

馬來西亞華人註冊社團代表大會  
籌備工作委員會

為爭取華文地位向

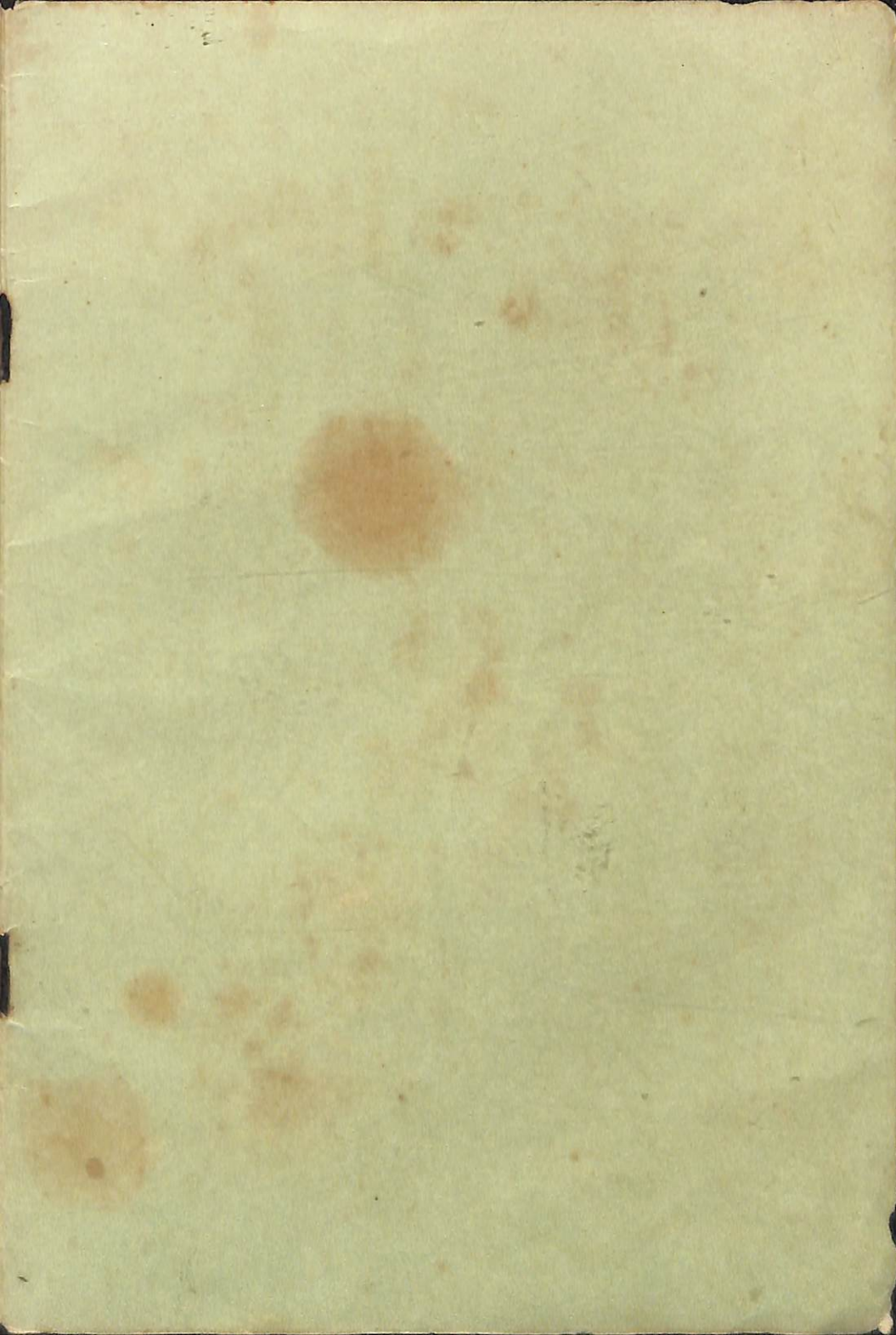
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備

忘

錄

一九六五年十一月四日





## 一 爭取華文地位的動機

教育為建國的基石，語文為民族的靈魂，本邦為一多元民族的國家，欲求民生安定，社會繁榮，國家富強，政府對待各民族，必須互惠平等，利益均霑，方能達致和睦共處，衷誠合作。而各民族語文，亦應有其合理與法定地位，彼此尊重，才能促成民族團結，政通人和。這是興邦建國的光明大道，也是每個國民應該遵守的最高原則。世界上如：加拿大，比利時，芬蘭，瑞士等國家，皆採用多種語文制度，故其國家的人民，皆能互相瞭解而和衷共濟，愛國觀念，歷久而彌堅。此種民主的風範與表現，生活的自由與快樂，是可為本邦借鏡的。

## 二 爭取華文地位的歷史

吾人爭取華文為官方語文之一，早在殖民地時代即告開始。一九五二年教育法令，企圖消滅華文地位，華人即奮起力爭，予以維護；一九五三年副欽差大臣麥芝里萊爵士，召見華校教總代表於其官邸，明言因華文非官方語文，是以在本邦教育體制，不能有平等地位。於是華人對爭取民族文化的運動，便從此展開而更趨積極了。

本邦獨立前，舉行第一次大選，因拿督翁借華人爭取華文列為官方語文問題，作歪曲宣傳，聯盟當局深恐影響選民意志，於是雙方達到暫時協議；華校教總，董總為便利聯盟競選，以忍讓精神，暫不提官方語文問題。但絕無以此



項談商，而換取公民權為條件；更不能認為此語文問題已告解決，華人從此不復重提。反之，此關係民族文化之存亡，及日常生活應用的語文問題，一日不得到合理的解決，華人便一日不能自安。聯盟政府成立後，華人為繼續爭取，貫徹初衷，曾在馬華公會會長陳禎祿爵士及林蒼佑醫生分別領導下，兩次召開全馬華人註冊社團代表大會，提出華教的總要求，故陳會長且保證馬華公會支持此項運動，他曾說過一句「語文是每一個人的影子」的名言，語重心長，感人肺腑！惜華人之合理要求，一直未為政府所接受，以致語文事件，遷延未決，至今仍為華人寢饋難安的重大問題。

### 三 目前華文所受的歧視

迄至最近，由於一九六〇年教育檢討書之偏差，及國語狂熱份子之過激行動，華語華文更瀕於危殆的地位；華文教育，形勢日非，事實昭彰，有目共見。綜合中學，祇有國語與英語為教學媒介之班級，而無華文為教學媒介之開設。華人子弟，連九年繼續母語教育之機會，亦受剝奪。一九六一年教育法令（第廿一條B項），甚且註明授權教育部長於適當時期內，將國民型學校改為國民學校的條文。吾人緬懷過去，檢討現在，瞻望未來，怎能不寒而慄！一般種族極端份子，甚且揚言華語為外國語文，欲將華校校牌改觀，而政府公告及機關牌誌，公共場所地名，其原有華文，均被塗毀。此種非常之措施，較之殖民地時代，實有過之無不及！華人對本身之文化，及未來之處境，在生活上及事



業上，均感到莫大之焦慮。形勢如此，叫人怎安緘默？

#### 四 爭取華文地位的立場

最近幾年來，凡華人會館，各業公會，大小社團，莫不通過爭取華文為官方語文的提案，而各地之馬華，馬青，響應尤為熱烈！足見華人爭取語文的要  
求，是人同此心，心同此理。此民意之充份表現，及愛護文化的熱誠，是完全  
出諸自動的，純正的，絕無其他的政治企圖，也不會受任何政黨所煽動和利用  
。吾人只是基於公民的權利，及促進各民族和諧，而喚出正義的呼聲，提出衷  
心的請求，祇希望政府在語文問題上，對華文作一合理的安排，與法定的地位  
，以解除華人在精神上時刻所受到的威脅，則華人便心安理得，而無怨言了。

#### 五 吾人絕對支持馬來文為國語

自馬來亞獨立以後，馬來文定為國語，吾人即表明極端支持，從無任何異  
議。不但敦促華校學生認真攻讀，且鼓勵各業人士加緊學習，以期共同推進與  
發展，而在各民族間圓滑應用。但國語與官方語文有別，國語固然成為官方語  
文，為各民族所通用，而官方語文祇求在法理上及環境應用上之承認而已。吾  
人爭取華文地位，絕無意與國語爭衡，或與國語並列；祇願以第二種語文之身  
份，在國語之下，以輔助國語在發揚國策，及傳達政綱應用上之不足，而使華  
人深切瞭解政府之意旨，而達到政通人和，效忠本邦之目的；既不損巫人權益



於毫末，亦無碍國語之尊嚴。過去巫籍人士的疑慮與誤解，是應該通過理智而加以消弭的。

## 六

### 爭取華文地位之途徑

華巫兩大民族，均為有高度理智及愛好和平的良善公民，在本邦和睦共處，守望相助，已有數百年的歷史，此光榮的傳統，崇高的美德，處在如今紛擾的世界，實可以自豪。吾人爭取華文地位，一向皆以和平方式遵依憲法，及協商之途徑進行，相信絕不會因華人合理之要求，而引起種族之磨擦。語文事件雖是一個敏感的問題，但並非如政治家所渲染，將會促成種族不幸的禍亂。祇要我們平心靜氣，依據事理，開誠佈公，親善洽商，彼此均以國家民族為前提，以忍讓敦睦為鵠的，必能化戾氣為祥和，消緊張於無形，這是可以預言的。實不必過於杞人憂天。

## 七

### 首相對語文問題公正的態度

最近 鈞座在怡保霹靂慈善社鑽禧紀念，及芙蓉巫統大廈開幕，並在巫統機關報發表有關語文問題的聲明，衷心促進各民族的和諧，允允對華語華文作合理的安排，且申斥巫統中極端份子之沙文思想，蓄意破壞種族團結，這正義的演詞，忠直的言論，確是暮鼓晨鐘，發人深省。首相胸懷曠達，眼光遠大，本會代表一千餘註冊社團及號召全馬華人，一致支持！預料此醞釀多時之語文



問題，在首相公正英明的決策下，必須有合理的解決，而本會尤寄予莫大的期望。

## 八 爭取華文地位的理由

(一) 華人文化，歷史悠久，輝煌燦爛，不但在馬來西亞已廣泛應用，且為聯合國五種主要語文之一，是世界上通用最廣之文字。

(二) 華人南植，經有數百年歷史，其文化早已成為本邦民族文化主流之一，在本邦生根茁長，日益壯大，而與阿拉伯文化，印度文化，西洋文化，滙為馬來西亞文化。

(三) 在殖民地時代，無論法庭審判，新聞廣播，政府文告，各種表格，郵票，鈔票，路牌，華民事務函件，除官方語文之外，均附加華文，此可證明華文在官方應用上之價值。

(四) 華人南渡本邦，從墾荒時期直到現在，其協助國家的建設，及促進社會的繁榮，豐功偉績，不可埋沒，史蹟纍纍，足資證明。

(五) 本邦除巫人甘榜區外，凡通都大邑，繁盛市場，及移殖新村，均廣泛應用華語華文。

(六) 華人前賢，出錢出力，創辦學校。發揚中華文化，實為本邦民族語文之一大主流，對文化上之貢獻，及為國家造就人才，厥功至偉。

(七) 華人與巫族同胞，同是愛護邦國的忠勇民族，華人之熱誠愛國，可於歷次



之愛國運動，公衆事業，出錢出力見之，吾人深恐由於語文及教育問題，得不到合理之解決，而影響華人效忠本邦的心理。

(八) 華人南來淵源甚早，其有土著之資格，殆無疑義。馬來亞獨立後，大部份均歸化為本邦公民，誓不二效忠，視本邦為永遠家鄉；且華人人數，與巫族相差無幾，其語文在本邦應廣泛使用，及應有合理與法定地位，純屬天經地義，因地制宜的一種明智措施。

(九) 香港為英殖民地，因華人衆多，英政府已自動將華文在官方之事務及行政上，廣泛使用。新加坡於分治後，亦自動宣佈華、巫、英、印四種語文為官方語文。印人雖然人口比率上佔很少巴仙，但其語文都受尊重。我華人在本邦為次多民族，如其語文不能列為國語之下第二種官方語文，相比之下，不無煩言。

## 九

### 吾人對華教的要求

- (一) 為發揚憲法第一百五十二條的精神，政府不但應維護華人之語文及教育，且應立法鼓勵華文教育的發展，及制定合理的華文教育政策，而達到各民族教育平等發展之原則。
- (二) 政府應修正達立報告書，因該報告書不尊重民族語文之一——華文為國民型中學之主要教學媒介。
- (三) 本邦應有以華語為教學媒介之綜合中學，俾華人子弟有深造機會，並規定



華文為該中學之必修必考科。

(四)除國民學校外，政府應設立以華文為教學媒介之專門學校，及各種訓練班，藉以培養人才為國效勞，但此等學校，並非意味只授華文一科，國語及英語仍將為主要之必修科，佔相當之授課時間。

(五)請維護中小學母語教育，不致因一九六七年馬來文成為唯一國語，及一九六一年教育法令(廿一條B項)授權教育部長於適當時期內，將國民型學校改為國民學校的條文，而受到嚴重的影響。

## 十 華文的合理要求及其廣泛應用

(一)請政府體察環境之需要，俯順華人的公意，在國語之下，以第二種語文列華文為官方語文之一。如目前形勢不可能，則應有法定及合理之地位。

(二)各級議會(包括國會，州議會，市議會，縣議會，地方議會)可用華語發言，並有華語翻譯。

(三)政府文告，憲報，議會記錄，各業執照，廣播電視，法庭審判，應有華語華文。

(四)政府各機關名稱，路牌，車站，地名，鈔票，郵票，均應附加華文。

(五)人民呈文，可用華文書寫，當局亦應以華文回覆。

(六)用華文書寫之帳簿，會計，契約，各種表冊，應受承認。

(七) 政府公共集會，凡有華人參加，應有翻譯，俾華人深切了解政府的意旨及集會的意義。

基於上列所舉的事實及其理由，吾人始終認為本邦如欲達到民族團結，協力建國，互惠互助，共存共榮，對語文問題，確是其中重要的因素，吾人掬誠懇請 鈞長審情度勢，適應環境。同情考慮華人衷心的要求，如能接納施行，斯則不但華族公民，感德無涯，而堅定效忠國家，且各民族必更加團結，和衷共濟，永享太平盛治，民主快樂之生活也。

敬呈

## 首相東姑阿都拉曼

(副本並呈內閣各正副部長)

馬來西亞華人註冊社團  
代表大會籌備工作委員會

正主席：沈慕羽  
副主席：張方  
秘書：陳世榮  
黃偉強

一九六五年十一月四日



vernment departments, road signs, railway stations, towns, currencies and stamps.

- (5) People can submit applications and letters written in Chinese and the Government should also reply them in Chinese.
- (6) The Government should recognise as legal all account books, agreements, etc. written in Chinese.
- (7) All public gatherings held by Government should have the speeches translated into Chinese if they are attended by Chinese. This will enable the Chinese to understand them.

In view of the above stated facts and reasons, we firmly believe that the language issue is a vital factor for racial unity, nation building and co-existence and co-prosperity.

We fervently beg that our sincere request be given your Honour's sympathetic consideration. Its implementation will solidify our loyalty, the different races will be more united than ever, and we will all enjoy an everlasting and peaceful reign.

We have the honour to be,  
Your Honour,  
Yours most respectfully,

*Chairman:* **Sim Mow Yu**

*Vice-Chairman:* **Chong Fong  
Tan Say Eng**

*Secretary:* **Wong Wee Kiong**

*Working Committee of  
Chinese Guilds & Associations of Malaysia.*

- (2) The Government should amend the Talib Report as it does not give due respect to the Chinese language — Chinese language is not used as a medium of instruction in the National Type Secondary Schools.
- (3) This country should have Comprehensive secondary schools using Chinese as the medium of instruction and examination to enable pupils in the Chinese National Type Primary schools to further their studies. Chinese language should be made a compulsory subject in these schools.
- (4) Other than National Schools, the Government should set up different types of technical schools and training classes using Chinese language as a medium of instruction in order to train the pupils to become useful citizens. This does not mean that Chinese is the only subject taught. National Language and English will be compulsory subjects and given a reasonable time in their curriculum.

## **10. The Reasonable Place of Chinese Language and its wide usage**

- (1) The Government should investigate the circumstantial need and the public opinion of the Chinese and list Chinese language to be a second official language. If it is not feasible at present, it should be given a legal and reasonable place.
- (2) Chinese can be used in all council meetings (including Parliament, State, Municipal, Town and Local council meetings) and Chinese translation be provided.
- (3) Chinese should be used in notices of Government administration, Government Gazettes, Council proceedings, business licences, radio and television broadcasts and court proceedings.
- (4) Names in Chinese language should be appended to Go-



to the educational improvement of the country. By this cultural contribution, they have created many useful citizens.

- (7) The Chinese and their Malay brethren are both patriotic races and they love this country. The Chinese patriotism has been proved on many occasions. We feel that in order to strengthen their sense of loyalty, the Chinese language and education issue should be reasonably solved.
- (8) Undoubtedly, the Chinese are qualified as natives of this country due to their early arrival to this place. Since Merdeka, most of the Chinese have been naturalized as citizens of this country and have solemnly declared that they owe their sole loyalty to this country. They have made this country their permanent home. The population of Chinese in this country and that of the Malays is of little difference. Therefore the Chinese language should also be given a reasonable and legal place and should be widely used in this country.
- (9) Hong Kong is a colonial territory and because many Chinese are living there, the British Government voluntarily use the Chinese language in its official business to facilitate smooth administration.

Recently, Singapore voluntarily proclaimed Malay, Chinese, English and Tamil to be official languages. Though the population of Indians is comparatively small, yet Tamil is being respected. The Chinese is second to Malay in population in this country and if the Chinese language is not listed as an official language, then much talk will be unavoidable.

## **9. Our Request for the Chinese Education**

- (1) To develop Clause 152 of the Constitution, the Government should not only preserve the Chinese language and education, but also encourage its expansion by legislation.

giving the Chinese language a fair deal, your open-mindedness, your far-sightedness and your impartiality have given us hope that this long unsettled problem will be reasonably solved in the near future. This Committee will call on all Chinese to give your Honour our full support.

## 8. Grounds of requesting a place for the Chinese Language

- (1) Chinese culture has a brilliant history through thousands of years. It is not only widely used in Malaysia, it is also one of the five important languages in the United Nations. It is a language most commonly used in the world.
- (2) The Chinese emigrated to the south has a history of a few hundred years and their culture has long been one of the main sources of the cultures of the many different races of this country. It has been deeply rooted, strengthened and integrated with Arabian, Indian and Western cultures to become the Malayan culture.
- (3) In the colonial period, other than the official language; Chinese was used in court proceedings; news broadcasts; stamps; currency notes; different kinds of government departmental forms and Chinese affairs correspondence. This proves that the usage of Chinese has its value in Government departments and administration.
- (4) The earliest pioneering Chinese who migrated to this country had helped to develop this country and foster the growth of the society. This is a fact that should not be ignored.
- (5) Other than the Malay kampongs, Chinese is widely used in all towns and cities and also new village settlements of this country.
- (6) Our worthy Chinese predecessors built numerous schools with their generous donations of money and dedication



National language and official language. Of course, National language is an official language and is to be widely used by all, but we only request the legal and practical recognition of Chinese as an official language. A request for the Chinese language to be an official language does not mean that the Chinese language will compete with the National language or even to be in line with it. We only wish Chinese to be used as the second language to assist the National language in the implementation of National policy and make known to the Chinese the Government's intentions, so that the goal of their loyalty to the country can be achieved. This does not affect the solemnity of the National language; nor does it damage the privilege of the Malays. The past suspicions and misunderstanding of some of our Malay brethren should be resolved with reasonable approach.

#### **6. The Way to request a place for the Chinese language**

Both Malays and Chinese are major races possessing high degree of sense and are peace loving citizens. They have been living together harmoniously and helping each other for the past few hundred years. We should be proud of this glorious tradition in this present troubled world. The request for Chinese language as an official language has been made constitutionally and by peaceful means, and this will never lead to racial conflicts. No doubt the language issue is a sensitive problem, but it will not lead to racial disaster as some politicians maliciously put it. We just need a bit of patience, sincerity and open-heartedness and think of our country before anything else, then everything can be solved amiably. This we can predict.

#### **7. The Prime Minister's impartial attitude towards the language**

Your Honour's recent speeches made in the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Perak Philanthropy Association in Ipoh and the Opening Ceremony of the U.M.N.O. Building in Seremban, together with the article appearing in the 'Merdeka' regarding the language issue, have waken many of the racial extremists. Your sincerity in promoting racial harmony and your consent in



when there is no Comprehensive secondary school system using Chinese as the medium of instruction and examination. In Clause B No. 21 of the 1961 Education Ordinance, the Minister of Education is vested with the power to change the Chinese, English and Indian schools into National schools at the appropriate period. We are trembling with fear when we review of the past, see the present, and think of the future. The racial extremists even declared that Chinese is a foreign language and that sign boards in Chinese should be changed. Names of towns, railway stations and Government departments in Chinese have been smeared. These abnormal activities are comparatively worse than those in the colonial period. The Chinese are very much worried over their own culture and their future.

#### **4. The Stand of requesting a place for the Chinese Language**

In recent years, many Chinese Guilds and Associations have passed the resolution that Chinese should be an official language, and this receives the warm reponses of the M.C.A. Branches and M.C.A. Youths of various places. This clearly shows the public opinion of the Chinese in regard to the uplift of their culture. This is not motivated by politics nor is it instigated by any political parties nor is it being made used of by them. We make this sincere request based on the rights of a citizen and with the intention to foster harmony among the different races. We earnestly pray that the Government will make a reasonable arrangement with legal assurance regarding this language issue, so that the Chinese will be free from mental agony.

#### **5. We support unreservedly Malay to be the National Language**

After Merdeka, Malay was declared the National language and we publicly announced our support. Not only do we urge the pupils in Chinese schools to study the language, but we also encourage people in different trades to learn it in order to develop the language so that it can be used as a means of communication among the different races. But there is difference between



Association representatives to his Residency to tell them that Chinese language could not have an equal place in the educational system of this country because it was not an official language, the Chinese started the movement of preserving their culture, and this movement has since gained momentum.

In the first Federal Election, before Merdeka, Dato' Onn made false propaganda of the demand of Chinese to be an official language, and the Alliance feared that this might influence the voters. So the parties concerned came to a temporary mutual understanding. The United Chinese School Teachers Associations and the Chinese Schools Managers Association would not temporarily mention the question of official language to facilitate the Alliance in the Elections. But they did not mean it to be exchanged for citizenship; nor did they mean that the language problem was solved and the Chinese would stop mentioning it. On the contrary, the Chinese will never be at ease if this language issue affecting not only our everyday living but also the life and death of our culture is not solved reasonably. Since the set up of the Alliance Government, the Chinese had twice brought up the general demands of Chinese education in the meetings of representatives of Chinese Guilds and Associations of Malaya led by the former Presidents of the M.C.A., the late Dato Sir Cheng Lok Tan and Dr. Lim Chong Eu. The M.C.A. accepted that the demand of Chinese to become an official language should be its ultimate object. Regretfully, this reasonable request of the Chinese has not been accepted by the Government. This language issue has been delayed and remains unsolved and is still a grave problem affecting the Chinese.

### 3. The Chinese Language is at present receiving discriminatory treatment

Due to partiality of the 1960 Education Review and the actions of the extremists in the National Language Movement, the Chinese language has now reached its critical stage and it is obvious that the children of Chinese have been deprived of their opportunity of receiving nine years of mother tongue education



**The Hon'ble Prime Minister,  
Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra,  
Federation of Malaysia,  
Kuala Lumpur.**

Sir,

On behalf of the Representatives of the Malaysian Chinese Guilds and Associations, we have the honour to submit the following memorandum for your Honour's sympathetic consideration :

## M E M O R A N D U M

### 1. The Motive of requesting a place for the Chinese Language

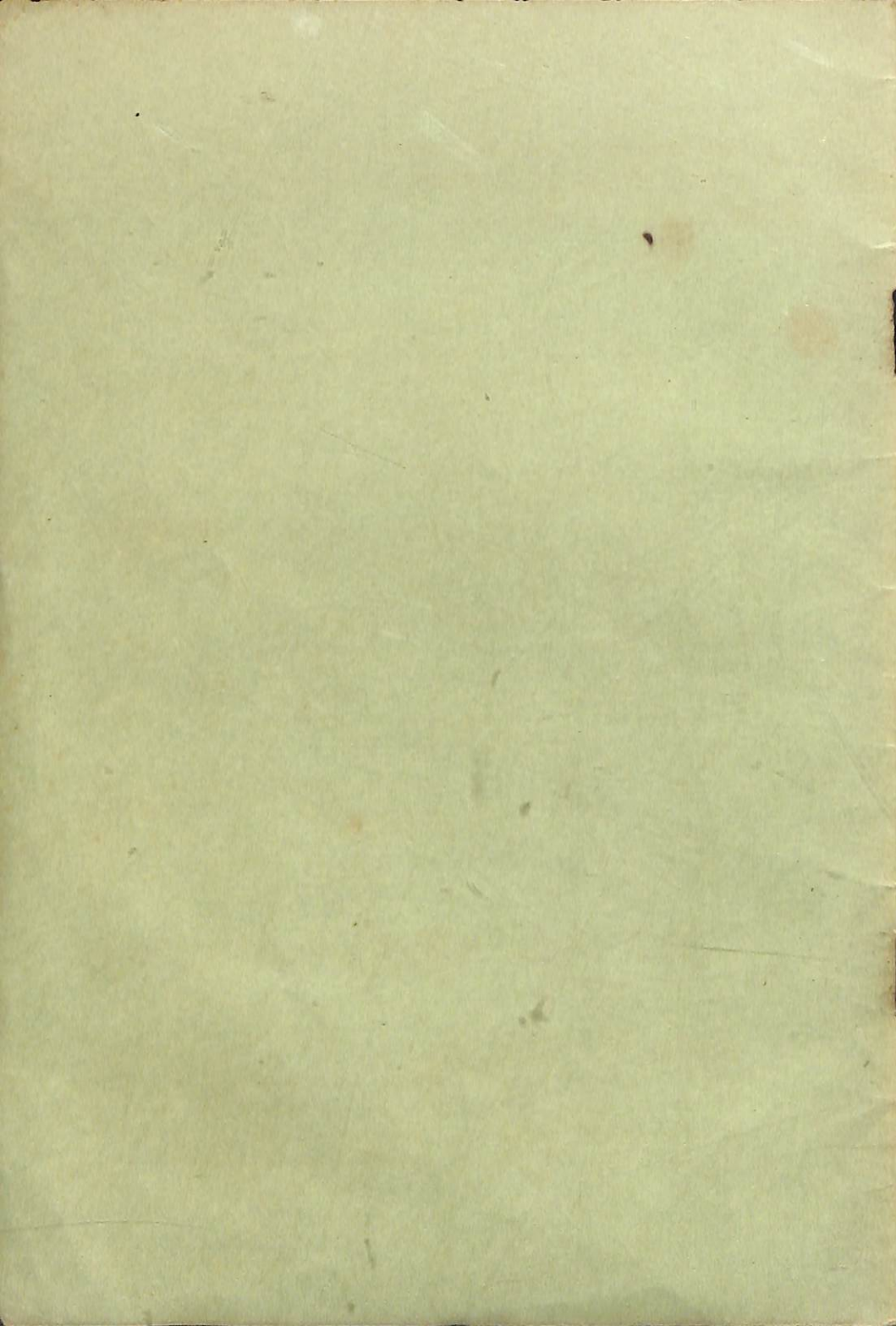
Education is the foundation of nation building and language is the soul of a race. Our country is a multi-racial country, and the different races should be equally treated in order to achieve prosperity, stability, harmony and sincere co-operation. However, the languages of different races should have reasonable and legal places in generating racial unity.

Countries like Canada, Belgium, Finland, Switzerland etc., all adopt the multi-language system. Their people have mutual understanding and help each other; they live in harmony and peace and they are loyal to their country. This democratic, free and happy life should be a good example to our country.

### 2. The History of requesting a place for the Chinese Language

The demand for the Chinese language to be an official language began long ago during the colonial days. When the 1952 Education Ordinance was introduced with intent to destroy the Chinese language, Chinese stood up at once to protect the language. From 1953, when the Assistant High Commissioner Sir Donald MacGillivray sent for the Chinese Schools Teachers





**A**  
**MEMORANDUM TO**  
**THE PRIME MINISTER**  
**FOR A RIGHTFUL PLACE**  
**OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE**

**BY**  
**PROTEM WORKING COMMITTEE**  
**OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CHINESE**  
**ASSOCIATIONS AND GUILDS OF MALAYSIA.**

*working Committee of Represent*