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**The Facts About**  
**SARAWAK**

A documented account of  
the Cession to Britain in 1946



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# The Facts About **SARAWAK**

A documented account of  
the Cession to Britain in 1946

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## FOREWORD

The documents contained in this book were somewhat hastily assembled and privately printed in England in booklet form in the late summer of 1946. By then it had become evident to my father and myself that representative elements among the Sarawak people disassociated themselves from cession to the British Crown and strongly challenged the apparently unconstitutional and unseemly manner in which the so-called cession had been brought about.

Appeals couched in compelling and touching language were being sent from within Sarawak to my father and myself which neither of us felt we could honourably disregard and it was evident that a resolute struggle lay ahead which it was to be our privilege, our responsibility and our right to support to the utmost of our ability.

The initial compilation of historical documents, letters, telegrams and factual statements was designed for distribution among individuals of influence and the media. In 1947 further copies were printed in India and these were distributed mainly throughout Malaya, Singapore and Sarawak.

In view of the interest in this period being shown by a growing number of students of Sarawak history and the demand for factual information regarding this crucial era, I have been glad to give Summer Times Publishing permission to reprint this compilation together, for clarification, with the Joint Opinion given by Sir Arnold McNair and Mr Justice Wynn-Parry regarding the international status of Sarawak, which reached the British Colonial Office on 4th October, 1945, the date the members of the Provisional Government of Sarawak were "dismissed" by the Rajah, whom the British Government then regarded as being empowered to negotiate the future status of the country.

In the three decades and more since these traumatic events took place, the Sarawak people have grown vastly in political maturity. For them, as for all of us in our respective countries, it can be both sobering and healing to look our history directly in the face so that we may learn to the full the lessons it offers to teach us. Then, with thankful hearts and deepened understanding we can leave the old and together build the new, conscientiously — our contribution to a better world.

Anthony Brooke  
January, 1982