

of Indonesian literature, and so on). Research is applied to recent history and current affairs, modern language and literature. New editions of "Hang Tuah" and "Sejarah Melayu" in the old Overbeck translation have been already done (as in case of the first mentioned by Kurt Huber) or are in preparation. Another project of interest will be carried out by E.U. Kratz, SOAS London, and H.D. Kubitscheck in co-operation. They are going to analyse and comment on the old German travel books of the 17th and 18th centuries as a source of historical writing. These some 40 old prints and unpublished papers are to be edited as an anthology of its most important parts. Other work-studies of future planning are provided for the field of relations between colonial Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines on the one hand and the former "Deutsches Reich" on the other, based on archive materials in the Central State Archive of the GDR and published contemporary accounts.

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### 3. Notes on Developments in Maritime Southeast Asian Studies in the United Kingdom, 1985/7

The past two years have seen several important developments in the field of Maritime Southeast Asian Studies in the United Kingdom, studies which cover Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei and the Philippines. The most far-reaching of these has been the reaction of the British University Grants Committee (UGC) to the Parker Report which investigated the current state of language teaching in British universities and tertiary institutions relating to Africa and Asia. This report, entitled *Planning for the Future*, found a truly deplorable situation with many key languages no longer being properly catered for in terms of teaching and research, a situation which boded ill for the future needs of British government and commerce in several vital areas. The very severe cut-backs in government funding for the universities over the past decade was mainly to blame for this state of affairs, and the UGC moved swiftly in the early part of 1987 to repair some of the damage caused by university retrenchments. Some 40 new posts were created in Asian and African languages, of which three are likely to be earmarked for Southeast Asia: namely, a chair of Modern Southeast Asian Studies at Hull University, and two Southeast Asian language posts at SOAS, an institution which received nearly half the new posts released by the UGC.<sup>(1)</sup> Unfortunately, no Southeast Asian language (even Indonesian, which the British Foreign Office has long deemed a high priority area), was ranked higher than Grade B in the Parker Report. However, the three Southeast Asian posts which have been made available could result in important new developments at both Hull and SOAS.

The Hull chair, which is likely to be within the field of either political science or economics or development studies, and which will probab-

ly be filled some time during the academic year 1987/88, was conditional on there being local provision of Southeast Asian language teaching. Fortunately, the Centre at Hull had already begun to make changes in its undergraduate programme to include the teaching of Malay language. At present the course in Malay is offered to second and third year students in the BA special three-year degree in South-East Asian Studies. However, from October 1988 it will form an important component of a new four-year degree in South-East Asian Studies and Language. One year of this degree will be spent attached to a university in Malaysia, studying Malay there and completing an approved research project under joint supervision. The three-year degree will continue for those students not wishing to spend a year abroad. It is hoped that the teaching of Indonesian and Thai language will also be introduced in the near future.

The new post will go some way to restoring the pre-1975 situation at Hull when there was a chair of South-East Asian Studies held by the late Professor Mervyn Jaspán, a specialist on modern Indonesian sociology and anthropology. The new chair, whose incumbent will also serve as Director of the Hull South-East Asia Centre within the new School of Social and Political Sciences, will undoubtedly help to give the Centre a higher profile in Southeast Asian Studies in the United Kingdom and Western Europe. At the same time the seven lecturing posts in South-East Asian Studies have been earmarked for at least the next five years. In addition, the Centre can call on the teaching services of one Honorary Fellow and an established lecturer from the School of Modern Languages and Cultures; there are three further university staff, who are Associates of the Centre, and participate in its research and seminar activities.

Turning to SOAS, an institution which has suffered very severe losses in terms of tenured posts in Southeast Asian Studies over the past decade, the two new posts which have been made available and which have already been advertised will strengthen its teaching capacity in the Southeast Asian field. One of these posts will be in the related fields of Indonesian and Javanese; the other in Economics with special reference to Southeast Asia. Unfortunately, there is still little likelihood that any of the posts in modern history and political science left vacant by the early retirements or departures of Dr Ruth McVey, Dr John Bastin, Professor Merle Ricklefs, Dr J.A.M.Caldwell(2) and Professor J.G. de Casparis, all of whom had important research interests in Indonesia, will be filled in the near future. At the present time, therefore, studies relating to Maritime Southeast Asia at SOAS will be primarily represented by linguists. But there may be some new developments to report two years hence when the next Survey of Maritime Southeast Asian Studies in the United Kingdom is written.

Another important development has been the British Academy's establishment of a new South-East Asia Committee with special funds available to support major research projects, preferably those involving multi-disciplinary team work in Southeast Asia. The new Committee has

taken over some of the responsibilities of the new defunct British Institute in South-East Asia, which had been set up by the British Academy in 1976 and had played a useful role in channelling grants to British scholars working in the Southeast Asian field. Amongst the new research projects which are to be funded by the British Academy's South-East Asia Committee are a project co-ordinated by Dr Mike Parnwell at the Hull Centre for South-East Asian Studies, involving six academics, and focussing on development planning, rural poverty and minority groups in peripheral areas of Thailand and Malaysia, and the University of Kent's programme on Islam in Contemporary Southeast Asia. This project will involve work by Dr Bill Watson on current developments in Islamic thinking in Indonesia and Mr John Bousfield's work on the role of the *tarekats*, Sufi brotherhoods, in East Coast peninsular Malaysia. Professor Barry Hooker at Kent is also researching, along with Dr Virginia Matheson of the ANU, the published works of Sheikh Daud Patani, a Malay *alim* who wrote prolifically on Islam in the early years of the 19th century and whose works continue to circulate in the Malay peninsula, Riau and Sumatra today.

The Academy's Committee is also providing a major part of the finance for the Williams-Hunt Aerial Photographs project. The project is under the auspices of the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies at SOAS, London, and involves Dr Elisabeth Moore, who has used some of the collection as data for her PhD thesis. The collection comprises over 5,000 World War II Royal Air Force prints of Angkor, Singapore, Burma, Thailand, Malaya and French Indochina. Many of the negatives of these photographs, which constitute a unique archaeological and historical record of the region, were destroyed after the War and Dr Moore's work is designed to produce new negatives and offset prints from the original photographs which are now housed at SOAS and to publish a guide/catalogue for the whole collection.

The Committee is at present considering the funding of two further projects, one on various aspects of structural adjustment and changing comparative advantage in the ASEAN economies, especially Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, and the other on the translation and documentation of materials relating to modern Burmese political thought.

Finally, the Committee is providing financial support to enable the production of the national newsletter of the Association of South-East Asian Studies in the UK (ASEASUK), and the publication of a series of research registers documenting the work which is being done by UK-based scholars on each of the countries of Southeast Asia. The first register on Thailand compiled by Dr Mike Parnwell has appeared recently.

To conclude, the years 1985 to 1987 have witnessed some hopeful signs that the erosion of Southeast Asian Studies in the United Kingdom post-1975 has been halted. The new posts created by the UGC in the aftermath of the Parker Report at Hull and SOAS will be particularly

important here in strengthening teaching resources in the field of South-east Asian Languages. At the same time, the new Southeast Asia Committee of the British Academy will be able to take up some of the slack created by the closure of the British Institute in South-East Asia in April 1986 and will be able to channel funds in the direction of major collaborative research projects in the Southeast Asian field. It is still too early to say, however, whether these positive developments will really result in a restoration of the pre-1975 situation as far as Southeast Asian Studies in the UK are concerned.

#### Notes

- (1) The 18 posts allocated to SOAS were not specifically earmarked for particular areas or disciplines, so the division has been made through internal negotiation. But, as of the time of writing, it looks as though two language posts will be allocated for South-East Asia.
- (2) killed in Cambodia, December 1978.

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#### 4. Indonesian Studies in the Netherlands, a brief survey

In Holland, contrary to what one might expect, the interest in Indonesia and things Indonesian has steadily been growing over the past decades, both among the general public and in the scholarly world. This tendency has clearly been continuing in recent years, in spite of severe economizing measures in the universities. It is reflected in the publication of two recent surveys, both of which appeared early this year. One of these, presenting the situation of teaching and research concerning Indonesia in Dutch universities as of July 1986, was compiled by Mrs. C. Touwen-Bouwsma on the basis of some forty interviews for the Coordinating Committee of Indonesian Studies (*Zicht op Indonesische Studies in Nederland*), or Insight in Indonesian Studies in the Netherlands). In it, undergraduate and Ph.D. research projects in progress as well completed ones are listed in appendixes. Its list of doctoral theses in progress is now also to be found in *Indonesia Circle* of June 1987 (43: 58-65). The other recent publication is the *Directory of West European Indonesianists* (ISBN 90 6765 221 0), containing brief data concerning scholarly background, current research and recent publications of 760 persons in 12 countries, over half of whom are working in the Netherlands. The following brief survey is chiefly based on the former report, supplemented with some other and more recent information.

At the *University of Leiden*, the Department of Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia and Oceania is in fact one of the few depart-