virtues and their weaknesses. However the memory that lingers to this day is the inhumanity of man to man and the staggering depths of sin, shame and suffering of some people during wartime.

It is heartening that the vast majority of Malaysians show concern for the welfare of the nation. Of course, there are amongst us some who are yes-men, and those who cling to offices longer than they should, thus denying an opportunity to those equally good, if not

better.

Under the Malaysian constitution, every citizen has a right to speak up on national issues because that is his right as a citizen. No one can deny this inalienable right. So, why be a silent spectator as some Malaysians do?

In bringing this book to a close I crave the indulgence of readers to make some observations on people and problems. I feel sharing of thoughts, will help us to avoid the mistakes we have made in the past.

The most urgent task facing us all is the building of more and more bridges of goodwill among all Malaysians irrespective of race or creed.

You may ask, what are the guidelines? First and foremost, it is the duty of every loyal Malaysian to promote racial harmony.

In my view, every citizen should choose a job befitting his education, his background and his aptitude and then try to do it with tenacity of purpose; determination and dedication.

It is up to every citizen to decide, as Goethe put it, "Whether he will be an anvil or a hammer."

It is my conviction that every Malaysian, whatever his race or religion, or whatever his heritage has the right to hope for a better tomorrow for him and his children.

In attempting to climb the ladder of success we have to take the first steps ourselves before we ask or expect others to help us go up further. It is by our own efforts that we can best shape our lives. Therefore let us accept every challenge and pursue our ideal until we reach our goal and realise our dream.

Because our lives are linked with the lives of others, we must be prepared to give a helping hand where the need is urgent for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

It is necessary to have a sense of humour even in times of adversity. This we can do by cultivating the qualities of patience and tolerance and showing courage in setbacks and moderation in victory.

We must also have a deep sense of fair-play and freedom from pettiness and rancour. It will do us a world of good if we can strive to be a beacon of goodwill towards all — That is the key to real human brotherhood.

Never is the peace of mind more needed and more cherished than in these uneasy times when mankind is passing through the crucible of doubt and fear.

A motto that is worth following is — Unity in essentials, understanding in non-essentials and charity in all things.

When things go wrong or where we meet with failures it is good for us to remember these old words:

"Be still, sad heart and cease repining;

Behind the clouds, is the sun still shining,
Thy fate is the common fate of all,
Into each life some rain must fall."

Serenity of mind can be achieved only by practising patience and devoting some time for meditation and prayer. Prayer is the most positive prescription for a healthy and refreshing life. It generates in us the most powerful form of energy. By creative and constructive thinking, we can turn the tide of despair into an avalanche of hope and cheer.

I know we are weak and erring mortals. Yet there is something of the stuff of the immortal god in us. Let our conscience be our judge in all things we do or plan to do.

FRESH LOOK

From time to time it is wise to take a fresh look at the world around us. This will enable us to let light go into all dark corners of our minds and thus make the shadow of doubt and despair disappear.

Let our actions reveal the dignity of a noble mind and heart that seeks for rightness in principles and fairness in action. Let us cultivate a sense of duty. Let us to the end, do our duty as we understand it no matter what the obstacles are. And let us do it in the firm conviction that what we are doing is right and good not only for us but for all.

Be a leader if you can but be prepared to give and take, as a member of a team. Team-work is far better than going "solo". Those who feel impelled by conscience to oppose what is wrong and contrary to human dignity must have the courage of their convictions to call it wrong and oppose it.

Calling injustice by its name is a public duty. Only cowards will shrink from it. All too often some of us fail in our duty because we want to be selfish or because we are too ambitious. Personal ambition sometimes kills the noble religious spirit in us. The common passion for power among some should give way for a genuine concern for our fellow-beings by undertaking unselfish tasks for the good of the community and the country.

As a famous British judge once said, if we want to achieve anything like happiness in this world, it is never, never going to come by being selfish — never. Never just by thinking only of ourselves. The real pleasure in life is to have friends who are bound to us by loyalty and kinship.

In view of the many changes we are witnessing today, we have to revise from time to time our opinions about many things especially about the problems of our youth. For instance the aims and aspirations of the young people of today are different from those that we

had faced when we were young. Those of us who are elders should help open new horizons for the fulfilment of the young minds.

I am aware there are changeless things in this world. All the same we have to change with the changing times in order to solve some of our problems. Blessed are those who are able to adapt themselves to the changes and accept the challenges that confront them. They are indeed fortune's favourites.

In passing let me commend to the readers the following words so well expressed by Bessie Anderson Stanley:

That man is a success
Who has lived well, laughed often and loved much;
Who has gained the respect of intelligent men
And the love of children;
Who has filled his niche
And accomplished his task;
Who looked for the best in others
And gave the best he had.

I close this last chapter in the hope that my thoughts contained in this book will give you, the reader, something to ponder over,

CURRICULUM VITAE

(1) John Victor Morais, Editor, Author and Publisher.

(2) **Place and date of birth:**

On December 18, 1916

Port, Trivandrum, Kerala, South India.

(3) **Education:**

From 1924 to 1927 in St. Joseph's School, Trivandrum and Hudson English School, Port Trivandrum.

Arrival in Malaya in February, 1927.

Joins Anderson School, Ipoh where he passed the Senior Cambridge examination in 1931.

1931 — Took a course in Journalism and Short Story writing from the Regent Institution, London.

(4) **Career:**

Reporter in Times of Malaya, Ipoh 1932—1934.

Ipoh Editorial Representative of the Malaya Tribune from 1934—1936.

Managing Director of Asian Theatres Ltd., an Indo-Ceylonese business venture in Ipoh.

Assistant Editor of Malaya Tribune from 1936 to 1937.

Managing Editor of the Tribune from 1937 to 1950.

The Malaya Tribune suspends publication in 1951.

Becomes Editor of the Daily News in 1951.

The Daily News closes down late in 1950 after nearly one year of operation.

Chairman and Managing Director of WHO'S WHO Publications Sdn. Bhd. until September 1981.

(5) **Public Activities**

1934 — Founder of Ipoh Cos. Club in which he served as the President.

1946 — Elected Chairman of the All-Community Citizens Advice Bureau, Ipoh.

1947-52 — President of the Kinta Indian Association, Ipoh.

1948-49 — Member of Perak State Executive Council.

1949 — Elected President of the Ipoh Rotary Club.

1950 — President of Perak Catholic Association.

1951-52 — Member of Council of State Perak.

1951 — Chairman of the Perak Centre of St. John Ambulance Association.

1950-52 — Vice-President of Ipoh Town Library.

1952 — Fractures left arm in car accident near Taiping while returning to Ipoh from Penang.

June 1952 — Goes to Madras for treatment at General Hospital there.

October, 1953 — Returns to Malaya to join the Editorial staff of the Malay Mail in Kuala Lumpur. Was Chief Sub-Editor until 1960.

1957-62 — President of Selangor Indian Association, Kuala Lumpur.

1956-1960 — Edited and published Leaders of Malaya and Who's Who 1956 to 1960;

From 1961 to 1981 Editor-in-Chief, WHO'S WHO IN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE.

Also edited **SOCIAL WELFARE**, a book on the activities and achievements of various welfare organisations.

1958 — Goes on a tour of the United State of America with Southeast Asian journalists sponsored by the State Department.

1959-60 — President of Press Club of Malaysia.

1960-66 — The first Federation Appeals Organiser of the Lady Templer Hospital Fund, Kuala Lumpur.

1967 — Public Relations Executive of Pure Life Society.

1962-65 — Council Member of Malayan Association for the Blind.

1956-60 — Director and Trustee of Y.M.C.A.

1972-76 — Member of Town Board, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

PUBLICATIONS

BADMINTON IN MALAYA — 1935

S.J.A.A. REVIEW — On the activities of the St. John Ambulance Association, Perak and the S.J.A. Brigade — 1940

HIDUP MELAYU — a book on growth of Malay Nationalism — 1947

LEADERS OF MALAYA AND WHO'S WHO — 1956, 1957-1958, 1959-1960

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BLUEPRINT FOR UNITY — A book on Tun Tan Siew Sin, former Finance Minister of Malaysia and now Financial Consultant to Malaysian Cabinet — 1972.

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Mohamed Suffian bin Hashim, Tun Justice — Lord President, Federal Court

Morais, John Manuel — Former teacher of Anderson School, Ipoh

Morais, Emile — Malaysian diplomat and journalist

Mountbatten, Lady Edwina — Former Head of Commonwealth St. John Ambulances Association

Muggeridge, Malcolm — Author of a book on Mother Teresa

Moreira, A.E. — Assistant Editor of Times of Malaya early in 1930 and Managing Editor Malaya Tribune, Ipoh

Moreira, Neral — Chief Reporter of Malaya Tribune who was detained by Japanese while he was working in the *Yamato News* during the Japanese Occupation

Morning News, a new English daily of Ipoh that survived only for a few months in 1932

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Narayanan, Dr. P.P. — President of I.C.F.T.U.

Nakagawa, Lieutenant — Japanese Garrison Commander in Ipoh during last war

Neal, Justice M.G. — Perak State Legal Adviser and later judge

Nehru, Pandit Jawarhalal — First Prime Minister of India

Newington, P.C.B. — President of Ipoh Rotary Club in 1948 and General Manager of Great Eastern Life Assurance Co., Ipoh

Newman, Cardinal, famous theologian

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Onn bin Jaafar, Datuk — Founder President of U.M.N.O.

ONN, Tun Hussein — Prime Minister of Malaysia until July, 1981

Pandit, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi — First woman President of U.N. General Assembly and sister of Pandit Nehru

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Prasad, Sharada — Director of Information, Prime Minister's Department, New Delhi

Preedy, Captain — Headmaster of Anderson School, 1926-30

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Ung Khok Cheow — Senior Mathematics Teacher of Anderson School, Ipoh
Unwin, Stanley — Author of Truth About A Publisher
Uren, Donald — Former President of Railwaymen's Union of Malaya
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Woods, Johd L. — Senior lawyer and first President of the Badminton Association of Malaya

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