

*Tunku Abdul Rahman  
And His Role In The  
Baling Talks*

*A Documentary History*

*Prof Madya Dr. Nik Anuar Nik Mahimud*

# Tunku Abdul Rahman and His Role in the Baling Talks

Author  
Prof Nik Anuar Nik Mahmud

First Edition 1998

© Memorial Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra,  
Arkib Negara Malaysia

All right reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publishers.

Publisher:  
Memorial Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra  
Arkib Negara Malaysia

MEMORIAL TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN

ISBN 983-99436-0-X



9 789839 943603

APB951505  
NASKHAH PEMELIHARAAN  
PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA

25 JUN 1999

Printed by:  
Smart Print & Stationer Sdn Bhd  
SH-8, Jalan Cengal Selatan,  
Taman Setapak, Gombak,  
53000 Kuala Lumpur.

## **CONTENTS**

	Page
Preface	<i>vii</i>
Foreword	<i>ix</i>
I Tunku Abdul Rahman and his role in the Baling Amnesty Talks	1
II Selected Documents	37
i. Translation of a letter from Ng Heng, Representative of the Supreme Command MCP	39
ii. Statement by the Government of the Federation of Malaya on the MCP's negotiation offer	42
iii. The Baling Meeting: Narrative of Events	44
iv. The Baling Meeting: Record of the Meeting	50
III Bibliography	99

## PREFACE

I am glad to be able to append a preface to this splendid work by Professor Nik Anuar on the subject of the Baling Talks. The book has come out at the right time. Fifty long years have passed since the time when Emergency was declared in our country. But even now our knowledge of that era may be likened to a jigsaw puzzle with missing pieces. I acknowledge that the difficulty of access to both official and private archives has helped perpetuate the darkness which still obfuscates our understanding of that period.

All the same, a number of books have been written on the Emergency, each approaching the subject from a different angle. The conclusions in each of these may differ, and the same writer may even want to revise earlier approaches. But that is why history all about. It is far being static; it is both alive and vibrant. In this regard, I am glad to be able to say that this book is a welcome departure from earlier writings in that it sheds light on areas hitherto unchronicled in any of the works on the subject. It places the interests of the major players in the particular era of Malayan history in perspective, namely the Tunku, the British and the Communists. As an archivist, I am proud to be able to say that the originality of this book owes itself largely to the use of primary source materials, particularly those extant in the National Archives of Malaysia and the Public Record Office, London.

In the years to come, I am positive that more books will be published on the Emergency, even as records become easily accessible and many of the archives that are buried come to light. I am aware that there are many stones still to be turned, and as the Head of the National Archives of Malaysia I am glad to be able to say that we are committed to our duty to the public and the academia of rendering records more easily accessible for their use in reference and research. That we have readily taken upon ourselves the work publishing this book, and of launching it in a grand way at an exhibition on the Emergency is in itself an eloquent testimony of this commitment.

Lastly, I wish to record my appreciation to Prof Nik Anuar for his timely effort, and all those who have been involved in the production and launch of this book. To the readers, may I wish that you will not fail to imbibe the sweet nostalgia for things that are gone as you leaf through the pages of an important epoch in the life of our nation.

DATO' HABIBAH ZON  
Director-General  
National Archives of Malaysia

19 June 1998

## **FOREWORD**

While working on various aspects of the Malayan Emergency during the 1900s, I became aware of the lack of any studies on the role played by the Malaysian leader, Tunku Abdul Rahman, in particular, to end the Emergency which had been an obstacle to the Federation's advance towards self-government. It was to this end that this monograph is written.

On being elected as the new President of UMNO in 1951, replacing Dato Onn bin Jaafar, the Tunku announced to his supporters his determination to achieve very early self-government in Malaya. However, the Tunku realised that so long as the Communist terrorism remained undefeated, the British Government would not grant self-government to Malaya. In early January 1955, the Tunku made a dramatic call for the granting of an amnesty to the Communist as part of a deal to bring to an end a state of emergency in Malaya. Soon after winning the 1955 Federal Election, the Tunku repeated his readiness to meet Chin Peng, the leader of the Malayan Communist Party, to the annoy of the British colonial authorities. The talk was held in Baling, Kedah on 28 and 29 December 1955. Although the talk was a failure, the Tunku was able to secure from the British an understanding that the continuance of the Emergency was not an obstacle 'in the Federation's advance towards self-government'.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my colleagues Prof Dato' Dr. Nik Hassan Shuhaimi and sdr. Mohd. bin Samsudin for their careful scrutiny of the next and for their valuable suggestions concerning both content and presentation. Thanks are also due to Arkib Negara Malaysia (National Archives of Malaysia) for agreeing to publish this monograph.

Nik Anuar Nik Mahmud  
Jabatan Sejarah  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia  
June 1998