

FACES IN THE CORRIDORS OF POWER

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IN THE
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OF
POWER

A pictorial depiction of
Malaysian personalities
in positions of power and
authority

RAIS YATIM



Pelanduk
Publications

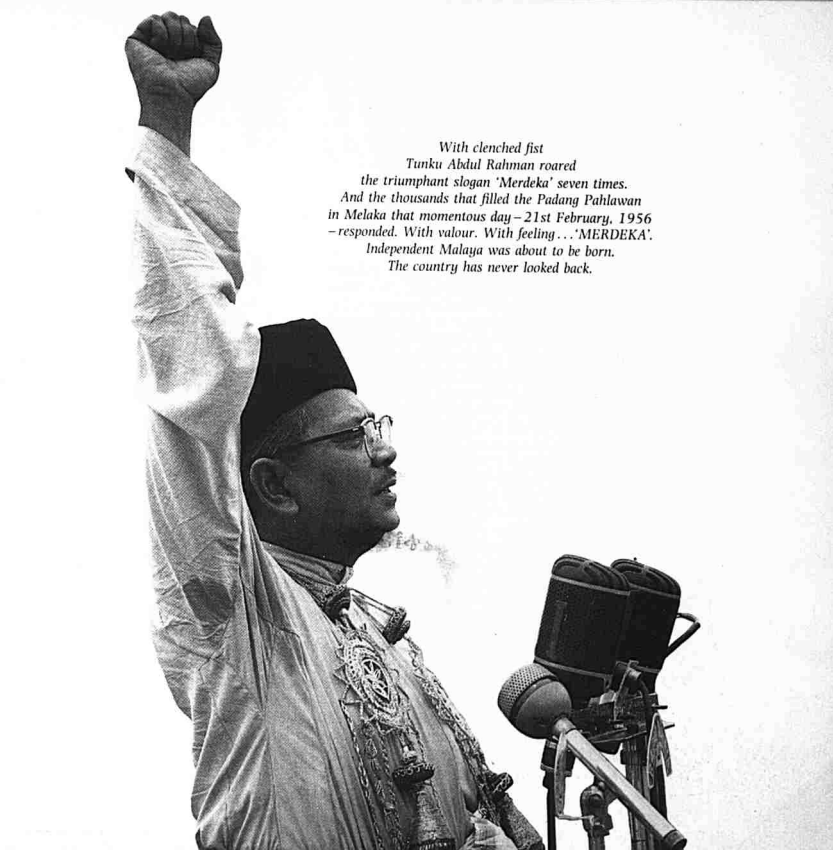
Pelanduk Publications (M) Sdn. Bhd.
23M, Jalan SS 2/67,
47300 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor, Malaysia.

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ISBN 967 978 176 3

445812



*With clenched fist
Tunku Abdul Rahman roared
the triumphant slogan 'Merdeka' seven times.
And the thousands that filled the Padang Pahlawan
in Melaka that momentous day - 21st February, 1956
-responded. With valour. With feeling... 'MERDEKA'.
Independent Malaya was about to be born.
The country has never looked back.*



FOREWORD

The author of *Faces in the Corridors of Power* came to me and asked me as one of the oldest politicians in the country and its first Prime Minister to write a foreword for his book. I told him that at this stage of my life to be requested to write a foreword for an important book like his, is truly an honour. I thought I would have been forgotten by people, particularly by political figures in high places.

According to Datuk Rais, I am the right man to write the foreword because the book is a depiction of our leaders past and present in pictorial form. This book covers the activities of political leaders, politicians, civil servants, judges and even some members of Royalty. I can claim to be connected with all these. First, I was born a Tunku, then I worked as a government servant, then as a law officer in both the legal and judicial services, then I became the Executive Head of Malaysia, and lastly, I am the President of PERKIM and RISEAP, a religious organisation in Southeast Asia.

This is a book that is worth reading, and according to the author, he started to think seriously about writing it five years ago while he was serving as Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan. He thought it would be good for light reading, but in actual fact, it makes good reading. It tells of the works of various important persons and depicts their character. This gives an insight into their lives and activities and to some extent into their characters.

I came on first as was to be expected, as I was the first Prime Minister, but Datuk Rais was not yet in politics at that time or in service, he was still studying. If he had he might have been a very important person to know and he would be useful to the Party and the Government. He is keen on his work and is always working on how best to improve the condition of his country. As Minister he has done a lot and tends to be articulate, and he appears often on the T.V. and the press to say his piece.