

**Index to the  
Political Papers Record Group  
of  
The Tan Chin Tuan Private Papers**

**Political Papers** - “Political Papers” provides the background to understanding the roles and responsibilities of Tan Chin Tuan following his appointment to the British Military Administration Advisory Council in 1945. It covers the period of 1945 to 1967. Shortly after, with the return to civilian rule, he was nominated to the Legislative Council to represent the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce as the unofficial member in 1948. In 1951, he was appointed as the Deputy President of the Legislative Council, which saw him as the first Chinese to achieve this position in post-war Singapore.

This record series pertains to the registration of Chinese British Subjects under the Foreigners Registration Act in India during 1943-1944 (TCT\_8), and his appointment to the Legislative Council in Singapore during 1946-1950s (TCT\_14).

Significant folios include:

- TCT\_7 and TCT\_8 where Tan championed for British subjects of Chinese origin, who possessed British Passports issued in Malaya, to be exempted from the 1942 Foreigners Ordinance;
- TCT\_15 contains Tan’s comments on post-war colonial politics, rise of nationalist sentiments and resentment in Malaya; and
- TCT\_46 contains materials on Tan questioning the potential abuse of power by the colonial government during the Emergency when he noticed that the British barred Aw Boon Haw from returning to Malaya without good reasons.

Folio No	Title	Content Description	Period
TCT.006	Unions of Domiciled Malaysians	Correspondences, memos, circulars, draft documents (includes draft manifesto and draft rules), and newspaper clipping from the Times of India, regarding the establishment of the Union of Domiciled Malaysians, prefaced with a table of contents with short summary of each included document. Majority of these documents contain handwritten annotations.  Persons whose hands these documents came from are Tan Chin Tuan, Tan Siew Sin, Tan Cheng Lock. Many, including Tan Chin Tuan, were then based in India.	1945

Folio No	Title	Content Description	Period
TCT.007	CAS (Malaya)	<p>Correspondences and documents relating to the Civil Affairs Service (Malaya), mostly between Lt. Col. E.V.G. Day and Tan Chin Tuan. These pertain to OCBC's role in reorganising post-War India, Burma, and Malaya; Tan Chin Tuan's role in advising on the political loyalties of the Chinese in Malaya; and Tan Chin Tuan's role in recruiting Chinese leaders to the CAS.</p> <p>Includes requests, letters, and lists relating to post-War movement of displaced Chinese between Chongqing (Chungking), Malaya, India (mostly New Delhi and Bombay [Mumbai]), and Burma (mostly Rangoon [Yangon]). Some are OCBC staff or Tan Chin Tuan's personal contacts.</p>	1944-1945
TCT.008	Registration of Chinese British Subjects under Foreigners Registration Act	<p>Correspondences, official and miscellaneous documents regarding the Registration of Chinese British Subjects Under Foreigners Registration Act, mostly between Tan Chin Tuan and persons associated with the Government of Bengal. This is prefaced with a table of contents with short summary of each included document. Documents include Tan Chin Tuan's own process of registration with the Government of Bengal.</p>	1943-1944
TCT.015	Personal Correspondences with Sir Franklin Gimson - 1950 to 1963 & Yap Pheng Geck	<p>General correspondences by Tan Chin Tuan in the capacity of Managing Director of OCBC and Deputy President of the Legislative Council, pertaining to commentary on Malayan and broader colonial politics (especially in relation to the Legislative Council to Sir Franklin Gimson, ex-Governor of Singapore), matters relating to the Anglo-Chinese School's memorial service and fountain for J. S. Nagle (especially in relation to Yap Pheng Gek (General Manager, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance), some OCBC matters, and invitations and responses to social functions.</p>	1950-1963
TCT.046	Personal Correspondences - Aw Boon Haw	<p>Correspondences by Tan Chin Tuan (as Legislative Councillor and Aw's friend) with or in relation to Aw Boon Haw and newspaper cuttings, forwarded correspondences, interview transcripts, and documents pertaining to Aw's ban from entering the Malaya Federation during the Emergency period. Includes correspondences with E.C.S. Atkins (Secretary for Chinese Affairs) and Tan Cheng Lock.</p>	1948-1949

<b>Folio No</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Content Description</b>	<b>Period</b>
TCT.532	The Singapore Traction Co (1964) Ltd	This folio contains annual report of bus services in Sydney (for 1966, possibly for comparison with bus services in Singapore) and a detailed report on the critical financial position of Singapore Traction Co. with analysis of its challenges, management issues, wage and manpower, as well as recommended actions to take to improve its current situation.	1966-1967