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INTELLECTUALS, RELIGION, AND POLITICS IN
A DIVIDED SOCIETY: MALAYSIA

A Dissertation
Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School
of
Yale University
in Candidacy for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

by

Daniel Regan

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ABSTRACT

INTELLECTUALS, RELIGION, AND POLITICS IN
A DIVIDED SOCIETY: MALAYSIA

Daniel Regan

Yale University 1977

This dissertation reviews the religio-cultural and political orientations of Malaysian intellectuals in the light of prevailing theories about intellectual life. Most of these speculative theories arise from European and North American experience, and have yet to be tested adequately in a non-Western setting. By "intellectual" is meant a generalist on questions of values, aesthetics, or public affairs, who communicates judgments on these matters to a fairly general audience.

The avenue to an effective intellectual role appeared to be through contributions to the major journals, magazines, and newspapers. These are pivotal institutions for certifying intellectuals in Malaysia. Leading contributors to these organs, and those whose work was discussed within them, comprised the initial list of those to be interviewed. That list was expanded further by "automatically" adding the members of eleven groups (e.g., editors, authors of the most discussed and quoted books, major translators, etc.). In