

PETIKAN DIARI

PERSONAL DIARY
(AMINUDDIN BAKI)

ON HIS TOUR TO
UNITED KINGDOM



PUSAT SUMBER
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SPI/C/3 Personal Diary on his tour to United Kingdom

P3 Tipping - this act seems to be the custom in Britain. Even on board the ship the waiters, stewards etc have to be tipped. I regard this as a form of bribery because insufficient amount or none at all would only result in unsatisfactory and grudgingly given service by the ship's company.

P20 As far as possible such places of national interest (status are every where) indirectly implant national consciousness in the Englishmen. All these make them proud of their past achievements, glory and grandeur. All these make them inherit the English spirit and tradition of the past.

P20 Education for citizenship is practically done through visiting the places, squares, statues of national interest and figures. In places where famous Britishers were born, lived or died notices are put up thus we find such notice as "In this house was born so and so".

P21 No time is wasted - this seems to me to be the characteristics of the Englishmen. No wonder they are progressive and materially advanced. To me one of the reasons for such characteristics is that the English weather, for that matter any people in the temperate, changes and never constant as the Malayan weather. The impending winter, the cold etc call for hardwork on the part of the Englishmen. Nothing should be postponed to tomorrow, the weather is unpredictable and besides a normal 12 months work should be finished in 9 months and even less. Thus the need for working so hard and saving every minute. This was especially so hundreds of years ago when Britain was still an agricultural country with rural folks. "Make hay while the sun shines" is the maxim. Such tradition of hard work and hard struggle to earn a living in the face of national forces is today inherited by the Englishmen. And is all for the good.

The Malays on the other hand tend to be lazy. This is because of the hot moist climate which makes one feel sleepy, which causes food planting much easier and with less care than in Britain and which weather remains constant all the year round thus "wait for tomorrow" attitude.

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P23 Loyalty to Sovereign

The late King George VI was loved by the Englishmen for his peaceful homelife, "he is a family man" so they said. Comments, I overheard, about him at Madame Tussads came from the bottom of the heart - really sincere and emotional. A picture of the royal visit to Canada was well attended-another proof of such loyalty.

Students life in Britain

P24 Malay students greatly increased since after the war. Present strength about 200. Students fraternize with English girls or vice versa. The girls here are really easy to get - too sociable. Fraternisation sometimes goes to the extent that much tears are shed when the time to return comes. Much reluctance to leave England when ties have to be broken up. The English girls are trying to follow them back to Malaya. A Malay for sure purposely ordered for bacon. Is this an inevitable way towards anglicizing himself. Dancing - "To keep up with time" dance parties are held. Food - most of the students cook themselves - learning through the hardway. Social - to the extent of much regret. Love between already married couples - one leaving her husband in Malaya, the other his wife - a case of "love is blind" so was the excuse.

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P27 Spirit of Tolerance

- This spirit of political tolerance was observed in Hyde Park when one Indian from South Africa (?) a communist youth of about 26 years old, said openly in a group of English listeners how he wished for the outbreak of a Third World War so that England (London) would be bombed and razed to the ground so that the feeling of colour bar can be done forever. He said England is the home of colour bar.

Information on Malaya - is distorted to suit the political whims and fancies of the speaker. Just to take any piece of news on its face value without knowing the actual condition of the active is the cause of much unwarranted, uncalled and false representation.

P31 National Feeling - overrides all other views. In times of emergencies the Britishers stand as ONE. In times of sorrow as exemplified by the Lynmonth Flood - the nation as a unit shows its sympathy to the unfortunate victims

of the night terror by monetary donations, help in kind, labour, and moral. From all parts of UK food, clothing etc were sent to feed, clothe etc the victims of the flood while volunteers came to help the local people to clear up the debris - a good example of national unity in action.

P34 Socialist Party - Propogandist did say that under socialism there won't be any religion, police force, army, royalty etc. This fact really shows how much the Westerners' disbelief in religion. No wonder indecency and immorality is seen in public. The younger generation seems to me to be taught nothing but materialism, scientific progress to the neglect of spiritual and moral teaching. On seeing all these I now begin to understand why Western educationist now profound, "education as a means to get nearer to God," as a main educational principle. For they see, perhaps, material progress alone will not do, because without moral and spiritual training men may destroy themselves with the weapons they themselves made or record to barbaric and animal behaviour unbefitting to the progress in science.

Thank God! The Asiatics still hold tightly to their strict customs and moral behaviour.

New Arrivals

The Kirkby plan is really a waste. There seems to be only one advantage and that is the outlook of the Malayan, by mixing up with the Englishmen, would be broaden and the sense of the inferiority complex or the superiority of the Englishmen would be eliminated.

Apart from the said advantage the plan is a waste because the millions of dollars spend could be utilised in building a college in Malaya and bringing the staffs to Malaysia. This not only the future teachers to be are trained in a Malayan atmosphere but much money is saved which can be spent on building more schools or aids to deserving students.

The obvious advantage of having a college in Kirkby is that it brings much income to the Britishers - an obvious way of draining in American and Malayan dollars into starving Britain.

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