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~~MR. YEELD~~**PRIME MINISTER**FOR MEDIA3 APRIL 1979CONDOLENCE MOTION: YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG OF MALAYSIA

It is my said duty to inform the House that His Majesty, the Paramount Ruler of Malaysia died suddenly during the afternoon of 29 March.

Honourable Members will be aware of the unique provisions in the Malaysian constitution for the rotation of this office among the nine rulers of States within the Federation of Malaysia. The Paramount Ruler -- the Head of State of Malaysia -- is elected by his fellow rulers for a five-year term, after which he resumes his position as a ruler in his home State.

Australia's ties with Malaysia have been particularly friendly as befits those with a fellow member of the Commonwealth in our region. Therefore, it is with special sadness that we note in this Chamber the passing of this distinguished Head of State.

His late Majesty was Sultan of the State of Kelantan before he was sworn in as the sixth paramount ruler on 21 September 1975. His Majesty was born on 10 December, 1917, and studied in Kelantan and Penang before undertaking further studies in England. He returned to Kelantan in 1939 and served in the Kelantan Civil Service as private secretary to his father - the then Sultan of Kelantan.

His Majesty served in a number of posts in Kelantan until he became Sultan in July 1960, on the death of his father. As Sultan of Kelantan, His Majesty took an active interest in the advancement of his State and his wide experience ably equipped him for election to the office of Paramount Ruler.

I should like to record the deep sympathy of the House for the sad loss sustained by the Government and people of Malaysia in the sudden death of His Majesty. I also ask that you arrange to inform His Excellency, the High Commissioner for Malaysia of the views expressed in this House today.