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IN MEMORIAM
Michael Leifer, 1933–2001

It is only the second time in the twenty-three-year history of this journal that we carry an obituary. The last time was in March 1993, when we recorded the untimely death of Professor Kernial S. Sandhu, the then Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

Professor Michael Leifer, 67, died of prostate cancer in London on 23 March 2001. He left behind his wife, Frances, and three sons. It had been widely known for some time that he had been in poor health, but his passing was still received with shock and sadness by his many friends and acquaintances in Southeast Asia and beyond.

He had a remarkable career as an academic that spanned four decades. At the time of his death he was Emeritus Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and was the Director of the LSE's Asia Research Centre. Like Professor Sandhu, Professor Leifer's name was very much synonymous with Southeast Asia. He was a keen observer of the politics and international relations of Southeast Asia. And although considered by many a master in analysing regional geopolitical trends, he was always self-effacing, preferring to call himself merely a "student of international relations".

One of the organizations he had a long association with was the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). He spent several sojourns at ISEAS pursuing his research and writing, and contributing to the Institute's intellectual atmosphere. Up to the time of his death he was a member of the International Advisory Committee of this journal.

Prolific as a writer, Professor Leifer's publications on the politics and international relations of modern Southeast Asia are probably unmatched by any other academic both within and without Southeast Asia. He authored dozens of books and articles on the region. One of his most well-known and widely cited works is the 1983 book, *Indonesia's Foreign Policy*. As a reflection of his detailed knowledge of Southeast Asia, he had also compiled the definitive *Dictionary of the Modern Politics of South-East Asia*, which was published in 1995 and is now a standard reference work on the region. He completed the third edition of this volume, due in May 2001, just before his death.

His keen insights on the politics of Southeast Asia made him sought-after as an interviewee by both the print and electronic media. His analytical objectivity was also recognized widely, as shown by the many policy-makers in the corridors of power in Southeast Asia who sought his views on regional political trends and developments.

One of the legacies Professor Leifer leaves behind is the large number of graduate students who benefited from his supervision. He was an example of the kind of academic — meticulous, dynamic and with a disciplined energy — which many of these students aspired to emulate. He was always generous with his time and knowledge.

Beyond his exceptional scholarship, he will be remembered by those who knew him as a warm, decent and compassionate man. He carried himself with dignity and humility. His passing will be acutely felt by many.

The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies extends to the family of the late Michael Leifer its deep condolences and sympathies.

DEREK DA CUNHA