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The News From Southeast Asia



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THE NEWS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Sociology of Newsmaking

by

Rodney Tiffen

**Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
Singapore**

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PREFACE

The question of 'the news' from Third World countries, and Western press coverage of it in particular, has of late become a matter of sharp debate, at times even to the point of accusation and counteraccusation of 'distortion' and 'discrimination'. Southeast Asia has not been an exception to this general trend. In this light, Dr. Rodney Tiffen's analysis of "how social processes affect the picture of Southeast Asia conveyed through news to the Australian public" is all the more welcome and timely, and it should be of considerable interest to not only those concerned with Australian/Southeast Asian relations but also the wider scholarly community.

The News from Southeast Asia forms part of Dr. Tiffen's ongoing research interest in Australian attitudes to Asia and news coverage of Asia. Specifically, it grew out of a project on "The Flow of News from Southeast Asia to Australia" based at the Institute. This project was made possible through the award of a fellowship to Dr. Tiffen under the Institute's Australian/Southeast Asian Relations Programme. In addition to enabling Dr. Tiffen to gather data from other sources, this fellowship enabled him to travel around Southeast Asia and interview foreign correspondents working in the region. The Fellowship in Australian/Southeast Asian Relations is funded through an annual grant from the Australian Federal Government, and the Institute is extremely grateful to the Australian Federal Government for this support. Furthermore, it is our hope that the Fellowship in Australian/Southeast Asian Relations will become a regular feature of the Institute's research and fellowship programmes.

In thanking the Australian Federal Government and wishing Dr. Tiffen and his work all the best, it is clearly understood that responsibility for facts and opinions expressed in the volume that follows

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KERNIAL S SANDHU
Director
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

28 October 1978

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