

Vol. CV

ESTABLISHED 1879

ISSN, 0036-4762

No. 1461



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1461

Sarawak Gazette

FRIDAY, November 30th, 1979

PRICE

\$1.00



Sarawak Gazette

KUCHING, Friday, November 30th, 1979

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Subscription for one year including postage—
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Subscription for one year including postage—
Continental and Foreign M\$13.00

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Full page	\$28.00	44.00	47.00	100.50	148.00

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Cover: Panglima or Saky Amatun, Mado Javanita with a young.

The Sarawak Gazette

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Council Negri

The first meeting of the newly constituted Council Negri took place in the Court House, Kuching, on Monday, 19th November, 1961, at 10 a.m. A number of heads of departments, other leading Europeans and their wives and the heads of the various communities were present. The Court House was decorated with flags for the occasion.

Promptly at ten o'clock the Chief Secretary and the Datu Patinggi made their entrance, members standing as a mark of respect. The Chief Secretary opened the proceedings by reading a message from His Highness the Rajah who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting. A Malay translation of the message was read by the Datu Patinggi. The President of the Council then read telegrams from His Highness the Rajah and His Excellency the British Agent and followed this by addressing the Council. The Datu Patinggi read his address in Malay. His Highness the Rajah's message and the President's speech are reproduced elsewhere in this issue both in Malay and English.

Members of the Council were then sworn in by the Judicial Commissioner and the Datu Hakin, the second member swearing in the Melanau members.

The Resident, Fifth Division, moved that the Council adopt the Standing Orders and the Resident, Third Division, seconded the motion which was duly carried. This closed the proceedings for the day and the Council rose at 11.50 a.m., a group photograph then being taken.

On Tuesday, 14th November, the adjourned Council met at 9.30 a.m. and opened the proceedings by receiving in the Resident, Fourth Division, who had arrived from Singapore just too late to take part in the first day's business. In moving the ratification of the agreement made the thirty-first day of March, 1961, between His Highness the Rajah and the Committee of Administration the Resident, First Division, paid tribute to the great and long services rendered by His Highness the Rajah to the State of Sarawak. On Mr. Edwards seconding the motion it was carried unanimously.

The Treasurer of Sarawak moved, and Mr. T.E. Parker seconded, that the following members compose the Finance Committee: Mr. W. Harnack, Mr. E. M. Selous, Mr. Tan Sam Guan and Mr. Ong Hap Loong. This was carried without dissent.

The Hon'ble Mr. B. A. Trechman proposed the first reading of the Supply Bill 1961, Mr. Harnack seconded the motion.

The Treasurer of Sarawak had laid a Certificate of Emergency on the table to take the bill through all the stages at this session and this was duly done. After the second reading the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the bill clause by clause. The bill was eventually passed unanimously.

The Interpretation Amendment Bill, proposed by Mr. E. H. Digby and seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. A. Kait, and the Native Customs Bill, proposed by the Secretary for Native Affairs, and seconded by the Resident, Fourth Division, were both read a first time.

In introducing the Interpretation Amendment Bill Mr. Digby said the three main purposes of the bill were one, to bring the Interpretation Order into line with the Constitution Order, two to obviate the necessity

of passing every By-Law and amendment to a By-Law and three to insert a new clause to 6a.

The Secretary for Native Affairs pointed out, when introducing the Native Customs Bill, that the bill is not designed to give any powers to the Secretary for Native Affairs but he has not exercised in the past with the authority of His Highness the Rajah. It has become necessary to authorize him to continue with the work of codifying native customs.

The adjournment having been moved by the Resident, First Division, an opportunity was given to unofficial members to ask questions or voice any opinions they felt called on to do. Unfortunately on this occasion no unofficial members availed themselves of the opportunity, perhaps they were overcast by the occasion. In future we look to these members for some bright and spirited speaking, free as they are from the ties which shackle the official members.

At 10.20 a.m. the Council adjourned and so brought to an end an important and historic occasion which will long be remembered by those who took part. It was only the first of what we hope will be a long series of useful and successful meetings which will play their part in moulding the future destiny of Sarawak.

The following members were present.

- The Hon'ble the Chief Secretary.
- The Hon'ble the Treasurer of Sarawak.
- The Hon'ble the Resident, First Division.
- The Acting for Hon'ble the Resident, Second Division.
- The Hon'ble the Resident, Third Division.
- The Hon'ble the Resident, Fourth Division (absent first day).
- The Hon'ble the Resident, Fifth Division.
- The Secretary for Native Affairs.
- The Secretary for Chinese Affairs.
- The Hon'ble Mr. A. Kait.
- Mr. E. H. Digby.
- Mr. W. Harnack.
- Mr. T. E. Parker.
- Mr. E. Edwards.
- The Hon'ble Abang Haji Mustapha (Datu Patinggi).
- Abang Adang.
- Rev. Fr. A. G. Muller.
- Mr. R. A. Bowcher.
- Mr. T. S. Sang.
- Mr. Ong Hap Loong.
- Mr. Edward Jerah.
- Mr. Khoo Ping Loong.
- Mr. Francis Annis.
- Abang Haji Abdulrahman.
- Mr. Tan Sam Guan.
- The Hon'ble Abang Haji Abdulrah, Datu Patinggi (absent second day).
- The Hon'ble Ichi Mohamed Zin, Datu Menteri.
- The Hon'ble Abang Sulaiman, Datu Amar.
- The Hon'ble Haji Hassan, Datu Bontin.
- Haji Mohidin, Datu Hakin.
- Abang Opong.
- Abang Zaidari.
- Abang Samadun.
- Abang Abu Talip.
- Datu Abang Zain.
- Abang Haji Ismail.
- Abang Kipwet.
- Datu Tuanan Mohamed.
- Datu Pengiran Haji Mohamed.
- Abang Haji Gapor.
- Abang Ali.
- Abang Mustapha.
- Abang.
- Abang Blauden.
- Abang Abdul Latip.

In attendance.

The Hon'ble the Judicial Commissioner, Mr.
H. Thwaites Lewis.
Mr. A.G. Taylor, Clerk to Council Negri.
Mr. Lim Shook Kheng, Scribegrapher.

Below are copies of telegrams exchanged between His Highness the Rajah, His Excellency the British Agent for Sarawak, the Officer Administering the Government, His Highness the Rajah's address, the President's address, and the motions proposed by the Hon'ble the Treasurer and the Hon'ble the Resident, First Division.

17th November, 1961.

HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJAH OF SARAWAK.

On the occasion of the opening session of the Council Negri under the Constitution the President and members of the Council respectfully send their loyal greetings to Your Highness.

CHIEF SECRETARY.

17th November, 1961.

GOVERNOR.

The Rajah of Sarawak thanks the President and Members of Council Negri for their kind and loyal greetings on the occasion of the opening session of the Council.

RAJAH SARAWAK.

17th November, 1961.

TO: GOVERNOR, KUCHING.

I offer my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the first meeting of the Council Negri under the new Constitution.

BURTON AGENT.

17th November, 1961.

TO: H.E. THE R.A., SINGAPORE.

The President and members of the Council Negri of Sarawak are sincerely grateful to Your Excellency for your good wishes on the occasion of the first meeting of the Council under the new Constitution.

CHIEF SECRETARY.

A Message from His Highness the Rajah of Sarawak to the Members, both Official and Unofficial, of the Council Negri assembled in Kuching on November 17th, 1961, to attend the Inaugural Meeting of the Council now established in its Constitutional Form.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NEGRI.

Although it has not proved to be possible for me to accept your invitation personally to be present in Kuching to inaugurate this Council in its new Constitutional Form and to preside over this, its first Assembly, each one of you will surely know, notwithstanding my absence in the Malay States, this occasion and its high significance will be very present in my mind to-day and that I shall be with you in spirit. And because I am unable to attend this Meeting, I have commissioned the Hon'ble Mr. C. D. Le Gros Clark, who is acting for me in the capacity of Administrator of the Government during my temporary absence from the State, to be my Personal Representative at the Council and to convey to you all an expression of my best wishes and high regard.

You may or may not know that the first Meeting of the Council Negri took place at Bintulu in the year 1957. Sarawak has changed much since that day, so long ago, when my Father, fulfilling the wishes

and policy of the First Rajah, translated an ideal into practice by sowing the seeds of liberal and representative Government in Sarawak, and, by so doing, instituting a system of governmental control such as had hitherto never existed in any part of the Island of Borneo. You can imagine what great pleasure it gives me now to see that the seed then planted has grown into a tree which at last bears fruit to-day in the form of this new and active "Council Negri"—a traditional name which, in itself, bears perpetual witness to the hopes and motives of its originators.

Since the day of that first Meeting in Bintulu and notwithstanding that communications have never permitted frequent gatherings and consultations, persons who from time to time have been selected to be Members of the Council Negri have assembled at intervals, once at Sibu but on most occasions in the Capital. They have met and got to know one another and learned to have a greater respect for each other's point of view. They have exchanged information about the problems affecting the several districts and divisions of the State and thus learned to appreciate the larger problems of the State as a whole. They established a closer understanding between themselves in befitting responsible leaders of the People who lived either near or far from the centre of Government.

These Meetings did much good although it may have appeared to the untrained that they had no practical significance. A spirit of unity and brotherhood was fostered. An understanding of the benefits of collaboration was gained which resulted in an ever-growing appreciation of the value of Sarawak citizenship as compared with the insecurity and uncertainty of the old order previously existing. Moreover the idea of the leaders of the people having a say in their own Government and decisions was kept in the fore during the long time when no Sarawak citizen possessed sufficient learning to permit of his taking a rightful share in the executive control of the State. The lessons to be learned and the benefits that were derived from these meetings may well be borne in mind by future members of the Council Negri. That aspect of Government which is close contact between rulers and ruled and between persons of all nationalities should never be neglected. It has been the cornerstone of the happy relations which have resulted in peace and contentment among all persons in Sarawak becoming a characteristic of the State. I hope this state of affairs may ever continue.

But the stage of the Councils of Sarawak which I have just described has now passed and the time has come when the Council Negri must perform the active function for which its originators created it. From this day forth, instead of Meetings being held at rare intervals they will be of frequent occurrence. Instead of the Council being a spectator coming up at intervals to hear an account of the progress of the State, it will possess the legislative power. It will be responsible for the expenditure of the public funds which cannot be disbursed without its consideration and sanction. It will be the means whereby public opinion may be expressed and causes for dissatisfaction properly represented. It will be expected to see that every aspect of the welfare of the People receives the proper consideration it deserves. I have outlined these few details in order to bring home to all of you the full measure of your increased responsibilities. And I have every confidence that you will discharge your new obligations with befitting circumspection, criticism fearlessly but constructively where necessary, and generally promote the public welfare as far as lies in your power.

I now express the hope that success will ever crown your deliberations and that the Council Negri will henceforth steadily grow in importance and influence in Sarawak and be possessed of the vitality which it

Atas berkat kita ciptakanlah Sarawak kita mudah-mudahan jaya tua-tua day day lebih bermaklumat dan makin lama makin bertambah jaya dan jaya malar Council Negri ini di-tanah Sarawak serta mempunyai cukup perantaraan yang baik berhubung dengan land kedudukan-nya yang memang tinggi tempat-nya adanya.

Kita mahu ciptakan ini dengan berkata bahawa merupakan pengetahuan kita yang didayak daripada pertimbangan kita dengan Kerajaan Sarawak semasa-nya on beroleh kapada masa masa kemudian-nya barang bila cipta di-lebentakiti ada-nya.

Yus Tuan,

SEKARANG KITA LAPADKAN BAHAWA COUNCIL NEGRI INI TELAH TERDIRI MENGIKUT PERATURAN UNDANG UNDANG: DAN DENGAN YANG DEMIKIAN KITA TITAMKAN WAKIL MUTLAK KITA MEMBUKANYA SUPAYA DIJALANKAN PERKERIAAN KERAJAAN.

Address to the Members of the Council Negri by the President at the opening session 17th November, 1961.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, NEGRI

As President of this Council I wish to welcome you all here to-day at this opening session. The title "Council Negri" is, as His Highness the Rajah has stated in his Message to you, one of long standing in this State, and with it the idea of Divisional Councils, for it was, in February of 1865 that the first Rajah, Sir James Brooke, wrote as follows to his nephew, Charles Johnson, who afterwards became second Rajah:—

"Your project for a Council is the different provinces I entirely approve, and leave you to carry out. You may subsequently consider whether, upon important occasions, it may be right to form a national body, composed of all the Councils, to be convened by the Rajah, or his Representative, to meet at Sarawak. The Rajah, or his Representative, should be President, and the Governors of the provinces Vice-Presidents of these local Councils, and there shall be a number of Standing Orders limiting their action, so as to prevent their clashing with the Supreme Council".

When His Highness the present Rajah decided to commemorate this Centenary year of the Government of Sarawak by English Rajahs by instituting the era of autocratic rule and by substituting therefor a Constitution, His Highness wisely decided to retain the old idea of his Councils and thus to perpetuate, without interruption, that tradition which has for so long characterised our form of government in Sarawak. I am, therefore, particularly happy to welcome here to-day those members who were members of the Council Negri immediately prior to the enactment of the Order which provided for the Constitution. Your presence here assures us of the continuity of Government, assures us that there has indeed been no break with the past.

The Rajah, in his Proclamation of the 31st March of this year, publicly proclaimed the right of his people ultimately to control their own laws and destinies, and, by enacting this Constitution, His Highness has taken the first step in the direction of the ultimate goal of self-government.

In the Preamble to the Order His Highness has set forth the Cardinal Principles of the Rule of the English Rajahs. He has stated that Sarawak is the heritage of his subjects and is held in trust by him for them. He has declared his intention to develop and improve the social and educational services of the State, and to raise the standard of living. He has once again reiterated that statement made repeatedly

by the first two Rajahs, the refusal to permit exploitation of his people. And he has solemnly declared that the ultimate goal is the goal of self-government.

I think that this is a fitting time to repeat to you the words pronounced by His Highness on the 5th March:—

"I have always been positive, as was my father, that it was never the intention of Sir James Brooke to establish a line of Absolute Rulers. What he set out to do was to protect the natives of Sarawak, the real but backward owners of this land, from exploitation and oppression, until such time as they could govern themselves. I hope that it may be fairly said that this worthy aim has in a large measure been achieved. And now I am taking a step forward towards the ultimate aim, laid down by the first Rajah as the basis of his policy: that of a self-governing community and country. I believe that I am thereby honouring the pledge of the first Rajah which was to safeguard the rights of the native population, a duty well discharged by my father, and, I trust, by myself".

I have no doubt that this Council will agree that that pledge of the first Rajah has been well and truly honoured by the Rajahs of Sarawak.

In my address to His Highness on Centenary Day I made the following statement:—

"Economic rate has not only brought peace and contentment, it has not only brought justice and good faith; it has to its credit a success which may well be unique, for it has brought these blessings unaccompanied by exploitation or economic aggression".

In the House of Lords on the 9th July of this year, during a debate on the Colonial Development and Welfare Act passed by Parliament in June, Lord Hailey, who is well-known to many of you for his wide knowledge of Colonial problems, spoke as follows:—

"Colonial Development has four stages. The first is the rudimentary stage of introducing peace and order and that amount of stability which would allow the inhabitants of the country to take the first steps to secure their own material welfare and advancement. The second stage is one that follows fast on the first—namely, taking measures to prevent the exploitation of the inhabitants of the colonies by private interests or safeguard them from the abuse of authority. There follows the third stage, more positive, more constructive, a stage which involves the expansion of the social services. That is the stage which is of the highest importance. It is, as I say, of a positive and constructive character, and it is one which should engage all our energies. There is a final stage, a stage in which the betterment of our territories for the colonies will be tested by ourselves in Great Britain and also by the Colonial peoples by the measures to which we have afforded them opportunities for the management of their own affairs and by the extent to which we have stimulated them to participate in self-governing institutions".

It is not difficult to recognise the history of our own country of Sarawak in this statement. The introduction of peace and order by the first Rajah. The never-ceasing efforts by the second Rajah to prevent the exploitation of the inhabitants by private interests. And now, the third stage, a stage of active construction and expansion, a stage which is of the highest importance. This stage His Highness the present Rajah has already set in motion, and, as you know, our social services are even now being expanded. We must plan our State economy more with the purpose of raising the standard of living. We must make ourselves less exposed to attack from outside economic conditions and circumstances. And we must make it

our aim is to improve the physical health and social standards of the people of this country that they may one day be fitted to take their full part in that political advancement promised by His Highness the Rajah. To quote once more from Lord Hailey's speech, "You cannot build up political liberties on deserted bodies or stupid intelligence; nor do we wish the time to come when the people of these Colonies will say to us, 'We asked for bread and you offered us a vote'".

This is not the time for me to deal in detail with the various duties that confront you. This Council will primarily be a legislative assembly and all statutes must receive your approval before they are enacted. For the present it has been decided to provide an official majority, but it is fully intended to leave all matters other than those touching questions of policy to an open vote. It is, of course, to the unofficial members that we must look to secure that Government is kept continually informed of the feelings and opinions of the general public.

The power to ask questions of Government, the power to move resolutions, and the power to raise any matter on the adjournment are real and vital powers, the proper use of which will ensure that the criticisms and suggestions of the unofficial members have an important and far-reaching influence on Government policy.

This Council stands on the threshold of its career as a legislative body. In the early stages we will all have much to learn; but, by dint of industry and application, by virtue of independent judgment and conscientious service, as the years go by we will develop an assembly sound in knowledge, untroubled in experience, and truly representative of the peoples of Sarawak whose affairs have been solemnly committed to our charge.

I cannot conclude this Address without a reference to the part that Sarawak is playing within that great Commonwealth of Nations known as the British Empire, an Empire which, standing side by side with those other great nations, China, Russia and the United States of America, is presenting a bulwark of defiance against the forces of aggression. Let us remember that Sarawak, small though she is, forms an important link in the Far Eastern Defence, a link which one day, perhaps, may have to bear the full weight of attack. I should like to quote to you the words of that great leader of ours, Winston Churchill, spoken only a few days ago:—

"We have passed through the darkest and most perilous period of this struggle. We are once more Master of our Destiny".

Let that be the keynote of this Council. Let us see to it that, wherever our destiny may lead us in this new world now unfolding before our eyes, we shall remain the Master of that Destiny.

Malaysian Peoples' Volunteer Corps (RELA)

by

ALWIN HUN SHAFER, A.M.S.

(Penangkep Pongapak Ratan Ratanen Rakyat Sarawak)

Ratan Ratanen Rakyat Malaysia, or RELA, was first established in 1964 during Indonesian Confrontation against Malaysia. Originally known as Paman Kawanen, RELA was established under the Emergency (Essential Powers) Act, 1964 and its day-to-day administration is governed by the Essential (Paman Kawanen Regulations), 1966.

The original purpose in establishing RELA was to raise a volunteer force which could keep watch on the nation's borders and to report to the authorities any

attempts to infiltrate undesirable persons into the country.

With the end of confrontation and the re-establishment of friendly ties between Malaysia and Indonesia, the need to maintain such a volunteer force no longer arose and RELA gradually became an inactive organisation in the post-Confrontation period.

However, after the May 13th Incident in 1969, the Government decided to re-activate and expand RELA and to give its members new responsibilities and tasks. During this period, members of RELA became the "eyes and ears" of the Government and were given the task of providing the authorities with information on the whereabouts and activities of individuals and groups trying to cause chaos and disharmony within the country. RELA members were also given the task of assisting the Security Forces by carrying out such duties as guarding vital installations and maintaining peace within the area under their jurisdiction.

Gradually, however, as conditions within the country returned to normal, these activities were cut down and RELA once again reverted to a state of inactivity, although the basic framework of the organisation was maintained intact.

Then in 1972, a decision was made to re-structure and revitalise RELA in order to meet the requirements of the present day situation. It was in 1972, also, that RELA was first established as a proper footing in Sarawak.

The motives which prompted the authorities to establish RELA units in Sarawak were:

- To give the people an active role in the fight against terrorism.
- To provide the Security Forces with a source of local information.
- To provide the people, especially those in the rural areas, with better security.
- and • To ease the burden of the Security Forces.

In 1974, the old name "Paman Kawanen" was dropped and the new title "Ratan Ratanen Rakyat Malaysia" (RELA) substituted in its stead.

Response to RELA has been overwhelming. RELA Headquarters have always received a very enthusiastic response from members of all races wherever RELA units have been established. This is particularly gratifying when it is remembered that none of the members are paid and that they are all volunteers.

Total membership of RELA in Sarawak at present is more than 16,000 including 300 RELAWATI (female members) and it is proposed to boost the strength of the Corps to 20,000 members before very long.

After a decision is made to form RELA units in a particular area, RELA Field Officers are sent to recruit members. The new members are then given basic military training either by Army or Police Field Force personnel assisted by RELA Officers.

The main task of RELA units in Sarawak is to patrol the area in and around their own town or kampung in order to guard against terrorist infiltration. They are also a valuable source of local information for the Security Forces.

As with other branches of government the return of the majority of Sarawak's terrorists to society has meant that RELA units will now be able to place greater emphasis on the civil aspect of their role. RELA's members are being encouraged to take part in giving reypang and civic projects and they are being encouraged to undertake projects which will foster a greater feeling of unity and loyalty among the people. They are also being encouraged to make greater efforts

to improve their own standards of living and to help the government in the implementation of the New Economic Policy and Third Malaysia Plan.

Despite the fact that the terrorist problem in Sarawak is very much improved, the strength of BELA in the State is to be increased. This is because the government has realised that BELA need not be restricted to a purely military role. Proposals have been made to utilise BELA units to act as a guard against smuggling, illegal immigration and other breaches of the law which may otherwise go undetected, particularly in those isolated areas of the State where it is difficult to maintain a permanent government presence. Thus BELA can be expected, in the days ahead, to play a bigger and more prominent role in the all-out effort to develop peace, harmony and development in the State.

Pictures on BELA Activities



Yang Amat Berhormat the Chief Minister being chaired by BELA members on the occasion of the completion of training. This was in early 1971 in KANCOM.



Weapons training conducted by members of the Royal Malay Regiment.



Women members—BELAWATI—having shooting practice using live ammunition.



Women members—BELAWATI—at one of the Pasting Out Parades marking the completion of basic military training.

Happy Retirement, Abang "J"

The Sarawak Civil Service is about to lose one of its most dedicated and experienced officers.

Datuk Abang Haji Zainuddin Ali (popularly known as Abang "J"), an Administrative Officer attached to the Majlis Adat Istiadat, is now due for his second "retirement" in February next year.

He is currently on a well-earned leave.

Born in Sibu in February 1916, he has served under four different governments—the Brooke Regime, the Japanese Occupation Forces, the Colonial Government and now Sarawak's own Civil Service.

His first salaried job was as an officer assigned to undertake census of rubber trees in Song in 1934.

A year later, his potential as an administrator caught the eyes of the then Resident of the Third Division, who made him a probationary Officer in Serbet.

Five months afterwards he was transferred to Basing and on to Melau after three months where he was made responsible for the administration of Jelan.

Two years later, Datuk Abang Haji Zainuddin was sent to Sibu to become a Class IV Magistrate and from then on he was serving virtually as a "trouble shooter".

In 1939 he was despatched to Kapit as a Native Officer and after two years on to Belaga also as Native Officer.

In 1940, soon after the liberation, he was assigned the task of rebuilding Song which was burned down by the Japanese.

Early in 1947, he was appointed Senior Native Officer in charge of Malak and four years later moved to Kanowit and a year after to Bintulu.

In October, 1953, while still serving in Bintulu he was promoted to the Senior Service.

In 1955, he was sent by the Colonial Government for a study tour of England, Ireland and Scotland for six months.

On his return he was made Assistant District Officer in Sibu and in February 1957 he was made the District Officer, Malak.

While on a three months' leave in Sibu in 1958, he was troubled to solve what could have been quite trouble among the Iban in and around Kanowit District. The problem was over the collection and sales of Engku-Lang and this took him two months to successfully settle, after which he returned to Sibu as an Assistant District Officer.

In 1961, he was the District Officer, Limbang, when a Brunei Rebellion broke out and he was together with the then Resident, Mr. R. H. Morris, when they were captured by the rebels and detained for several days.

With the rebellion successfully quelled later, he was transferred to Kluang the next year as District Officer.

With the formation of Malaysia, he was transferred back to Sibu.

He was afterwards sent to Kowloon again for three months as District Officer and on his return to Sibu was made a circuit Magistrate for the Third Division.

After three years, he was sent to Sarikel as District Officer.

In August the next year he was made Acting Resident of the Third Division for two months after which he was sent to Miri also as Acting Resident for Fourth Division and later the same year, he was posted to Sarikel again as District Officer.

In September, 1969 he was promoted to the post of Resident, Fifth Division until April, 1971 when he began his seven-month leave prior to retirement.

But there was to be no retirement as yet.

His vast and varied experience was too valuable to Sarawak Civil Service, which was then still short of officers particularly after the departures of the expatriate administrators.

On July 31, 1970* he was recalled to Sibu to do special duties as Resident of the Third Division until 1973.

In 1976 he was made to do temporary duties as Resident of the Fourth Division until his current appointment as Administrative Officer of the Majlis Adat Istiadat in April, 1978.

For his dedicated service to the country, Datuk Abang Haji Zainuddin was awarded the P.B.S. in 1960, P.B.S. in 1968, K.M.N. (Federal Award) in 1973, P.P.C. in 1976 and P.N.B.S. in July, last year.



Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri presenting a souvenir gift to Datuk Abang Haji Zainuddin at a farewell dinner at the Istana on 2nd November, 1978. Among those present at the reception were the State Secretary, Datuk Abang Haji Yusof Puteh, the Federal Secretary, Engku Datuk Ibrahim Ngah, The State Attorney-General, Datuk Mohd. Jemari Serjan, the Mufti of Sarawak, Datuk Haji Abdul Kadir Hassan and some heads of Government Departments.

(Datuk Abang Haji Zainuddin had also served with the Rajang Security Command (BRACOM) between 1st December, 1974 and 9th January, 1975.)



Datuk Abang Haji Zainuddin left receiving a farewell gift from the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Datuk Haji Yusof Johari bin Bojeng at a farewell reception given by the State Secretary, Datuk Abang Haji Yusof Puteh at his residence on Tuesday, 23rd October, 1979.

Here and there... Dewan Undangan Negeri

10TH DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI (The State Legislature)

The First Meeting of the First Session of the 10th Dewan Undangan Negeri will be held on 4th December, 1979.

Five Bills will be presented during the five-day Budget Session. They are the Supply (1979), the Supplementary Supply (1979), the Supplementary Supply (1979), the Forestry (Amendment) and Land Code (Amendment) Bills.

The Supply Bill seeks the authority of the House to expend \$24,240,573 from the Consolidated Fund for the public service of the State next year.

Of the amount \$61 million will be contributions to the Statutory Funds while more than \$68.4 million will be allocated to the Public Works, \$21.36 million for Lands and Surveys, \$15.244 million for Agriculture and \$12.79 million for Forestry.

The Chief Minister's Office will receive \$12.79 million while the Administration (general) gets more than \$7 million and Local Authorities get \$8.250 million.

The Supplementary Supply (1979) seeks statutory authority for the withdrawal of \$994,227 from the Consolidated Fund for the payment of public services last year.

The Supplementary Supply (1979) seeks the authority of the House to use \$3,618,000 from the Consolidated Fund for the public service in the State during the year.

The Land Code (Amendment) Bill, will seek to empower officers of the Lands and Surveys to arrest without warrant any person found unlawfully occupying State Land.

The Forest (Amendment) Bill seeks a mandatory authority for the Police and Forest Officers to deal with offences on Forest Reserves, protected forest or the State Land.

The Bill will among other things empower eviction of person committing the offences and taking away of all buildings, animals, crops and other properties used in the commission of the offence.

Newly Elected Members

It is expected that the bulk of the first day business will be taken by 'Cash-taking' by the newly elected

members who were returned after the last State General Elections. There are some new faces among the Barisan Nasional (National Front) and it will be the first occasion when the House is without opposition members. Three of the 49 seats were won by independent namely: YB Patrick Anok Uson (Tasek Bera N2), YB Tan Min Chong (Pedagan N3) and YB Tanjung Lelaing (Belaga N49) all formerly Barisan Nasional Seins.

What the Council Negri or . . . the 1949 Dewan Undangan Negri discussed in November 1947

Sarawak Gazette in its 1st December, 1947 issue reported briefly on the brief proceedings of the Council Negri which sat on 17th November. They heard a Royal sum Opening Address delivered in absentia by C. V. Brooke (The Rajah) who was away somewhere. The message was delivered by Mr. C. D. Le Gros Clark, Administrator of the Government, acting for the Rajah.

Regarding the Malay version of the Address, probably the writer or translator was a fan of the *Musabik Abulabak*—a style which he picked probably while studying at the Malay Teachers' Training College, Kuching.

A Matter of Words—Oral Traditions

ANU BRUNGAN

(Discussing about habits of dogs and cats)

Yot : Apa kuma Ara bekemeh laki belakang sipenya di-anjak kuma doggi-tinggi?

(Why does a dog lift one of his hind legs high when urinating?)

Yam : Seleh-pakey mahar jangas dindeh, pinde, pagur, tiang, wool kereta tumbang simpun-nya wakta bekemeh.

(Because to ensure that the objects (lamp post, car wheel, swinging gate, wall, flower pot, etc.) do not fall on him while he is urinating at it).

Yot : Bah macan ni pusa?

(Ya what about the cat?)

Yam : Apa pasal dengan pusa?

(What about it? What about the cat?)

Yot : Lela berak chuan-nya simban di kandi karth-nya deket ya, di simban-nya kelain long-gok talu, di k ya, chuan-nya simban-nya lagi dah ya melonca-nya leri singgal tangat ya.

(The cat after having deposited his faeces make futile attempt to hide the early mound and because of the over-pouncing smell quickly leaves the spot fearing that someone would recognize him and shame him for his dirty habit).

Yam : Tau ya intak pakey mawagkap mawak macan lina.

(You know it's simple: Just to trap people like you).

Man ya simjak talu pusa belak, macan pusa berak mambak you oloh-nya.

(If you step into the cat's faeces, you just look like a cat skin hair that is dragging your foot on the grass to clear the smear and the smell away).

AKHBAR

Cement Manufacturers Sarawak Sdn. Bhd.

I. Legend

Construction of the first cement grinding plant in East Malaysia began in 1973. The plant, known as Cement Manufacturers Sarawak Sendirian Berhad (CMSB) is a joint venture between the State Governments of Sabah and Sarawak, through the SEDIC's of both states with an authorized capital of \$40 million. The grinding plant is located on a 15.43 acre site in the Pelanduk Industrial Estate, Kuching.

II. Aim of Project

The setting up of this grinding plant was aimed at enhancing and ensuring the smooth implementation of development programmes in both Sabah and Sarawak by having a reliable and steady local supplier of cement which is a most basic building material.

This grinding plant was also set up to overcome the dependency on supply of foreign cement which brings with it such problems as high costs of freight, and frequent shortages as well as other factors inflating the price of imported cement.

III. Management

The six members of the Board of Directors comprised of three members from Sabah and another three from Sarawak with Enchik Mohammed Anis bin Haji Sams as Managing Director.

Max Power: CMSB provides employment to more than 340 people in the state and more would be recruited when the maximum capacity of producing 432,000 M/T of cement per year is achieved in the early 1980's.

IV. The Process of Cement Manufacturing

The manufacture of cement is rather a complicated and long draw-out process. However, in theory it can be simplified, basically involving the proper proportioning, blending and grinding of raw materials—lime-stone, clay and iron-ore.

In Sarawak, there is abundant supply of raw materials. Almost all mountains are limestone mountains in the state. Due to the lack of facilities which involve a lot of capital, at present, we are not able to utilize them. However, we have plans to erect a clinker plant in the early 1980's with an estimated cost of \$200 million.

At the moment, the raw materials which are already processed for grinding i.e. clinker and gypsum are imported from Japan and Korea. Ships with average between 3,000 to 6,000 metric tons would anchor alongside CMSB jetty to unload clinker for storage in a 15,000M/T clinker silo. Gypsum is unloaded from separate shipments and stored up in drying sheds.

Processing of Clinker: After chemical analysis and laboratory tests, the raw materials are treated separately. It is then ground in the raw mill into a fine dry, powdery substance, a very light yellow in colour, known as raw meal, which is homogenised in special mixing silos before being stored in large silos. The raw meal is transported by chain conveyor systems which a temperature of about 1500°C is required, burning the raw meal into clinker which looks like small pebbles, almost black in colour.

V. Grinding

The imported raw materials are transported from the storage by chain bucket conveyor systems to the grinding mill in which about 120 tons of steel balls, from 40mm to 90mm in diameter, pulverise and mix the clinker with a small quantity of gypsum, to turn it into cement so fine that it can go through a dry mesh sieve which can hold water.

VI. Storage *Penempatan simpanan dalam simpanan*

The cement from the grinding mill is pumped through pipes by pneumatic air pressure into three storage silos with a capacity of 15,000 M/T. At the moment, we pack the cement in 50 kgs paper bags.

VII. Distribution

Thirty-five bags in every 100 bags of cement are transported by lorries to construction sites and storage in the Flax Division. The remainder is transported by ships to Sibu, Bintulu, Miri and to Sabah ports like Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan, Tawau, Lahad Datu and others.

VIII. Capacity

Our grinding mill has a capacity of turning the raw materials into cement at 60 tons per hour while our packing machine has a capacity of 90 tons per hour. This is because packing depends on temperatures of shipment and weather. This grinding plant has a capacity to meet the requirements of Sabah and Sarawak as well as Brunei until the mid 1980's. By then, this plant would achieve its maximum capacity of 400,000 tons per annum.

IX. Future Plans

Feasibility Studies of erecting a matching clinker grinding plant have been completed. The establishment of this clinker plant would make the grinding plant no longer depending on foreign clinker. Hence, saving foreign exchange.

This \$100 million project would be established in the early 1980's. Local raw materials like limestone at Gunung Baki and coal at Sibuhat would be utilized.



500 tons per tank and the largest one, 15,000 Tons Cement Container.



Cement packing machine.



Cement being loaded for export.

Subsistence of the Penan in the Main Area of Sarawak

by

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Background This study was carried out by the Medical Department in conjunction with the Sarawak Museum, aided with transport by the Forest Department, and in co-operation with the Royal Geographical Society Mount Mulu Expedition, which assisted in numerous ways. It is intended that the Penan data supplement, from the human point of view, the extensive investigations in all but human ecology performed by a large number of scientists with the Expedition and various Government officers.

The Penan. These are a people of great interest in many aspects, who inhabit jungle tracts in parts of Sarawak and also in areas of Indonesian Borneo. They live traditionally by hunting and gathering, in particular collecting the wild hill sugar which forms their staple food, though a number have settled more or less permanently and taken up cultivation of crops; this process continues at present.

There is some confusion, at least among the uninformed, about the usage of Penan and Puan—some apply either term or spelling indiscriminately. The Puan appear to be a similar ethnic group, also traditionally nomadic forest dwellers, but many of whom have been settled in longhouses or villages and grown padi like other Sarawak peoples for a considerable time. As employed here, the term Penan refers generally to the Forster groups, who inhabit the Fourth and Fifth Divisions of Sarawak as far as the Barun River to the Westward.

Scope. The purpose of this study is to assess the nutritional status and means of subsistence of both settled and nomadic Penan in the area, including relationships with other Sarawak indigenous races, and in particular in the light of their changing modes of subsistence and future welfare. The latter considerations are of current concern regarding the Mount Mulu National Park, because the gazetted Park extends far within Penan territory. Hence a wide view is taken of their presentance and prospects, with recommendations designed accordingly.

Group Studied

Melinau (a tributary of the Tutuh River): These were living at the time of visiting near the Expedition Base Camp on the lower Melinau River. They remain largely nomadic, but two families had cleared some land a few miles higher up this river to plant rubber. A sub-group of the Melinau Penan of 7 or 8 families were staying in the Melinau River area outside the opposite boundary of the Park; these Eastern Melinau

could not be contacted during the available period. The Western sub-group comprised about 50 persons, 77 being included.

Long Inan: This is a Penan village several miles outside the Park on the farther bank of the Tunch. Nine families live here in separate houses (as opposed to a longhouse style of dwellings), and have grown various crops including hill (jaya) padi for a decade or more. They also collect wild hill crops. Unlike the nomadic Penan, who avoid larger rivers, they can boat and catch a good deal of fish. Eighty-two persons were examined.

Long Napir: There is a Penan settlement here on the Melabit River, Fifth Division, consisting of a longhouse of 7 apartments built with Government funds, and several typical Penan huts of poles and leaf thatch. It is near a Kelabit village, and is to the south and east of the Park boundary. Some crops are grown and the place is inhabited intermittently by a shifting population. Five families and 15 boarding school children were studied. Two other small groups of some 5 or 6 families each live in the east of the upper Melabit River but were not encountered.

Balan: This group of 9 families lives in a longhouse on, confusingly, another Melinau River which flows into the Seridan River, which joins the Mapoh, a Tunch tributary. To distinguish them they are called the Balan group after the nearby river where they were formerly centred (meaning swamp sago palm in Penan). They grow several crops as well as using wild sago and hunting. Thirty-eight boarding school children examined at Long Seridan came from this and other groups in the area.

Ulong: About 20 persons live in the area of the river of that name, which forms part of the Park boundary. They are fairly isolated and partly nomadic, growing no crops and apparently having little to do with the outside world. Two young men however were staying at Long Inan, and another was attending school at Long Seridan. Twenty-nine were examined.

Be Lutin and Long Layan: The former, a few hours' journey west of Long Seridan, could not be included as they were all away in parts unknown, though two families included with the Ulong group had been staying with them (others have termed them a second Ulong group). The Layan area groups are far from the Park surroundings.

Pekatan: Though this is more distant, 26 children up to about 18 years old were included since they had been examined previously, during a survey of Kayan and Kemph children on the middle Baram River. They inhabited a settlement on the upper Pekatan River, which joins the Baram near Long Mui, above Long Lusa. They grew padi rather unsuccessfully, tobacco and other crops. Some interview with or visit those in the Apoh and Tunch Park fringe areas, such as Long Inan.

A total of 138 persons of all ages comprised the survey subjects. Those belonging to the Melinau (Western) and Long Inan groups were also studied by the Museum staff, who measured 118 weights and heights and weighed food consumption of 14 families (4 of which were rejected by medical personnel).

Personnel: A Rural Health Supervisor who speaks Penan carried out interviews and food consumption weighings, a Junior Laboratory Assistant measured haemoglobin, prepared blood smears for malaria parasites and examined stools for helminth ova, and the writer performed clinical examinations and anthropometry. A Chief Hospital Assistant who also speaks Penan, having long acquaintance with them including some of the Melinau group, unfortunately could stay only a fortnight to aid the project, owing to other duties.

Lastly, a heavy burden of translation fell upon the first-mentioned, who had also to communicate with Kelabit at Long Napir and Long Seridan, being himself a Bario Kelabit. A fluent Penan linguist, Kramahang of Long Seridan (also a Kelabit), was of much assistance in that area. Investigations were aided considerably by the Headmaster of Long Seridan Primary School, also expert in Penan and very knowledgeable about the groups of the locality, from which come a number of boarding pupils. The surgeons (and hospitalier) of the Medical Auxiliary at Long Napir, a Murut and a competent Penan speaker, were very helpful there.

Procedures: Except for daily visits to nearby dwellings from the Expedition base camp and when at Long Napir, personnel stayed in huts or temporary shelters, and in the Indian highhouse, or set up a nearby camp in one instance. Thus there was usually good opportunity to observe behaviour and customs such as food usage.

Though, understandably, sometimes inquiring about the reasons for investigations, and occasionally rather apprehensive, when explanations had been provided co-operation was generally excellent. An exception was a youth, a boarder at the Long Tawawa (Tunch) school, who at first refused examination, insisting by warning for a quiver of poisoned darts.

Jungle Subsistence: Most hunters, whether nomadic or settled continue to use chiefly blowpipes and darts tipped with poison (sapient of Ipoh (*Atractodes toxicaria*)) tree sap, and other substances. A few have shotguns. Sometimes ancient weapons highly dangerous to the user and held together with wire or rattan bindings. One, who shot a barking deer (*Oijang*), operated a rubber band to substitute for a broken trigger spring. Otherwise dogs may be used, the game may be speared in spear-ponds is lashed to the end of the blowpipes or possibly reeled with a parang-blade, and various traps are employed. Pig and deer appear to be the most common quarry, supplemented by monkeys, squirrels, civets, snakes (python is preferred), birds and others. Pork is evidently most favoured, and great efforts are made to secure a pig when possible, preferably when fat after eating fruit and the most abundant feedstuffs in the South-West monsoon (landed) season. Fish are obtained by several methods from the numerous rivers, but do not seem as highly regarded as meat.

A wide range of animal and plant foods are brought by all when moving in the jungle. Supplies are said to vary considerably in kind and quantity, from place to place—depending on factors such as soil type—and according to the time of year. For example, the area near the base camp on the lower Melinau River was described as (then) having no fruit, shoots or other vegetable, the nearest significant supplies of foods being one or two days walk away (excepting of course fish or riverine edibles).

Several kinds of unidentified fruits were being consumed elsewhere, and dietary questionnaires of mothers showed a wide range. Various tubers and bulbs are used, some clearly evidently depend on individual attitudes, e.g. one informant ate several types of mushrooms or fungi, while another stated he never ate any since they might be poisonous. Similarly river snails and other molluscs were being taken by some, but one individual never consumed these. The reason in some cases depended on personal or family restrictions of a ritual nature; thus barking deer and mouse deer were taboo in one case (many prohibitions are instanced in maternal diets here). Some insects are eaten such as cicadas and certain grubs, though Mr. Peter Kodji and also Mr. Tutan Kaboy of the Museum stated the sago worm or grub does not seem very popular with Penan—it is a favourite food (raw or cooked) of the

Melanes and Papu. The subject of insects as food is an interesting feature, in the context of the vast spectrum of different forms and astronomical numbers of insects in humid tropical forests (as may be only too noticeable in the shape of locusts, sandflies, mosquitoes and scorpions and other noxious creatures). To the extent that insect sources may be utilized, by choice or necessity, they constitute a food resource of huge dimensions.

An important dietary feature, at least at the time of writing, was a frequent lack of truly vegetable or otherwise plant sources of iron and carotene, also vitamins C and other nutrients. The Puanan, like other Sarawak indigenous peoples, do not seem to hold vegetables in very high regard. Some were persuaded to try sweet potato and uposan (taro) leaves for the first time, and found them acceptable. The nomadic Puanan customarily never plant or cultivate any crops, but depend on wild saps as a staple. For this reason, it is unfortunate that a favourite food (observed to be usually the only vegetable used when any was taken at meals) is sage palm shoot, namely the inner stem or 'heart': the trunk of young tree has to be cut down to obtain it.

Pitil Sage. Flour is extracted from several kinds of palms, including *Eugenia* spp. (sural or 'u'ed, thus perhaps: *Arraga unchululidila*—if, as presumed, it is the Puanan (Jahai and Iban) species, *Caryota no (lunat)*; *Arraga brevipetio (loohok)* (?) *Caryota mitis* (Jahai), and possibly *Eugenia* *beakystachya* (Jahai)—unconfirmed.⁴ The first is by far the most common in the area. Swamp saps (Jahai), *Metocoryna* spp., may be used occasionally (this is a staple food of the Melanes who live in coastal peat swamps). The palm is cut down when mature, at the flowering stage when starch content is maximal, which requires from about seven to many more years of growth depending on species.

A log is split open and the pith chopped out with a sharp-edged hardwood pole fitted with a handle at the upper end. A mat is placed in a raised-side frame-work near a water source, and the pith is trampled and mixed with water in the mat. The starch or flour is washed through one another finer mat or cloth below, leaving the fibrous detritus above. Flour is dried in the sun or over a fire for keeping.

As determined by Museum staff, 8.2 kg (20.2 lb) wet flour resulted from 215° *Eugenia* (sural) trunk, diameter 21" to 21". Another rather immature 14" x 2" trunk gave under 3.5 kg (7.7 lb). A *Caryota* sp. (Jahai) trunk 22" long by 30" to 11½" diameter as cut produced 98.5 kg (111.1 lb) pith and 15 kg (33.4 lb) wet flour.

Apresure. These raising crops, at Long Iman, Long Napu and Baka, also resort considerably to wild saps, often from the first cut logs up the Tutoh River and after drying for some days floated them down the Tutoh: those which reached the village were collected by boat and identified as to household by cut marks. It may be mentioned here that sharing of food, scrupulously observed by nomads as Professor R. Needham, the authority on the Puanan, has pointed out, seems no longer the custom at Long Iman. From other settlements families in small groups spend varying periods living where saps is to be found and extracting it there, and also hunting, returning to harvest crops.

Pitil padi is grown by settled groups, by the shifting cultivation method as practised by most inland Sarawak farmers. No doubt yields are at low, or even lower since the Puanan are nomads, than the pathetically poor usual result: officially 120 gastsings padi per acre on average, or about 280 lb in milled rice (420 kg/ha), though in all probability often a good deal less

at recent nutrition surveys have indicated. Otherwise uposan and bananas are grown by the Puanan and occasional other crops.

Additional Livelihood Basket. Mats and other craft work are produced with considerable skill, of which the blowpipe with spear requires a high standard of ability. These are sold or traded, often at far below their real value since the Puanan are habitually cheated by their neighbours, who usually control trade outlets. Jungle products are collected for sale, such as rotan and a valuable aromatic wood (guru). Some Puanan men obtain employment, e.g. recently in periods for the Expedition, with timber companies or clearing jungle for growing padi. These aspects of their provenance are considered further in the Conclusions section.

Medical Findings

General Features. The adult men tend to be much larger relatively than the women, who are often small even by comparison with other indigenous races at Sarawak. Men are muscular and extraordinarily strong for their size and weight (e.g. a large rubber tapper weighing some 140 lb was carried over very rough hill country by Puanan men singly, though taking turns; they can also travel at great speed for long distances with little load when they wish. The women are also quite muscular, though with much more subcutaneous fat, retaining what often slender and graceful figures. Contrary to statements by the misinformed, they do not necessarily "age rapidly" after bearing one or two children: some women with several children were observed who looked surprisingly youthful.

The facial features of either sex are frequently regular and well-formed. A contrast to many others in Sarawak is their often widely open and seemingly large eyes, a consequence presumably of living usually in jungle shade, though an epicanthic fold may be readily observable of some. An outstanding characteristic of a proportion is very light skin colour, which can be as white as of a Northern European; other are as dark as a Southern European. (Tanning by sunlight is discounted; the Puanan in any case avoid bright sunlight whenever possible.) Eye colour is normally light to medium brown, and hair usually black but sometimes medium or dark brown. The hair is usually straight, but one boy was seen with very wavy hair which caused it to stand out like that of a Melanesian.

There was however a wide range of variations. Thus there were several tall, long limbed Baka men with aquiline facial features of Caucasian type, while among the Uluang group there were some short and thick-limbed men with flat features and round faces of Mongolian type. These differences between groups are probably emphasized by the evidently frequent occurrence of in-breeding—it seems common to marry a relative (Needham states first cousin marriage is accepted by Eastern but not by Western Puanan). Perhaps a wide genetic inheritance is also a factor, it is impossible to judge what contribution there may be from other races. It is however more likely that children have been fathered upon Puanan women than the reverse, since other Sarawak men tend to affect a superior attitude towards the Puanan. This outlook appears to be based primarily on owning a permanent house of some kind (or a section of a longhouse) and other material possessions which the Puanan usually do not have; it is equivalent modestly to the inferior regard in which Gypsies are held by dwellers at fixed locations in other countries such as in Europe.

Intelligence and learning ability are of a high order as shown by accurate observation and rapid logical adjustment to new situations. Conceptualization was shown to be of a superior level by the shrewd grasp and reasonable answers relating to theoretical ques-

⁴Wanted to be most entirely by Dr. Dransfield.

tion such as "What would your attitude be if the Government placed restrictions upon hunting in the Park area?" Such ideas as of a Park being good and abstract, if needed of course especially float Puan speakers to be able to convey notions like these accurately, and to comprehend replies in (apparently) adequate capacity. Fortunately this could be done with what seemed satisfactory understanding to medical personnel engaged.

Medical Usage. A range of herbal and other preparations are employed medicinally, as noted by the Ethnologist (Mr. Peter Kadit), but little time was available to the writer for such inquiries. Spirits are held responsible for illness, which can be caused too by sorcery, and against which certain counter-active procedures may be undertaken. When a person dies, that place is avoided, apparently for fear of spirit effects. It is interesting that unlike some other areas also subject to severe food shortage or starvation, like Amerindia or Balinese, the ideas of abandoning the sick, the crippled or the elderly or of infanticide, appear to be abhorrent to the Puan.

Of interest are two reported vegetable substances held to be antidotes for dart poison, and observed in use by Mr. David Lohang of the Forest Department—though for seemingly a very slight dose of toxin. It is hoped his specimens will be identified. An anal contraceptive was mentioned by several informants to be known to certain persons as at Long Basing on the Apoh, a small plant which might be the same as used by the Puanan Ba, identified as *Argemone* sp. by Mr. Paul Chai, Forest Department Botanist (used by the Puanan Ba with an epiphyte, *Cynodon* sp.).

Childbirth. Frequent fatalities at or following delivery were reported by some informants, including 6 women of the Melinau group in the present generation and 11 tall mentioned by name of the Balau group in the older generation. A reason for this very heavy rate is the large size of infants according to available data: of 73 live births recorded mainly at Long Lams and Mirani Hospital the average weight 3.03 kg (nearly 6 lb 11 oz) or 89% of WHO standard. This is very big in relation to the small size of Puanan women: 48 aged 20 to 49 years averaged 40.6 kg (89.5 lb) or 73.1% of WHO reference standard. Such disparity is likely to lead to obstructed labour and fatal results without skilled attention, often difficult or almost impossible to obtain. Undoubtedly, many Puanan women make great efforts to obtain supplies of contraceptive pills; some had walked for a week or more for the purpose. It is also especially difficult for the Puanan to attempt to support a large number of children, and the risk of severe malnutrition is high.

Age Distribution. Ages could not be established except for a few very young children, so estimates had to be made based largely on height and birth order; distribution is shown in following tables such as for weight. Anthropometric data especially must be considered as only approximately accurate for age. Adult measurements are more reliable, say for the (assumed) 20-49 year-old category. It was impossible to make dependable assignments for older as well as younger ages, so no estimates of age of survival of the elderly could be made. Opportunity did not allow for lengthy attempts to date by well-known events, in any case difficult for those leading an isolated life.

(Note: children are included in an 0-4 years category, rather than a 0-4 or 10-year division, to enable comparisons with other Sarawak children as classified in nutrition surveys.)

COMMON CLINICAL SIGNS (%)

Age (years)	Number	Serous Ophthalmia	Angular Lesions/Scars	Dental Caries	Gonorr
0-4	111	29.1	25.2	38.3	26.1
5-19	98	21.4	18.4	29.4	7.1
20-49	81	15.8	7.5	12.7	34.8
50+	14	34.3	—	71.4	14.3
Total	314	21.4	17.4	27.1	29.1

Phosphen Deficiency. As shown above 17.4% had serous—dry, wrinkled and sometimes pigmented conjunctivae—rising to over 31% at 5 to 19 years. This is due to lack of vitamin A or carotene precursor. One child had keratomalacia of one eye with partial blindness (her mother had died soon after her birth). The same total of 17.4% had vitamin B complex deficiencies shown by angular oral signs, with 3 additional cases of cheilosis. Over a quarter under 5 were affected.

Dental Caries. Though only the more obvious cases were noted (including the edentulous), high proportions prevailed. Phosphen was an exception, with only one among 26 children 10 years old or less. One young Melinau woman had no upper teeth left, and missing upper incisors were not uncommon. Periodontitis and gingivitis were also seen.

Gonorr. Almost 60% of all subjects had gonorr of various degrees, teenagers and older women being most often affected; mothers under 50 years old reached 81.5%. Forty-six out of 53 (86.8%) Puanan school children aged about 7 to 18 at Long Napir and Long Seridan had gonorr, but all 17 Kolahin children aged 8 to 11 examined at Long Napir School were gonorr-free.

Malaria and Other Conditions. All were palpated for enlarged spleens as found in chronic or endemic malaria, but none were discovered. Thrombocytopenia (123) from whom blood was collected for haemoglobin estimation also had thick and thin blood smears made, examined at the Central Malaria Laboratory at Kuching for malarial parasites: none were positive.

Otherwise noted were 1 case of healed syphilis, 1 cystitis (see, an old foot injury from poisonous snake bite), 3 adults with cough and slight haemoptysis—whose sputa were found negative for tuberculosis (a boy had returned from 1½ treatment at Mirani Hospital), and a man almost blind in one eye from trachoma and inverted eyelids, having impaired vision. He was given a letter and assistance for hospital attention at Kuching with a request to arrange specialist treatment at Kuching. Others were treated with basic drugs as proved feasible, in some cases with the kind assistance of the Expedition doctor.

Most termed anxious to obtain Western-style treatment. When buphonia (Aloupa) with water was given for hookworm several children and an old woman; they were able to obtain thiaminamide (Minerol) which is in any case much superior because of its wide-range antihelmintic action.

ANEMIA

Age (years)	Anemic	Total	% Anemic	Mean Hb. (g/L)
0-4	55	123	44.7	10.8
5-19	45	87	46.4	11.7
20-49	23	83	24.7	11.7
50+	8	14	43.9	12.0
Total	129	317	34.4	11.7
10-49 (5)	76	29	71.1	11.1

Forty-five per cent of children under 9 (infants below 5 months old were excluded) and 46% at 5-19 were anemic by WHO standards, i.e. haemoglobin below 11 G%, up to 4 years old and subsequently be-

low 12.0%. The rate fell to 25% of adults, except those 30 or over who were 41%. Of females 15 to 49 years old, of reproductive age, there were 17% anaemic. Relatively few adult men were affected. However, since the Scliff method had to be used, as there was no other available haemoglobinometer which was really portable for travel on foot, results cannot be regarded as highly accurate.

INTERNAL HELMINTHS

Age (year)	Number	% Adults	% Trichuris	% Hookworm	% Total
0-4	41	36.3	6.3	46.4	47.9
5-14	142	18.2	7.7	59.7	49.0
Total	183	21.8	7.2	48.4	48.4

About two-thirds were infested with one or more types of parasite. This was less than among some other Sarawak communities, but the hookworm rate was higher. Since anaemia were examined direct without concentration, actual rates were likely to be considerably more. Children under 5 had more *Ascaris* (round-worm) and less hookworm, as would be expected. *Trichuris* (whip-worm), unlike some other populations surveyed—which have reached up to 40%—was not common.

PER CENT STANDARD WEIGHT, HEIGHT, MID-ARM CIRCUMFERENCE AND SKIN-FOLD THICKNESS PER ESTIMATED AGE (SEXES COMBINED)

Age (year)	Number	% Weight	% Height	% MAC	% SFT
0-4	48	72.8	88.7	71.9	71.6
5-14	28	68.7	87.9	77.0	81.8
15-19	21	68.9	87.8	76.6	82.1
20-29	42	71.8	88.4	78.5	74.1
30-39	34	73.8	89.2	79.4	81.4
40-49	31	76.2	88.8	74.6	82.1
50+	11	68.1	88.8	70.7	47.9

One hundred and eighteen weights and heights of Malayan and Iban subject were measured by Museum staff. A spring-balance type scale provided by the Museum was used, which proved difficult to adjust and read and was inaccurate: weights were compensated later by comparison with an accurate beam-balance scale. For heights and mid-arm circumference a non-stretchable tape was used, and for skin-fold thickness Harpenden 'bulldog' callipers. While bearing in mind ages had nearly always to be estimated, child findings are presented as above to enable comparisons with others. WHO standards are employed throughout.

It is noticeable that all parameters tend to be low, or very low, but from 9 to 19 are somewhat higher, and markedly so for skin-folds. This is due mainly to the large number of school boarders at Nipie and Seridan, evidently enjoying a larger caloric intake (though some were at low levels). Adult skin-folds are very low, markedly of men, showing this sub-venterous fat and relatively poor energy intake, and circumstances however are considerably grimmer, indicating poor muscle and bone development.

WEIGHTS AND HEIGHTS OF PENAN AND OTHER ADULTS

Origin	20-49 Years Old					
	Males			Females		
	n	W(kg)	H(cm)	n	W(kg)	H(cm)
Penan (Eastern)	44	51.2	156.7	48	46.6	144.6
Penan (Batuang Beringin Forest)	21	55.0	156.7	23	56.9	146.8
Tabulating Land Dayak	128	48.1	—	164	45.1	—
Tabulating Land Dayak	54	48.7	158.1	56	45.5	147.1
Malay (indigenous) women	1,268	57.9	163.1	596	48.2	149.6
North American	—	58.6	(197)	—	47.3	(146)

Penan Batuang and other data are from D.B. Ellis, *Sarawak Museum Journal* XX, 1975, 40-41, except for the Batuang Beringin weights by courtesy of Mr. Peter Kodje, and Land Dayak weights from the Tabulating area by medical staff. The Penan, it should be noted, are from the most malnourished (and longest-settled) Penan area, so the weights would expectedly tend to be lower than of most other Penan. Americans (presumably U.S. Caucasian) weights are given as averages for the same heights as the Penan. It is seen Penan male weights are greater than those of Land Dayak but female less than either; this is even more marked with Penan Batuang. Malay (indigenous) and women are considerably more, and American. A similar general pattern is followed by heights except that Land Dayak male heights are relatively greater.

Weight for Height Figures though calculated are not given, since (as pointed out with reports on other communities) they are entirely misleading. This is because due to chronic under-nutrition, which predominates over acute malnutrition in Sarawak, height attainment decreases relatively more than weight with increasing age of children. Therefore weight for height appears to indicate improvement, whereas growth becomes progressively poorer as shown by separate parameters, even to frequent dwarfism. Thus the weight for height ratio is worse than useless where chronic malnutrition prevails.

PROTEIN-CALORIE MALNUTRITION PREVALENCE IN SARAWAK: % CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD OF VARIOUS GROUPS BY STANDARD WEIGHT

	Children	Severe			Mod. + Severe
		60% or less	40-60%	20% or less	
Penan	110	7.7	84.6	91.1	
Malayan	40	6.6	47.5	74.1	
Malak (Batu)	30	11.0	71.0	80.0	
Land Dayak	300	13.5	76.0	89.7	
Malay (indigenous) women	20	5.0	70.0	80.0	
Land Dayak	400	8.3	76.0	85.2	
Malay	216	8.7	71.0	83.0	
Kayan and Kenyah	710	1.1	61.5	86.6	
Total	4,106	8.4	72.4	81.0	

Among the very high levels of protein-calorie malnutrition among indigenous Sarawak children, the Penan show the most at 92% (though an age might have been over-estimated this figure may be low). Nevertheless the Penan in the severe category at 7.7% were less than all the Iban groups, the Land Dayak and Malays.

CHILD MALNUTRITION IN DEVELOPING AREAS BY
GROSS WEIGHT CATEGORIES

	Severe 60% or less	Moderate 41-59% (34-50%)	Mild + Severe 70% or less
Latin America	1.6	18.9	26.1
Africa	4.4	26.1	30.9
Asia	3.2	20.1	24.4
Total (171,000)	3.4	22.8	23.2
Sarawak (4,100)	8.4	55.1	63.3
Penan (120)	7.3	68.2	74.9

The excessively large proportions of severely and moderately malnourished among indigenous Sarawak children are shown by the above figures, especially when it is realised that the other data have been employed by WHO to illustrate high preponderance of malnutrition in most of the developing or tropical world. The Penan difference compared with the Sarawak total is greater by the Gowers scale than the former (Jelliffe).

FATE OF 249 PENAN CHILDREN BY MATERNAL INTERVIEW
COMPARED WITH 713 KAYAN AND KENYAH
AND 1,640 IRAN CHILDREN

	Penan	Kayan & Kenyah	Iran
Number of mothers	31	147	141
Average age (months)	39	34	31
Children born alive	149	711	1,640
Average live births per mother	4.8	4.8	4.8
Total deaths, liveborn children	74	147	156
Total deaths, liveborn children (%)	29.5	20.4	20.4
Infant deaths: 1,000 live births	180.7	128.5	156.1
Toddler deaths: 1,000 survivors	79.3	88.8	82.3

Interestingly, live births per mother average 4.8 for each group shown. With almost 80% of Penan having died, survivors averaged only 3.4 per mother (vs Long Iman 4.4 per mother; the remainder 3.7). Infant deaths (i.e. under a year old) reached the high scale of 181 per thousand, the others being less though still very high at 128-8. Toddlers (1 to 4 years old) were also high at 71, though less than Kayan and Kenyah at 80. Penan deaths of older children and adults were much higher (though maternal ages were also greater), being 16.7% of total deaths at 5 years old or more, compared to only 3.6% and 6.2% (both) of the other two. This no doubt reflects the extra hazards of Penan life.

Dietary Findings: Children

Breast-Feeding Duration. Average duration of some 79 months, or nearly 2½ years was achieved by 42 mothers. Several others did not specify any definite time. Only two mentioned brief durations (for the last completed child), each due to its early death.

Age Begun Sharing Family Diet. Forty-nine averaged 19.1 months old when they began to be given all kinds of food taken by adults.

Child Diets. Fourteen diets of children obtained as from 1 to 24 years old (including Penan) were obtained for the preceding day. All but one (aged 24 years) were being breast-fed. Of starry foods, rice only was taken by 1, rice and sago by 3, and 8 had sago only. Meat (including birds) or fish, or both, were given three to 7 children, twice to 2 and once to 1. 1 had neither. One had sago shoots, pre-chewed, in one-year old. No others had any vegetable, or fruit. The last child, aged one year, had nothing else but a little sago.

Diet of 32 Mothers

Feeds Avoided. Pregnancy. Most common was pork by 11, then cold water, 12, fish and monkey, both 8, deer 6, mung (river cut) 3, bitter foods also 3, and various other items by one or two each. Eleven subjects did not describe any restrictions.

Pen-Nut. Only 1 had no restrictions, 4 being from Pelatan. Smoked (salad) meat was first, by 21, then cold (i.e. steamed) water, 16, usually or rutted food 14, sour fruit 13, unboiled water 10, roast meat 9, bitter shoots 8, 'wood' sago and left-over food both 7, bitter foods (greenly) 6, pork (or smoked pork) 4, fat 4, palm shoots (or raw shoots) 3, and eighteen other items one or two each. The long list is probably due to the high dangers of childbirth and consequent efforts to minimise them by food avoidances.

Location. No restrictions were pointed by 9 mothers. Duration of 'yellow diarrhea' was avoided by 27, and 3 used (the common sago). Fish was cited by 19, also sour fruit 13, palm shoots or raw shoots 11, cold water 9, also unboiled water 9, smoked meat 4, usually (steamed) food 3, and several other items by one or two. The chief principle appears to be not to take strong smelling items especially, since they can pass into the milk and make the child die from diarrhoea, according to one informant. Similar views are held by other Sarawak people too.

Feeds Preferred. Pregnancy. Most common was fruit, 23, though avoided post-natally. Next came palm shoots, 18, with a further 8 specifying various shoots and wood (the common sago). Fish was cited by 18, sago by 12 (including 2 raw wood and 2 salad). Among 12, various fruits 12, most generally, deer and birds 8 each plus barking deer and hornbill 3 each, sago (mung), squirrel and monkey 3 each, and various other one or two each. Only one expressed no preference.

Location. Preferences were not mentioned by 4. Most generally was cited by 20, palm shoots by 19 (1 raw), sago by 14, including 5 wood and 3 salad, pork 12, fish 8, boiled water 8, birds 7, also hornbill 1, deer 6, various fruits and monkey 5 each, and several other items by one or two.

Feeds favoured or avoided more often to vary according to the particular group concerned. Billed water may represent a move towards hygiene inculcated by others.

Pen-Nut Diet. As well as the many dietary restrictions, all except Pelatan mothers employ heat for about 8 days on average after childbirth, sago 2 to 14 days or 'until no pain'. All evidently sit with their backs 2 to 3 feet from the fire, and all but 3 Ubang mothers apply a hot warmed stone to the lower abdomen. The latter simply had warm water rubbed on the abdomen twice or thrice a day; 5 Ubang and 3 Napie mothers applied both stone and water. Heat is used by various Sarawak women post-natally, fruitfully by the Iban who claim certain scarring of the lower back from the nearby fire.

Family Diet. 24-Hour Recall. 42 mothers (including Pelatan) recalled meals of the day before. Of starry items, sago was eaten at 79 meals, rice 29 (mainly at Long Iman), and banana 5. Meat was taken at least once by 23 households and fish by 21 (sometimes both at different meals). Eight families had neither meat or fish. Palm shoots, usually long-stemmed, were taken by 11, and bamboo shoots and jaku (fern) by 1 each. Eight households had only 1 meal during the day and 1 only a single meal.

It is seen that all but about a fifth had meat or fish, but only a third had vegetable of some sort, and none fruit unless not mentioned. Presumably the households

which had only 2 meals, or one, were short of sago or any other staple: making a meal was reported as a meal was reported as a common event.

Weighted Food Consumption of 28 Households
Amounts of each item used by these households were weighed on food scales and recorded; persons present at every meal were noted. From weights and estimated ages of individual requirements were calculated according to current WHO recommendations (caloric needs were assessed at 'moderate' levels for women and children and 'very active' for men). Food nutrient values were taken from the Food Composition Table for Use in East Asia, 1972, and where necessary from 'The Health Aspects of Food and Nutrition', WHO Monita, 1972 (sago palm shoots were taken as for A. pinata in the former).

Fourteen households were estimated by Museum staff and 24 by method: 4 of the latter were reports of the former. The term household is used rather than family as 4 consisted of 4 wives married to 2 husbands, and assorted children. Total numbers counting repeated individual twice were 155.

It should be noted that conditions could not be considered representative, apart from the unavoidable interference involved. For one reason, some subjects had to be medically examined or interrupted on the same day, and were probably hindered from normal food-gathering or hunting. Another reason was that the Melanau sub-group staying near the Expedition base camp when investigated by the medical staff, though at the Melinau River Gorge when visited by Museum staff, at one of their normal dwelling sites, was chiefly living from proceeds of porcupine or crab work on purchased sago flour or rice. Some, especially at Long Napin, may have wished to convey the impression of reduced resources. These objections may have been lessened to an extent by longer studies at each household, but pressure of other work did not allow longer than five weeks in the field for the medical investigations. Summarized result are:

24-Hour Consumption of 28 Households

	Average Requirement Men (%)	Households Below 80% of Requirement (%)
Protein	66.2	76.3
Calories (energy)	80.4	50.0
Calcium	18.1	100.0
Iron	44.8	92.1
Vitamin A	49.1	78.9
Vitamin B ₁	38.2	86.8
Riboflavin	33.9	97.4
Niacin	33.2	92.1
Vitamin C	48.8	84.3

On these findings intakes appear low or very low and far from sufficient (though see also under Conclusions, following). Average requirements met were about two-thirds of protein and four-fifths of calories. These corresponded to some three-quarters and half of households respectively below the 80% level of requirements as calculated. The great majority were below this level for all other nutrients concerned, reaching 100% for calcium and 97% for riboflavin. Other vitamins and iron were also at very low figures, with vitamins A and C being slightly better.

Some intakes were certainly better than represented, as casual eating while gathering as well as various snacks were unrecorded: for example fruit or raw palm shoots seem to be eaten immediately very often. On the other hand protein from sago was in fact slightly less as it was calculated as 1.4% (a common value

ascribed to Metroxylon (sago) sago flour, which was the purchased sago being taken by the Melanau near the base camp; however the content of hull sago is less as shown by the analyses kindly carried out by Dr. Md. Iqbal Ahmed of the Serempong Agricultural Research Station:

Composition of 5 Samples of Hull Sago Flour (Data Martin Bantz)

Sample	1	2	3	4	5	Mean
% Dry Matter	83.2	88.9	87.2	85.4	78.6	77.2
% Starch	73.4	75.6	66.8	71.0	82.3	73.7
% Crude Protein	8.23	8.33	8.20	8.41	8.69	8.42
% Crude Fibre	1.60	8.29	9.	0.79	0.	0.98
Calories/100 G	321	312	343	330	378	344
Calcium mg/100 G	18	19	30	18	18	18.6
Phosphorus mg/100 G	33	11	14	4	28	12.8
Iron mg/100 G	5.8	1.8	1.8	1.3	2.3	1.8
Potassium mg/100 G	60	48	40	40	70	50.8
Magnesium mg/100 G	2	2	7	1	23	6.2
Manganese mg/100 G	3.8	3.1	2.2	3.0	1.3	3.1
Zinc mg/100 G	1.6	1.8	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.7
Copper mg/100 G	100	100	100	100	100	100

These specimens are of flour extracted by Pennas. No. 4 being undried. Nos. 1 to 4 are Eugenia with (mostly) and 5 of jakah, presumed *Acrocydactylus*. As the former is most common and the latter a poor second, mean values above may approximate usual Pennas intakes. Comparing swamp sago, balau (*Metroxylon* spp.) as in the Food Composition Table for Use in East Asia, with mean values, at 1.4%, there is less protein in this hull or upland sago (3.4-6%), at 327 kcal/100g slightly less energy (344), slightly more calcium, phosphorus, and iron, more potassium, less magnesium, more zinc and more copper in hull sago (manganese unknown).

Since Metroxylon values were used (as being consumed by some Melanau and Iban households), some protein and calorie intakes are actually a little less than estimated, while iron and calcium are very slightly higher. Overall differences are considered to be insignificant.

Sago Usage: Extracted flour is dried in the sun or over a fire for storage. Children were sometimes seen chewing this raw, also upland root. Sago is usually boiled with water, added in three or four times the quantity by weight, in a Chinese-type enamel cheap metal pot or bowl. While cooking to a sticky jelly (stout) it is frequently stirred with a long-handled wooden paddle. It was seen to be eaten normally from the pot, using a stick split into three or four spread fins at the end, which are twirled in the gloey mass. This effective implement might be useful too for spaghetti, macaroni or noodles.

The flour may be mixed with water and baked, or with sugar and other items and made into cakes or puddings. It may be cooked with pork fat and other animal products, or with shoots, fruits or nuts, or various combinations. Amadi in 'Longhouse and Jungle' claims a Pennas (sic) stated that there are 42 ways of cooking sago.

Conclusions

The nutritional status of the Pennas is clearly not as low as represented by the food consumption estimates, otherwise they could hardly survive. They would, for example, show signs of advanced vitamin

deficiencies such as starchy and beriberi, which were not in fact evident. Thus they must gain much greater supplies of such nutrients under more normal conditions, at least in the long term. Particularly, average intakes of meat are likely to be considerably more than calculated, as according to frequent accounts the Penan tend to eat large amounts when available, not preserving much (though they smoke and sometimes salt meat or fish). This was seen of the Ulueng group, who ate a good deal of barking deer meat one evening, but also kept much of it for the next day. Lightly smoked and dried in racks over fires. Since the shooting of this deer was controlled by the investigators (who also ate some) it was not included in the consumption study.

It is also possible, even likely that actual requirements may be less for those with habitually low intakes, due to more efficient utilization. As shown by x-ray circumstances and skin-fold thicknesses, for men especially are well-developed and muscular, while having very little subcutaneous fat as compatible with low calorie intakes. These factors are favourable to hunting and gathering in a hot climate, as is rather weak stature for jungle life (the latter was painfully observed by C. Turnbull when living with Congo pygmies: his large North American physique was often obstructed in the forest when the pygmies could proceed without difficulty). The relatively small dimensions of women, however, compared to birth weights of infants, appears to not oppositely or unreasonably in that there were frequent reports of deaths of mothers at or after delivery. Men averaged about 2 kg more than their men from Batang Ai and Tebelukang Land Dayak, but women were less 2.5 kg than them and 1.5 kg than Dayak women.

It can be considered that adults live at some point near the borderline of general nutrient sufficiency. Children are probably at much more nutritional risk due to high requirements for growth, excepting pregnant or lactating women or greater needs due to illness. This is in accord with the high death rate of infants and children, though difficulty in obtaining effective medical treatment is another factor. Higher prevalences of anaemia among younger children also accord, and lower anthropometric achievement too (declining from a creditable birth weight average of 85% of WHO standards, with allowance for inaccuracy of age assessment. Exceptions were some but not all boarding school children who were better nourished by comparison. In general it may be concluded that if children can survive malnutritional and other hazards and reach maturity, their prospects of adequate diets are likely to improve on balance, in the absence of other detrimental factors.

The Long Iman residents showed the most satisfactory condition, with higher food intakes and better anthropometric achievement, also with higher child survival at 44 per mother as opposed to 3.5 per mother among the rest. This community is the only one of those studied which can be described as suffering a population explosion, and this may easily convert their presently happy situation of modest food sufficiency into a deficit within the near future. This is well recognized by the people there, and the Tan Kampong has made an urgent request for supply of oral contraceptive tablets.

As to farming versus gathering, this is not a true comparison since the Iman people collect much upo, as mentioned, with the advantage of using the shalable Tunch River to float the logs down. They had also recently bought a truck of swamp upo (Panas lake, Pan making, Matroylon up) for \$15 from Long Uman, the Barisan Kayan longhouse derivatives. Further, apparently unlike many Penan, they catch considerable fish with nets and other methods, using

boats too. They seem to hunt often as well, in part to protect their crops, e.g. upos, from wild pig or deer, which do much damage. As with the Nagri and Batin farmers, agriculture is a part-time occupation, though Iman families seem to stay at home chiefly, whereas at the other two places the whole family moves away from time to time, except probably for school children in town-time.

Success in gaining a livelihood can be measured, within limits, by the average weight of adults as some indication of food supply adequacy. On this basis, the Penan achieved a comparable place to the Batang Ai Iman or the Tebelukang Land Dayak, who are both principally shifting cultivators of hill padi, since Penan men are heavier though Penan women lighter. Therefore it can be concluded the Penan way of life whether nomadic or partially agricultural is as nutritionally successful as that of long-settled Iman or Land Dayak shifting padi cultivators.

Further, the Penan mode of existence is much superior in the sense of being far better balanced with their environment—except, significantly, where the most settled group at Long Iman is concerned, which is over-expanding in population. The population of the upper Batang Ai Iman has increased its resources: little fish or game remains and rice yields are very poor; the people of the Engkari River estuary have mainly moved elsewhere. Similarly 45 Tebelukang area Land Dayak families produced only 99 lb (45 kg) per capita in terms of milled rice from the 1977 harvest; the Sarawak Land Dayak population averaged about 4.4% annual increase from the 1960 to the 1970 census, an extraordinarily high figure.

Hence, while a very serious situation faces Iman and Land Dayak (and others) unless they can slow their population expansion and radically improve their extreme inefficient and wasteful farming methods, it appears the Penan could generally continue their well-adapted mode of living indefinitely, unless interfered with by others. Such interference takes the forms of movement into their traditional territory by more powerful and aggressive races, economic exploitation and official action (such as may be associated with a National Park). An extra pressure is pressure by missionaries, in this area by other Penan and sometimes Penan-speaking Kolahit or Murut trained by the German Evangelical Mission. Other modern influences may be included such as agriculturalists, expatriates, anthropologists, authors or journalists, and even missionaries.

Proof of the long-term existence of nomadic Penan within their natural jungle resources lies in the fact that little evidence of their presence can be seen in areas where they are known to have lived for generations. Considerable numbers of upo palms, animals and fish remain (as observed on occasion by this writer). This can be contrasted with the huge areas of devastated jungle, ruined soil and few remaining forms of wild life in regions where other races have lived for some generation—shifting cultivators. Such waste is all too common in Sarawak. Another depressing comparison is the wholesale destruction brought by timber companies, the proceeds from which seemingly over-enriching a few to the great loss of the many.

Even the wholly nomadic Penan require money or goods to exchange, for steel, cooking pots, clothing (which most seem to regard as extremely necessary nowadays), salt and other miscellanea. They then become subject to exploitation by their neighbours either for cheap labour or as suppliers of underworked jungle products, galls or barks. This has been the usual situation, for example described in detail as practiced by some 30 Kayan under upon 'Panas' in part of the Bragan District by Hachin, in the Sarawak Museum Journal, IX, 13-14, 1959. The Kayans exploited them

into debt, took the men against repayment and sold large numbers at a huge profit in Kapih or Sibn. Recent instances are given from the present writer's findings.

Ponans: Kayans from Long Miri requested that Ponans be given low prices, such as \$1.00 or \$1.50 for a chicken, since the Kayans buy them from the Ponans at such rates in Irian-side chicken is normally about \$2.00 and do not want them to leave otherwise. Tourists now visit Ponans quite often, every two or three weeks, arranged by agencies in Miri and Marudi: part of their guides' service is to obtain baskets of other craftswork at ridiculously low prices, a third as a quarter of the shop rates at Long Lusa or Marudi. When given a fair price by medical staff, as explained to them, the Ponans were quite astonished as this had never happened before.

Mollans: The Berawans Kanyah from Long Terawan regard themselves as arbiters of Ponan trade. A Chinese trader however went up the river not long ago and offered the Ponans a better price for gars (a valuable aromatic wood) which was accepted. Later on some Berawans arrived and appropriated all the gars they could find in retaliation, paying nothing, saying the Ponans have no right to deal with anyone else (formerly the Pengulu of Long Terawan was the official Government agent responsible for protecting the interests of the Ponans).

Long Iman: This group being stronger and less dominated by the Berawans, and having a boat and engine, a Ponan took a sizeable quantity of gars for sale to a trader at Marudi; he obtained a very low price for it. A Forest Officer examined similar specimens and found much of was higher-grade quality, so that he had been cheated of a large sum by being given the lower-grade ones for all of it.

Long Napir: At the Government-ordered settlement the land allocated by the Ponans belongs to the Kelabit, who had previously farmed this land. An Agriculture Department employee recommended growing coffee and presented seed, or plants. Following this irresponsible advice (for what they urgently need, of course, are food crops), the venture was terminated when the Kelabit landowner for unmentioned reasons pulled out most of the coffee. Another example there was a Ponan woman who had to pay \$15 for a place in a Kelabit boat to go to Long Mediat Clinic (one day downstream, two going back); she went to obtain a supply of contraceptive pills, but was given enough for only two months and charged \$2 further.

Long Serian: For the heavy labour of felling trees to clear new padi land for a Kelabit farmer, after a month a Ponan was given an axe he had used in return. The axe costs \$12, so he received the equivalent of 40 cents a day—though he probably was given food (rice) while working.

Such occurrences represent the advantage taken of the Ponans, treated as grossly inferior and almost as slaves by neighbouring people. Being usually shy and unassertive, they are unable or unwilling to have recourse to authority to gain justice.

A serious aspect of the same attitude, since it directly affects their food supply is the hunting (and fishing) freely performed by others in Ponan territory. These hunting parties, a favourite occupation of many, are often well-armed and successful by all accounts. To add insult to injury, they are liable to assist the victims to reduce the means of their own livelihood. The most can be sold probably, as is done: a large wild boar might fetch \$200 or more in a town, or less locally.

This has an important bearing on the Gunung Mulu National Park, among other areas. Wildlife there is probably in far greater danger from Berawans and

other Kanyah, Kelabits, Maruts and Ibas than the Ponans, who use mainly blowpipes while the others use guns. The Ibas alone, recently settled on the Mediam, are likely to hunt increasingly in the Park as they kill off the scarce game (they are particularly fond of long hunting trips and will kill everything they run).

Ponan Park Query It has been claimed that 600 or even more Ponans use the designated Mulu Park, which sounds as though it is over-run by their large numbers. On closer examination, the only group which is more often in the Park than not is the Mollans, and of this the Eastern sub-group of perhaps 40 persons is evidently outside the Park towards the Mediam or the Modian as much as in it; they could not be found in the Park or near it at the time of study, for example. The others often in the Park, but also spending some half of their time outside to the South are the Ubong group of about 35 people (a second Ubong group of several families has been cited, but some part of the Latus group and subsequently in the Park). Two small upper Mediat groups, the Napir people generally, the Balan, Ba Latus and Ba Layan, were all reported to enter Park territory only occasionally, and usually only a small number of related families are concerned in order to visit their kinfolk. These visits are reciprocated and so of course cancel out. The Long Iman people use extensive territory along the Tutch up-river and were reported not to enter the Park often.

Thus regarding the Western Mollans with about 10 persons as 'regular' users, and the Eastern Mollans (40) and Ubong (35) as 'half-time' users, as an average there are likely to be no more than some 120 Ponans in the Park at any given time. Thus at about 1.7 square miles of territory per person there should be enough sapo, game and other necessities for their modest needs.

Concerning the 'population explosion' theory that has been floated about, evidence of high mortality from 53 mothers contradicts this with the exception of Long Iman. A valid conclusion nevertheless by those worried about population density in areas such as the Mulu Park is that rising pressures from other increasing populations, ever food-hungry, and the great scale of forest disappearance from timber company operations will force the Ponans out of their own territories into others. Nevertheless fortunately there are great tracts of unestablished and uncut jungle in Sarawak, often too steep or rocky for timber exploiters or shifting cultivators.

Recommendations

Since the means of subsistence of the Ponans are affected by an increasingly large range of factors, any consideration of their future welfare must also be wide in scope.

Survival or Nomadic Life—Rights of Choice

It seems often assumed that the Ponans are anxious to leave the jungle, build permanent houses and start growing padi—as most other Sarawak men have done before them. Some persons even take the extremist attitude that they should be forced to do so. Certain local officials have exceeded their brief by ordering the Ponans to settle, as with the Paluan Ponans. Such behaviour is of course intolerable in any country where the liberty and rights of the individual are preserved, only exempting transgression upon the well-being of others. Of all peoples, the Ponans interfere the least with the pursuits of others, and indeed are usually the victims of oppression themselves, or inflicted.

Therefore it must be the proper function of Government to ensure that their freedom and true interests are protected—they can only on nobody else—and to see that just treatment is accorded. To determine the rightful course of action in such cases, the Ponans themselves need to be consulted and to receive fair and

open hearing. To enable this it is essential to gain the services of a good interpreter who is not connected with the locally dominant community, otherwise a prejudiced outlook is likely to be put forward. Such communities like to have Pumas settling nearby as they can be more easily exploited. As well as the short-sighted type of administrator who takes it for granted they are automatically improved by the procedure of settlement, other power groups also like to have them settled and in easy reach, such as missionaries.

Some wish to practice agriculture, at least on a part-time or a trial basis, but others, e.g. the Ulueng group, wish to continue their accustomed way of life, as they plainly say. In such cases their right of self-determination must be maintained. To act otherwise would be like removing townspeople against their will and putting them in the jungle, or like making an fishermen give up their customary way of livelihood and grow hill padi instead. If such oppression is enforced settlement of the Pumas for Puaning must become a part of Government policy. State or Federal, it would ruin the high reputation for tolerance and justice hitherto enjoyed in the eyes of the world by Malaysia, and the State of Sarawak.

Pumas: Qualities and Decay. It is fortunate that a part of the Pumas, at least, wish to follow their traditional life, and this should be actively encouraged and enabled, not only because it is their primary human right, but also many benefits accrue thereby, including for Sarawak and the nation generally. Serious risks are also avoided, as referred to later. If all settle and take up a style of living that copies others, they will lose their unique characteristics: the Pumas do and some in the Barams also illustrate this, having lost much of their individual distinctions after being settled for generations.

Despite the many who settle at a primitive existence, in the sense of simple and materially limited, such a mode of life fosters some of the finest human qualities, which are noticeably declining among more technological and possession-oriented cultures, and most obviously among urbanised persons. The spirit and uncomplicated but accurate intelligence of the nomadic Pumas necessitates virtues which are evident even on brief acquaintance, and attested by those who know them well. Among these are endurance, patience, courage, steadfastness, helpfulness, co-operation, tolerance, generosity, and gentle manner. They show, too, quick intelligence, adaptability, hardiness, bravery, strength, agility and the fine coordination needed by hunters who depend on success. There are not many people in the world who possess such a galaxy of admirable features. Though to set the record straight, they have faults too: crime occurs, even murder, severity is employed, husbands may desert wife and children, and they can be very cruel to animals.

It is instructive to compare the Pumas with the Bedaks of Amboi—with whom the writer stayed from time to time during two years—as being also nomadic or semi-nomadic who live in a primitive, i.e. basic manner. Where the Puma's movement depend on game and sago, the Bedak is guided by the presence of water and grazing for their flocks; instead of living in temporary huts they dwell in goat-hair tents. They show many of the same high qualities as the Pumas, but markedly differ in their religious fervour and in being fierce and warlike, while the Pumas are peaceful and retiring—too much so for their own good, in fact. Any who told a Bedak he had to give up his customary way of living because it is backward would be running a serious personal risk from dagger or bullet. It is usually recognised that those who maintain the best of the great traditions of the Arabs are the Bedaks. Many Arabs who live mainly in towns, and have perhaps become wealthy, return to the desert and the

ancient simple ways from time to time to refresh themselves.

A Valuable Heritage. Only the most perceptive among administrators and others evidently realise the value of Puma abilities and achievements arising from their forest life. They of course know large areas far better than anyone else (e.g. Malay), and are expert guides and trackers. Their mastery of jungle craft and skills is unequalled, and none can match their great knowledge of animals, birds or wild life at large, use of trees and plants and their uses. In the way of herbal medicinal applications they possess interesting information. They are foremost in certain craftswork, such as the art of making a blowpipe, and high-quality mats and baskets of various kinds.

The fact of being true forest nomads is itself a distinctive feature of much interest to scholars and scientists, and a cultural asset to the State, since there are not many left in the tropics today, even in South America. It is not however proposed that they should become a sort of preserved live cultural exhibit, nor that they should become professional tourist attractions; both of these conditions would be degrading and unacceptable. It is on the other hand most strongly stressed that any who wish to remain nomadic, or semi-nomadic, should have this accepted, with territorial rights guaranteed. Those who would want to coerce them into giving up their way of life would be acting not only unjustifiably, but also irresponsibly, by seizing and destroying an irrecoverable heritage.

Malnutrition Danger through Agriculture. A direct threat to their welfare lies in settling and depending on agriculture: if their crops are inadequate, if advice and aid is inappropriate or insufficient, and if they cannot collect wild sago and hunt as well, they will be liable to severe malnutrition or starvation. Alternatively they will become a charge upon the Government to supply free food. This applies most to those who do not wish to farm in the first place. There are already great number of seriously malnourished shifting cultivators in Sarawak; it would be a case of huge policy to make reluctant and even more backward farmers swell their unfortunate ranks.

Agricultural Aid. Those nevertheless who wish to settle and grow crops should be assisted to do so with appropriate advice, tools and seeds. Their first need is clearly to grow the most productive food crops, and those that are easiest e.g. banana, tapioca, long beans, maize, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, longkong (*Lycopers aquatum*) and chongkol (maize (*Zea mays*), and longkong. Rice is a difficult crop for beginners: the very poor yields of hill padi which are characteristic even of experienced farmers in most areas of Sarawak show this. There is a risk that they be pushed into making hill padi their main crop, with the disastrous results that attend the great majority of shifting cultivators. Since the nomadic Pumas do not have the overwhelming predilection for rice shown by other Sarawak peoples, except some of the Melanau, and in fact prefer sago, there is no cultural requirement for rice as opposed to other crops. As a cereal, maize is often easier and far more productive, for instance.

Hill Sago Cultivation. A very suitable crop for the Pumas to plant would be hill sago, probably of the common species, *Eugenia* spp. This grows well on poor hill soils, would need little attention, and is well appreciated by the Pumas. As recommended by Dr. Dismore of Kew Gardens, the Pumas should be encouraged to select the best strains for planting. The nomadic groups too should plant sago to maintain their supply. Upland sago would be very useful also for other communities, since it could produce crops on poor worked-out soils and conserve against further erosion loss.

In terms of overall production another hill sago, *Aranga pinata* (Bom Joki), has reportedly yielded up to about 4 long tons per acre per year (10 tonnes per hectare) of extracted flour in Java, compared to hill rice (jallid) average 284 lbs per acre (430 kg/ha) in Sarawak, about twenty-three times the amount with far less labour. The low protein content of sago (or tapioca) compared to rice or other cereals has to be compensated, done most easily with crops by beans, groundnuts or other legumes, and otherwise by meat and fish.

Grassland Transition. It has been complained that families from the Government-aided settlement at Long Napir go away and do not live there. Nomads however cannot be expected to completely change all at once. They also need to hunt for food as they cannot raise enough straight way, and to collect sago; this is in any case useful as a transition phase since they are not absolutely dependent on crops that might fail. Furthermore, since the choice must be with them, if one or all families decide not to continue farming at all, this needs to be accepted.

An Alternative Plan. As between conventional settled farming and traditional nomadic subsistence, there is a possible compromise. This consists of procuring—perhaps by wage payments—the planting of hill sago each year. When mature in some seven years the Penan can stay nearby for some time to use it, then go on to the next plantation. By this means they will have a good supply of food, and at the same time be semi-settled at planted areas.

Protection of Territorial Rights. Whether farming or nomadic, the Penan's rights to the land in their traditional territories must be protected in law. Where they have not cleared and planted land for the first time, no customary ownership rights are automatically accorded, as with other native races. As pointed out, they are using Koloh land at Seridan and Napir, and have some of their own, not even a few acres or mil-litons.

Penan or Penan Reserved Areas. The customary hunting and gathering or sago-collecting areas of Penan or Penan groups require to be recognised and established in law as theirs by prior right, since with minor exceptions they have inhabited their present areas before any other people moved in. Thus they can receive the support of law where their livelihood is threatened, by neighbouring races, timber 'developers', over-zealous officials or cheating traders. Those who hunt or fish in Penan territory, for example, should receive heavy fines, or confiscation of their guns and licences, since their activities are for sport or profit while to the Penan they are a matter of life and death.

Fair Trade and Local Representation. A fair scale of prices for goods and payment for services or labour need to be established and enforced. It seems advisable at least in some areas to re-establish the supervised markets held three times a year, in the charge of a Government officer. Such an officer, or one appointed as a Penan (or Penan) representative (wakil), should never be the chief man for anyone associated with the locally powerful community—who is likely to be the leader of their oppression. In any event Penans should have the right to appeal against infringement of an approved scale of fees.

Government Representation. As they have no-one in an important position, a representative of standing should protect their interests at a high government level. Perhaps a unit should be formed on the lines of the Orang Asli Department in West Malaysia to take charge of administering their welfare. It should be clearly understood from the start that the object of such a unit would not be to make them acetic permanently as soon as possible, and become second-rate

shifted cultivators of hill padi (thus adding to the agricultural problems of the State), but to foster their true interest and preserve their true cultural heritage. Appropriate means to achieve these objects with preservation of enhanced settlement should be arrived at by the new Penan/Penan Research Committee set up by the State Planning Unit.

Medical Services. Where lacking, a Dispensary or Sub-Dispensary should be set up in every Penan or Penan area at a suitable site. Penan or Penan Ulu Drovers should staff these, receiving practical (not theoretical) training with an experienced Hospital Assistant at a Dispensary or Health Centre. A youth or young man with some schooling should usually be available. Those needing further care can receive travel warrants from the Ulu Drovers for payment of fares by boat, where feasible. Maternal and Child Health Clinics are also needed.

Oral Contraceptive Tablets. These should be supplied free of charge and regularly to a responsible person such as the headman of a group or kampung or his wife, on a community based distribution system. They can be carried by any medical staff including Malaria Control personnel. The same applies in fact to any area away from a town or a clinic for any communities—it is impossible for recipients to keep on making long journeys for this purpose. It is even more difficult for the Penan than most. Reasonable quantities must be supplied, i.e. a minimum of 6 months. Long acting injections may be preferable in selected conditions.

An extreme case is one Melanau woman who walked for a week and then paid two days boat fare to Limbing; she was then charged 118 and 32 registration fee for 12 months supply of the P40. The special requirements of Penan women for effective contraception have been mentioned: small size, relatively large infants, lack of skilled care and inability to support large families without risk of severe malnutrition.

Iodized Salt. Supply of iodized salt seems almost non-existent in the whole Sarawak region, among others. Very high prices have been found here lately by this writer (see Nutrition of Kayan and Kenyah Children of the Middle Sarawak River), and the Penan are no exception. The only effective solution for all is to enact a law whereby iodized salt is imported solely, and this step should be strongly promoted by the Medical Department (State and Federal). Reasonable iodized salt from Sibu should be obtained and supplied free to the Penan; it can be carried by Malaria Control parties, or in travelling dispensaries or other medical boats. The presence of a cretinous or incapacitated child, as with one Melanau family, is an especially heavy burden for nomads.

Medicines and Other Requirements. All, particularly children, should be treated whenever feasible as a routine. Thiamazole (Miltazol) or methimazole (Vermol) should be used as standard, being truly wide-range (which pyrazole—Combarol—is not). Aripaz was found to be poorly tolerated by young and old, causing vomiting. Not even this was available at Long Seridan Dispensary, which had had no anti-infectives except piperazine (Antipar) for roundworm for a considerable time. Iron and vitamin B group tablets should be given routinely too to all mothers and children and the evidently anemic. Vitamin A should also be made available.

Malaria Evidence. Evidence of malaria was surprisingly absent. Clearly the Malaria Control staff are carrying on excellent work despite very difficult conditions.

Schools. It is an advantage to the Penan to have men who are educated and can deal knowledgeably with the outside world. Schooling is a danger too since children do not learn the necessary traditional skills

to survive if there is no alternative way of life. To be a good hunter and a competent gatherer, and to know the jungle and its wildlife well requires a long and difficult apprenticeship. As an insurance against farming or other employment failure, school children need to spend much time with their parents in the jungle too. Otherwise they may join the many unemployed school leavers or become beggars, criminals or prostitutes in towns, if not incompetent farmers.

While some school children were better nourished than others, some were not: the allowance of \$15 monthly does not provide adequate food when rice costs up to 24 per gantang. Spending about half on rice, just over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb daily or 340g is provided (about 800 calories), far from enough as the staple food. Further, a number of children are in their late teens and need as much as adults. School gardens were lacking at both Long Napi and Long Sordian (the latter a new school); both schools desire fencing from the Agriculture Department to keep out animals. Manners from these animals should be collected for the gardens. This is a good opportunity to teach Penan and other children the value of vegetables and other crops, also of a fish pond, poultry, etc.

Penan and the Mulu Park. Firstly it needs to be recognized that this National Park actually lies in Penan territory, namely of the Eastern and Western sub-groups of the Melanau and the Ulueng group, also of others on an intermittent basis. As the original and only inhabitants the Penan have prior rights over any others of any origin whatsoever. Therefore an integral part of any applicable legislation and the responsibility of Government and the Forest Department is to ensure that their interests are fully protected. Should their just rights be infringed upon in any way, and this means any denial of their free movement, usage of resources and subsistence within any part of their known accustomed territories, they become entitled to full and equivalent compensation in all respects.

While all these points are quite obvious and rationally indisputable, they require to be formally constituted and publicly sanctioned. They are inseparable from any acceptable Park management plan, which cannot ignore the equitable needs of its inhabitants. This in any case would not be possible, since the Park and its Penan residents have become internationally famous, and the good names of Sarawak and Malaysia are inevitably entailed.

The same just principles apply here as to any other Penan (or Penan) groups: if they wish to continue their traditional nomadic life they should be entirely free to do so, and if they wish to farm they should be assisted in this, by title to suitable land and by technical aid. Should it be a purpose of the Park to avoid agricultural damage to soil and forest, the Penan if they wish to farm by their own choice would require sole and lawfully recognized title to good agricultural land nearby, that is to say bordering on their customary land but outside the Park, while retaining full hunting and gathering rights within the Park.

Hunting and Fishing Rights with Conservation. There need to be narrow restrictions to the Penan alone. The heavy hunting and fishing which is carried on by neighbouring communities—such as the Kayah, Iban, Kribet and Murut, as well as by visitors and Chinese timber contractors—must be stopped by patrolling wardens with the statutory infliction of large fines and the confiscation of firearms. It seems likely these kill as much game or more than the Penan, who are few in number and usually use blowpipes rather than guns. As visitors, such as the recent Thai immigrants to the nearby Melanau, reduce game nearby they will inevitably invade the Park and other Penan areas increasingly often. Not only is this a serious loss to the Park wildlife stock, but it is done as spoil or con-

stantially and not from essential need as by the Penan. The Penan must hunt meat and fish as their only significant means of obtaining protein, whereas the others all have various alternative sources.

It may well be proper, however, to ban the use of firearms completely in the Park: this would assist in prevention of poaching and help to conserve the Penan's own resources: since the men can all use blowpipes they would be able to manage them. Some rare animals and birds too may require protection. A compensation to the Penan as subsistence would be to offer employment as Park wildlife observers, guides and porters—than whom none could be better.

It has been pointed out that on average, or at any given time, only about 120 Penans are to be expected in the Park limits—since of the only frequent residents the Eastern Melanau and Ulueng spend half their time or more outside the boundaries as defined. There should be adequate pig and deer, fish and other common wild game for them to follow their thrifty goals without reducing their numbers unacceptably, at 1.7 square mile per person. Fundamentally, they have always lived in balance with their environment, including the Mulu one, for if they had not they would not have continued to exist. It is other races who exterminate wildlife and destroy forests, and on a large scale.

Concern has been expressed about reduced pig populations, as pork is the favourite meat of the Penan (as well as most others who are not Muslims or Seventh Day Adventists). It is however mentioned that pig are reasonably plentiful in the extensive ridges and steep broken country, where they usually lie up except in the fruit season or when migrating, and where even the Penan hunters have great difficulty in tracking them down. In fact both pig and deer have a remarkable ability for survival, and some can often still be found in heavily populated Iban and Land Dayak areas, where they have been intensively hunted and trapped for many years. As to fish, a river such as the Melanau (except at the lower end) has an abundance, which may be easily observed when the water is clear. There need be no fear that the Penan will depopulate the rivers: they do not appear to fish a great deal in any case. Here again other races kill much more fish with nets, traps and poisons.

Sago and Gahbung. The chief jungle food in the area is sago from *Rapizomus* spp. and secondly apparently *Arenum undulaticornis*, assumed to be the Penan *gahung* or *thun upung*. E. *utris* is far more important. There seems to be some disagreement among the experts as to how common it is in the Park, and any numerical assessment and accurate estimate of supportive capacity does not seem feasible at present. A census is desirable, which appears practicable by aerial photography. It does however appear that E. *utris* at least is present in fairly considerable quantities along the ridges of a large tract within the Park. As with game, the Penan of necessity live within their food that they would endanger this palm. Nevertheless, it has been recommended that E. *utris* is an excellent palm for planting especially on over-used, wooded or poor hill soils, for animals as well as the method; this might be done with advantage in the Park too, thus ensuring adequate replacement.

The large, solitary and reportedly handsome *Caryota* sp. Penan *lansa*, is a different case from E. *utris*. As Dransfield points out, the starch of this palm matures and it is cut down before it can fruit, thus preventing reproduction. This should be prevented, therefore, if any survive (fortunately it is the Penan's favourite kind of sago), or it might be replanted. No doubt there are rare plants or trees which should be preserved otherwise, of lesser importance to the Penan.

Pemau Reserved Area and the Park. The mark of a wise and distinguished Government is that it fully protects and fosters minorities, more especially the defenceless and the harmless. It must be assumed that the widespread exploitation and oppression of the Penan and Puanan and their lack of legally established and customary rights has been insufficiently known, or overlooked. The time is due for rectification, and the planning of the Park management requires the establishment and precedence of equity.

To assure a desirable future for both the Penan and the Park, appropriate Reserved Areas should be established round the Park boundaries wherever there are Penan traditional territories. In these areas the Penan alone and no others should be allowed usage or habitation rights. The Ulong group territory, for example, extends outside the Park towards the Magoi and Seridan Rivers, so this should be reserved to the Ulong Penan with their Igan-Park area as far as the land cultivated by the Long Seridan Kolabit. Similarly with the other groups, and those further away. In this manner a 'buffer zone' will be created around the Park, protecting both it and the rights of its original Penan residents.

To the south, beyond the nearby Kolabit, there is a sizeable area inhabited primarily by Penan, until the Kolabit Highlands are reached. This would be another suitable Penan Reserved Area, and also the upper Apoh and Tumb. Parts of the Uluu Apoh, are similarly indicated, for Penan and Puanan on different sides, and areas of the Belaga District. Other group territories should constitute other Reserves.

Future of the Park with the Penan. As with other areas, so with the Park: it will be a far more valuable and interesting place for all where the Penan heritage and that of the environment are preserved together. From the ecological point of view, it is of great interest and significance for others, in the East and in the West, and in Sarawak especially, to have before them one of the few examples of existing mankind able to live in harmony with their environment.

The Penan of course will be of great direct benefit to the Park as an institution through their incomparable knowledge of natural life and its setting. In these spheres they might act as instructors, and pass on their insight. The Park, forming their old (and only) home, can continue to shelter them in return. It can serve as a practical illustration, to the rest of the nation and the outside world, of the intelligent and just protection of both its irreplaceable human and its natural resources, conserved by a far-sighted and benevolent Government.

Fort Sylvia Centenary*

by

EDWARD SARAI ANAN†

Built in 1880 Fort Sylvia or "Kaba Kapit" as it is locally known as, is looking forward to its centenary year in 1980. The fort remains to this day as an important building; not only as a historical relic of the Brooke's rule but is still recognised to be the fountain of today's administration in the District.

The idea of establishing a fort in this area was mooted over because of the Rajah's growing concern over the migration of the Itham into this majestic river of the Rajang. The Itham who migrated to the Rajang had already established themselves at Sarfai, around Sibu and along the Kanowit River and its tributaries, the Poi and Ngemah branches of the Rajang. The migration process continued on into the Kallbas,

another major tributary of the Rajang. The migrants to the Kallbas composed mainly of the Barung Lajur Itham. The migration from the Lajur was via the Embeloh (Kanyan) a tributary of the Kapuas River in the Indonesian Borneo domain to the headwaters of the Kallbas.

The migration to the Kallbas subsequently led to the emergence of the Itham in the main Rajang and the Balak which later prompted the Rajah to establish a fort in the upper Rajang. He realised that the situation in the upper Rajang could not be effectively administered through a post at Port Emma which he established in 1855 at Kanowit.

The Rajang was sparsely settled and the Balak was virtually uninhabited, affording a great expanse of virgin territory and a shifting cultivation/paradise which was most desirable in the eyes of the potential migrants. The Rajah knew that, once the Itham were well established in their new land, it would be impossible to keep them from raiding and broadcasting against their scattered neighbours and he could therefore not afford to allow such migration and the warlike activities of the Itham.

Adventurous as they were, the Itham disclaimed the Rajah's sovereignty through open protests because the sort of restrictions imposed by the Rajah was amounting to depriving them of their rights and their way of life, as against the autonomous existence they had enjoyed under the Sultan of Brunei. By 1874, despite prohibitions and measures taken by the Rajah, the migration from the Kallbas had spread to the main Rajang and as far upstream as the mouth of the Majong in the Balak River. A fort was then to be established at the confluence of the Balak River at the Rajang. This fort was completed in 1875. Pending the completion of the fort a steam boat was stationed at the spot supposedly for the triple purpose of preventing the advance of boats on warpath, of affording protection to the party working at the fort, and of obstructing the inflow of the Barung Rajang Itham into the Balak. However, almost immediately the manner was there. fleets of Itham warboats were seen entering the Balak. Despite shots being fired from the steamer, the Itham did not turn back. The Itham only ignored the government activities which took place at Nanga Balak.

Neither the steamer nor the fort succeeded in stopping the migration or the accompanying warlike activities. The fort at Nanga Balak had a short history because a few years later it was abandoned and dismantled. The construction of a new fort at Kapit was commenced in 1879 and completed in 1880. Resident, Hugh Brooke Low at Sibu accounted for the reason which led to the moving of the fort from Nanga Balak to Kapit as follows:—

"The fort had been moved from Nanga Balak to Kapit in 1879, after the Rajah had nearly drowned at the former site in 1877 when his steamer was swept against the river bank by the dangerous currents which prevail there."¹

Nanga Balak is just half an hour journey upstream by longboat from Kapit. The place is not ideal for the establishment of a government post and its accompanying development. It is because Nanga Balak does not offer a suitable site for a wharf or a river post. The water levels at the place change tremendously. During dry seasons the water level goes so low that it leaves a wide stretch of gravel pits (Kraggan) along the banks, and during flood times the meeting of the flows of currents from the Balak with that of the Rajang causes swirling whirlpools and roaring ferocity.

When the fort was moved to Kapit in 1879, the affairs in upper Rajang particularly in the Balak were most chaotic. By 1880, the year of its completion, the

Increasingly defiant headhunting evolved into open rebellion. In protest, to the Rajah's government, the dissent thence centred to Bukit Batu, a limestone crag at the headwaters of the Mupang a tributary of the Rajah. The Rajah had to conduct punitive expeditions against these rebels. The first Bukit Batu expedition was on 9.2.1882 and the second one was on 8.2.1883. The rebels resisted the two expeditions but later in the same year they submitted themselves to the Rajah. At least during that era, with the surrender of the Rajah rebels, the Rajah was able to contain the extensive Rajah immigrants by restricting them to the Rajang below the fort at Kapit. Rajah was then closed to further settlement.

With a hundred years of existence, Fort Sylvia had witnessed the tides and turns of the administration which came under its roof and the ever changing events around it. Extravagantly built from Indian timbers, the workmanship and finishing touches of the building were comparatively crude and rough by modern contemporary standards. The tough and thick belian walling of the "Kubu" in those days was obviously meant to withstand possible attacks by the rebels. The Kubu's eye holes on the wall around the building afforded the fortmen the advantage of seeing from inside without being noticed from the outside in times of attacks. From the holes they also could shoot the invaders. Today, when one looks at the Kubu, it is almost unimaginable how the building could be constructed bearing in mind the skill and construction implements readily available then. Like most forts, it was constructed through contribution basis. The local people whom the Rajah had never seen to recognize his sovereignty contributed the assorted timbers. With a handful of "Loyalists" and mason construction implements and materials the "Kubu" was constructed. Wonderfully the building remains to this day and is amongst the few oldest fine government buildings to be preserved.

When the "Kubu Kapit" first started to function, the entire government administration for the upper Rajang was headed by P.D. de Rozario, the son of James Brooke's Chief. He first served at the fort as Nanga Rajah and later at Kapit for almost thirty years. In addition there were one or two Malay Native Officers and a handful of untrained locally recruited fortmen to assist him. The Resident of the Division normally resided at Sibn, a day's journey downstream by a steamer. He visited Kapit only now and then. It was a minimal administration run by the Brooke standard. In early days de Rozario could only watch helplessly as Iban war parties returned from successful attacks on other tribal groups in the Rajang. Evidently the government was powerless to stop them. It had to let events take its own course. The problem of headhunting and migration to the prohibited rivers of the Rajang remained the phenomenal dilemma of the Rajah's administration for many years even after the establishment of "Kubu Kapit".

Another fort further up the Rajang was thought necessary. In 1884, Fort Vyner at Belaga was built. Although it was as powerful as Fort Sylvia in stamping headhunting, its establishment was undeniably affording a long term political supremacy to the Rajah.

For the years that followed, the fort at Kapit associated itself with many more troubles particularly those involving migration, headhunting and likely events. The Iban who were already under apparent control of the Rajah, by settling along the Rajang below the fort, were clamoring to be allowed to settle beyond the fort. Not surprisingly they eventually got their way.

In 1887 because of the increasing pressure from the invading migrants, the Rajah had to give way and allowed them to settle along the Rajang and its tributaries up to the Pelagan rapids. The tributaries include,

Sengai Amung, Sengai Aya, Sengai Encheemin, Sengai Mela and Sengai Pelagan.

The Rajah was still prohibited for settlement. However in 1889 despite the prohibition, the settlers fought their way by trekking up the course of Kapit River, which enter the Rajang below the Kapit fort, and from thence across through Pelagan and Aamarah to Net River, the lower tributary of the Rajah. In this way they actually evaded the government authority.

The affairs of the upper Rajang became more and more tied with the news of Buntar's rebellion of 1892 in the upper Batang Lapat. The rebellion stimulated a spirit of restlessness amongst the related Iban in the upper Rajang. As usual, defiance of government authority took the form of increasingly coast migration combined with headhunting. During the last quarter of the year 1900, a leader named Ayem brought his followers to Bukit Batu, where the rebels of 1880 had made their stand in order to resist the government authority. It took a good deal of negotiations before Ayem and his followers were persuaded to leave Bukit Batu and the hostile activities terminated just about of revolt. Bukit Batu had become a symbol of resistance to the government. Another show of resistance to the Rajah's administration was the congregation of people at the same place in 1904, led by Janting. The combined force of Kajangs and Iban led by Resident Charles Hore compelled Janting and his followers to move downstream in July 1904.

Rajah was officially allowed for settlement in 1908, after Rajah Charles Brooke met the Iban leaders of the upper Rajang. There were already settlements in the Rajah, namely the group led by Pengulu Meran in 1885 and those trekking over to the Sea in 1895. Meran and his followers migrated when the Rajah was away on leave. The Rajah Muda who administered the government in the Rajah's absence firmly held that Meran and his followers should be punished severely. Similarly Resident Ivan Kirkpatrick who took over from Charles Hore at that time would like Rajah to remain unsatisfied. However, when the Rajah returned from leave he did not sanction the expedition against the Rajah migrants. Instead he gave his blessing to what Pengulu Meran had done by making an order that only Rajah Prager up to the mouth of Nanga Gai'te be opened for settlement. The tributaries of the Rajah were still prohibited for settlement. In return for allowing settlements in the main Rajah River, the Rajah obtained the agreement of the Rajah Iban to launch attacks on the rebels associated with Buntar in the Pot, Kanowit and the upper Lapat River. It was perhaps because of the Buntar's rebellion and related reactions in other predominantly Iban areas that the Rajah had to relax his restriction on the settlement of the Rajah. He could not afford to have so many troubles and insurgents at the same time. He might have foreseen that it was the best gamble to calm the upper Rajang Iban and an opportunity to impose on them to assist in the fight against the widespread insurgents. He had to bow to the inevitable, knowing that the prohibition would be ultimately unenforceable.

The relaxation of Rajah for settlement had done much more violence than good to the administration in the Upper Rajang. In later years Pengulu Meran and others openly offended the Rajah by leading the migrations into the prohibited Gai'te and Mijong rivers. It was then not the shortage of farming lands which accounted for the migration as their movement in the Rajah had gone far beyond an enormous area of virgin jungle which could easily sustain the system of shifting cultivation for many more years to come. It was culminated from the desire for adventure of going into a fresh territory for possible headhunting activities. The small bands of Famos Iban were said to be wandering the headwaters of the Mupang. There

were the nomadic Ukitas and possibly the Bukitans in the Upper Baluh. These small groups of nomadic people afforded attractive head hunting sport to the Itham who were intoxicated with the desire for raidings and conquests.

The Baluh affairs later developed into frequent raidings against various other peoples including the Kenyahs living many days' journey away in the Dutch Borneo. The most obvious of such raids was made on Uma Salang Kayan in the Mahakam River in 1913. The Dutch authorities made protests to the Sarawak government. Embarrassed by the activities of his subjects the Rajah could no longer be patient but to take stern action on the offenders. Despite severe counter-measures by the Rajah, Merum (Rajah appointed Penghala) and other Baluh Itham retreated to the headwaters of the Majang in 1914 in open revolt. They had their hide-out at the summit of Salang mountain.

The Rajah launched the Ga'at expedition in February 1915 to punish the Itham for the misdeeds they had done to those they raided and for stubbornly ignoring his authorities. In May of the same year he sent a detachment of Sarawak Rangers and some Iban volunteers for expedition to the Majang to attack Merum and his followers at the Salang Mountain. With the help of a canoe the Rajah's force overpowered the supposedly impenetrable Bukit Salang and defeated Merum and his followers. Merum was then stripped of his Penghala-ship for going obstinately against the Rajah.

As a result of the two expeditions, most of the defeated Baluh Itham at Salang moved down to the main Rajang and the band of die hard rebels of Ga'at retreated to the headwaters of the Ga'at and continued to cause trouble by raiding across the Second and Third Divisions. In April 1918, the Ga'at rebel war-boats were proceeding to raid the upstream Mahara of the Rajang. It was a daring move because from Ga'at they had to follow the Baluh River before they could get up the Rajang. The confluence of the Baluh at the Rajang is just half an hour journey by longboat from the Kapit fort which in those days was keeping an eye on them. Their war-boats were attacked in what was known as the battle of Nanga Pila in which an estimated two hundred of the rebels were killed. The government forces suffered no casualty.

The massacre at Nanga Pila did not deter the remaining rebels. The hostile stronghold at the headwaters of the Ga'at was still resistant and a nuisance to the Rajah who was eager to see peace for the Upper Rajang. In early 1919 after the death of Charles Brooke, his son Tuan Muda Ibrahim led an expedition (2nd Ga'at expedition) to attack the Ga'at rebels. This time machine guns were used. The last rebels retreated across the border to Dutch Borneo but later were rounded up and were repatriated to Sarawak.

With the elimination of Ga'at rebels, a new chapter in the history of Upper Rajang was added. For almost thirty years of its existence the fort at Kapit eventually experienced peace for the first time. The years that followed were the fulfilments of the Rajah's complete sovereignty and supremacy as a ruler. The most eventful occasion that followed as peace was realised, was the "peace-making" ceremony held at the Kubu compound in the year 1924. The peace-making was intended to end Iban hostilities with the Kenyahs of the Apoh Kayan of Dutch Borneo. The Rajah presided the meeting which was then followed by the ceremony performed in Iban custom as a mark of friendship and goodwill between the two sides. With that, the hostilities they had before were to be regarded as a tale of the past.

As peace was attained the fort was no longer the subject of defiance but a source of authority. The people looked at it as an authority to punish offenders and to settle disputes of varied nature. The Rajah made use of the "Kubu" for meeting the people whenever he came from Kuching. Very often disputes and grievances were brought before the Rajah. The sort of administrative dealings in those days were very much limited to settling disputes and the enforcement of law and order. The provision of any form of development projects or social services such as hospitals and schools were practically unknown.

When Sarawak was ceded to Great Britain as a colony, the fort maintained its status to house the colonial District Officers. However, the administration improved considerably under the colonial government.

The major administrative changes came after the independence of Sarawak within Malaysia. The most spectacular change was the elevation of Kapit to a divisional status in April 1974. With Kapit as the Headquarters of the newly created 7th Division the fort was honoured to house the office of the first Resident of the Division, pending the completion of the Divisional State Office Complex. The government activities expanded tremendously and so were the number of government officers and officers to cope with the development of the Division.

With a hundred years of existence, Fort Sylvia sustained three changes in the government administration. First, the Brooke's administration from 1880 to June 1946 (except for the interruption by Japanese occupation of December 1941 to 14th August, 1945), and then followed by the Colonial administration from July 1946 to July 1963 when Sarawak obtained independence shortly before joining Malaysia. After independence the fort remains to be the office of the District Officer and the court house for the District.

The fort survives to this day through difficult times and periods of uncertainty. Started with a handful of officers against rebels and defiant inhabitants, the administration of the Rajang had a chequered begin-

ning. Today the fort could look to those days of trying circumstances with pride. Fort Sylvia pioneered the administration into this part of the country from which the present system of administration and expansion of government activities of today's 7th Division had evolved.

*The source of information for the most part is taken from the Book—The Balais and the Balais by Robert Pringle and as to the date, most of them were from the government official calendar the 'Almanac'. The 'Almanac' also provided certain basic information for the sequence of events.

As to the purpose of the "thick walling of the fort" and "the one first being" around the building was a matter of policy especially those of the enemy people such as Cr. King who had others whom the writer interviewed, and including that of the writer's own view. In fact according to Cr. King there were several reasons being built at the Kuba in the area that which remained there until today which he did witness himself.

Where these reasons are now kept remained mysterious to the writer. The other aspect which the writer had not included in the article was the placing of bamboo bridges around the Kuba and the "up-down" platform over the bamboo bridges leading to the entrance of the Kuba. This according to the information I collected from Cr. King was a protective

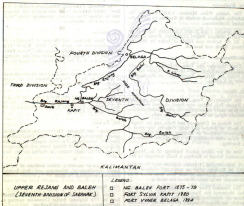
measure to obstruct incoming invaders from going straight into the Kuba in times of attack. Certain portion of the bridges remain to this day but not the staircase—ESA.

Hilward Sandel Agin is an Acting District Officer, Kapit.

7th Division Report, 3rd Jan. 1987 Annual Report 1986-87 Feb. 1987.



Fort Sylvia Kapit, built in 1885.



A Sarawak Diary

OCTOBER, 1979

Compiled by

Lee Chai Yee

1st, Monday

The Ruler of Perlis and the Sultan of Kelantan, accompanied by their consorts, arrive in Kuching to attend the 116th Rulers' Conference which will be held at the Dewan Undangan Negeri on October 3 and 4.

2nd, Tuesday

The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong are accorded a full ceremonial welcome when Their Majesties arrive in Kuching to attend the two-day Rulers' Conference.

His Majesty the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, speaking at the State Banquet at the Banquet Hall, Petra Jaya, says that the Rulers' Conference being held in Kuching reflects on the focal point in the Government's determination to bring development to the State.

3rd, Wednesday

The Acting Prime Minister, YAB Datuk Sri Dr. Mahabir Mohamed, arrives in Kuching to attend the Rulers' Conference.

The two-day 116th Rulers' Conference begins at the Dewan Undangan Negeri Conference Room attended by all the Sultans and Heads of States for Malacca, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak.

4th, Thursday

Their Majesties the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong join thousands of their subjects to watch the Seruwak Regatta held on the Sarawak River in Kuching.

5th, Friday

His Majesty the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, speaking at Rumbi Biji, Masing, near Sguch, reminds the people not to be easily influenced by the anti-national elements who are trying to disrupt the existing unity.

The Rulers of Trengganu and Perlis and the Tengku Mahkota of Johore and their Consorts are given a ceremonial send-off at Kuching Airport before they fly home after attending the 116th Rulers' Conference in Kuching.

One of the oldest school buildings of St. Thomas' Secondary School in Kuching is badly damaged by fire.

A boat carrying 11 people capsizes near Pangkajene Bata in Kuching, after an accidental collision with another boat. Eighteen persons have been saved from the water while three children are missing.

The National Chief Scout of Malaysia, YAB Datuk Haji Mohamed bin Yusoff, who is also the Menteri Besar of Kelantan, presents the 2nd highest Scout Award, the Pagar Semangat Rimba to the Chairman of the Sarawak Scout Council, Backi Vincent Kiew Fuh San, and the Long Service Badge to the Assistant Chief Commissioner, Backi Peter Lim Thiam Song in a simple ceremony held at the Scouts Headquarters, Kuching.

6th, Saturday

The Majesties the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong are accorded a traditional and

official ceremonial send-off on their departure for Kuala Lumpur after a five-day visit to Kuching.

The Bishop of Kuching, the Right Reverend Daniel Basil Temonggong, consecrates the new Parish Church of Kuching.

The Chairman of the Borneo Development Corporation (BDC), Datuk Haji Rujang Mohammad Nor, discloses that BDC has undertaken its biggest ever housing project costing 280 million on a 216-acre site in Kuching.

7th, Sunday

The Wakil Pemangku Sultan of Pahang, DYMM Tengku Arif Daudhara, arrives in Bako to a traditional welcome.

The Yang Di-Pertuan Negeri of Penang, TYT Tan Haji Sardon Juhir and his wife, Tok Puan Hajjah Saadiah, are given a rousing welcome on their arrival in Miri for a one-day visit.

A Dewan Undangan Negeri member for Lawas, YB Datuk Haji Naser Haji Tahir, entertains over 300 supporters and local PBB members at an appreciation dinner held at the Multi-Purpose Youth Centre in Kuching.

The Sarawak Consumers Association President, Haji Dawi Abdul Rahman, urges members of the Association to refrain from publicly expressing views " detrimental to CAS objectives".

8th, Monday

The State Secretary and Director of Operations for the celebrations to mark the 116th Rulers' Conference in Kuching, Datuk Abang Haji Yusof Puteh, says that he is happy and satisfied with the planning and execution of all the programmes arranged for the occasion.

The Sarawak Foundation has given an incense grant of 310,000 to the St. Thomas' School for the urgent purchase of reference library books destroyed by fire last Friday.

In conjunction with the World Lions Service Day, 25 members of the Lions Club of Kuching, led by their President, Enock Eric Kong, donate blood to the Blood Bank of Kuching.

9th, Tuesday

Deputy Chief Minister, YB Datuk Sim Kheng Hong, assures representatives of the First and Third Divisions Trawlers' Associations that their request for a review of diesel prices for their fishing boats will be discussed if they submit their request in writing to the State Cabinet.

34,631 junior secondary school students sit for the Lower Certificate of Education and Ngl Rendah Pelajaran throughout the State.

10th, Wednesday

Senior Malaysian and Indonesian military officials hold the 77th Regional Border Committee meeting at the Penrissen army complex in Kuching.

A former Speaker of the Council Negeri, Tan Sri Datuk William Tan, returns from his three-month tour of the world.

11th, Thursday

The Chairman of SESCO, Datuk Haji Rujang Nor, announces that SESCO plans to build 16 new power stations at various places in the State.

The Sarawak Branch of the Malaysian Artists Association calls on the KTM to review the payments for artists taking part in its radio and television programmes.

Enock Edmund Ang of Kuching donates \$2,000 worth of reference books to the St. Thomas' School to replace some of the books destroyed by fire recently.

12th, Friday

The State Cabinet Ministers have been assigned their portfolios. The Chief Minister, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Rahman Yakub, retains the Finance portfolio while all the other six Ministers retain their previous portfolios.

Thirty community developers and supervisors of the Adult Education Department of the Ministry of Agriculture attend a two-week course on job guidance at the State Multi-Purpose Youth Centre in Kuching.

13th, Saturday

Deputy Chief Minister, YB Datuk Sim Kheng Hong, donates \$2,000 towards the renovation fund of Teong Lee Chung Hin Primary School in Bau.

The Assistant Minister for Communications and Works, YB Enock Chong Kim Keng, speaking at the opening of a football competition at Kampung Pongalan Kuap near Kuching, assures that the Government will continue with its efforts to develop the area.

Sarawak Consumers Association calls on the Government to conduct a thorough investigation into the recruitment of female workers in Sarawak by certain Singapore-based companies.

Enock Alex Ting from Sarawak has been elected the national President of Jaycees Malaysia.

The State Assembly member for Satek, YB Alang Abu Bakar, says at a lunch to celebrate his success that his election victory is a victory for racial harmony and unity.

14th, Sunday

The Yang di-Pertua Negeri, TYT Tan Datuk Patinggi Alang Haji Muhammad Salihuddin, speaking at the opening of the Sarawak Mental Hospital's Animal Open House, 7 miles from Kuching, suggests that a centre be set up to help ex-mental patients lead a normal life.

The Minister for Local Government, YB Enock Joseph Bala Seling, speaking at the opening of the 5th Sarawak Jaycees annual convention in Miri, urges social and charitable bodies to familiarise themselves with government policies and programmes to improve the social and economic life of the people.

The Deputy Federal Minister of Agriculture, YB Enock Edmund Lungen, declares open the 5th annual general meeting of the Sarawak Co-operative Central Bank at the Multi-Purpose Youth Centre in Kuching.

Enock Hi Chin Chiong of Sibu is elected President of Sarawak Jaycees at the Miri convention.

According to the Mining Industries Association, mines in Bau and Bintulu have produced more than 10 million worth of minerals last year.

15th, Monday

Deputy Chief Minister, YB Datuk Alfred Jaba, declared open a 12-day Project Planning Course for 18 officers from government departments and statutory bodies in Satek and Sarawak at the Civil Service Training Centre in Kuching.

The Trade and Industry Ministry's Metric Division Director, Enock Mahalingam, briefs representatives of the various public sector bodies in Kuching on the implementation of the metric system in July next year.

More than 40 petty traders throughout the State begin a week-long Entrepreneurs Programme Development Course in Kuching.

The Sarawak Institute of Agricultural Scientist (SIAS) has been formed.

16th, Tuesday

The Minister for Local Government, YB Enock Joseph Bala Seling, announces that the existing building by-laws of certain local councils are to be reviewed to ensure the proper development of housing estates under their jurisdiction.

The Barisan MP for Bandar Sibu, YB Dr. Wong Soon Kai, speaking in Parliament, calls on the Government to give greater attention to government employees earning low incomes when revising salaries and pension schemes to future.

An Indonesian air contingent arrives in Kuching to take part in the joint air exercise code-named "Elang Malindo V" with their Malaysian counterparts.

17th, Wednesday

The 1st Executive Vice-President of Jaycees Malaysia, Enock Song Choo Yee, says in Miri that Jaycees Malaysia will offer top priority in the implementation of its project to the benefit of the children in the country especially the rural areas.

18th, Thursday

The Malaysian Chief of Air Staff, Maj. Gen. (Usamah) Datuk Mohamed bin Taib and the representative of the Indonesian Chief of Air Staff, Marsda TNI-AU Idris, jointly launched the Malaysian-Indonesian air exercise Elang Malindo V at a brief ceremony held at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base Kuching.

An 11-member British Trade Mission led by Sir Eric Morris, arrives in Kuching for a three-day "exploratory" visit to the State.

Businessman Enock Woo Boon Ping donates \$20,000 to the Kuching St. Thomas' Secondary School Fund Raising Committee.

A total of 120 Kenatriawan and Kenatriawati of the Kenatria Institute Teknologi MARA Cawangan Sarawak pay a visit to the 6th Engineering Squadron of the Armed Forces at Penrissen, Kuching.

19th, Friday

The Indonesian Chief of Air Staff, Marsda TNI Sri Ashadi Tjahjadj, pays a courtesy call on the Yang di-Pertua Negeri, TYT Tan Datuk Patinggi Alang Haji Muhammad Salihuddin, at the Istana, on his arrival in Kuching to witness the joint Malaysian/Indonesian air exercise Elang Malindo V.

The visiting 11-member British Trade Delegation attends a 90-minute briefing by the Director of State Planning Unit, Enock Amar Narasim in Kuching.

20th, Saturday

The Yang di-Pertua Negeri, TYT Tan Datuk Patinggi Alang Haji Muhammad Salihuddin and Tsh Puan Datuk Patinggi Deyang Hajjah Umi Kalthum, arrive in Sibu for a three-day visit.

Deputy Chief Minister, YB Datuk Amar Sim Kheng Hong, presents prizes to winners of the first Raj

competition organized as part of the celebration to commemorate the 116th Robert' Conference.

Music throughout the country celebrated Desapada—the Festival of Light.

Seven new lawyers are admitted to the Roll of Advocates at the High Court in Kuching. They are Wei Hui Tien, Yong Nyan Seng, Alexander John Noh Koi Bun, Abdul Razak Tready, Beng Han Chong, Eric Khoo Chuan Syn and Norm Hardin.

21st, Sunday

The Yang di-Pertuan Negeri, TYT Tan Datuk Patinggi Abang Haji Muhammad Sallehuddin, attending the open house of the Sibu Branch, Sarawak Society for the Blind, praises members of voluntary organizations for their contributions to bring cheer and relief to handicapped persons in the State.

Deputy Chief Minister, YB Datuk Amar Sim Kheng Hong, speaking at a gathering in Miri held by the Miri Chinese Association, calls on the Chinese community in the State to consolidate their unity to ensure their political and socio-economic progress.

Deputy Chief Minister, YB Datuk Alfred Jaha, officiates at the prize-giving ceremony of the Tan Datuk Patinggi Tunas Haji Bajang College in Miri.

About 400 delegates representing various associations, clubs and societies attend a day-long inauguration meeting of the First Division Chinese Associations of Sarawak held at the Jubilee, Kuching.

Seventy-four pupils from various primary schools in Kuching attend a tuition class organized by Sekolah Benderahiah unit at Seres Benderahiah, Kuching.

22nd, Monday

The Chief Minister, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Rahman Ya'kub, speaking at the opening of the 4th Biennial Delegates Conference of SISCO Employees Union in Sibu, reminds unions in the State to take the interest and needs of the country at heart when fighting for the welfare of their members.

The Assistant Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports, YB Abang Haji Ahmad Usni, speaking at a goodwill evening held at Dewan Tun Rasaki in conjunction with the joint Malaysian/Indonesian air exercise being held in Kuching, expresses the hope that greater co-operation between Malaysia and Indonesia will be further enhanced in future.

A government backbencher, YB Baki Sabrin Tangkutan (BN—Bating Lupar), suggests in Parliament that the Government reviews the agricultural policy in Sarawak as the agricultural sector there is still backward.

Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police, Low Teik Sui, officially takes over the duties of PPT Brigade Commander, Sarawak, from SAC Abu R. Hak who is on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

23rd, Tuesday

The West Kalimantan Military Commander, Brig. Gen. M. Saad, declares that Indonesia's security authorities have deployed 600 members of the Civil Defence Corp along its common border with Sarawak to help maintain security in the area.

The retiring Abang Haji Zainuddin, one of Sarawak Civil Service's most dedicated and experienced officers, is guest of honour at a farewell reception given by the State Secretary, Datuk Abang Haji Yusof Puteh at his residence.

Malaysia LNG is raising a \$1,265 million loan to finance part of the \$3.7 billion LNG plant in Bintulu.

The Secretary of Kuching Municipal Council, Wan Ali bin Tunas Ibrahim, declares that the Open Air Market and the Bus Terminal will be moved to new sites either at Padungan or Serik next year.

The Assistant Director of Civil Aviation, Enoch Lim Tang Siew, says that the \$13 million new terminal building for the Kuching International Airport will be completed by early 1981.

Sarawak Advocates' Association President, Enoch Chong Siew Pui, Secretary, Enoch J.C. Pang and Committee Members CB, Marka Kana and Enoch William Chong leave for Kuala Lumpur to attend the 5th Malaysian Law Conference to be held from 24th-27th October.

24th, Wednesday

The Council Negeri Member for Limbang, YB Datuk Wong Kim Min, is taking legal action against one of his election opponents, Enoch Lim Chong Hong, for alleged defamation.

25th, Thursday

The Assistant Minister for Communication and Works, YB Enoch Chong Kim Kang, officiates at the opening of the Home Economic Achievement Day at Kampong Segedup in Kuching.

The Rothmans Aerobatic team arrives in Kuching for a series of air shows in the State.

A 20-member sepak takraw team from the Singapore Vigilante Corps arrives in Kuching for a six-day goodwill visit.

26th, Friday

More than a thousand officers and men of the Third Infantry Brigade are involved in a two-day field exercise code-named Kris Kenyalang which is to test and improve the efficiency of the brigade in conventional strike operations as well as in counter-insurgency warfare.

Ch. Nazlim Khanna, 30, of Kuching is crowned "Miss Sarawak Flying Club 1979" at the 3th anniversary dinner of the Club held at the Holiday Inn, Kuching.

27th, Saturday

The Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports, YB Enoch Celestine Ujung, announces at a press conference in Miri that a sum of \$1 million has been set aside for the construction of two international standard football fields and other related infrastructure of the proposed State Sports Stadium in Kuching.

The Assistant Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports, YB Abang Haji Ahmad Usni, closing the 12-day Project Planning Course in Kuching, calls on planning officers in government and statutory bodies to ensure maximum benefit to the people in all the projects they plan.

Mrs. V.K. Hwang, Headmistress of St. Mary's Secondary School in Kuching, retires after 25 years in the educational field.

A Bantupatan businessman, Wan Ali bin Tunas Ibrahim, donates \$20,000 to the St. Thomas' School Restoration Fund.

A statement issued by the Medical Department advises the public against listening to rumours that the pollen of the Umbelida Tree causes cancer as there is no evidence for such cause-and-effect relationship between cancer and the pollen.

The Lions Club of Kuching celebrates its 12th anniversary.

28th, Sunday

Deputy Chief Minister, YB Derek Amar Sin Kheng Hong, says at the Ex-Dragon Association annual dinner in Kuching that voluntary organisations can help the Government to create a just, united and progressive society.

The Assistant Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports, YB Ahsang Haji Ahmad Ural, presents prizes to winners of a telematch and children's sports at the Central Puting, Kuching.

According to figures released by the Land Transport Department, Sarawak's total number of motor vehicles for various classes reaches the 86,861 mark by the end of last year.

Sarawak's marine fish landings total 1.25 million pounds last year according to the Statistics Department.

More than 30 members of the Lions Club of Kuching join in a tree-planting project to complement Kuching Municipal Council's bid to turn the State Capital into a garden city.

29th, Monday

A Member of Dewan Undangan Negeri, YB Datuk Haji Nor Tahir, speaking at a farewell dinner for hosts for the visiting Singapore Vigilance Corps sepak takraw team at the Multi-Purpose Youth Centre, Kuching, expresses the hope that more sports contingents from Singapore will visit Sarawak in future following the successful visit of the sepak takraw team.

30th, Tuesday

The Chief Minister, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Rahman Ya'kub, in his Hari Raya Haji message over Radio Malaysia Sarawak, stresses the importance of maintaining a strong spiritual foundation in the process of developing the State economically.

The Minister for Agriculture and Community Development, YB Dr. Wong Soon Kuf, celebrates at the prize-presentation ceremony for winners of the Wet Padi Production Competition held at Simasjan near Kuching.

The Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports, YB Rukik Chaharun Uyang, speaking at the opening of a batik painting exhibition by Rukik Tee Chong Heng in Kuching, says that qualified artists have vast employment opportunities in the country.

The visiting Canadian High Commission Commercial Counsellor, Mr. Rejane Pomato, says that Canadian industrialists are keen in joint ventures in the knock-down furniture industry in Malaysia, especially Sarawak and Sabah, as all the materials required are available locally.

1st, Wednesday

The Yang di-Pertua Negeri, TYT Tan Datuk Patinggi Ahsang Haji Muhammad Salihuddin, and the Chief Minister, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Rahman Ya'kub, join more than 1,000 Muslims in Hari Raya Aidil Adha prayers at the State Mosque in Kuching.

Pangolin or Scaly Anteater, *Manis javanica*

The odd-looking pangolin or scaly anteater is found over the lowlands of all mainland Borneo, up to a maximum elevation of 4,300 ft. on G. Kinabalu.

The scales of the pangolin are valued in traditional Chinese medicine and the quantities exported through Sarawak have been high. The average annual export through Kuching during 1958-1963 was 28,068 katis (12.134 kg.), representing about 8,027 animals, most of which originated in Indonesian Borneo.

Anteater scales are used for treating all kinds of skin diseases and are believed to have the following healing qualities:

- (1) It is anti-septic.
- (2) It is good for reducing bodily heat and temperature caused by septic wounds or any skin trouble.
- (3) It stimulates blood veins, resulting in fresh blood flowing to the diseased skin and thus hastens healing.
- (4) It acts as a catalyst, leading other medicine to the sickly part and speed up the chemical reaction of the medicine.
- (5) It also acts to clean the system by stirring up the type of skin troubles which remain hidden internally.

There are two methods of application—external and internal.

Rare pieces of scales are used for attaching itchy skin. This will prevent further infection which usually follows if the affected part is scratched by fingernails.

For internal application the scales are ground into powder and then mixed in with other herbs boiled in water for the patient to drink. This is said to be particularly effective for curing skin trouble caused by venereal disease. As already stated, the scale powder will not only lead the medicinal herbs to the sickly part, but also clear the system by stirring up the hidden sickness, as it is so characteristic with venereal disease. This is the belief.

THE SARAWAK GOVERNMENT ALMANAC

DECEMBER, 1979

CALENDAR			MOON PHASES AND EVENTS	HIGH WATER	
English	Chinese	Malay		Kuching	Max
Sat. 1	12	11	○ Full Moon—3rd, 0129 hrs. ● New Moon—19th, 1944 hrs. ☾ Last Quarter—11th, 1129 hrs. ☽ First Quarter—26th, 1232 hrs.	0237 1921	1929 2129
SUN. 2	13	12		0238 1923	— 2131
Mon. 3	14	13		0416 1719	— 2329
Tue. 4	15	14	King Tide at 1807 hours (2.5 metres/15 feet).	0425 1607	— 2325
Wed. 5	16	15	King of Thailand's Birthday—Thai National Day. King Tide at 1832 hours (2.5 metres/15 feet).	0532 1622	— 2319
Thu. 6	17	16		0605 1904	— 2346
Fri. 7	18	17		0616 2002	— —
Sat. 8	19	18		0710 2048	0619 —
SUN. 9	20	19		0749 2124	0629 —
Mon. 10	21	20		0813 2200	0619 —
Tue. 11	22	21		0929 2247	0640 —
Wed. 12	23	22		1038 2307	0654 2302
Thu. 13	24	23		1138 —	0623 2046
Fri. 14	25	24		0829 1917	— 2046
Sat. 15	26	25		0730 1828	0616 2029
SUN. 16	27	26		0656 1714	— 2019
Mon. 17	28	27		0546 1612	— 2019
Tue. 18	29	28		0521 1550	— 2020
Wed. 19	1	29	1st day of the 10th Moon (10 days).	0448 1751	— 2219
Thu. 20	2	1	1st day of 10th.	0441 1838	— 2319
Fri. 21	3	2		0521 1929	— 2020
Sat. 22	4	3	Wesak Saveran. Four Chi—Solomon Festival.	0604 2007	— —
SUN. 23	5	4		0612 2059	0620 —
Mon. 24	6	5		0746 2139	0617 —
Tue. 25	7	6	CHRISTMAS DAY.	0811 2219	0626 —
Wed. 26	8	7	Boxing Day. (Public Holiday Switch only).	0902 2308	0640 2319
Thu. 27	9	8		1117 —	0640 2319
Fri. 28	10	9		0903 1256	0628 2329
Sat. 29	11	10		0701 1157	— 2046
SUN. 30	12	11		0500 1018	— 2046
Mon. 31	13	12		0314 1612	— 2129

ABSTRACT OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATION FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1979

Division	Station	Latitude N.	Longitude E.	Height above sea level, meters	AIR TEMPERATURE IN DEGREE CENTIGRADE										RAINFALL				Height of rain gauge, in feet	
					Mean Temperature					Apparent Temperature					Total (mm)	Moist. in day (mm)	Date	No. of days		
					0 am.	3 pm.	6 pm.	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Time of day (°C)	Time of day (°C)	Time of day (°C)						Time of day (°C)
MALAYA	Seni Airport	1° 59' 58"	107° 50'	56	24.5	25.1	25.8	25.9	26.8	32.2	23	23.8	26	24.7	26	24.9	28	24.9	28	
	Seni Airport	2° 30' 11"	107° 50'	4	24.4	24.7	24.4	24.9	25.9	30.6	24.8	25.5	26	25.5	25	24.5	21	26	25	
	Seni Airport	1° 59' 11"	107° 50'	17	25.5	25.7	26.1	26.5	26.5	32.7	23	23.1	26	23.6	26	26.6	26	26	26	
	Seni Airport	4° 21' 11"	107° 50'	1	25.2	25.6	26.5	26.1	26.4	32.6	23	23.1	26	22.6	26	26.2	21	25	25	
															260.3	49.8	24	21	43	

