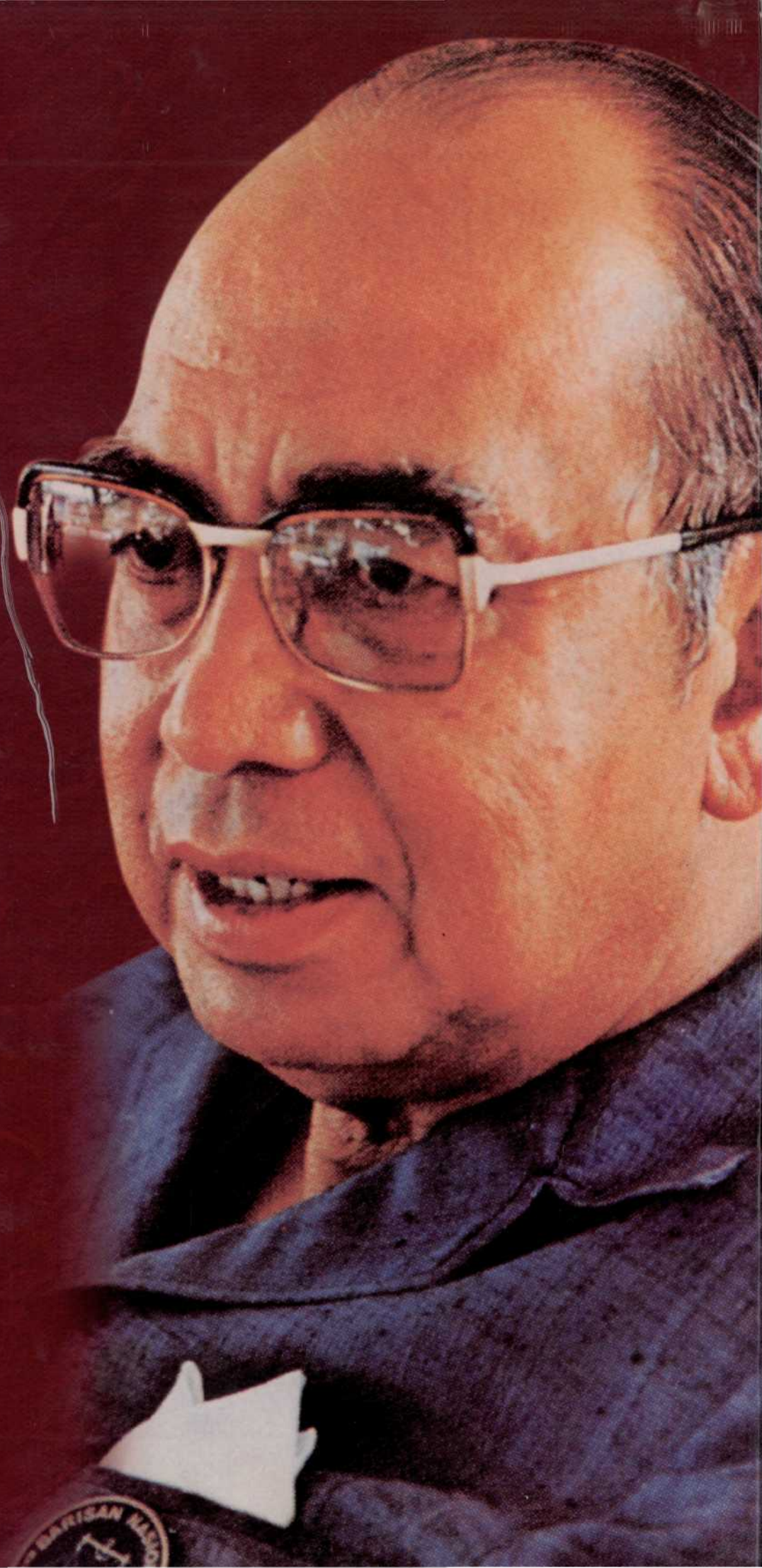


TUN RAZAK

Profile of a Patriot

ZAINUDDIN MAIDIN





Zainuddin Maidin (Zam), born in Kota Kuala Muda, Kedah, on 26 June 1939, pursued an active career in journalism for more than 30 years. He started as a stringer in Alor Setar at the age of 19 and ended his journalistic career as Chief Editor of the Utusan Melayu Group.

In a career which spanned more than thirty years, Zam was able to witness first-hand the progress of his people and parts played by the main protagonists from the early struggle for independence to the period of political maturity; and was occasionally a player himself in the social, economic and political upheavels which shaped the growth of the nation.

Zam, with his journalistic contemporaries, followed closely the careers of Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Tun Abdul Razak, Tun Hussein Onn, and then Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir. He himself regards the years covering the political career of Tun Abdul Razak as the most valuable experience, and certainly one which has left a lasting impression on him.

"This period in my journalistic career was the most dramatic, suspenseful, challenging, exciting and memorable," he says.

In this book the writer now looks back to these years when he followed Tun Abdul Razak's journey to every nook and corner of the country in his mission to spread the message of 'Rural Development' in the early 1960s. Zam saw first-hand Abdul Razak's political and diplomatic skills deployed during the Indonesian *Konfrontasi*, the racial riot in Singapore, the May 13 incident, and then as director of the NOC.

When Tun Abdul Razak died in London on 14 January 1976, Zam covered the event for the Utusan Melayu. He was there then as its European correspondent.

Educated to secondary level in Arabic and English schools, Zam rose through the ranks in Utusan Melayu, from stringer to full time reporter, then to chief reporter, news editor, editor, and then to the post of Chief Editor of the Utusan Group. He was, at one time, regarded as the voice of Utusan Melayu itself. His journalistic career with Utusan Melayu came to a dramatic and abrupt end in 1992.

The 'Utusan Melayu University' gave him the necessary prerequisite for enrolment at the Berlin Institute of Journalism in 1969, and equipped him, as his career progressed, to become the first of Utusan's correspondents to be based in London from 1975-1976, and his Journalism Fellowship at the University of Michigan in the United States, 1981-1982.

With Zam at the helm for more than 10 years, the Utusan Melayu Group's publications were at the forefront in the battle against extremism, religious fanaticism and chauvinism, and narrow nationalism. This found expression especially in Zam's controversial 'Awang Selamat' column in the *Mingguan Malaysia*.

He has authored three books, *Yang Pertama dan Terakhir* (The First and Last), *Yang Terbaik daripada Awang Selamat* (The Best of Awang Selamat), and *Mahathir di Sebalik Tabir* (The Other Side of Mahathir) which has been translated into English, Chinese and Tamil.

Zam is now Deputy Executive Chairman of the Utusan Melayu Group (M) Berhad. He is also on the board of the group. On 25 February 1998 he was appointed a Member of the Senate.

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Translated by Wan A. Hulaimi

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