

THE UNSUNG HEROES

ZAINUDDIN MAIDIN



UTUSAN PUBLICATIONS & DISTRIBUTORS SDN BHD

Utusan Publications & Distributors Sdn Bhd
No. 1 & 3, Jalan 3/91A
Taman Shamelin Perkasa, Cheras
56100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03-92856577
Fax: 03-92846554/92875763
e-mail: enquiry@upnd.com.my
website: www.upnd.com.my

Original Malay Edition published in 2004
This English translation published in 2004

© Utusan Publications & Distributors Sdn Bhd 2004

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise,
without the prior permission of the publisher.

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing-in-Publications Data

Zainuddin Maidin, Dato'

The unsung heroes / Zainuddin Maidin, translated by Noraini
Ahmad Shariff

ISBN 967-61-1582-7

1. Zainuddin Maidin, Dato'--Anecdots.
 2. Communist parties--Malaysia--History
 3. Malaysia--Politics and government--History
- I. Noraini Ahmad Shariff II. Title.
959.5051

M
959.5051
ZAI ✓
06

Dicetak oleh
LOHPRINT SDN. BHD.
No. 5, Jalan SR 3/6,
Taman Serdang Raya,
43300 Seri Kembangan,
Selangor Darul Ehsan.

27 OCT 2004
NASKH KECILHATAAN
PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA
APB 01151807

*I salute
all the heroes of
the nation*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to everyone who was involved in the production of the book "The Unsung Heroes".

My special thanks go to the members of the Special Unit of the Police Force who have helped me tremendously in strengthening the credibility of this book.

This book would not have been completed without the inclusion of historical photographs from the Malaysian Information Department, the National Archives, and the mainstream media.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the publishers and writers of the many books to which I referred in every chapter in this book.

I want to express my utmost thanks to Sabaruddin Ahmad Sabri and Fauziah Melan who have helped me tremendously in researching the materials for this book and in retyping the original version.

In all honesty, this note of acknowledgement does not do justice to the many contributions made by everyone concerned.

Thank you.
Zam

PROLOGUE

This book revisits historical events which are already known to the public but which have been written from the perspective of the writer who had the opportunity to witness for himself the enactment of various events and in some instances, was directly involved in them.

The writer has attempted to share with readers the emotions he felt at those moments – sometimes anxiety, sometimes disappointment, and sometimes pride.

The core of this book is Chapter 21 “The Unsung Heroes” which discusses the behind-the-scene roles of security personnel especially the Special Branch Department of the Royal Malaysia Police in their efforts to work out peace with the Malayan Communist Party (MCP).

This chapter is based on interviews with the officers of the Special Branch as well as the writer’s own observations. It is of utmost importance to the writer because of the dramatic meeting between the Chief Minister of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra with leaders of the Malayan Communist Party led by Chin Peng on 28th and 29th December 1955 which triggered the writer’s interest in journalism when he was barely 16 years old.

As Allah Subhanahu Wata’ala would have it, more than 30 years later, as a journalist, the writer would personally witness and cover the signing ceremony of the peace treaty between the MCP, and the Malaysian and Thai Governments on 2nd December 1989 in Hadyai which marked the end of the communist struggle in Malaysia.

As such, the last chapter “What Tunku Started, Mahathir Ended” was written with full conviction and understanding.

On the whole, the book shows that national independence was achieved because of the strong belief, from the very beginning, in realistic and