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SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS 1985

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Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

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ISSN 0377-5437

© 1985 Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore
First published 1985

Typeset by Koford Prints (Pte) Ltd Singapore

Printed by Kyodo-Shing Loong Printing Industries Pte Ltd

Established as an autonomous organization by an act of the Parliament of the Republic of Singapore in May 1968, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies is a regional research centre for scholars and other specialists concerned with modern Southeast Asia. The Institute's research interest is focused on the many-faceted problems of development and social change in Southeast Asia.

The Institute is governed by a twenty-two-member Board of Trustees comprising representatives from the National University of Singapore, appointees from the Government, as well as representatives from a broad range of professional and civic organizations and groups. A ten-man Executive Committee oversees day-to-day operations; it is chaired by the Director, the Institute's chief academic and administrative officer.

FOREWORD

Southeast Asian Affairs 1985, like its eleven predecessors, is a review of significant developments and trends in Southeast Asia, with special emphasis on the ASEAN countries. Readable and easily understood, the publication aims at giving the enquiring reader a broad grasp of major political, economic, social, and strategic developments within the region.

The contents of *Southeast Asian Affairs 1985* fall into two broad categories. There are those of a background nature, which attempt to review and where necessary comment upon and explain significant developments during 1984 in the individual countries of Southeast Asia and in the region generally. Then there are the articles of more specialized current interest. These are not necessarily focused on events in 1984 alone. They deal with topical problems of concern to those who desire to know more about the region and its affairs than is possible from background articles. The emphasis has been on background papers, including regional surveys. These, however, have been supplemented by topical articles of the type described above.

To the best of our knowledge, *Southeast Asian Affairs* is the only publication of its kind wholly devoted to Southeast Asia. It is, perhaps, also unique in that, unlike many other annuals, its discussion of issues is from the vantage point of the area, most of the contributors being in and of the region. Moreover, though scholarly in their approach and analyses, the authors have been encouraged to aim at accuracy and readability, and to handle their subjects in a direct manner. Footnotes and tables have been kept to a minimum and a conscious effort has been made to avoid too ponderous a style. If *Southeast Asian Affairs 1985* helps to generate and enliven interest in, and a better understanding of, the affairs of the region, then its purpose would have been well served.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the authors and the members of the Editorial Committee, as well as others who have, in one way or another, helped to make this publication possible. While the Institute encourages all points of view, needless to say, the individual authors are exclusively responsible for the facts and opinions expressed in their respective contributions, and their interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Institute itself or its supporters.

Kernal S. Sandhu
Director

15 January 1985

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

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INTRODUCTION

This volume brings together a total of twenty-one articles, all of which share one common objective, viz., to analyse the events which took place in Southeast Asia in 1984. It is hoped that they will *in toto* present a sufficiently comprehensive picture of the region during the year.

The opening articles have a broad regional focus, with considerable attention being given to the influence of external powers. It should be pointed out that while the USSR, the People's Republic of China and Japan are analysed in separate papers, the U.S.-Southeast Asia relationship is dealt with in the regional overview paper at the beginning of this volume. These regional overviews and regional theme papers which include one dealing with ASEAN are followed by those which deal specifically with the various Southeast Asian countries.

Taken as a whole, it can be seen that the effects of the global economic slowdown is a theme that recurs throughout much of this volume. Concern for regional stability, and the related question of the Kampuchean conflict, also show up constantly. It is not the intention here to steal the thunder of the individual contributors. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that most of the kinds of potential situations which could affect any country — from occupation by an alien power to development management in a peacefully changing society — were evident in one form or another in the region during the year. In their efforts to maintain the desired kind of stability, both short and long-term, the various governments have displayed interestingly different approaches to the issues that were evident in their countries during the year. These differences, and the problems themselves, can, in fact, be regarded as reflections of, and give insights to, what for want of a better term can be called the different national and state leadership “styles”.

Inevitably, in co-ordinating the efforts of twenty-one contributors, there arise certain difficulties. This year, the perennial problem of late submission has meant that those who dutifully sent in their contributions early have to some extent suffered the deficiencies which come about because of shortage of quantitative data, especially that emanating from official sources. Should the reader detect any unevenness in this respect we ask for his indulgence.

It remains for me, as editor, to thank each and everyone of the contributors to this volume for the effort rendered — often at considerable expense of other commitments — to make this review possible.

Lim Joo-Jock
Editor
Southeast Asian Affairs 1985