

## **Gerald de Cruz Private Archives (1920-1991), Politician/Journalist**

The Gerald de Cruz Private Archives consists of articles and documents on Chinese education, communism and communists, Islam in Malaya, industrial relations in Singapore, the May 13 Riots and Indonesian 1971 Elections.

Former communist Gerald de Cruz, was born in 1920 to a middle class Eurasian family. In 1940, he started out as a journalist with The Straits Times. At the end of World War II, he joined the Communist Party of Malaya (MCP) and then a Communist front organisation in Singapore, the Malayan Democratic Union (MDU). He became disillusioned with communism after visiting Czechoslovakia in 1948.

In 1951, he took up a diploma course to teach intellectually disabled children in London. He then spent six years working in that field before returning to Singapore at the request of David Marshall to be the Organising Secretary of the Labour Front Government. He became a Muslim in 1968.

In the 60's, he helped G. G. Thomson set up the Government's Political Study Centre to educate civil servants on world affairs and local political changes.

From 1975 to 1985, de Cruz was actively involved as a training consultant in the Sarawak Foundation, a government-sponsored body which provides scholarships for its people. He was also chairman of the Singapore Association for Retarded Children and an advisor to the National Trade Union Congress (NTUC). Gerald de Cruz was also diplomatic editor of the New Nation in the early 1970s and The Sarawak Tribune. He was the author of *Facing facts in Malaya, and Nationalism and Communism*.