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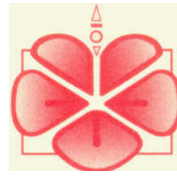
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THE BRITISH MALAYSIAN SOCIETY

Chairman:

Dato' Neville Green

OBE FCIB FIBM

Honorary Secretary:

Anthony Cooper FCA FRSA

Honorary Treasurer:

Robin De Morgan FCA

January 2008

Dear Member,

A review of 2007 and the outlook for 2008

2007 was without doubt the most active and, administratively, the most demanding year in your Society's history – Our Society is 25 years old in 2008 – marking as it did Malaysia's 50th year of independence. On your behalf, I'd like to acknowledge here the continuing hard work put in by the Society's dedicated officers and to thank them for their loyal support.

Attached is a full list of events in which we were directly involved, both as organisers and as participants. The many highlights include, notably:

- A talk in January by Datuk Paddy Bowie attended by some 90 members and friends – Paddy's talks over the years have always been a big draw – updating us from the inside on Malaysia's political and economic happenings post the November 2006 UMNO General Assembly.
- Malaysia Festival Week, Asia Film Week and Asia House's Connecting Cultures programme all straddled two weeks in mid-June. The Society's lady members Zehan Albakri and Liz St Clair George played leading roles in them all.
- The Society's end of August/early September Merdeka Tour to KL and to nostalgic upcountry locations thereafter demonstrated the planning skills of member Datin Waveney Jenkins in the UK and of Jenny Shabudin and her tour company in PJ. More than 90 Society members and friends were privileged, seated observers of a midnight fireworks display and an early morning parade of 24,000 participants and 10,000 school children in KL. We were royally entertained by the Malaysian Government, by the British High Commissioner and by members of the Society's KL Panel.
- Our late October Annual Dinner at the National Liberal Club, Whitehall, broke new ground by raising – through the generosity of Malaysia Airlines in particular – significant funds for two Malaysian charities, Lighthouse and CARIF. A first class and very authentic Malaysian menu was enjoyed by the capacity gathering, which included the Lord George of St Tudy and distinguished Malaysians in London for the following day's conference.

- The 50th Merdeka Commemorative Conference and Luncheon at the Mansion House was jointly organised by the Society, the Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) and Asia House. The day-long conference was attended by some 150 invitees who went on to an evening reception hosted by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in the Locarno Suite.
- A Merdeka Concert at Chelsea's Cadogan Hall in mid-November by the London Sinfonietta included works by Benjamin Britten, one being the first public performance of his composition submitted post-independence as a possible Malaysian national anthem, and works by Malaysian composer Dr Tazul Izan Tajuddin and by Malaysian pianist Bobby Chen. The concert – horrendously expensive to mount but a financial success and very generously supported, especially by Tan Sri Professor Dr Lim Kok Wing and his London staff – was a triumph of organization by a Society team led by Datin Waveney Jenkins. The evening concluded with an informal dinner at Chelsea's Malaysian Awana Restaurant.
- A late October dialogue session in the London Hilton with the Malaysian Minister of International Trade & Industry, Hon. Rafidah Aziz, was attended by some 230 business people. The Minister flew into London especially for the occasion arranged by the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority, London, and which, at the Minister's request, I chaired. The Minister gave the clear and lively account we have come to expect from her concerning the portfolio progress she has so successfully managed for over two decades as Cabinet Minister.

Our Society continues to work closely with Malaysian government bodies and with British government agencies, both in London and in Kuala Lumpur.

Asia House remains our base and provides quality secretarial and logistical support.

Now in 2008, we look forward to another active year. The year will include the Society's Silver Jubilee celebrations and other features as yet in the early planning stages. The Society's website Events page is unusually barren at this time but that will change very shortly.

May I finally draw your attention to the opportunity to acquire one of the Society's handsome silk Silver Jubilee ties available from the Secretariat at Asia House at £15 each (plus p&p). Depending on interest it is possible that we might be able to offer a matching silk neck scarf for ladies.

The Society sincerely wishes you a somewhat tardy but nevertheless a happy, healthy and prosperous 2008.

Dato' Neville Green OBE
Chairman