KOLEKSI

BIODATA TOKOH

TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA AL - HAJ IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN ABDUL HAMID HALIM SHAH, 1903 - 1990

1970

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NAMA

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TARIKH

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(SKRIP RADIO)

UNIT DOKUMENTASI DAN ARKIB

PERPUSTAKAAN PENYELIDIKAN
KEMENTERIAN PENERANGAN MALAYSIA

KOLEKSI
BIODATA TOKOH

TITLE: A MAN OF THE PEOPLE
(A Portrait of the Prime Minister)

SUNDAY

SCRIPT: YAP SWEE CHOON

8th FEBRUARY 1970

PRODUCER: YAP SWEE CHOON

12.00 NOON

ANN: A MAN OF THE PEOPLE - A Portrait of the Prime Minister,

Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj.

GRAM: MUSIC.....ESTABLISH, FADE UNDER AND OUT.

NARR: The Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman celebrates his 67th birthday today. Born on the 8th of February 1903 at Alor Star, the Tunku is the 21st son of the late Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah of Kedah. His mother was Makche Menjelara, the daughter of a Siamese chieftain.

TUNKU: My father has got many children and he has not the time to spend on educating all his children and so it was my mother, who was a Siamese, who had given all her time, her love and attention to me and who had urged upon me to study. Because as a young man I was a little naughty, I always ran away from school, from everything, and sometimes I was absent for days. She always made me go and insisted upon education as the right way to begin life and with her as my guide, I have, I think, become what I am today and that is why I have always the greatest of respect and love and affection for my mother.

NARR: As a child the Tunku was not physically strong but he had an indomitable spirit in him. He was sent to various schools before he became a pupil of the Penang Free School at the age of twelve. When he was sixteen he was awarded a Kedah State scholarship to study in England. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cambridge in December 1925. After graduating, he returned home but he was sent back to England to study law. Not successful in his law studies, he returned to join the [illegible] at the age of 27. Several years later, in

interrupted by the outbreak of World War II; so he returned home once again to work for the Kedah Civil Service.

He married Puan Sharifah Rodziah, the daughter of a well-known family from Alor Star in 1939.

TUNKU: She is helping me by not interfering with my business - that is the biggest help I get from her. And one of the qualities which is rare among women - she never gossips and she never discusses other people's business. And I am grateful to her. One time when I took up politics, I had to sell up all my properties and I had to go and live in Johore and in Province Wellesley and I could not afford to employ servants and she was doing all the household work, besides cooking as well. But her best asset is that she never interferes with my life, political or social. She leaves me to think and to do what I think is correct.

NARR: Two years after the war, in 1947, the Tunku went to England to study law again, and in 1949 he was called to the Bar at the age of 46. While in England he became President of the Malay Society of Great Britain. One of his closest friends at the time was Tun Abdul Razak who was also studying in England. Tun Razak remains the Tunku's closest friend to this day.

After completing his law studies, the Tunku returned to the country to join the Government Service. Two years later he resigned to become President of UMNO. The Tunku had long held the view that the best solution to the political problems of the country lay in co-operation between the various races. It was this idea which led to the political alliance of UMNO and MCA who contested the first municipal elections in 1952 and won 24 out of 45 seats. The MIC joined this alliance a year later. The First Federal Elections in 1955 swept Tunku Abdul Rahman and his Alliance Party into office with 51 out of the 52 elected seats.

1957 when he became the first Prime Minister of the sovereign and independent Federation of Malaya.

TAPE: THE TENGKU LEADS SEVEN SHOUTS OF MERDEKA FOLLOWED BY CLAPPINGS FROM THE CROWD AT THE PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE CEREMONY.

NARR: Under the Tunku's leadership, the country prospered. There was peace and stability in the country. Economic development was taking place at a rapid pace. Then in 1961 the Tunku made this historic statement:

TUNKU: So Malaya today, as a nation, realises that she cannot stand alone and in isolation. Outside of international politics, the national one must be broad-based. Sooner or later Malaya should have an understanding with Britain and the peoples of the territories of Singapore, Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak. It is premature for me to say now how this closer co-operation or understanding can be brought about but it is inevitable that we should look ahead to this as an objective and think of a plan whereby these territories can be brought closer together in a political and economic co-operation.

NARR: Malaysia was born on the 16th of September 1963. Once again the Tunku became Prime Minister. But being a Prime Minister is no easy task. There are bound to be moments of trials and tribulations. During his many years as Prime Minister, three events must have brought him great distress and sorrow. One was the separation of Singapore in 1965. The Tunku, however, saw to it that it was done on terms of friendship, not enmity. Another was the trouble with our neighbours as a result of the formation of Malaysia. The Prime Minister stressed then that he would go anywhere, anytime and talk to anyone for the sake of peace. His determination paid off. Today we are on the friendliest of terms with these countries.

NARR: The Tunku must have felt the greatest sorrow during the disturbances in May last year. But he has not given up hope He is determined, as ever, to restore goodwill and harmony among the people in the country. That is why he is taking a personal interest in the work of goodwill committees, he himself being the chairman of the National Goodwill Committee.
What is the Tunku's political philosophy?

TUNKU: We believe in food, rather than in bullets; we believe in clothing, rather than in uniforms; homes, rather than barracks.

NARR: At home and in world forums, the Prime Minister reiterated Malaysia's policy - a policy he strongly believes, a policy he pledges to uphold all the time.

TUNKU: We in Malaysia intend to keep our minds set on the task of peaceful development, making friends with all in the hope that we will be allowed to live our own way of life in peace and happiness. This is what we wish for ourselves and this is what we wish for all men everywhere.

NARR: The Prime Minister has often said that Malaysia will not survive and prosper if there is no goodwill and harmony, tolerance, understanding and co-operation among the various races living in the country. That is why he is against the Chinese communists and their supporters who are trying to create havoc in the country through terrorism and subversion. This is not just an obsession for he had had many bitter years of experience with communist insurgency in the country. The Tunku also believes in the equality of man, regardless of race, colour or creed. He has condemned in no uncertain terms the apartheid policy of South Africa and the racist policies of the Ian Smith regime in Rhodesia. As far as the neighbouring countries of Southeast Asia are concerned, the Prime Minister advocates a policy of regional co-operation for the benefit of all. In 1958 the Tunku called on the countries

NARR: of Southeast Asia to come together and work for the common good. As a result ASA or the Association of Southeast Asia was established in 1961. ASA gave way to the formation of ASEAN or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 1967, with two more members and the possibility of more joining in.

TUNKU: It is a matter of paramount importance that we should get together and work together for the common good of member-countries in particular and of the region in general. The combined size of Southeast Asian countries is small and for us to live in isolation will make it even smaller in the eyes of the world. On the other hand, the potential wealth of the countries of Southeast Asia is comparable to the richest in the world. Therefore so much advantage or good can be derived from joint co-operative effort of all the countries concerned. But the main trouble with people of Southeast Asia is that we tend to overlook the importance of the role we must play but instead we find delight in indulging in petty squabbles.

For us to achieve any success in regional co-operation, there must be genuine good faith, goodwill and understanding among us all. We must truly be good neighbours who have feelings of mutual respect and friendship for one another, who are open and frank with each other and who entertain no ill-will or covet any design or selfish motive in our dealings with each other. ASEAN cannot succeed if there is any suspicion and mistrust among its members. Without genuine goodwill among us, the edifice of ASEAN which we are attempting to build will have a foundation of shifting sand. We the countries and peoples of Southeast Asia must practise self-help, we must live together in peace and harmony, we must co-operate together and rely on each other for sustenance and strength before we can expect to receive assistance from our other friends.

NARR: What is the Tunku like as a person? He is a warm and genial man - a man of varied but simple tastes. Full of candour and a keen sense of life. A man who is filled with the zest of life and who has said that if given the choice, he would rather be a poor Prime Minister than a millionaire.

A family man, he is a devoted father who is fond of children. Children take to him instantly. He has adopted a number of children.

The Prime Minister is a devoutly religious man, and as a true Muslim he prays five times a day, irrespective of how crowded his daily schedule may be. He is imbued with deep trust in God and has unwavering confidence in the fundamental goodness of man.

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 is a keen sportsman. His favourite game in his youth was soccer and he still remains an ardent soccer fan. The Tunku has now taken to golf as his main recreation. He is a great believer in the value of sport in building either the character of the people as individuals or the nation as a whole.

He also enjoys going to the races but he does not bet much because he doesn't believe in getting rich on the course. At the same time, he doesn't think the turf club can make him poorer.

His other hobbies include boating and sailing, and photography, both still and cine. He has also written two plays, "Mahsuri" and "Raja Bersiong" - both of which have been filmed.

Over the years, the Prime Minister has received many awards and honours. One he treasures most is the Kedah Order of Merit which he received from the late Sultan of Kedah in 1958. This award for illustrious service cannot be held by more than three

Foundation, established in the Philippines, conferred on him the Award for Community Leadership. The Foundation, in announcing the Award, stated:

VOICE: 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.

NARR: In 1961, the Prime Minister was made a Companion of Honour by Queen Elizabeth II. In June 1968, he was made a Freeman of the City of London in recognition of "high distinction and exceptional services to the country, the Commonwealth and the world at large." This was indeed a rare honour for the only other Asian who has received this award was the late Jawaharlal Nehru of India.

The Prime Minister is a man of remarkable energy who is admired and respected by Malaysians as well as people abroad. Born a prince, he has the common touch. He is at ease with royalty as well as the common man. He gets along with people of every age and class. What is the secret of his success?

TUNKU: It is difficult for me to say because as far as I know myself, I am what I am and what I have been all the time. And one thing that I have as a credit in my favour is that I am a very good mixer. In my mixing, in my choice of friends, I don't confine to a person because of his race or religion. To me whoever is nice, whoever is good, whoever is friendly, whoever is sincere -

TUNKU: they are my friends and I have made among the best friends people of different races in this country. And so I suppose that is why I have endeared myself to the people of this country because I have become, I am just natural. That is all. I don't try to do anything outside what I am capable of thinking or doing. I don't go out of my way to gain favour or to do anything. It is all these. I suppose I take things in my stride without thinking and without trying to be anything different from what I am, from what I was born with.

GRAM: MUSIC.....UP TO END.

ANN: You have been listening to A MAN OF THE PEOPLE - a portrait of the Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj.

It was narrated by _____

The programme was compiled and produced in the Kuala Lumpur studios of Radio Malaysia by Yap Swee Choon.

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TITLE: MALAYSIA'S PRIME MINISTER

SCRIPT: SONNY

ANN: Radio Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) presents an introduction to a new series - MALAYSIA'S PRIME MINISTER - THE MAN. Here is ..... to introduce the series.

NARR: Good evening. I think that there are very few Malayans who will never forget midnight of August 31st 1957. No matter where he or she lived I am pretty certain that few Malayans went to bed before midnight. In the Federal capital of Kuala Lumpur, thousands of Malayans were out in the streets from quite early on in the evening making their way to the Kuala Lumpur padang. Many who were in cars found that they could not go forward and abandoning their cars or motor-cycles or what have you, they trudged along. Batu Road, Ipoh Road, Bungsar Road - name any road and traffic along that road was heading one way - to the padang.

For days before the 31st August people had been coming from all over Malaya - in cars, buses, by train, in planes - all headed for Kuala Lumpur. From overseas people had been flying in or coming in by ship.

In towns and villages all over Malaya wherever there was a Radio set, there was a crowd of people sitting, standing or hunkering around the sets, ears glued to it. Even children were there.

Overseas wherever there were a group of Malayans you could see them, some trying frantically to tune in to Kuala Lumpur, others assembling togehter in places like Malaya House in London or holding little celebrations.

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TAPE: PROCLAMATION: OF MERDEKA. FADE UNDER OUT.

NARR: Tengku Abdul Rahman Putra ibni al-marhum Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah was the man all had waited to hear. First Prime Minister of newly independent to Malaya. The man who brought freedom to the country. Six years later on September 16 in the evening the same scene repeated. They were waiting for the same man, this time he read another proclamation.

TAPE: PROCLAMATION OF MALAYSIA. FADE UNDER.

NARR: In the space of six years a lot had been done. From eleven states independent in 1957 there were now fourteen states. All this had been accomplished by one man - Tengku Abdul Rahman Putra Al Haj.

TAPE: PROCLAMATION OF MALAYSIA UP AND OUT.

VOICE: Who is he ? What kind of a man is he.

NARR: We hope to find out the answer in the next few weeks. We here in Radio Malaysia have come in contact with the Tengku often - in his official capacity. We have seen him opening conferences, recorded his messages to the nation, reported on his activities as a politician and statesman. Our sports commentators have seen him witnessing soccer matches - we have seen all this and we too would like to know what kind of a man the Tengku is. Compiling this programme series will give us the opportunity.

TAPE: EXCERPT FROM TENGKU'S SPEECH AT A MERDEKA SOCCER TOURNAMENT. FADE UNDER.

NARR: Soccer, we all know is one of Tengku's favourite sports. Is he interested in other games? What do footballers think of Tengku Abdul Rahman Putra, the President of the Football Assciation of Malaysia? What games does he play? Is he a good or a bad sport? These are some of the questions we hope to answer in our series.

...3/-

TAPE: EXCERPT FROM TENGKU'S SPEECH AT MERDEKA. UP THEN X-FADE.
EXCERPT FROM MAHSURI. ESTABLISH THEN FADE UNDER.

NARR: Tengku Abdul Rahman has written a play. Why did he write it? Is he interested in other forms of entertainment ? Does he play any musical instrument ? Has he produced any play or show or entertainment of any sort. These too we hope to answer.

TAPE: EXCERPT FROM MAHSURI UP THEN CROSS-FADE TO.

GRAM: SOUND OF CHILDREN. UP THEN UNDER.

NARR: Tengku Abdul Rahman is a father. He has also adopted children. What do children find in him? What is he like as a fahter? What games does he play with his children? These too shall be answered.

GRAM: SOUND OF CHILDREN. UP THEN CROSS-FADE TO

TAPE: CLEAN SOUND PRAYERS. ESTABLISH THEN FADE UNDER.

NARR: What does Tengku Abdul Rahman think of religion - his and others. Is he a strict Muslim? How learned is he in his religion? The answers to these questions, too, we hope to find out.

TAPE: CLEAN SOUND PRAYERS. UP AND OUT.

NARR: What is Tengku Abdul Rahman like as a friend? What was he like as a boy, a student, a Government servant? Why was he chosen President of the UMNO and the Alliance? What do the people think of him? These too we have to find out. It will not be easy. There will be a lot of hard work involved. We hope that those of you who know the Tengku or have met him or have a story to tell of him will write to us in Radio Malaysia.

Write to:-

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TALKS AND FEATURES SERVICE,
RADIO MALAYSIA,
KUALA LUMPUR. (REPEAT)

...4/-

We shall pay for any true story we use. We want to be able to say at the end of this series:

VOICE: Tengku Abdul Rahman al-Haj ibni al-marhum Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah - THIS IS THE MAN YOU ARE. THIS IS YOURS LIFE.

ANN: You have been listening to ..... introduce our new programme series MALAYSIA'S PRIME MINISTER - THE MAN. The programme was written by Sonny Menon and produced by .....

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SM/HA

TITLE: MALAYSIA'S PRIME MINISTER - THE MAN (2)

SCRIPT: YAP SWEE CHOON

ANN: THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN. Tonight we hear recollections of Tengku Abdul Rahman's edu cation in England and the early days of his Government career.

NARR: In 1920 at the age of sixteen, Tengku Abdul Rahman sailed for England to begin his studies abroad. After passing his matriculation he gained a place in Cambridge University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1925. Jubilant over his success he returned home to Kedah. But his stay in Kedah was to be short. Four months later the Tengku returned to England to read law in London. While studying in London Tengku Abdul Rahman met many other Malay students who were later to assume positions of eminence! : The late Tyanku Abdul Rahman who became the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong; Raja Musa bin Raja Bot of Selangor who later became the first Malay judge in Malaya. Syed Sheikh Barakbah of Kedah who is now the Chief Justice of Malaya; Mahmud Hashim, now a judge in Kelantan who was formerly Malaya's Ambassador to America and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Dato Nik Kamil revives memories of these days spent with Tengku as a student in England....

TAPE: DATO: Well I met Tengku for the first time in England, not in Malaya. I was then a very young law student in London just arrived about a year and Tengku, I believe, had just come down from Cambridge after qualifying there and he was also doing law in London. My impression of him then was, - he was a young man, dashing, full of good cheer and spirits, happy-go-lucky

and fond of parties, sports; he used to play lots of tennis and he was a good cook then and I believe he still is a good cook now.

He was a mixer and in 1927 he was the President of the Malay Students' Society of Great Britain. I joined the society for the first time in 1927 and Tengku was the President then.

YAP: Could you tell us more about this Malay Students' Society? The aims, functions?

DATO: Well, I haven't got the book of rules before me now but I believe one of the purposes of the Malay Students' Society was, to begin with, to get together all the Malay student societies into one body or association so that we could take care of our interests; because way back in 1926-27 there were very precious few Malays in the United Kingdom. If I remember correctly we were no more than about thirty of us and we felt that we should organise ourselves into an association, as I said, to take care of our interests and to organise meetings, the sports, the dinners and so on so that we would be keeping in touch with each other.

YAP: How did the Tengku get along with British, Dato?

DATO: Well I believe as far as his connection with the individual Britishers were quite good but he was, I think, not too fond of the British policies then. Little bits of "anti" if I may say so. Not so much against British policies.

YAP: Dato, when Tengku was a student in England did he show any signs that one day he would become the Prime Minister of Malaysia?

DATO: Well, he didn't create that impression to me

then because he was a young prince of an old princely ruling family at Kedah. He was happy-go-lucky and never appeared very serious at any time. So I can honestly say at that time it never occured to me that he would emerge as a national leader of Malaysia as he is now.

NARR: Perhaps his happy-go-lucky attitude to life at that time explains why Tengku never passed his law exams for many years. In fact he has since admitted that he didn't like Law and that he was more keen to join the Kedah Civil Service. So ~~:~~ he returned to Malaya and in the year 1931 became a cadet in the Kedah Civil Service. Kedah had declared openly that the creation of a model Malay state would be its goal. To achieve this, the administration was to be by Kedah-born Malay officers only. Therefore Tengku had come back at the right time.

Dato Wan Ibrahim bin Wan Soloh, a friend of the Tengku who was working in Kedah at that time remembers the Tengku as he was in those days.

TAPE: DATO: I first come to know the Tengku since his return to Kedah from his study in England in the early 1930's. He was then a dashing young man of thirties, 3 years my senior, very fond of fun and pleasures and sports. He frequented the Setia Kesukaan Club almost every day, in the evening for tennis and billiard. He liked ronggeng but not Western dances. He was patron of many sports' bodies. In habit, I think, he was a bit lavish and extravagant as far as money was concerned. Nobody should blame him for this because he was brought up in that way. He didn't mind borrowing money in order to help other people.

SONNY: Sir, you were a colleague with the Tengku in Government service. Now what kind of a government servant was he?

DATO: In government service, yes. He was in the Kedah Civil Service. I was then a junior officer in the Co-operative Department and we met very frequently in the clubs in Alor Star and Sungei Patani. Sometime we played golf together; even up to this day I play golf with him. He joked and has a nickname for me. Even though I was not his close friend, he often invited me to his house for dinner or lunch. He was then an easy-going officer of average intelligence but full of ideas. He was responsible for the building of the present Sungei Patani mosque. He sought help to get volunteers to cut mangrove trees from the muddy river at Sungei Patani for use as files for the foundation of the mosque. He sometimes went with the volunteers into the jungle to see them work, and joined them at lunch.

Wherever he was posted to work, he always did something for the benefit of the inhabitants of the district. When he was District Officer, Langkawi, he mobilised the people there to build a temporary wooden jetty which was 100 yards long and it was a well-done job and served its purpose at least for some years at no expense of the government.

SONNY: Did the Tengku strictly stick to government orders and what the general public call "red tape"?

DATO: As a government officer, he must comply with the general orders and government regulations. But sometimes, as you know, not all government orders and circulars are good. Some of them are too strict and harsh especially in the colonial days. Some were not practicable. On small matters, the Tengku ignored them

and did what he thought right. And in most cases he was right. The Tengku, as many others, hated "red tape" as you call it. If a decision could be done on the spot, he did it on the spot. I know he liked to tackle problems - big problems. This made him think to solve problems with ease. If he could not solve a problem, he just say "never mind." In Malay: "Biakpi lah, bagi la kak did. Taapa lah." These were magic words you know, solve many difficult problems with no ill- effects on others. The general public were fond of him and highly think of him and at the same time respect him. Although he is of royal blood but he is unpretentious. He mixes freely with ordinary people, rich or poor, irrespective of nationalities.

NARR: Enche Lee Ewe Boon, another close friend of the Tengku since his childhood days also praises Tengku's work in Kedah.

TAPE: LEE: Surprising he turned out to be a very good officer, particularly as District Officers. And wherever he was as a District Officer, he was very much liked by the people in the districts. For one thing I knew that Tengku will always patiently listen to the people when they come to appeal to him for help and Tengku will never be slow to go out to help those people. Tengku says there should not be any red tape. When he said the people want that thing very greatly, for instance like a bridge, then he said: "Give it to them. Why wait for this to be checked that to be examined and so on when you know that a thing must be given sooner or later?" He is that type of man. He wants things to be done at once when he knows that the thing must be given immediately or urgently required.

NARR: Tengku Abdul Rahman was still in the Kedah Service in 1942 and during the Japanese Occupation. At this time of trouble he displayed his true colours. He showed that he was a responsible man who could tackle difficult problems and make quick decisions as Tengku Nong Jiwa, his nephew, remembers.

TAPE: TENGKU NONG: The best part of his service, if I might put it this way, was when he was District Officer of Kulim during the Japanese time. There he made a lot of friends among all races and created a great impression among the people for there was no pick or choose with him. Everybody was his friend. Every case coming before him he considered and listened with attention and he was a mastermind for patching up trouble by perhaps his supreme personality. Then when the government asked His Highness the late Sultan Abdul Hamid Shah, that is his father to be removed to Penang he thought that Penang was a more dangerous place than any other part of Malaya. So he stopped the car which carried the Almarhum and brought him back to Kulim where he was due. There they guarded themselves or rather he guarded his own father, and even took shelter under so many durian trees around the residents of the district officer. And one durian tree which is a lovely tree with lovely fruit - delicious fruit - was planted by him and it's still there.

NARR: Encho Lee Ewe Boon also remembers the Japanese Occupation and Tengku's dynamism as a leader.

TAPE: LEE: During the early part of the Japanese occupation, Tengku was very busy helping the people of the district, like in Kulim and I think also Province Wellesly.

He often you know went out to find out what difficulties these people were in and if there was anything he could help. But when he was transferred back to Alor Star, we led a very quiet life. But we were still very often to ether and often I was at his house, you know his old house at the site of his present house. In almost every evening we were together taking tea at the riverside. And we often talked, Tengku really often mentioned about the future. That shows he is worried of the future but I didn't know then he was thinking of independence. I believe the Tengku had already in mind about the taking over from the British or the eventual independence and that he would take a leading part. But later and I knew that all the time he was thinking of that matter.

NARR: As a student in England and as an officer in Government Service, Tengku Abdul Rahman had met and known people of many occupations - from the farmer toiling on his land to eminent diplomats and politician at cocktail parties. This was to prove very useful when he launched into a new career - POLITICS.

ANN: You have been listening to the third programme in the series THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN. Next week's programme discusses Tengku Abdul Rahman's entry into politics.

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CSY/HA

TITL : THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN (3)

SCRIPT: Y P SWEE CHOON

ANN: THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN.

Today Dato Syed Omar Shahabudin, the Mentri Besar of Kedah, recollects the experiences of our Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman during the Japanese Occupation and also the Tengku's early political career.

NARR: In the early morning of December 8, 1941, a Japanese squadron of bombers attacked Sungei Patani aerodrome. They hit Royal Air Force planes on the ground, damaged barracks, and blew up a petrol-dump. This was the beginning of the Japanese invasion of Kedah.

Tengku Abdul Rahman was then the District Officer of Kulim and also the Deputy Director of Air Raid Precautions. As Deputy Director of A.R.P. he was engaged in defensive preparations at a time when Hitler and his Nazis were threatening the world. So Kedah's state of preparedness during the Japanese attack was purely co-incidental. In such times of trouble Tengku Abdul Rahman showed that he was not the frivolous "playboy" as so many people thought he perpetually would be. Instead we see the other side of his character - a more serious Tengku and a man who was willing to shoulder responsibility for the sake of his people.

Dato Syed Omar Shahabudin, the present Mentri Besar of Kedah, clearly remembers the strains and stresses Tengku Abdul Rahman had gone through during the Japanese Occupation in shouldering such responsibility.

TAPE: DATO: As D.O. Kulim that period he has responsibilities of course. We had a defence corps of which he was in charge in Kulim.

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It was his responsibility to see that everything was spick and span and when the Japanese did come in eventually he had everything ready in Kulim. He had all foods - foodstuff, rice - he had kept all ready. And when the Japanese did come in people crowded round his house and hundreds of them came. He fed them and looked after their welfare. In fact Kulim was the only district that wasn't ravished by the Japanese during the Occupation in Kedah. Therefore Tengku used his influence very well to look after the interest of the people.

There were many occasions when he saved a lot of lives; for instance, one day I saw three Chinese they were bound and walking up to the hill where the officer- in-charge was there and then for no reason Tengku chased these people together with the Japanese and went up and interviewed on their behalf and I don't know what he spoke to the officer-in-charge but eventually of course he got them out and saved their lives.

On many other occasions he sacrificed his life to save many other lives. He doesn't care whether they were Indians, whether they were Chinese or whether they were Malays but then he was able to use his influence on the Japanese. I suppose his language was very pleasing to them and he knew how to get around the Japanese very well.

TAPE: At any rate he did a lot of good to the people in that he had facilities ready for them during any Emergency. I think he was the only District Officer who could co-operate with the Japanese to look after the welfare of the people and when we had to evacuate Alor Star the Government went to Kulim and issued directives from

Kulim; of course he was then actually in charge of the whole state. I was in charge of Treasury but then we were paying officer there and you could well imagine as a central body operating in Kedah then he'd find thousands of people coming round to Kulim asking for help and Tengku went out of his way to try to assist all these people the best he could.

His relationship with the Japanese was strained at times but he was able to sort of control his temper all for the sake of the people. He was brave enough to face all these rather ferocious officers but then I don't know he was able to influence them one way or the other and he got things done the way he wanted.

NARR: The people of Kedah cannot forget the atrocities of the Japanese. They also cannot forget the suffering and fears that fill every minute of their lives. In particular they cannot forget an incident they always refer to as the kidnap by Tengku Abdul Rahman of his father, then the Sultan of Kedah. This well-timed kidnap showed the critics of Tengku Abdul Rahman that he has lots of foresight and could make quick decisions. One of his accomplices in the kidnap was Dato Syed Omar Shahabudin.

TAPE: DATO: At that time I was in charge of the A.R.P. in Alor Star and one early morning I had information that the military was taking away the late Highness to Penang for safety. I managed to ring up the Tengku and then of course he made his arrangements to waylay the late Sultan at Simpang Tiga, Kepala Batas. At that time vehicles were travelling in relays about 400 yards apart and when the vehicle of the late Sultan arrived at Simpang Tiga, Kepala Batas he snatched the car and drove off to Kulim and when the

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entourage arrived in Penang they discovered the Sultan's vehicle was missing and then they eventually found that Tengku had kidnapped his own father to Kulim. I was the one who issued his warrant of arrest and was handed to one police officer, ACP (I've forgotten his name), a very good friend of the Tengku, an Englishman. Actually he was Registrar then and Officated on the wedding of the Police Officer and the wife here. When the Sultan was taken into Kulim bombs were dropped all over the place and he took his father away to an isolated kampong in Siddim and there he called the raayat together and told the people, "Here is my father, here is your Raja. I want you all to look after him and if necessary with your own lives." The raayat took it very well and gave their assurance that they will look after the Sultan the best they could.

When eventually the Army and the Police had to evacuate Kedah this police officer who had the warrant with him went to Kulim and showed the warrant to the Tengku and the Tengku said, "Okay, carry on with your job. You can arrest me now." The ACP said, "No. Tengku. I'm going away. Here's the warrant", and tore it up and he said, "We'll meet again some time." He kidnapped his father because he insisted that the ruler must be with the raayat even in times of difficulties. What happens to the raayat musl also happen to the ruler. That was the attitude he took and I think that was a very patriotic, a very good thing to have in a person.

NARR: As a student in England, Tongku Abdul Rahman had always admired the parliamentary system og government. He was also very impressed with the numerous freedoms the ordinary Englishman injoyed.

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and he wanted very little interference from the British officials in Kedah but then we were tied down by our treaty obligations. We had to of course "kow tow" to the British in the things they wanted done here.

TAHIR: Dato when the Tengku came back from England, what was the first political party that he joined?

DATO: I think the first party that he joined was Kesatuan Melayu. It didn't last very long because all the Kesatuan Melayu in the various states were amalgamated into one UMNO and when we had UMNO in Kedah he became the leader here.

TAHIR: What do you think of the Tengku as a politician?

DATO: According to him if you want to be leader you've got to be sincere. His sincerity, I think, has carried him through all these years. Actually he's got this way of taking people in through talking to them.

His sincerity, his manner he delivers his talk to you - all this will draw you to him. He's that type who will get on with anybody whether you're Indian, Chinese or Malay, for that matter an Englishman. He has many friends thousands all over the country. He's really a common man although he's a prince. He doesn't choose his friends. He's gone through lots of things. He's done the good as well as the bad. He can mix well with the common people. He's very warm-hearted, very big-hearted. If anybody comes to him and asks for financial help, even if he has no money at all he will pawn the things he has so that he won't frustrate the man who's come to ask for help.

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In short he believed in democracy. It was his secret wish then that one day he could come back to Kedah and administer the state on British democratic lines. Even as early as his student days his burning desire was to enter into politics. The Japanese Occupation added fuel to the fire. Dato Syed Omar Shahabudin now recollects Tengku's early career in politics:

TAPE: DATO: Knowing Tengku as I do, I think politics is in his blood. When he was an officer in the Kedah Civil Service, even before the war, he was writing articles in the press condemning the British for clinging on to their colonialism in Malaya. He wanted them to get out. Of course that didn't find favour with the British. He was hauled in one day by the late Regent Tengku Ibrahim. He was told off if you continue writing this article he would be sacked from service. Of course Tengku kept low for a while but that couldn't stop him. Four or five months later he started writing again to the press, I mean challenging the British on the attitude to Malaya. Of course he was a very marked man. I think the British knew at that time that he was going to be somebody sometime and he would be instrumental in perhaps ridding British colonialism in Malaya. All along the line we have always insisted that Kedah is an independent state but he didn't like too much interference from the British Adviser. We wanted to run things our own way because we had capable men in the state who would be able to administer the country just as well as the British were able to do it. The things that worried him because having seen the war and having seen the way of life in England he thought that we could in our own way administer our own country

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He's that type, always trying to help because he knows that a man doesn't come to him for help unless he really needs it.

NARR: When Tengku Abdul Rahman decided to launch on a career, his ambition was really to reorganise the government of his state of Kedah which was strictly a feudal state. Being acquainted with the ideals of democracy while he was a student in England, he was naturally interested that Kedah should be governed on the same lines. In fact he had never dreamed that one day he would be the leader of the people of Malaya. But his natural qualities of leadership have brought him to this position today.

ANN: You've been listening to THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN. Next week at the same time you will be able to hear more stories and anecdotes about the political career of our Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman.

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YSC/HA

ANN: THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE M.N.
Today we take a look at Tengku Abdul Rahman's political career right up to Malaya's attainment of Merdeka on August 31st 1957.

NARR: Political consciousness had awakened in Malaya after the Japanese Occupation. About the same time other political developments were taking place in other countries. India and Burma were agitating for independence from the British. In Indonesia the people began a civil war against their masters, the Dutch. These events had a great impact on our political life.

But the well-known MacMichael treaties really caused the political consciousness of the Malays in this country to erupt. Political parties and associations blossomed, finally resulting in the formation of U.M.N.O. - The United Malays National Organisation - on March 1, 1946. The late Dato Onn bin Ja'afar was elected the first president. The first task U.M.N.O. undertook was to reject the MacMichael treaties on the grounds that they were "not executed in accordance with the Constitution, Traditions, Customs, and Usages of the respective Malay States, and are therefore null and void and not binding on Their Highnesses and Their Highnesses' subjects." Malay political history was made.

NARR: Tengku Abdul Rahman was still in the Kedah Civil Service then. Though he did not take a very active part in politics he was inspired by his peoples' desire to rule the country themselves.

He left for England again before formal discussions opened with the British regarding the problems arising from the MacMichael treaties. This time he was determined to get through his law. The fact that he was away from Malaya did not affect his keen interest in the affairs of his country. On reaching London he found that the Malay Socciety was almost obsolete. He revived it. He enlightened the students there about what was happening in Malaya. He gave them an insight into the United Malays National Organisation and also the political developments taking place then. He organised political discussions and discussed 'independence' for his homeland. Many of his contemporaries remember these gatherings which they fondly described as 'a

little U.M.N.O. in the heart of Britain. Here he met the present Deputy Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak and a close friendship developed.

His determination to complete his law studies produced fruitful results. He passed his final examinations and returned to Kedah early in 1949 to earn hiw own living as a barrister. He returned to Kedah also as a budding politician.

Two things happened to him on his return to his hometown of Alor Star. He was offered the chairmanship of the Kedah branch of U.M.N.O. He was also offered a job in the Legal Department by the Kedah Government. He accepted both.

He was not satisfied with his work in the Kedah Legal Department. One day the Attorney-General paid a visit to his little office in Alor Star and asked him to work as a D.P.P. in Kuala Lumpur. Without hesitation he accepted. Hardly one and a half years passed in Kuala Lumpur when he was made President of the Sessions Court. His political career reached its peak when he was in Kuala Lumpur. The political scene at this time was bustling with activity. The Malayan Communist Party was issuing 'open letters' announcing its plans to establish a People's Democratic Republic. In February 1949 the Malayan Chinese Association was formed with one main aim - "one nation in Malaya."

The climax came when Dato Onn resigned in 1951. The U.M.N.O. was at a standstill. None of Onn's colleagues in the U.M.N.O. Executive Council was prepared to accept nomination as President. Amidst this sad state of affairs merged some men who said they knew a man with the qualities of a great leader whom they were prepared to support. This man was Tengku Abdul Rahman.

Leadership was suddenly being thrust upon him. When he was offered the post he told his friends "I do not think I am suitable." After much persuasion he accepted and in the words of his nephew, Tengku Nong Jiwa.

TAPE:
C3411: "When somebody who was at the helm broke away from the party of which he is head now, he thought that was his duty to come forward and to guide the destiny of the nation. I know that because I was called to his house on several occasions to help him in drafting

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letters to the British Government and other sources and I can never forget that fact he had to spend so much in trying to prove that he loved the people and he loved the counrty.. Quite a lot of his property was also expended on this business."

NARR: Dato Syed Omar Shahabudin, the present Mentri Besar of Kedah, was one of the leading supporter of Tengku Abdul Rahman when he stood for the elections as President of U.M.N.O.

TAPE:
C3258: "The late Dato Onn laid down his mantle as President of U.M.N.O. There was some confusion in our camp as to who should take over.

Well I happen to be a member of the Jawatan Kuasa Tertinggi in U.M.N.O. at that time and when we had a meeting we had a very heated discussion. There were the pros and cons for the Tengku but I eventually was able to persuade the rest of the members to agree to try Tengku.

I told them that I have known Tengku all these years. Although he was a member of the ruling house his "semangat" is "semangat rakyat" and I'm sure he will be with the people all the time and then I think they agreed with me to test Tengku for a while and I think they have made a very good decision because we know what Tengku is doing now".

NARR: Tengku Abdul Rahman was elected President of the United Malays National Organisation on Sunday August 26, 1951 by the U.M.N.O. Assembly . Soon he resigned from Government service to concentrate on his political career. In a matter of a few months he brought all the races in Malaya together when he formed the Alliance Party in January 1952.

The rest of the story is well-known to Malayans as well as people all over the world. On August 31, 1957 he won a place for Malaya in the world map as an independent democratic nation. Malaya became independent without any bloodshed - a feat unique in the history of nationalism of Asia.

What is the secret behind all this? Many people attribute it to the sound leadership of Tengku Abdull Rahman. What then are the qualities that make Tengku Abdul Rahman a great leader? We asked this question to many people who know the Tengku well, one

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of whom is Dato Wan Ibrahim bin Wan Soloh:

TAPE:
C3389: "In my personal opinion, the qualities that have brought him to the leadership of the nation are:-

1. His sincerity of purpose
2. His sense of fair play
3. 'Sympathy towards others
4. Give and take
5. Not afraid of taking responsibility
6. Acessibility and obliging
7. He listens and tolerates others to a certain limit.
8. He seeks other peoples' advice on big problems and last and not the least very sporting.

NARR: Dato Nik Kamil met the Tengku when he was a student in London. When he was aksed the same question he replied,

TAPE:
C3193; "He is a good mixer; he wants to know people ' and I think he understands people. And he got the best interest of the Malays to begin with of course and the Malaysians at heart and after he has seen what has been happening in the world and so on, he I'm sure felt that he could to the best of ability build up a nation of people here in the old Federation of Malaya and of course Malaysia so that we could respected by the world at large.

That is my feeling as to why the Tengku had thought fit to take part in the political life of the country and to build up ourselves into a strong, united and respected nation among the nations of the world."

NARR: Tengku Abdul Rahman is liked by everyone whether they are Malays, Indians, Chinese or Eurasians. It is essential for a leader to be popular among his people especially in Malaya where there are so many races living together. Enche Lee Ewe Boon, a close friend of the Tengku, finally tells us about this trait of Tengku's character.

TAPE:
C3402: "From boyhood Tengku has been very modest. He has always been very patient listening to peoples' complaints and appeal. He never say "NO" if he could help anyone and that is why he is so very much liked by the people of every race. The Chinese very often said "..... .....5/

(in Chinese)....." So you know from the Chinese side the majority like him very much. Tengku has the interest of the people at heart irrespective of the parties they belong to. Tengku's first major task was to free the country from colonialism and to help administer the country in the way that is suited to the people here. Tengku, for one, knew that all the different nationalities must mix well in order to have a peaceful country. And Tengku had seen that during his childhood days because he had all the different races mix with him and we never think of ourselves as Chinese or Malays or Indians and so on."

ANN: You've been listening to THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN. Next week at t he same time you will be able to hear a programme on Tengku Abdul Rahman's leadership in post-Merdeka Malaya right up to the formation of Malaysia.

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THAM/HA.

TITLE: THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN (5)

SCRIPT: YAP SWEE CHOON

ANN: THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN.

Today we pay a visit to Kuala Kedah, the constituency of our Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman, and talk to the people there.

NARR: Kuala Kedah stands just over 40 miles north of the island of Penang. In many ways Kuala Kedah has a colourful history. Remnants of a fort exist today at the mouth of the Kedah River. Through this fort passed people of many races - the Portuguese, the Dutch, the Achinese from Sumatra, the English, the Bugis from the Celebes, and the Siamese - who came to trade or to conquer.

Kuala Kedah, the fort, remained for centuries the principal seaport of North Malaya until Penang came under British influence and assumed that role. Kedah exported tin, gold, pepper, and elephants through Kuala Kedah. The annals tell of elephants that either died at sea on the way to Sumatra or India or "fell overboard." In and out of Kuala Kedah came Indian cloth which attracted traders from Java, Malacca and elsewhere.

It is in such a place - inhabited by simple people, small in area and yet a great contributor to the history of Kedah- that Tengku Abdul Rahman has chosen to be his constituency.

While at Kuala Kedah w e interviewed Tuan Haji Ismail bin Ibrahim.

(PRODUCER: The dialogue of the interview is Malay. Could you please superimpose as you think fit.)

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TAHIR: Tuan Haji, how long have you known the Tengku?

HAJI: I've known him since childhood days but I really came to know him well during the Japanese Occupation.

TAHIR: Before we talk about his political career, I would like to know something about the Japanese Occupation. You said you came to know him well during the Japanese Occupation - can you eleborate?

HAJI: During the Japanese Occupation Tengku helped the people of Kuala Kedah a great deal. I've also heard that he helped people in other places. Especially where food was concerned. He can be described as the saviour of the people during the Japanese Occupation.

TAHIR: Can you give examples of this help?

HAJI: When he was an officer in Kedah then there was an Arabic School in Kuala Kedah called "Al-husutul Hasanah The Tengku was invited to declare the school officiall open. It was before Tengku studied in England after the war. It was the first visit by Tengku to Kuala Kedah. After that visit the people came to like him very much and a close relationship developed.

TAHIR: Kuala Kedah was the Tengku's constituency during the General Elections. Why do you think the Tengku close this place ?

HAJI: Until today Kuala Kedah can be said to be UMNO's stronghold not only in Kedah but in the whole of the Malay Peninsula. It's the backbone of UMNO. Because of this strength the Tengku was put as a candidate here.

TAHIR: What do you think is the reaction of the people here when they heard that the Tengku was contesting the elections here ?

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HAJI: When the people heard that the Tengku was standing for elections here they were overjoyed. The people have always loved Tengku and this was a great honour.

TAHIR: You told me that the Tengku was known by the people here long before the General Elections. Can you tell us more about this friendship?

HAJI: Since UMNO was formed some years back - since that day the party's branch at Kuala Kedah has been the focus of Tengku's attention. The Tengku has always been invited here to talk to the people and visit places. The people made all sorts of appeals to him - these appeals were not only made after the elections but also before that. Always these requests were granted, even the requests of our children.

TAHIR: Tengku, I beleive, has other reasons for having a great attachment for Kuala Kedah. Can you tell us what they are?

HAJI: I understand that Tengku is a lover of water sports like boat-racing and so on and Kuala Kedah is the place where such events are held. There is a boat race between Kuala Kedah and Kuala Perlis which is held annually. The challenge cup is donated by the Tengku himself. We have so far held two such contests. The first was in 1961 and it was held here. Towards the end of 1962 the second race was held in Kuala Perlis. With God's blessings we hope to stage another race here after Hari Raya. This is another reason why the people are very much attached to him.

TAHIR: Finally, Tuan Haji, if the Tengku stands for elections again and contest it at Kuala Kedah, do you think he will succeed again?

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HAJI: If the Tengku stands for the 1964 elections I am 100 per cent sure that he will be elected with a resounding victory. Previously UMNO is not as strong as today. People have admired the Tengku more now. And I am sure that they will give their wholehearted support to him.

NARR: Next we meet Incho Omar bin Ahmad who has lived at Kuala Kedah for a long time.

(PRODUCER: Please sumperimpose as you think fit.)

TAHIR: Che Omar why did you vote for our Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman?

OMAR: I voted for Tengku Abdul Rahman because of his morals, his sincerity and his trustworthiness - these qualities he showed to the people of Kuala Kedah. Even before he stood for elections he was always here and he was easily approachable. After winning the elections his attitude has remained the same. Though he is now the Prime Minister he has never changed - he is still the same old Tengku - a quality all of us appreciate.

TAHIR: What has the Tengku contributed to the people of Kuala Kedah?

OMAR: In Kuala Kedah alone he has contributed a lot - mainly roads, clinics, maternity homes, community halls and a mosque which will be built at a cost of $75,000. But we in Kuala Kedah do not look at his achievements in Kuala Kedah alone. We know what he has done for the whole country and we respect him for that.

TAHIR: Now Che Omar, from the results of the last elections I noticed that not all the people in Kuala Kedah voted for the Tengku. Why is this the case?

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OMAR: May be they don't understand the sincerity and trustworthiness of the Tengku. Some thought that if the Alliance Government was successful in the 1959 elections the Islamic religion would disappear from the country. I think that they were misinformed and swayed by what some people might say. But I think this suspicion has since gone out of their minds. And I'm sure these same people who opposed Tengku will now vote for him at the 1964 elections.

TAHIR: Tengku as a member of UMNO - what is his relationship with the members of the UMNO branch at Kuala Kedah?

OMAR: It is quite good. As Tengku is very busy now he cannot make frequent visits to Kuala Kedah as he did before. But this has not changed the minds of the people here. They still like him. I'm sure they will vote for him.

I used to go around these days and talk to the people here. When I asked them whether they would vote for the Tengku if he stood for elections here they all said that they will wholeheartedly support Tengku because they know what Tengku has done for the country.

TAHIR: What is there in the character of the Tengku that really attracts the people?

OMAR: Though Tengku comes from a royal family yet he behaves like a commoner. He does not regard himself as a prince. He treats everybody alike. He has never forgotten the people of Kuala Kedah. He always makes it a point to visit us when he is around.

NARR: In the 1955 elections Tengku Abdul Rahman was victorious with a big majority. After Merdeka another General Election was held - this time in 1959.

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The Alliance Government under Tengku Abdul Rahman's leadership returned to power again - a proof that the free people of Malaya approved of his leadership and were conscious of his government's achievements.

The story of the birth of Malaysia is familiar to everybody. It is useless to go over it once again. But this episode of the nation's history reveals an endearing facet of Tengku Abdul Rahman's character - his extreme patience and tolerance. For it is his motto to please everybody and offend nobody that has made him one of the greatest leaders and statesmen in the world today. And peace is what we are seeking for today.

ANN: You've been listening to interviews collected at Kuala Kedah about our Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman. Next week at the same time you can hear another edition in the series THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN.

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AO/HA.

SCRIPT: YAP SWEE CHOON.

AIN: THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN.
Today we feature Tengku Abdul Rahman as a sportsman.

NARR: The name Tengku Abdul Rahman has become a household word among the sports-loving people of Malaysia. Besides his numerous official duties as Prime Minister, the Tengku has devoted much of his time to sports. Whether it is soccer, badminton, athletics, golf or in fact any game Tengku Abdul Rahman has more than a superficial interest in it. This is because he was born with a love for sport. For sports he would do anything. At the laying of the foundation stone of the Merdeka Stadium, he recalled that when he proposed the construction of a sports stadium at a meeting of the Federal Legislative Council held on 18th March 1953, his proposal was greeted with laughter of derision from all over the house. But this did not affect his interest in sports. When he became the Chief Minister of the country he made sure that a Sports Stadium would be built. And the Merdeka Stadium became a reality. Rightly enough he was invited to declare open the new stadium. At the opening ceremony of the Merdeka Stadium on Friday August 30th 1957 he said:

TAPE
SX 0392

"We have been anxiously waiting for this moment - the moment when the stadium will be declared open. The time is now here and I shall do so with a feeling of great happiness and exhilaration - a feeling which, I'm sure you all share with me. With the opening of this stadium, the dream of the Federation's sports-loving public has come true. In this stadium we can have soccer, hockey and all sports at all hours of the day and night. Besides sporting events, it is also hoped events of national importance will be held here from time to time.

I have great hope that the Stadium will be the meeting place for sportsmen throughout the world. Here they will meet our own men and demonstrate their prowess in the games they specialise and through the link which will be forged in the true spirit of Olympia, friendship and comradeship will be formed. Through sports, we hope to promote peace, happiness and goodwill in this world. The Duke of Wellington said that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton. Let us now hope that the comradeship and unity of the Malayan people and the goodwill of all the nations,

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near and far, can be won in the sports stadium of the Federation of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur."

NARR: The Merdeka Stadium is only one of the many contributions by our Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman in the field of sports. Another major contribution is the Stadium Negara which was formally declared open by His Majesty the Yang- di Pertuan Agong on Thursday April 19th 1962. Tengku Abdul Rahman was one of the invited guests at the opening ceremony.

TAPE:
A 860

"Ever since the Merdeka Stadium was built there has been a need for a Stadium of this kind. The Merdeka Stadium is devoted to open air sports and activities. The Stadium Negara is designed to meet the needs of indoor sports and cultural events catering for a large crowd.
For me, this Stadium answers the pressing problem of providing a national centre for indoor sports, as a complementary centre to the outdoor sports in the Merdeka Stadium. It is my hope that the Stadium Negara will become the venue of many sporting, cultural and commercial activities, both national and international, for many many years."

NARR: Among the many games played in this country, soccer is the Tengku's first love. Even as a schoolboy Tengku was interested in football and today he proudly says that he was keen enough to make the grade in the Penang Free School Junior Soccer Eleven during his schooldays. Today soccer is Malaya's national game, and the Tengku is the man who brought it to prominence.
In the field of sports Tengku Abdul Rahman has made many good friends, one of whom is the President of the Football Association of Selangor Inche Harun Idris.

TAPE:
CUT ONE:
C 3145

HARUN: Since I knew him as President Sessions Court and D.P.P. we used to chit-chat during our free time and it appeared to me that he was a man who was very keen on all sorts of sports and subsequently when I was away from K.L. (I was then transferred, I think it was to Klang) he became the First President of the Football Association of Selangor - first Malay President that is and subsequently I myself got into football. I became the Vice-President of FAS and later the President and today I'm still the President. In the meantime the Tengku himself became the President of the Football

Association of Malaya and I joined on to the Council of the FAM and we became very closely connected in soccer.

SC: Among all games can you tell us why the Tengku particularly liked soccer?

HARUN: Well I believe and I think it is true that he himself was a fairly good player - not very outstanding but a very good player in his schooldays in Penang and probably this might have a lot to do with it. He was away in England for a very long time and as you know football in UK is top game - everyone goes to see football matches on Wednesdays and Saturdays. So he probably spent a lot of his time seeing football and as a result he liked and did stay in UK for about 20 or 25 years.

SC: About the Tengku being elected the first Malay President of the Football Association - can you tell us more about this?

HARUN: Well I think if I'm not mistaken it was the late Mr. S.C.E. Singam who was then Secretary of F.A.S. who spotted the very keen interest of the Tengku and pulled him into the FAS and I believe he did very well.

SC: Why do you think Tengku liked sports?

HARUN: Well this liking sports is something which is inherent in somebody you know. It's born in him and if I may say so when he was President I used to notice him going about in town very simply dressed particularly in sports shirts. So I at once made out a man - a man who behaves like him and moves about like him is a man who is keen and who likes sports. And that is why there is a great sense of fair play about in whatever he does because in sports you have to give and take. That is why I think Tengku liked sports; firstly it is inherent in him - in his own self and he likes it very much.

SC: Besides knowing him in the field of football do you know him perhaps in golf? Have you ever played golf with him?

HARUN: I haven't played against him but I've seen him on the course. Well he has a fairly good swing shall I say and I believe he has been a very good 24 for quite sometime.

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SC: What other games does the Tengku play?

HARUN: Well in his younger days I know very little about him except what I read in the papers and what friends tell me but I do believe in England he tried all sorts of things but the game that really catches him is soccer and he's known not only as the No. 1. Soccer Man in Malaya but I think in the whole Asia.

NARR: Next we met Inche Kwok Kin Keng, the Hon. Secretary of the Football Association of Malaya:

TAPE
CUT TWO:
C 3321

SC: How long have you know the Tengku?

KKK: Well I think it is way back in 1950 when Tengku was a delegate for the Malayan Malays. The funny thing about the Tengku is this: When we elected him as President of FAM, that was 13 years ago, he was then the DPP. We never thought that one day he would become the Prime Minister.
Well he has been our President for the last 13 years. It's only whether he wants to accept responsibility or not. Otherwise he's automatically selected every year and he's a very great man. He wins you with his sincerity. He's so sincere that we just don't feel like letting him down. We just can't let him down.

SC: What has he done so far as President of the FAM ?

KKK: Oh without him I'm afraid we won't be able to achieve what we have achieved and without him I'm definitely, sure we won't be getting the Stadium Merdeka as well as Stadium Negara.

SC: Why does he like football particularly ?

KKK: Well he used to tell us that he played football in his young days. Well we produced in the first issue of the FAM News a picture of the Tengku playing for the Penang Free School.
And we have another picture which we have here which we are going to produce in the next number of the FAM News showing Tengku as a footballer when he was in Saint Catherine's.

SC: Can you remember any incidents in which you can show the Tengku

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was really interested in sports ? Any incidents ?

KKK: Well these are numerous. All I wish to say is next to the state affairs football comes next to him. Back in 1959 he told us that to improve our standard of football we have to start from youngsters. So as a result of that he presented the gold trophy called the Abdul Rahman Trophy which costs us about $12,000 and he was the one who started the First Asian Youth Tournament in 1959 and that was the year we lost to South Korea. We should have won that match and since then we have been trying hard every year but we couldn't reach our goal yet.

NARR: Finally let us hear a tribute to the Tengku by Tun Abdul Razak, the Deputy Prime Minister and a close friend of the Tengku. At the opening ceremony of Stadium Negara he said:

TAPE:
A 860

"Far more than anyone in this country the Tengku has done the most in the field of sports. It is his encouragement and his inspiration that sparked off the idea of an indoor stadium and turn it into a complete reality. He therefore deserves the gratitude not only of the sports-loving Malayans but of the whole country and of the whole nation."

ANN: You've been listening to THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN. Next week at the same time you can hear another programme in the series THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN.

FL/HA.

TITLE: THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN (7)

SCRIPT: YAP SWEE CHOON.

ANN: THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN.
Today we feature Tengku Abdul Rahman - The Father.

NARR: Bapa Merdeka, Bapa Malaysia - Father of Independence. Father of Malaysia - these are some of the many titles showered on our beloved Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman.
By his first wife Tengku had two children - Tengku Khatijah and Tengku Nerang. His first wife died shortly after the son's birth.
Tengku Abdul Rahman has been married to his present wife Puan Sharifah Rodziah, daughter of a well-known family of Alor Star, for the past 24 years. A most attractive and charming woman, she has been a great influence in his life. They have had no children but they have two adopted two orphans - a Chinese girl named Meriam now aged 9½ and a Chinese boy named Suleiman now aged 8 years.
The Prime Minister and his wife have also another adopted son Syed Abdullah bin Omar who is now with Television Malaysia.
What is Tengku Abdul Rahman like as a father?
We found the answer to this question when Mokhtar Daud brought along his tape-recorder to the Residency and collected interviews there. First Mokhtar meets Tengku Khatijah, daughter of the Prime Minister.

TAPE:
M: Can you tell me how many children have you?
K: I've got 3 girls - they are 8½, one is 5½ and the baby is 10 months.
M: Are they all born in Kuala Lumpur or what?
K: One born in Alor Star, two born in K.L.
M: I understand that you were in England for some time.
K: I was in England since 1958, came back in 1963 January.
M: Now whilst you were there, Tengku often visited England and all that - did he come and visit you and did he ask anything about your children?
K: Yes, he came here several times whenever he visited in England. We went to see him at the airport, and then we all went together to his hotel. He met the child - I brought only one daughter with me.
M: Oh yes, which one did you bring - the name?
K: I brought the eldest - Sharifah Intan - when she was 3 years

old and came back when she was seven.

M: I see. Now the other two children.

K: One I left with the Tengku when she was 2 months old and then I was expecting in England 7 months. I came back to K.L. to have the baby born here.

M: I see. Now regarding the 2 month old baby you left when you went to England - I believe that is Sharifah Hanizah. Now did you leave her out of your own free will or did Tengku ask you to leave her behind?

K: Yes, Tengku asked me to leave her behind because it was very difficult to bring baby to England because of the weather - it's too cold.

M: I was made to understand from Sharifah Intan that - I know that the Tengku loves everyone, of the children and grandchildren and all that - is there any special, you know she might be a favourite or something like that. Is it something like that?

K: Yes, Tengku loves my second daughter very much because he used to play with her when she was a baby but Intan was with me all the time when I was in Alor Star. We came here only in 1957 to stay with the Tengku. So the second one is his favourite. And the younger one - you know he used to play with her whenever he comes back from office.

M: Of course we know the Yang Amat Mulia Tengku is a very busy man. How does he spare his time for the children and for the grandchildren?

K: When he comes back for tea he just you know when we were at the dining table he used to talk to the children during lunchtime or teatime.

M: What about when he is in the house on certain problems and all that? Is he quite happy when the children are making noise and that sort of that thing?

K: No the children won't be near him when he's busy. You know they avoid him you know - want him to do some work. When he's free then he plays with the children.

M: Tengku Khatijah what is your impression on Tengku's general attitude towards children?

K: Oh he's very fond of children and I like him very much. As a father he's very nice and the children loves him so much.

M: And all the time were you with him since you were born?

K: I was with him when I was small and during the Japanese time I was with my auntie in Alor Star for few years and then I came back to Alor Star and I joined him there. I can't remember the year.

...3/-

M: Now during his early years as a politician in Johore Bahru and all that were you with him?

K: I was with him from 1952 to 1954 and I went to Alor Star and I opened a shop - hairdressing I learnt hairdressing in 1953 in Singapore and when I finished I went back to Alor Star to open a shop.

M: Now during his early years - I mean you stayed with him in Johore Bahru for some time - now how was he with the children, particularly with you for example? I mean he was very busy, went about here and there. Did you find that you were neglected or something like that?

K: Yes, you see we don't see him very often, only during meal-time.

M: Now how is he with other people's children? I mean you said just now in general Tengku loves children; he loves all of them. Now how does he behave with other people's children when you see them around?

K: He treated them the same. He plays with them. He doesn't mind children.

M: What about Tengku during birthdays and that sort of thing? Does he join the birthdays of your children for example?

K: Yes he loves joining the children at the tea-party. He takes some pictures and play with them.

M: And is he very popular with the children from what you see?

K: Yes the children loves him. Whenever he gives a party there will be lots of children around him. He will give balloons to the children, cut the cake and offer them money. So the children are very interested in him.

M: And what sort of things he talks to them, you know?

K: He calls the children to join him, to make use of the party, play with them. You know he jokes with the children and make them laugh.

M: Alright now you're a girl - I mean to a daughter how is he to Tengku Nerang?

K: We both love him very much you know but Tengku Nerang doesn't stay with him. So once in a while he comes to K.L. and visit him but Tengku Nerang's children he treated the same like my own children.

M: Well what is your impression Tengku Khatijah being the daughter of a very great man in our country Tengku Abdul Rahman? How do you feel about that?

K: I'm very proud of my father but I'm always the same you know to everybody.

....4/-

I: He talks about do you like to see your sister and which country do you like to go and sometimes he talks which do you like Malaya or England and I said I like both of them.

M: Very clever girl you Sharifah Intan and does he talk about your schoolwork?

I: Yes, last time I got first in Stadard 2B and then I went to Singapore to fetch my daddy from England and then my daddy bought so many things for me.

M: Now did you tell about your being first in class to your grandfather?

I: Yes and my grandfather said I must get first again when I'm in Standard 3.

M: Did he give you presents for that?

I: No, he just said only.

M: Probably he forgets. Do you think that your grandfather is a very busy man?

I: Yes, he sometimes works in office. He has no time to play.

M: Talking about playing and all that I understand your grandfather every morning, very early in the morning, goes to play - what game is that?

I: The game is golf. He goes to the Selangor Golf Club. And sometimes I go there and I always swing with my sister and Moriam and her brother.

M: What is his name?

I: His name is Suleiman. He is rather naughty. My grandmother and grandfather and all the people in the house at the Residency always scolds him.

M: Talking about your grandfather again you ask him to bring you to the Golf Course or he asks you to come?

I: He asks me to come or sometimes my sister asks me.

M: I'm sure Sharifah Intan you love your grandfather very much. Why do you love him?

I: Because he sometimes brings us presents and buy us fruits and some sweets.

M: What sort of fruits?

I: Fruits like apples and rambutan and bananas and durians.

M: Are there many things that your grandfather doesn't like you doing?

I: Yes he says not to be naughty, must work very hard at school and do sums and all the things.

M: He gives you advice or not?

I: Yes, sometimes.—

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NARR: Tengku Abdul Rahman likes children whether they are his own or not. He is devoted to them and he in turn is loved and is very popular among them - another endearing facet of his character.

ANN: You have been listening to THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN. Next week at the same time you can hear the final programme in the series entitled THE PEOPLES' VERDICT.

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LM/HA.

TITLE: THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN (8)

SCRIPT: YAP SWEE CHOON

PRODUCER: MANAFF ABDULLAH

ANN: THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA - THE MAN.
Today we take a look at "THE PEOPLES' VERDICT."

NARR: "What do you think of our Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman?"
In this programme we hear the replies of Malaysians who have been asked this question.- Malaysians whose leader and friend is Tengku Abdul Rahman.

TAPE: C3411
Tengku Abdul Rahman is a person who doesn't keep away from anybody. He mixes with everybody who comes in his way and he does not have any discrimination. Whatever the reason, whatever the age, whatever the rank, they are all friends of him.

NARR: That is the view of Tengku Nong Jiwa, nephew of Tengku Abdul Rahman. Next we meet Dato Nik Kamil who first knew the Tengku during his student days in England. When he was asked what he personally thought of the Tengku he was quick to reply:

TAPE: C 3193
Well he is a good mixer - he wants to know people and I think he understands people and he got the best interests of the Malays to begin of course and the Malaysians at heart and after having seen what has been happening in the world and so on he I'm sure felt that he could to the best of ability build up a nation of people here in the old Federation of Malaya and of course Malaysia so that we could be respected by the world at large. That is feeling as to why the Tengku had thought fit to take part in the political life of the country and to build up ourselves into a strong united and respected nation among the nations of the world.

NARR: Enche Lee Ewe Boon, a close friend of the Prime Minister remarks:

TAPE: C 3402
"He makes himself easily accessible to people and he is always sympathetic to people and that is the thing that draws friends to you. And I certainly would like my children to copy that from Tengku. He never changed his attitude towards his friends, not only to his friends, to ~~any~~ anyone he knows - big or small. You can see even poor people on the streets wishing Tengku. You also see Tengku approaching that man you see to ask: "How you do; how are

you and so on." You see that is the sort of people you see, people should not misunderstand. Tengku never thinks that he is a great man. He thinks he is always he is just any of one of us and as ordinary people, simple and straightforward and sincere.

NARR: Let us now hear the views of Enche C.V. Samy J.P. of Alor Star and Enche K. Aiyathurai of the General Hospital also of Alor Star.

TAPE: C3394

I met him about 30 years back. It was soon after a football match in the S.K.C.E. Club. That was the time when one of my friends, Chani's friend introduced me to Tengku. Until that, though Ihave seen him earlier, I never acquainted with him so closely. It was a first acquaintance with Tengku. I was surprised to see he is so simplicity and kindness and friendliness; how he moved with the people. Really it was a surprise for me, That was a time I thought the Tengku is going to be a national leader in the future; that was a time when my mind struck the thought in my heart. Now I am very glad my dream is becoming true. Now that the Tengku becomes a national leader, he has become the Father of Malaysia. After that I have met him so many ordinary occasions. The Tengku was appointed to so many places such as District Officer, government servant, this and that. Then the Tengku went to England, come back, that's all the whole Malaya knows. When the Tengku took the leadership in UMNO, then he tried to get an independence for Malaya. It was all the time Tengku's familiarities are well known to everybody. Duty is ability, leadership and patience and treating everybody equal. He was able to unite the three main communities of Malaya, that is Malays, Chinese and Indians. Through that only, without any blood shed, the Tengku was able to get up to independence. That is why he succeeded into getting Malaysia also.

TAPE: C3392?

"He is good to all nationalities. He treats everybody alike, and he doesn't has any prejudice about other nationalities. He treats everybody alike you see, so he is a nice man and he is a loving man and he is a good man to do everything here. That's all I can say.

NARR: In the eyes of Dato Wan Ibrahim bin Soloh:

TAPE: C3389

"The general public were very fond him and highly think of him and at the same time respect him. Although he is of Royal blood, but he is unpretentious. He mixes freely with ordinary people, rich

or poor, irrespective of nationalities. In my personal opinion, the qualities that have brought him to the leadership of the nation are:-

1. His sincerity of purpose.
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3. Sympathy towards others.
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5. Not afraid of taking responsibility.
6. Accessbility and obliging.
7. He listens and tolerate others to a certain limit.
8. He seeks other people's advice on big problems and last and not the least very sporting.

NARR: Finally we hear the opinion of the Mentri Besar of Kedah Dato Syed Omar Shahabuddin regarding our Prime Minister:

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NARR: Tengku Abdul Rahman has as Prime Minister done a lot for the country as well as the people. Perhaps his greatest achievement

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is to win for the country Merdeka - freedom from colonial rule. Merdeka was only the beginning. In his own words "Malaya today as a nation realises that she cannot stand alone and in isolation. Outside of international politics the national one must be broad based. Sooner or later she should have an understanding with Britain and the peoples of the territories of Singapore, Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak."

And so Malaysia came into being on the 16th September 1963. The trials and tribulations Tengku Abdul Rahman had to go through to bring about the creation of Malaysia is known everywhere. It is in such trying situations that he displayed his patience and tolerance. What then is Tengku Abdul Rahman like as a man? The verdict is yours.

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THAM/ha.

SCRIPT: YAP SWEE CHOON

PRODUCER: MANAFF ABDULLAH

PERPUSTAKAAN RTDM
RADIO MALAYSIA
10 FEB 1966
KUALA LUMPUR

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C3193

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C3402

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TAPE:
C1394

TAPE:
C3392

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TAPE:
C3258

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/THAM.

PERKHIDMATAN PEMELIHARAAN DAN REPROGRAFI
UNIT JILID DAN PAMERAN

BILANGAN KERJA: 1668/92J
TARIKH: 29-1-93