

MAY 13

BEFORE
& AFTER

TUNKU
ABDUL RAHMAN

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I

THOUGHTS FROM A HOSPITAL BED

WHEN one is in hospital, recuperating from an operation, there is plenty of time to think. Awake or asleep in the long lonely hours of the night, events and circumstances, causes and reactions form patterns in the mind; problems and explanations, facts and solutions wrestle with each other. Solitude, they say, is good for the soul; it is certainly helpful to meditation.

On June 6th, 1969, at a time of national crisis it was my ill luck—or perhaps for some good purpose—to be ordered into hospital while my heart was sad and my mind full of tragic events that had taken place in Malaysia, only three weeks before.

I did not go into hospital of my own wish, but due to circumstances beyond my control. The days and nights of tension and crisis caused severe strain on my eyes. I realised that as a result of mounting pressure my right eye had been seriously affected, and if not attended to quickly might cause the loss of my sight.