



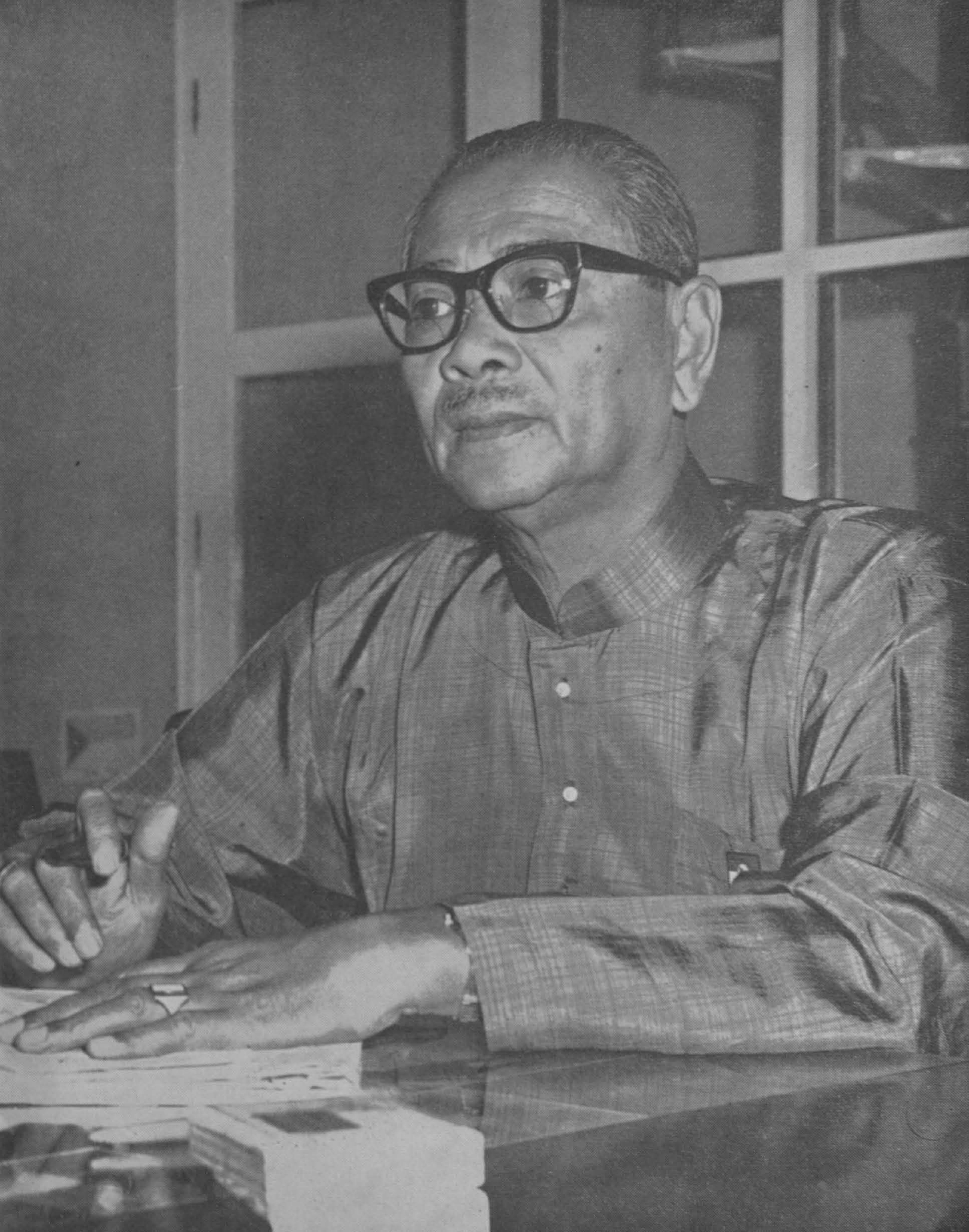
Biography of

**TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
PUTRA ALHAJ, K.O.M.,
Prime Minister of Malaysia**



BIOGRAPHY
of
TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
PUTRA AL-HAJ
Prime Minister
of
Malaysia

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TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN Putra, Prime Minister of Malaysia, was born at Alor Star, the capital of the State of Kedah, on 8th February, 1903. He was the seventh child of the reigning Sultan, Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, who was then 39 years of age. His father died in 1943 at the age of 79 after having ruled for 61 years.

The mother of the future Prime Minister was Makche Menjelara the daughter of Luang Mira, a Chieftain of one of the Siamese Shan States.

The Royal Family of Kedah is probably the oldest in Malaya, as the present dynasty reaches back more than a thousand years, and can be traced through nine Hindu Rulers and seventeen Muslim Sultans.

The State of Kedah (area 3,660 sq. miles, population 701,000) lies in the North-West corner of the Peninsula of Malaya, bounded on the North by the State of Perlis and the Kingdom of Thailand, on the South-East by the State of Perak, on the West by the Indian Ocean, and on the South-West by the State of Penang.

EDUCATION

As a child the Tunku was not physically strong but was distinguished

by his indomitable spirit. At the age of four he was sent to school to study Malay in the morning and English in the afternoon. Later he went to the Government English School at Alor Star—now known as the Sultan Abdul Hamid School.

When he was about eight he was sent to Bangkok to stay with his brother, Captain Tunku Yusof, who was an officer in the Thai Army. On the death of his brother a year later, he returned to Kedah. At twelve he became a pupil of the Penang Free School and in 1919, when he was 16, he was awarded a Kedah State Scholarship which took him to England to prepare for his University entrance examination.

Eventually he entered St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, where he obtained his B.A. in December, 1925. He was the first Kedah Prince to gain a degree in any British University.

After graduating, he returned to Malaya, but his elder brother, Tunku Ibrahim, who was then Regent of Kedah, sent him back to England to study law.

Though there were a number of Malay students studying in England, they had no organisation of their own, but at Tunku Abdul Rahman's sug-



gestion they formed the Malay Society of Great Britain. The first President elected was Tuanku Abdul Rahman, of Negri Sembilan, who later became the first Paramount Ruler of the Federation, with the title of Yang di-Pertuan Agong. The first Secretary elected was Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, of Kedah.

Although Tunku Abdul Rahman stayed in England for five years he did not pass his law examinations, and returned to Malaya to join the Kedah Civil Service as a cadet in the Legal Adviser's Office in Alor Star. He was then aged 27. Later he served as an Assistant District Officer and then as District Officer in various Districts of the State.

WORLD WAR II

He went back to England again to study law in 1938, but his studies were interrupted by the outbreak of World War II, so he returned to Malaya to work as a District Officer in the thriving Kedah town of Sungei Patani, and later in Kulim, also in Kedah. He was holding this post when Japan started the war in the Pacific.

In 1940, Tunku Abdul Rahman had become Deputy Director of Civil Defence for South Kedah. In December 1941 as the Japanese advanced into Kedah he was warned by his brother-in-law, Syed Omar Shahbudin, who

As a graduate of Cambridge University in 1925.

was State Financial Officer at that time, that the British were preparing to evacuate and planning to take the Sultan with them to Penang, and then abroad.

Accompanied by a Health Inspector the Tunku intercepted the convoy in which his father was travelling and succeeded in diverting the Sultan's car to Kulim, because he believed that his father's rightful place was with his people in a time of national emergency.

Tunku Abdul Rahman's actions as District Officer in Kulim displeased the Japanese, and he was transferred to Alor Star where they could more easily keep an eye on him. When Japan ceded Kedah to Thailand in 1943 he became Supervisor of Education and remained in this post until the return of the British to Malaya. While in Alor Star he formed a welfare organisation to look after refugees from the "Death Railway".

SOJOURN IN ENGLAND

In 1947, two years after Japan's surrender, Tunku Abdul Rahman went to England to study law again, and in 1949 he was called to the Bar from the Inner Temple. He was then aged 46, and in his admission speech he quipped that he was probably the only student in the history of that famous Inn who had been admitted to the Bar on his Silver Jubilee as a student.

During this sojourn in England, he continued his keen interest in the welfare of Malayan students, and became President of the Malay Society of

Great Britain. One of his closest friends at that time was Dato Abdul Razak, now Tun Abdul Razak and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Minister of National and Rural Development.

While Tunku Abdul Rahman was in England two important events had occurred in Malaya. The first was the institution on February 1, 1948, of a new Federation of Malaya, a Union of the nine Malay States and the two Colonies of Penang and Malacca. The second was the declaration of the State of Emergency in the country on June 16 of the same year following the outbreak of Communist terrorism.

LEADERSHIP OF UMNO

Tunku Abdul Rahman returned to Malaya early in 1949, and immediately accepted the chairmanship of the Kedah Branch of the United Malays National Organisation (U.M.N.O.) which had been primarily responsible for the pressure of public opinion which resulted in the formation of the Federation of Malaya.

He was not able to retain this post for long, as he was transferred to Kuala Lumpur as a Deputy Public Prosecutor in the Federal Legal Department, and as such could take no part in politics. Two years later, however, he resigned from the Government Service to become President of UMNO in succession to Dato Onn bin Ja'afar. In 1952 he was appointed to both the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Federation as an unofficial member.

It is interesting to note that at this stage of his career Tunku Abdul Rahman, although well-known in Northern Malaya, was by no means a national figure, politically speaking. It was Tun Abdul Razak who suggested his name as a possible President of UMNO, and his proposal was accepted. Nevertheless, his future as leader of the foremost political party was the subject of much public speculation at that time.

THE ALLIANCE

The Tunku had long held the view that the best solution to the political

problems of Malaya lay in co-operation between all the races in the country and it was this idea that led to the political alliance of the United Malays National Organisation with the Malayan Chinese Association led by Dato (later Tun) Tan Cheng Lock. The Alliance was formed for the purpose of contesting the first municipal elections in the Federation in 1952, and it was highly successful, winning twenty-four seats out of forty-three.

By February 1953, after a series of round-table meetings between Tunku Abdul Rahman and Dato Tan Cheng



Lock, agreement had become so close as to lead to the setting up of liaison committees between the local branches of the M.C.A. and U.M.N.O. throughout the Federation. Shortly afterwards, the Alliance evolved a common policy in regard to the holding of a general election in the Federation.

Tunku Abdul Rahman presided at the general assembly of UMNO in Malacca in April 1953 when the draft election plan was adopted by UMNO delegates amid shouts of "Merdeka" (Freedom) and a unanimous resolution was passed calling for speedy Federal

elections. Shortly before the Federal Elections the Malayan Indian Congress joined forces with the UMNO and MCA.

The first Federal Elections in July 1955 swept Tunku Abdul Rahman and the Alliance into office. The Alliance gained 51 out of 52 elected seats.

The most historic moment in Malaya's history. After reading the Proclamation of Independence on August 31, 1957, the Tunku's 'Merdeka' salutation was reciprocated by the huge gathering.



Immediately afterwards the Tunku became the Chief Minister and Minister for Home Affairs.

One of the points in the Alliance election manifesto was a pledge to end the "Emergency" quickly with the promise of an amnesty for Communist terrorists and a meeting with Chin Peng, the Secretary-General of the Malayan Communist Party—if he wanted it.

The amnesty was declared on 9th September, 1955, and on 27th and 28th December, Tunku Abdul Rahman with the then Chief Minister of Singapore, Mr. (later Dato) David Marshall, and the President of the M.C.A., Dato Tan Cheng Lock, met Chin Peng and two other Communist leaders at the English School, Baling, Kedah.

During the meeting, Chin Peng promised that should the Chief Minister obtain control of internal defence and security he would order the Communists to lay down their arms. The Tunku refused to countenance the recognition of the Malayan Communist Party and insisted that members of the M.C.P. should be investigated once they came out of the jungle in order to test their loyalty to the country.

MERDEKA MISSION

After the meeting, Chin Peng returned to the jungle and two days later, Tunku Abdul Rahman led a "Merdeka Mission" to London to negotiate with the British Government for self-government and independence for Malaya.

The Mission in January 1956 was completely successful. It obtained for the elected Government of Malaya control of internal defence and security, finance and the "Malayanisation" of the public service. It was also agreed that a Constitutional Commission should be set up to recommend a new Constitution for the country and that independence should come by 31st August, 1957.

On his return to Malaya Tunku Abdul Rahman assumed the office of Minister for Internal Defence and Security in addition to the offices of Chief Minister and Minister for Home Affairs.

In May 1957 Tunku Abdul Rahman again took to London a delegation comprising representatives of the Alliance and the Malay Rulers in order to reach final agreement on independence for the Federation.

ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE

The climax of Tunku Abdul Rahman's efforts on behalf of Malaya came on the morning of 31st August, 1957, when, as Prime Minister of the Federation of Malaya, he accepted from the Queen's representative, the Duke of Gloucester, the Constitutional Instruments by which the Federation became a sovereign country.

The historic ceremony took place in the newly-built 2½ million dollar Merdeka Stadium built by the inspiration and impetus of Tunku Abdul Rahman as a memorial to Independence.

Since Independence Day, Tunku Abdul Rahman has been untiring in his efforts to ensure stable, responsible Government at home and good relations abroad. The Federation of Malaya became a member of the Commonwealth and signed a Defence Agreement with the United Kingdom.

During the first months of 1958 Tunku Abdul Rahman, as Prime Minister, personally made goodwill visits to Vietnam, Ceylon and Japan. In June of that year, because of a promise he had made to give thanks for Malaya's peaceful attainment of independence, Tunku Abdul Rahman made a pilgrimage to Mecca. His official style and formal title now became Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj. (A Haji indicates a man who has made the pilgrimage.)

In September he paid an official visit to the Malay State of Brunei in Borneo, and in January 1959 he was a State Guest of the Republic of the Philippines. It was during this visit to Manila that the Tunku first suggested, and President Garcia heartily endorsed, the idea of forming an association for close economic and cultural co-operation between the countries of South-East Asia. This was the genesis of ASA.

Towards the end of 1958 the Federation of Malaya was host for official visits by the President of the Republic of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. John Diefenbaker.

In the first quarter of 1959 the Federation of Malaya was host again

to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, and the then Prime Minister of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. Djuanda. This latter visit was marked by the formal signing of a Treaty of Friendship between Malaya and Indonesia.

Under the Federal Constitution General Elections were scheduled to be held in all States and at the Federal level before the expiry of two years from Independence Day, 1957. In February 1959 Tunku Abdul Rahman announced his intention to resign as Prime Minister in April for the purpose of touring the whole country to ensure the success of the Alliance Party in the Federal elections. When his resignation took place Tun Abdul Razak, the Deputy Prime Minister, became the second Prime Minister of Malaya.

GENERAL ELECTIONS 1959

A series of elections in the eleven States resulted in victories for the Alliance Party in nine States, the exceptions being Kelantan and Trengganu. When the Federal elections were held in August to contest 104 seats in the Lower House of the new Parliament, the Alliance won 74 seats. Tunku Abdul Rahman became Prime Minister of Malaya for the second time. The new Parliament of two Houses was formally opened by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in September.

In October 1959 Tunku Abdul Rahman made an official goodwill visit to the Commonwealth of Australia, and in December of the same

year this visit was returned by the Prime Minister of Australia, the Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies.

In January 1960 Tunku Abdul Rahman went on a goodwill visit to New Zealand for two weeks. A return visit was paid by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Walter Nash, to the Federation of Malaya in June. In the following month, President Ngo

At the end of April 1960 Tunku Abdul Rahman left Kuala Lumpur to attend for the first time the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London. The Federation of Malaya

Tunku speaking at the State Banquet held in honour of the Australian Prime Minister and Dame Pattie Menzies on December 8, 1959.



Dinh Diem paid a State visit to the Federation.

The Federation of Malaya suffered a severe blow as a young nation with the death of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Rahman, in April 1960. Malaya had lost its King and the Prime Minister an old friend. The Sultan of Selangor, Tuanku Hisamuddin Alam Shah, became the second Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

was the newest member of the Commonwealth. During this Conference the Tunku achieved world prominence by his outspoken criticism of the South African policy of apartheid.

After the Conference he made a highly successful tour of Europe as the State Guest of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of France.

On June 6, 1960 Cambridge University conferred on Tunku Abdul Rahman an honorary Doctorate of Laws. This tribute is among the most significant honours he has received. The Tunku had already been honoured with the same degree by the University of Malaya, the University of Sydney and the Araneta University in the Philippines. (Later he was to receive the same honours of Doctor of Laws from the University of Saigon in 1961 from the Aligarh Muslim University in India in 1962, and from Seoul National University, Korea, in April, 1965.)

Tunku Abdul Rahman returned to Malaya at the end of June to receive a hero's welcome for having carried out the national mandate to condemn apartheid.

END OF EMERGENCY

In July, as Prime Minister, he took the lead in the national celebrations which marked a declaration of the ending of the 12-year old State of Emergency and military victory over Communist terrorism.

The Federation of Malaya celebrated its third anniversary of Independence on August 31, only a month later with great rejoicing everywhere but there was a shadow over the land. On the very next day Malaya lost its King for a second time with the passing of Tuanku Hisamuddin Alam Shah. Messages of sympathy poured in to the Prime Minister from all over the world.

The Conference of Rulers elected the Raja of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Putra, as the third Yang di-Pertuan Agong, but

owing to the prolonged period of national mourning His Majesty was not actually installed in office until January 1961.

Before this historic event, however, the Prime Minister during October and November went on an extensive tour of Canada and the United States, and also visited the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. This tour was remarkable for the prescience shown in the Tunku's speeches. He warned of the dangers inherent in the current situation in Laos (and within five months Laos was a matter of world concern); he stressed also the danger to peace in South-East Asia arising from the undecided question of the future of West Irian (in fact, his tour was a personal effort to persuade the United Nations and world leaders of the need to solve this explosive problem).

A.S.A. YEAR

The year 1961 was packed with constructive efforts made by Tunku Abdul Rahman. Immediately following the State Visit to the Federation of Malaya made by President Garcia of the Philippines in February, the Tunku and the Foreign Ministers of the Philippines and Thailand issued a historic statement in Kuala Lumpur stating their formal joint agreement to go ahead with the establishment of the Association of South-East Asia (ASA).

In March the Tunku went to London once again, attending the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference which finally resulted in the decision of South Africa, in the face of concer-



Tunku addressing the historic Luncheon meeting of the Foreign Correspondents Association in Singapore on May 27, 1961, where he publicly put forward the concept of Malaysia.

ted opinion, to withdraw from the Commonwealth. It can be fairly stated that the stand taken by the Tunku and Malaya on the question of apartheid was an important factor in bringing about this result.

In May there occurred one of the most significant events in the whole political career of Tunku Abdul Rahman. Addressing a luncheon meeting of the Foreign Correspondents' Association at the Adelphi Hotel in Singapore on May 27 the Prime Minister electrified his audience by stating that Malaya should sooner or later have an understanding with Britain and the peoples of the territories of Singapore and North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak. This was the genesis of the Malaysia Plan, which after that day became the prime subject of interest and discussion throughout these territories.

In July, the Association of South-East Asia was formally launched at a conference in Thailand with joint agreement by Malaya, Thailand and the Philippines and the signing of the Bangkok Declaration. The seed sown in Manila two and a half years before by the Tunku had burgeoned into fruitful life.

On his return to Kuala Lumpur, the Tunku initiated a public appeal for funds to build a National Monument to honour those who suffered or died in the Emergency. The day of his broadcast was July 31, the first anniversary of the ending of the Emergency.

In October the Prime Minister flew to Saigon on an official visit during the Independence Day celebrations of South Vietnam, and stressed the close ties of interests between the two countries in the struggle against Communism.

MALAYSIA CONCEPT

During this year 1961, there had been great political activity and discussions in Malaya, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak on the concept of Malaysia, resulting in general agreement in the various States concerned.

With the future of Malaysia in mind Tunku Abdul Rahman visited London in November for talks with the British Government which resulted in agreement to go ahead with the Malaysia concept and to appoint a Special Commission to enquire into public opinion in North Borneo and Sarawak.

While the Tunku was away in London the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and his Consort made official State Visits to India and Pakistan, a memorable journey in international goodwill.

The year 1962 saw Tunku Abdul Rahman being as active as ever both at home and abroad. In February, his birthday month, the Tunku celebrated his tenth year of leadership of UMNO and was also honoured by being named as the first Chancellor of the newly-formed University of Malaya.

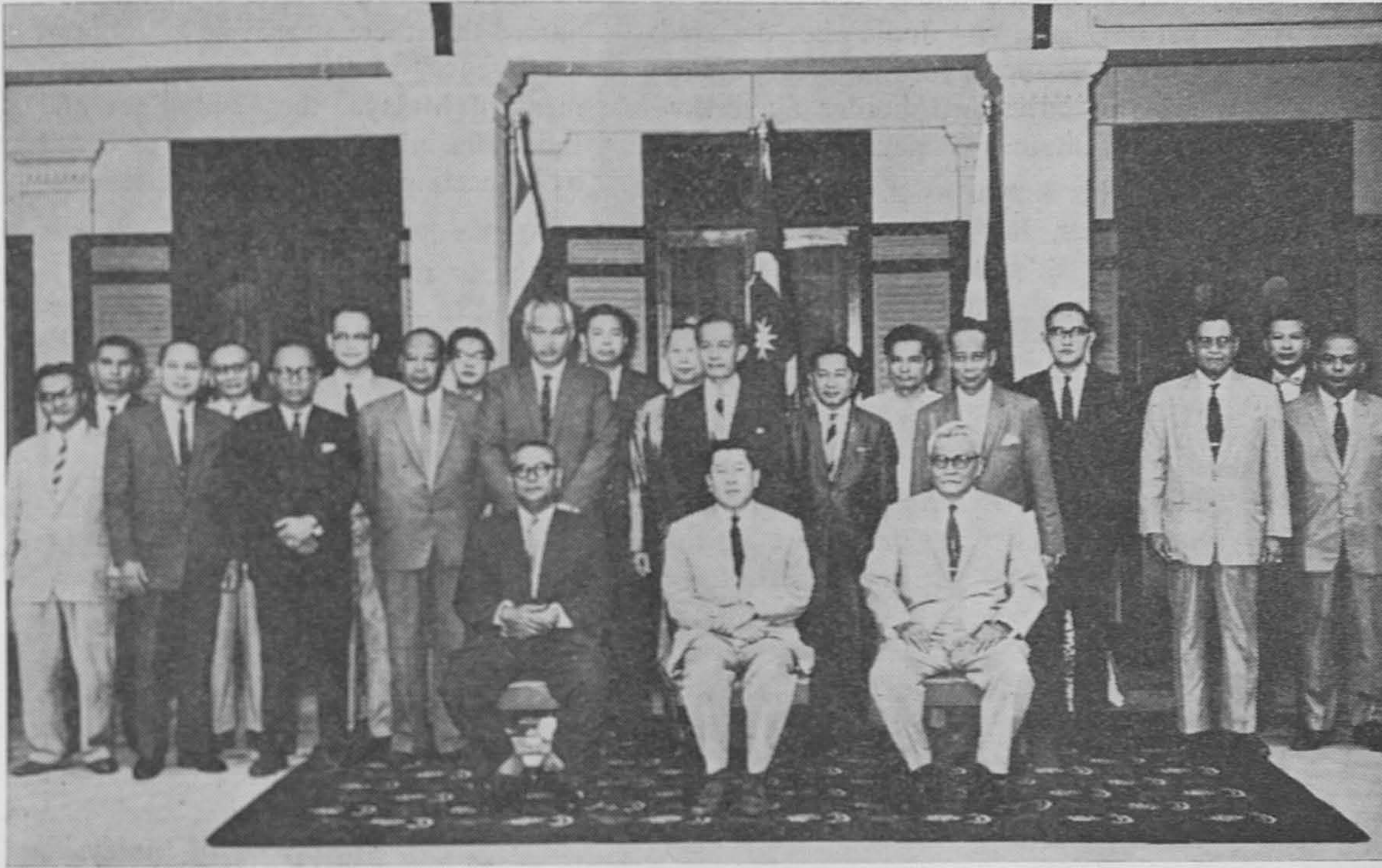
ASA and Malaysia were his principal preoccupations during the year. A second meeting of Foreign Ministers of ASA was held in Kuala Lumpur and the Cameron Highlands in June. The Cobbold Commission's Report in June showed an overwhelming majority of the peoples concerned in Sabah and Sarawak favoured Malaysia.

Tunku being installed as the first Chancellor of the University of Malaya by the then Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato Sir Alexander Oppenheim on June 16, 1962.





*First meeting of Cabinet Ministers of the newly independent Federation of Malaya
at Kuala Lumpur on September 10, 1957.*



The first meeting of ASA Foreign Ministers held in Bangkok in July, 1961.

In October the Tunku, keeping a promise of long-standing, toured Pakistan and India for three weeks. In Pakistan he stressed the importance of close understanding between Muslim nations, and in India he declared Malaya's support for that great democracy in unjustified border aggression by Communist China.

On his return to the Federation in November, he made his first official visit amidst popular acclaim to North Borneo and Sarawak. In December his attention was taken up by the sudden and unexpected uprising in Brunei, which was quickly quelled.

In a message to the nation on the New Year's eve the Tunku looked forward with hope and confidence for the future of Malaya in 1963, but he warned the people that it would be a year of great challenge, a year of test and national determination. Nevertheless, he declared that nothing would prevent the formation of Malaysia or the development of ASA, because Malaya firmly believed that both Malaysia and ASA were essential to the future peace, prosperity and happiness of our region. If 1962 was a year of great political and constitutional development in regard to the creation of Malaysia, the year 1963 turned out to be one fraught with international difficulties.

CONFRONTATION

In February 1963 Indonesia announced its hostile policy of confrontation against Malaysia because of the plans to form Malaysia.

As a result of this opposition, the Tunku and President Soekarno met in Tokyo in May and agreed to return to the spirit of the Treaty of Friendship between the two countries. It was also agreed that there should be a "Summit Conference" of the Heads of Government of Malaya, the Philippines and Indonesia in Manila in July, preceded by a meeting of Foreign Ministers.

At this important conference it was agreed to request the U.N. Secretary-General to appoint a Special Commission to enquire into the wishes of the peoples of Sabah and Sarawak, so as to enable Indonesia and the Philippines to welcome the establishment of Malaysia.

As far as Malaya was concerned, she was satisfied that through the results of the various Inter-Governmental Committee meetings, the Cobbold Commission and elections recently held in Sabah and Sarawak the peoples of both territories had exercised their right of self-determination and had clearly decided in favour of Malaysia.

However, Tunku Abdul Rahman wanted peace and wished the new nation of Malaysia to enjoy the goodwill and friendship of her immediate neighbours.

In quick succession a series of events occurred to endorse Malaysia. On July 31 Queen Elizabeth gave her Royal assent to the Malaysia Act. In August the Singapore Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council of Sabah and the Malayan House of Representatives approved the Malaysia Agreement.

The U.N. Secretary General's team arrived in Sabah and Sarawak on August 16 and completed their ascertainment on September 5.

In the meantime, on August 21 the Council Negri of Sarawak approved the Malaysia Agreement. On August 26, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong gave his Royal assent to the Malaysia Bill, and three days later signed a Proclamation fixing September 16 as Malaysia Day.

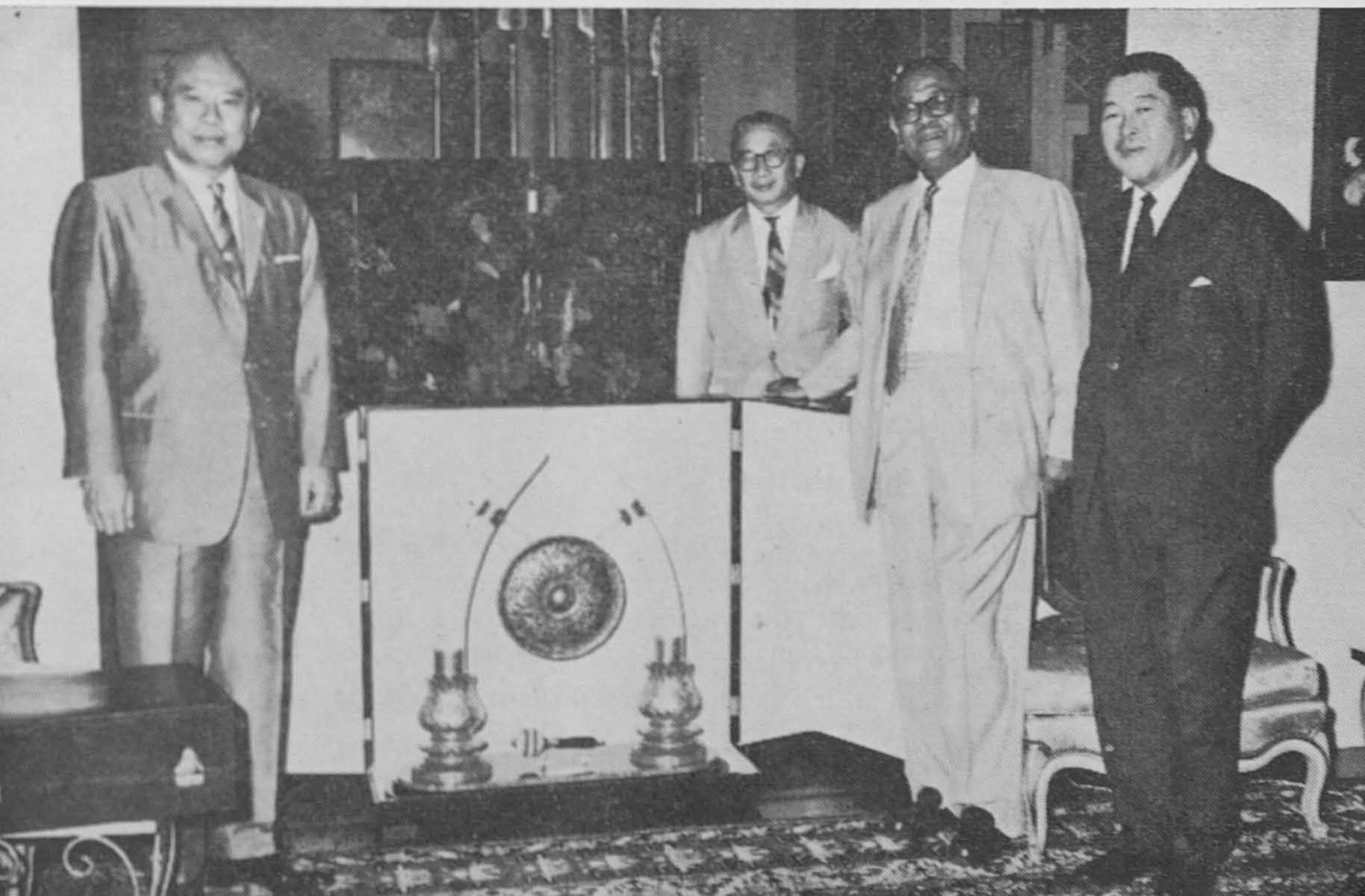
Malaysia Day Celebrations in September, 1963: the Tunku with (from left) the then Deputy Prime Minister, General Thanom Kittikachorn, the then Thai Ambassador, Nai Thitinat Na Ranong and Foreign Minister, Tun Thanat Khoman, at the Residency.

The Report of the U.N. Secretary General, published on September 13, confirmed the overwhelming support of the peoples of Sabah and Sarawak for Malaysia.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MALAYSIA

On September 16, Tunku Abdul Rahman in a great assembly at the Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur proclaimed the establishment of Malaysia. Shortly afterwards the First Parliament of Malaysia met in Kuala Lumpur.

Indonesia and the Philippines, however, declined to recognise Malaysia and broke off diplomatic relations. Indonesia entered into a policy of confrontation on Malaysia in earnest, and began to carry out an active campaign



of aggression, infiltration and subversion. These hostile acts only served to reinforce and unite the peoples of Malaysia.

In April 1964 the third General Elections were held in the States of Malaya with the result that the Alliance Party led by Tunku Abdul Rahman won 89 out of 104 seats. In the new Government the Tunku, in addition to being Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs, also became Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

During the critical months following the establishment of Malaysia, various efforts had been made, mainly by Thailand and Japan, to mediate in the confrontation problem.

In June 1964, just less than a year after the Manila Accord, a conference of Foreign Ministers of Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia met in Tokyo, but no agreement could be reached as President Soekarno still declared his intention to continue confrontation.

In August, the Tunku attended the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London, followed by official visits to the United States and Canada.

In April 1965, he also made official visits to Korea and Japan.

In the meantime, from the time of the Malayan elections in April 1964 Malaysia experienced increasing difficulties in its relationship with Singapore. With confrontation still continuing externally, the problem of Singapore's adjustment within the new

nation was beginning to cause growing concern.

In June 1965, Tunku Abdul Rahman attended the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London, returning to Malaysia in early August.

His return heralded another event of major significance in the political career of Malaysia's Prime Minister. While in London he had spent weeks in hospital following a severe bout of shingles. It was the first time in his life that he had been a hospital patient and, as he explained later, it gave him plenty of time to ponder on internal difficulties within Malaysia arising from the problem of Singapore.

SEPARATION OF SINGAPORE

On August 9 the whole nation heard with stunned astonishment the Tunku's announcement in Parliament that the State of Singapore was now to be separated from Malaysia becoming an independent nation under a mutual agreement signed between the Malaysian and Singapore Governments.

He declared that he had taken this step in the best interests of the nation as a whole. Parliament after an historic debate, endorsed his action, and approved the necessary constitutional amendments.

After recovering from initial shock the nation and people of Malaysia

Tunku being chaired by enthusiastic supporters on winning the Parliamentary election for Kuala Kedah Constituency on April 25, 1964.





accepted the new situation of an Independent Singapore as conducive to internal harmony and peace.

In September the term of office of Tuanku Syed Putra as Yang di-Pertuan Agong came to a close, his successor being His Highness the Sultan of Trengganu, Tuanku Ismail Nasiruddin Shah.

On September 30, 1965, internal upheaval occurred in Indonesia following an attempted coup d'etat by the Indonesian Communist Party which was frustrated by the Indonesian Armed Forces. Indonesia's preoccupations with her own internal problems had resulted in a marked abatement of hostile aggression against Malaysia, although the policy of confrontation is still in effect.

In the same month Malaysia was host to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Il Kwon Chung, on a State visit, and shortly afterwards during October the Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam, Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, also visited Malaysia.

Malaysia attended the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Lagos, Nigeria, in January 1966, its delegation being led by the Deputy Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak.

On February 8, 1966, the Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, celebrated his 63rd birthday and as a mark of tribute to his distinguished leadership, this day was chosen for the dedication of the National Monument.

President Lyndon B. Johnson greeting the Tunku at the White House on July 23, 1964.



A man of remarkable energy, Tunku Abdul Rahman is known and loved throughout Malaysia for his geniality, good humour, political sagacity and his personal talent, so evident throughout his life, for getting along with people of every age and class.

A DEVOUT MUSLIM

He is a devoutly religious man, and as a true Muslim prays five times a day irrespective of how crowded his daily schedule may be. He is intensely interested in Islam, and has contributed in his own constructive way to goodwill among Muslims everywhere by

originating the idea of an international Koran Reading Contest, which has been held annually in Kuala Lumpur for the past six years.

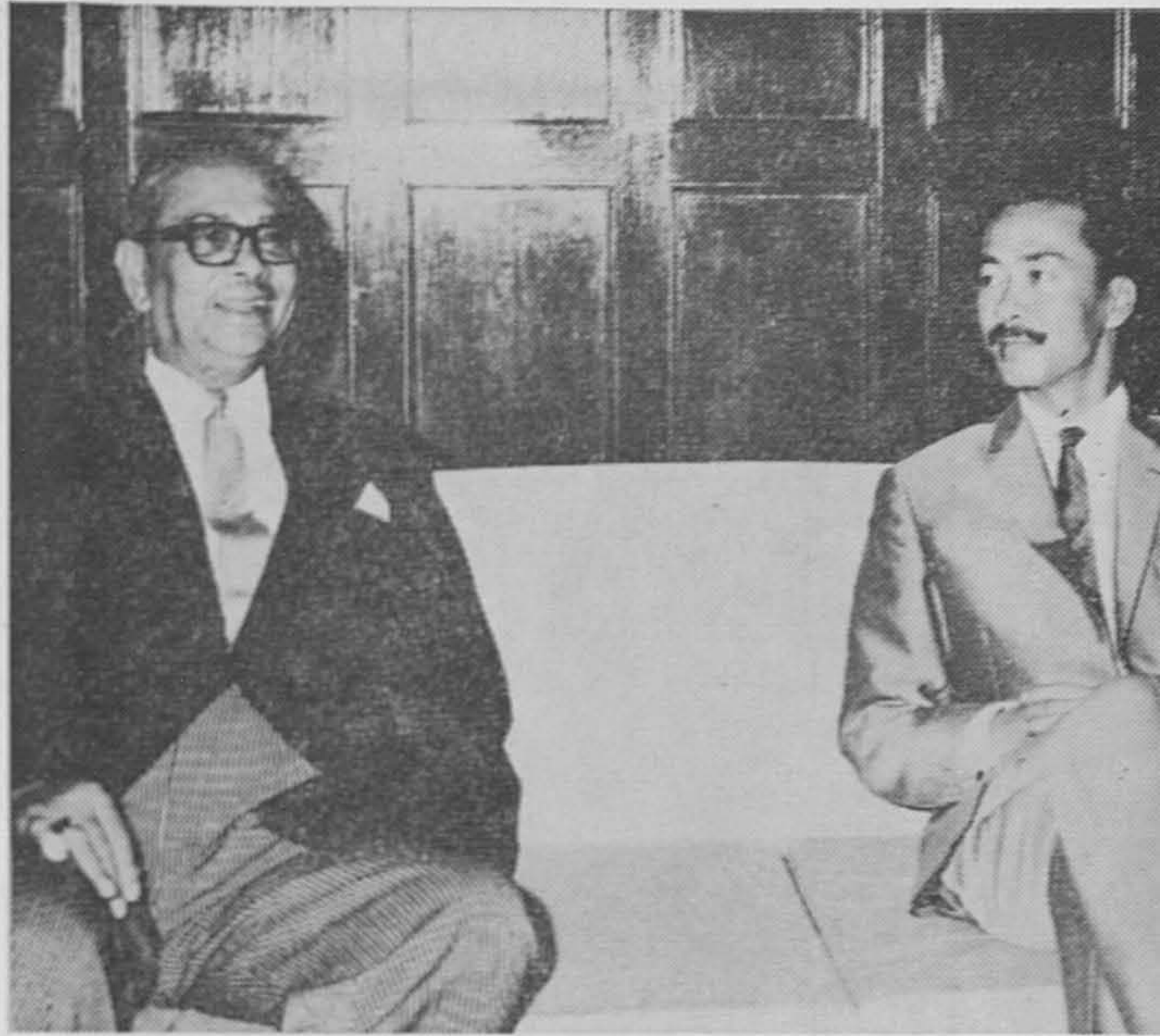
Normally, the Tunku after his first morning prayers reads the daily newspapers, and then has breakfast with his family. He makes it a rule of never accepting luncheon engagement, except when abroad, always eating at home. He endeavours never to miss having an hour's sleep after lunch.

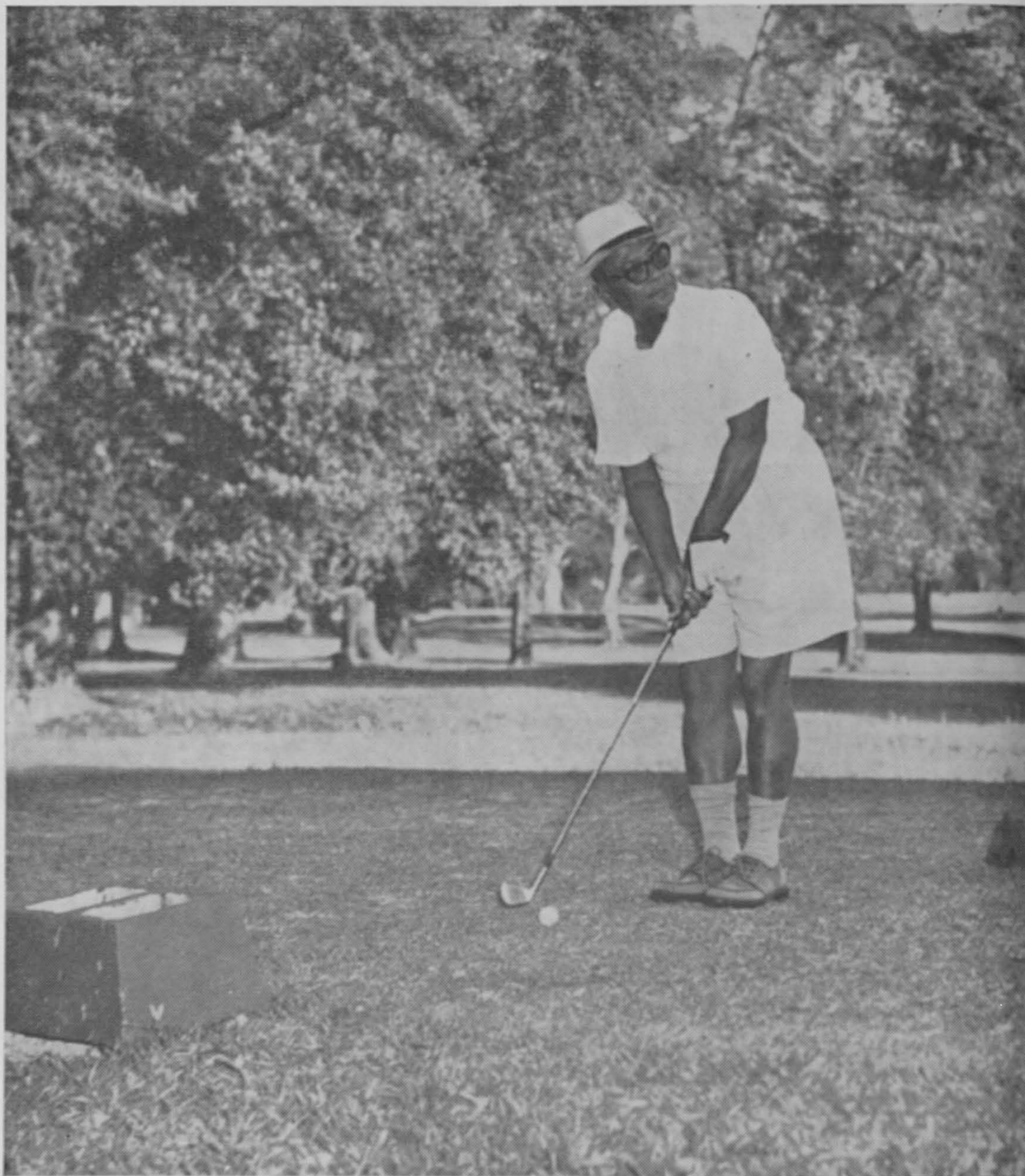
During the mornings and afternoons he may work either from his office or his house, attending to vast correspondence and receiving a constant

◀ *The Korean Prime Minister pays a courtesy call on the Tunku on September 29, 1965.*

The Prime Minister of Vietnam pays a courtesy call on the Tunku on October 4, 1965. ▶

Tunku and Puan Sharifah Rodziah call on Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky and Madam Ky during the latter's State Visit to Malaysia on October 4, 1965. ▼







Playing golf is the Tunku's favourite recreation.

stream of visitors, such as Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors, senior Government Officers, and political leaders. Hardly a day passes without the Tunku entertaining guests for afternoon tea or dinner. He travels widely throughout the country, addressing meetings in villages and towns.

RECREATION

A keen sportsman, he has been a soccer fan all his life, this being his favourite game as a youth. For the past sixteen years he has been President of the Football Association of Malaysia. He became (and still is) the first President of the Asian Football Confederation, which was formed eight years ago. For the past seven years he has also been President of the Asian Badminton Confederation.

A great believer in the value of sport in building either the character of people as individuals or the nation as a whole, he spends so much time fostering sport in all forms that it is surprising he has time to spare for exercise. Nevertheless, he always takes some exercise. His over-riding interest for personal recreation is golf, which he tries to play at least once a day, if circumstances permit.

He is also extremely fond of racing, and is considered a very good judge of horse. He attends race meetings in various parts of Malaysia as often as his official duties allow, and as a part-owner (Alliance Stable) he has led in



The Tunku, essentially a family man, feels most happy and relaxed with members of his family. A typical family gathering in the garden of the Residency, with the Tunku holding one of his grandchildren.



his own winners on several occasions.

His other personal relaxations include a great interest in motor-boating and sailing, but nothing pleases him more than the opportunity to have a restful time in his home town of Alor Star, where he has built himself a retreat on Kedah Hill.

He is keenly interested in his wife's hobby of orchid growing, and is a persistent devotee of photography, both cine and still, having a wide collection of cameras. He wrote a play about an ancient legend of Langkawi Island, where he was once District Officer. This has been performed many times and also filmed in colour.

These recreations and hobbies do not exhaust his activities. He takes the greatest possible interest in architecture and planning, as can be seen by his promotion and construction of the Merdeka Stadium, the Stadium Negara, the National Mosque and the National Monument. He was President of the Kuala Lumpur Flying Club for some years, but fortunately did not take to the air. He owns one of the most important and varied collections of the Malay kris in the whole country, and is a great patron of all cultural entertainment, being particularly fond of dancing the traditional Ronggeng, which is always a feature of any large party he holds.

Tunku Abdul Rahman has been married three times. By his first wife, he had two children: Tunku Kathijah, who is the wife of a Malay in Government Service and a mother of three

children, and a son, Tunku Nerang, who is a Captain in the Federation Regiment and is married with two children. The Prime Minister's first wife died shortly after her son's birth.

Tunku Abdul Rahman has been married to his present wife, Puan Sharifah Rodziah, daughter of a well-known family from Alor Star, for the past 26 years. A most attractive and charming woman, she has been a great influence in his life. They have no children, but they have adopted several, including two orphans, a Chinese girl named Mariam, now aged 11½, and a Malay boy named Suleiman, now aged 10 years. The Prime Minister and his wife have also another adopted son, Syed Abdullah bin Omar, a 27-year old cameraman with Television Malaysia.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

The Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, has received many foreign Awards, but the one he treasures most is the Kedah Order of Merit (K.O.M.) which he received from the late Sultan of Kedah in May 1958. The Kedah Order of Merit, which is given for illustrious service, cannot be held by more than three persons at the same time. At present Tunku Abdul Rahman is the only holder of the Order.

The Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, received another most unusual distinction when the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, established in the Philippines, decided to

Tunku and Puan Sharifah Rodziah giving food parcels to children in the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur.





The Tunku and his wife, Puan Shari-fah Rodziah.

confer on him the 1960 Award for Community Leadership. The Foundation, in announcing the Award, stated:—

“The Tunku’s labours, like Ramon Magsaysay’s were aimed to build a nation where man could live with man in honour and peace. Exuding a spirit of live and let live, he has fostered in Malaya an understanding rare in newly independent countries, that

the future is best insured with tolerance and goodwill among one’s fellow men. By this election, the Board of Trustees recognises his guidance of a multi-racial society through Malaya’s Constitutional struggle for independence and towards communal alliance and national identity.”

One final interesting fact about Tunku Abdul Rahman is the way his title is popularly used. “Tunku” is the Malay equivalent of “Prince”, and with the ruling Malay Sultans in nine



Group photograph of Tunku and his family.

of the eleven States of the Federation of Malaya, naturally there are quite a number of Tunkus. Usually the title is spelt "Tengku" but in one or two States, particularly in Kedah, the title is spelt as it sounds, i.e., "Tunku".

FATHER OF THE NATION

It is a personal tribute to the "Father of the Nation" that in ordinary conversation if anyone mentions "the Tunku" there is no doubt at all about whom he is speaking. The same is true of newspapers. The headlines in papers or bill posters simply use "Tunku". Even if half a dozen Tunkus are speaking together and they happen to refer to "the Tunku" it does not mean anyone present; it can only mean one person and the one person only, the Prime Minister.

Tunku Abdul Rahman is dedicated to the service of Malaysia and her

people, and in doing so he always expresses an unshaken belief in parliamentary democracy, the value of the Commonwealth and the world importance of the United Nations.

A man of faith, he is imbued with deep trust in God in His mercy and justice and has unwavering confidence in the fundamental goodness of man. As he once said, "In our country with the complications of its multiple races, we have come to understand that the basis of our peace and happiness is tolerance and goodwill among our fellow-men."

A man of peace, he abhors force and violence, believing that the ways of compromise and patience and reason alone can produce true understanding. He declared once, "If I am credited with nothing more I can at least thank God that I was able to lead our country along the path of independence, and beyond, without one drop of blood being shed."



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