

# THE **SECOND** **UNIVERSITY**

**KASSIM AHMAD**



UNIVERSITY

**Publisher:**

Media Intelek Sdn. Bhd.  
Tingkat 2B, Wisma FAM,  
Jalan SS 5A/9,  
Petaling Jaya, Selangor.  
Malaysia.  
Tel: 03-744872

First Malay edition: 1983  
First reprint: 1983  
First English edition: 1984

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Translated by Mansor Ahmad Saman

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**Author's Note**

The story is on the whole true. Some names  
are fictitious in order to protect their persons.

**Printer:**

Polygraphic Press  
2, Jalan 202,  
Petaling Jaya, Selangor.  
Malaysia.

347097

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## Forward

Kassim Ahmad was detained under the Internal Security Act from 3rd November 1976 till 30th July 1981. This book, *The Second University – An Account of Detention under the I.S.A.*, narrates his personal experiences, i.e. from the time, 2.30 a.m. of 3rd November 1976, when he was taken by several plain-clothed police officers from a house in Petaling Jaya until his release on the eve of the 'Id Festival in July 1981.

"Not many people can become writers; more people can become cabinet ministers." These, are the words of Heikal, the well-known Egyptian journalist, which may suitably be applied to Kassim and his present book. Ministers may be appointed and then they fall. But the writer continues permanently because his calling is not a given post. It is true that not many people can become writers, especially if the criterion of a writer is the like of Kassim.

Kassim, in his own individual style, has produced this book as a humanistic document and a historical episode. He has also proved that an unfortunate experience can be turned into virtue. We beg the reader to remember that, whatever else it is, this book is a record of a sensitive writer from our own intellectual world.

This story-like narrative was first published in Malay in June 1983 and its first print of 10,000 copies were sold out in three months. The second print of 5,000 copies was made in the same year while demand for its translation into English was also made.

We were happy to present this English translation by Mansor Ahmad Saman to our readers. The translator has closely consulted the author who went over the whole manuscript and approved. The translator has also supplied footnotes where necessary.

Azran Abdul Rahman  
Chief Editor