



R A D D I O S A R A W A K

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Cover picture features

Iban girls (Sea Dayaks) in ceremonial dress.

About Sarawak and its Broadcasting Service

Sarawak is still widely known in the popular imagination as the country of the White Rajahs. For over a century from 1841 until 1946 the State of Sarawak was governed as an independent country by the Brooke family which during these hundred years provided three successive Rajahs as sovereign rulers under the protection of Great Britain.

The country lies on the western side of the island of Borneo, flanked to the east by the Indonesian frontier and to the west by the South China Sea.

Sarawak has a long history. She had formed part of the great Indian Buddhist Maritime Empire of Sirvijaya by the end of the 12th century, and later came within the sphere of influence of the Hindu Javanese Kingdom of Majapahit. When the Majapahit Empire began to crumble early in the 15th century Sarawak fell under the sway of the

Muslim States established throughout the Archipelago. Sarawak then became part of the Dominions of the Malay Sultans of Brunei and remained under Brunei influence until the first ruler, Sir James Brooke, was invited to assume the Rajah by the local Malays in 1841. The country was still a small State and expanded to its present size during the following 60 years. During the hundred years of Brooke rule, great progress was made in setting up a modern system of government, and during this period Sarawak acquired the international reputation which she still retains as one of the most peaceful and progressive countries of Asia. In 1946 the rule of the Rajahs came to an end and a Bill was passed by the State Council to cede the country to the British Crown. Since that date Sarawak has been administered by a Governor appointed by the Crown and advised by a Local Legislative and Executive Council.



The population of Sarawak, approximately 650,000, is made up of Ibans, Chinese, Malays and other indigenous peoples. The official language of the Government is English, but Malay is really the lingua franca and is widely spoken by people of all races.

The Capital, Kuching, is a rapidly-growing town with many modern facilities. There are daily air services between Kuching and Singapore and between Kuching and North Borneo. The country is also well served by shipping lines, and roads and internal air services are being developed.

Sarawak is an agricultural country, producing rubber, pepper, sago and timber for export, and education and medical services are being expanded rapidly.

Radio Sarawak was established in 1954 to provide a system of mass communication for the people of a country where communications are still slow and difficult. Sarawak is intersected by long broad rivers, and the country is largely mountainous and covered with jungle. The various races which make up Sarawak society were still frequently ill-informed about their neighbours, not only in the other countries of South-east Asia but about those living in nearby towns and villages in Sarawak itself. The need for high quality entertainment, news, information and education not only in English but in the main local languages as well, had long been felt and in a country like Sarawak. Radio is ideally suited to meet these requirements in a modern State.

Radio Sarawak broadcasts daily in English, Malay, Chinese (Mandarin) and Iban, this last language being that of the largest single racial group in the country, known as the sea Dayaks.

The policy of the Service is firstly to provide acceptable and suitable entertainment for all language groups of listeners and to bring into their homes the songs and music of their own indigenous culture.

The presentation of news is factual and objective. Bulletins of World News are relayed daily in English, Malay and Chinese from the B.B.C. London. Home News Bulletins aim at these same

standards of impartiality which have already gained wide acceptance and command the respect of listeners. The service broadcasts no propaganda. Weekly political commentaries by a journalist of high repute are broadcast in all languages and much use is made of relays from the Far Eastern service of the B.B.C. and from London Calling Asia. In Sarawak, too, education by radio is a subject which is already receiving growing attention and will clearly become a predominant priority in the immediate future. Plans are being made to expand educational broadcasting considerably and much thought is being given to the commencement of schools broadcasting on a sound basis.

The encouragement provided by an efficient Broadcasting Service has already powerfully contributed towards raising the standards and quality of local artistic talent. Contributors and artists of all varieties are coming forth in ever increasing numbers, and the comment and criticism received from listeners are a sound indication that the Sarawak public will accept no standards but the highest. Radio Sarawak aims at bringing listeners closely together and at breaking down any remaining barriers of racial disharmony and intolerance.

Since Broadcasting commenced in Sarawak in June 1954, the number of listeners has increased tremendously and it is now estimated that there are well over 30,000 receiving sets in the country. Since the average number of listeners per receiver may reasonably be estimated at 8 (and it is frequently more than that) a very large proportion of the

population is now kept in touch with local and world developments by radio.

Sales of broadcast receivers are much in favour of dry battery receivers and there must now be few of the remotest kampongs bazaars and longhouses without receivers. Many Iban longhouses have several. The upcountry and upriver peoples have taken rapidly to listening and have found it fills an important gap in their lives. The response of Iban listeners to their programmes has been particularly gratifying. They constantly demand more



time on the air and they are constructive and realistic in their criticism of programmes. The impact of home broadcasting has been far more extensive than was predicted.

Radio Sarawak broadcasts both in the Medium and Short Wave bands, and a large expansion in the Service has been planned for 1957. New studios are being built and additional modern technical facilities provided. In 1957, an additional Short Wave transmission will be introduced with increased strength. The efficiency and enthusiasm displayed by local technicians and programme staff has been commendable, particularly in view of the fact that there was hitherto no background experience of Broadcasting in Sarawak. Outside broadcasting is a matter of routine and covers all important sporting events, public occasions and religious services. Discussion programmes or matters of wide public interest have been regularly broadcast and several times have aroused healthy controversy. The Radio Times of Sarawak has reached a fortnightly circulation of around 3,000. It is put out in four languages and illustrated with photographs of prominent broadcasters and other contributors.

Many interesting and prominent visitors to Sarawak have taken part in broadcasts or given talks. This has done much to provide a personal impression of prominent public figures who hitherto were to many listeners little more than a name. On other

pages of this short review of the activities of Radio Sarawak will be found details of the technical and programme facilities and equipment in use as well as information on the type of programmes transmitted in all languages. Radio Sarawak has many thousands of listeners beyond her own frontiers and receives a large daily mailbag from listeners both inside the country and abroad. The engineering and programme staff greatly appreciate comment and criticism of all varieties, both on the quality of reception and upon programme content. Such listener reaction is naturally of extreme value and all communications are promptly acknowledged with gratitude. The preoccupation of the Service is to ensure a steady and continual improvement in its standards of presentation and output. Throughout its career Radio Sarawak has sought technical and professional advice and guidance not only from the British Broadcasting Corporation but from all neighbouring Broadcasting Services with whom close and cordial relations have been established. It is, however, most necessary of all to receive from our regular daily listeners their reaction to the services they are receiving and criticism, however harsh is welcome.





Kuc- ing

Iban announcer reading the news



“THIS IS RADIO SARAWAK”

“This is Radio Sarawak” That call sign goes out over our transmitters many times a day, seven days a week and in four languages. For Radio Sarawak broadcasts each day for a minimum of seven hours in English, Malay, Chinese and Iban for the Sea Dayaks. The basic Chinese dialect is Kuoyu (Mandarin) but there are also regular mid-day transmissions in Hakka and Foochow. The total number of programmes in all these languages totals just under 10,000 a year. These programmes range from the five minute news bulletins to full length plays.

Each day news bulletins in English, Malay and Chinese are relayed from the B.B.C. and there is also a daily bulletin of World news relayed from Radio Australia. Through a complex system of correspondents appointed throughout the country a daily bulletin of Home news is compiled and presented in the four language services. These news services are supplemented each week by a special talk on World Affairs specially compiled for Sarawak by leading political commentators in either Singapore or London.

Music plays an important part in the entertainment fare offered to listeners. Apart from locally compiled programmes of gramophone records considerable use is made of local talent. There are several very good local dance bands as well as Malay kronchong and gendang parties. Many different types of Chinese musical parties come regularly to the microphone and music for the Iban people, consisting of their pantuns and gong playing is featured regularly. Apart from these sources other musical programmes are obtained from Transcription Services made available by the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Australia and Radio Malaya. Universally popular programmes such as Record Requests, Personal Choice and so on



A popular Malay vocalist



Sea Dayak from the Fourth Division

are featured in the English, Chinese and Malay output, and the Classical Concerts and Jazz Sessions have a large following in Sarawak.

Outside Broadcasts have been a popular feature of Radio Sarawak's output from the very early days. Turf Racing Commentaries, speedboat racing, public parades, football matches and so on have all been covered by Radio Sarawak's Outside Broadcasting team, and the programmes have been brought to the public in Malay, Chinese, English and Iban.

Religious Broadcasting has always been regarded as a most important part of Radio Sarawak's work. Each Sunday specially recorded Religious Services are broadcast in English, Chinese and Iban. The missions of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Roman Catholic Church provide the services on alternate weeks, and every Thursday specially recorded recitals from the Koran and religious talks are broadcast for Muslim listeners.

A start has been made on educational broadcasting, and the "Radio Night School" broadcasts from Radio Sarawak have been well received. Lately, these broadcasts have been tied to the syllabus of the Sarawak Junior Secondary Examination and the programmes have been aimed to supplement students' learning in a variety of different subjects. Talks on World History, Geography, Science, Literature etc. have all been broadcast regularly, and "English by Radio" has been one of the most widely acclaimed programmes in these sessions. Many of the talks in the "Radio Night School" programmes have been translated and broadcast in Malay, Chinese and Iban in addition to the English transmissions.

A regular feature in all four main language transmissions has been the "discussion" type of programme. Many well known Sarawak personalities, as well as interesting visitors, have come to the microphone to give their views on a multitude of subjects.



Malay girl reading from the Koran

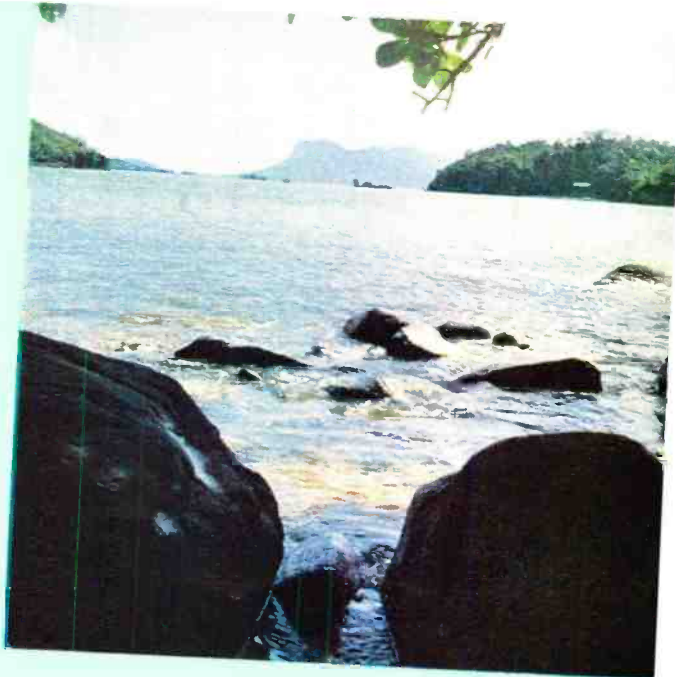
This type of programme has proved particularly popular amongst the Iban listeners to whom discussion is the breath of life. Another type of programme which has appealed to the Iban people is the "Rondou Ruai" series. These programmes are based on the traditional habit of Ibans to sit and talk on their Longhouse verandas, and the talks in this series have ranged from Child Welfare and Maternity Care to advice on Rice cultivation and elementary fire precautions. It is not difficult to understand the popularity of these broadcasts when it is remembered that, for the Iban Longhouses, Radio Sarawak offers a regular and easy contact with the town centres. Through the Home News bulletins and "Rondou Ruai" the people in the longhouses quickly learn of the day's happenings throughout Sarawak as well as other important details concerning their lives. As an example, they hear daily the latest prices of Rubber and Pepper, news which in the ordinary way might take several weeks to trickle through to the more remote areas.

By no means all of Radio Sarawak's programmes are recorded from Kuching, the capital. Regular trips are made with portable recording machines to districts all over the country to record local artists and to interview interesting people who do not normally manage to get down to Kuching.

By now you will have gathered some idea of the scope of the programmes broadcast by Radio Sarawak, and so you may be interested to know a little more about the Programme Sections and their work. The programmes are broken down into four language sections each under a Programme Organiser, who is responsible for the day-to-day running of that service. Each Programme Organiser is assisted by two or three Programme Assistants and a permanent Translator. The work of the Programme Assistants consists of getting the programmes onto the "Air", and this involves finding and recording the best of the local talent, dealing with the voluminous mail that comes in each day to Radio Sarawak, and regular announcing shifts at the microphone. The Translators are kept fully occupied translating from English into own languages the considerable output which comes to them.

Finally, mention must be made of Radio Sarawak's Gramophone Library which now contains about 8,000 gramophone records of Malay, Chinese and Western music. All these records are fully triple-indexed under title, composer and artist. It is a matter of seconds to locate any single gramophone record in the Library, an essential feature in a Broadcasting Station since a record may be needed at a moment's notice.

Pulau Laki



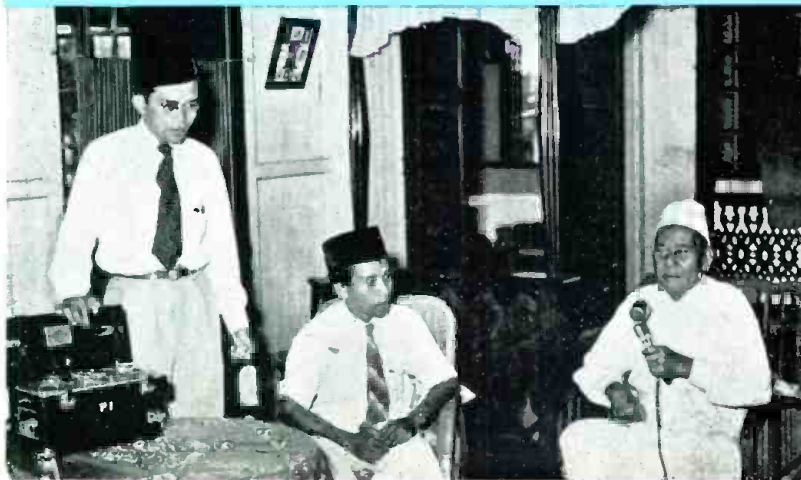
The Peinn River

Broadcasting House, Kuching, at present contains one large general-purpose studio with a floor area of 1,200 square feet, and a continuity suite provided with the most modern equipment. Building is shortly to commence to provide two additional studios and a second continuity suite, the latter to handle the Second transmission which is scheduled to go into operation in 1957. A main control room, maintenance workshop and engineering stores are also being extended and improved. Expansion of the central Record Library and the provision of new accommodation for programme administrative and engineering staff is also included in the plans. Broadcasting House will be air-conditioned throughout.

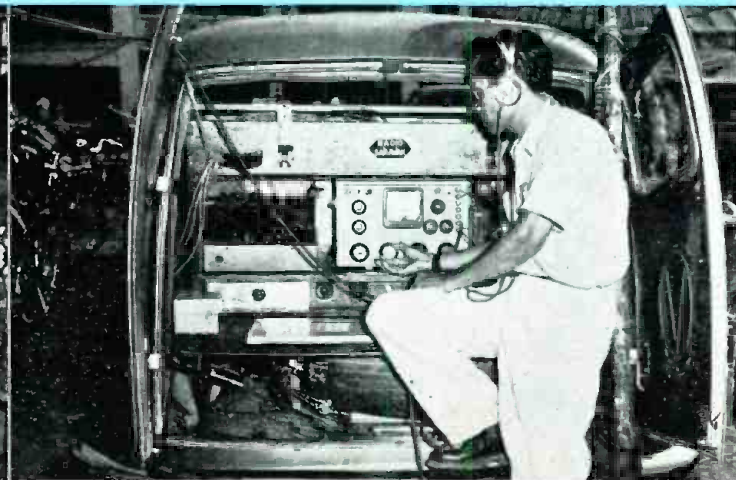
Radio Sarawak has followed B.B.C. practice in using the continuity method for its programme

output. By this means all programmes from whatever source, whether they be live from the studios, prerecorded programmes, live outside broadcasts or relays through the Receiving Station, are all routed through the continuity control room where an operator selects and conveys to the transmitters the programme items in due order of their presentation. In an adjoining studio there sits a presentation announcer who is continuously in control of the programme. It is his duty to make covering announcements, fill in gaps with suitable recordings or interval signal transmissions, and in any crisis to decide what shall be done to meet the emergency. Both he and the continuity control room operator listen to the programme as broadcast from the Transmitting Station. Of the additional studios now being built one is 600 square feet in floor area and will be fully equipped for editing material recorded

Portable Recorder in a Malay House



Outside Broadcasting



OF RADIO SARAWAK

on tape; the other will be a talks studio.

All recording by Radio Sarawak is on tape (full track) at $7\frac{1}{2}$ or 15 inches per second. "Ampex" 350C recording machines are used throughout Broadcasting House.

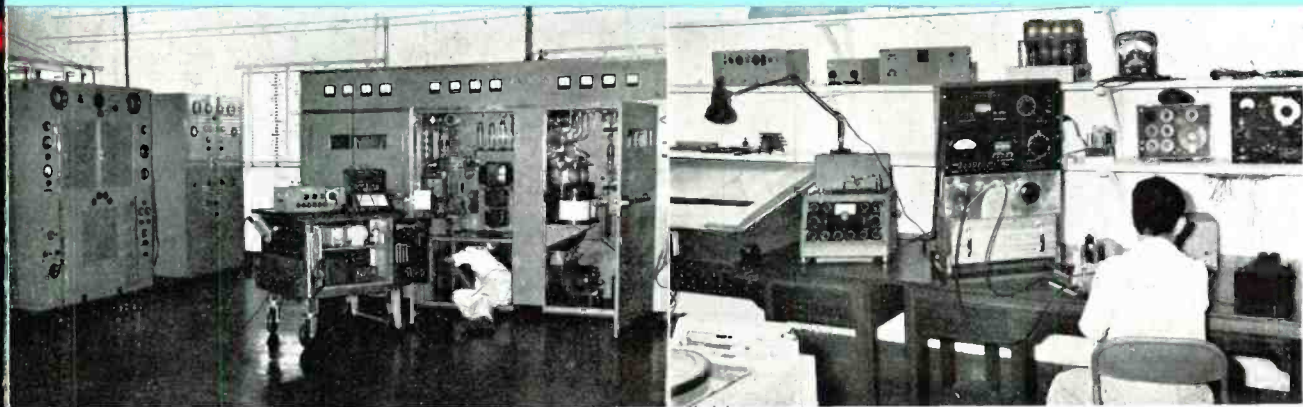
Commentaries on important public events in and around Kuching are covered by an outside broadcasting unit using a vehicle specially fitted with the most modern equipment for this purpose. The vehicle is large enough to provide a comfortable base for programme and engineering staff and carries a complete set of outside broadcasting equipment. This includes a portable electric generator for locations where there is no public electricity supply. The vehicle is fitted with a V.H.F. high quality FM link with Broadcasting House, and a "Duplex"

V.H.F. telephone link. For locations beyond the range of the outside broadcasting unit and for journeys to remote districts portable battery-operated recorders are used. Complete sets of this apparatus, EMI. Type L2B recorders, are available for instance use. In addition there are portable mains-operated recorders which can be used with a battery-operated vibrator.

Relays of the B.B.C. World News Bulletins from London in Chinese, Malay and English are an important part of Radio Sarawak's output, and for their reception a Receiving Station has been built on a 15-acre site four miles from Kuching. Two rhombic aerials have been built on this site pointing in the direction of London. G.E.C. type BRT-400 receivers are used in double diversity. The output from these receivers is passed to Broadcasting House over a high quality radio link, working on 163.5

Green Road transmitting station, the Medium Wave Transmitter

Test Room at Broadcasting House



megacycles. There is also a duplex telephone channel.

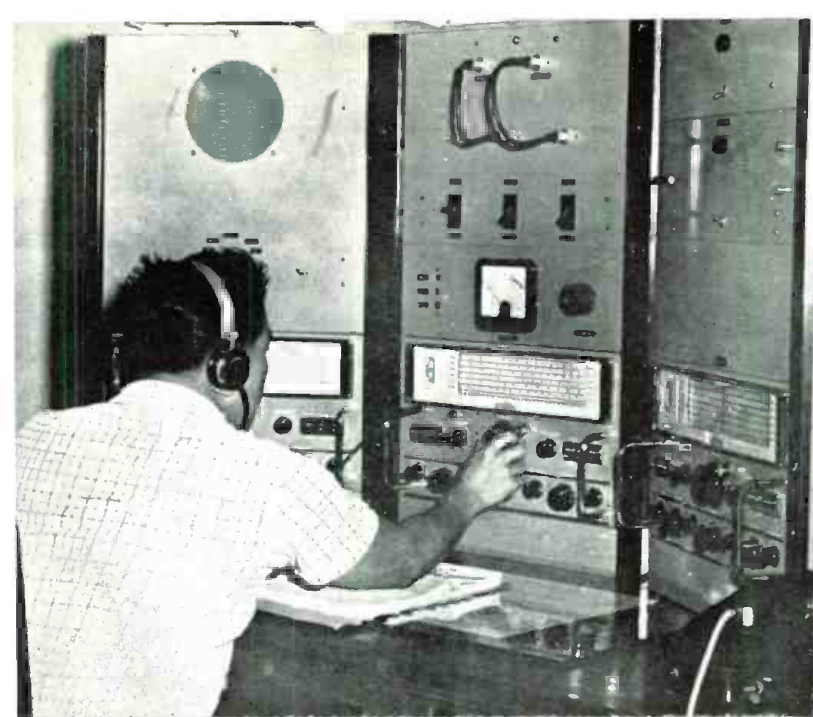
TRANSMITTING STATION

The transmitting station is situated on 15 acres of swampy ground $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Broadcasting House near a good road, electric services and underground Post Office telephone cables which carry the programmes from Broadcasting House to the transmitting station. The lines are equalised and fed into line and limiting amplifiers and as a deliberate policy a high mean level of modulation is maintained on the short wave transmitter. Sarawak is served by a 5 K.W. Marconi SWB11X H.F. Transmitter at present working on a frequency of 5.052 Mcs. in the 60 metre band. Kuching town and an area of 20 miles around is served by a 5 K.W. Marconi BTA5F Transmitter working on 850 Kcs. (353 metres) in the medium wave band. These two transmitters together are regarded as one transmission. A $7\frac{1}{2}$ K.W. Marconi BD 260 Transmitter is on order for installation early in 1957 and this will be the beginning of a simultaneous transmission.

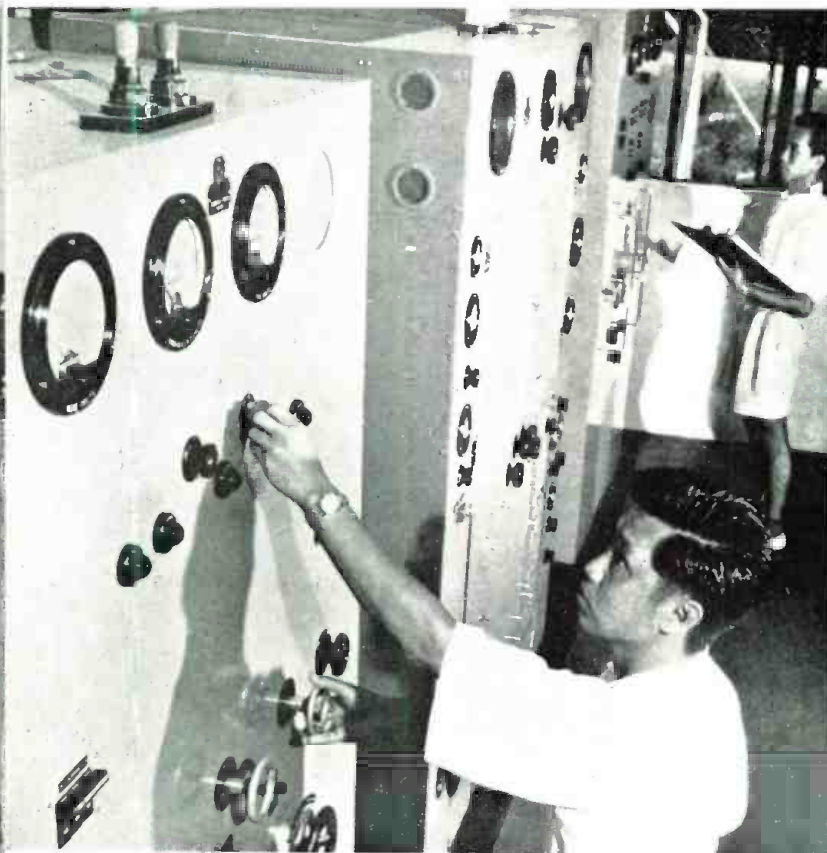
Very careful attention has been paid to the design and construction of the aerials and feeders necessary for effective radiation of the programme in the required direction. The short wave aerial at present in use on 5.052 Megacycles is a 12 element horizontal array arranged in 3 rows of four elements; all elements are at a height of 0.2 wavelength above

a good reflecting ground and all elements are driven in phase. There is also an 8 element array cut for the same frequency and made up of two rows of four elements. In this case the phasing of the elements is arranged to give a slew of a few degrees from vertical incidence favouring a direction 60 degrees east of north. Similar 12 element 42 metre band and 49 metre band arrays exist for use when conditions require the use of a higher frequency.

The 60 metre 12 and 8 element arrays together with a single element array for the same frequency have been used in an extended series of field strength tests. A field strength survey team equipped with a field strength comparator travels the country whenever they can be spared from other duties. Amongst other observations it is their duty to measure (four times daily-morning, midday, evening and night) the difference in performance of the three 60 metre aerials, the transmitter being rapidly switched from one aerial to the other. A considerable amount of information has been gained and this work will go on. Already it is clear that the station is giving a rather better service than theory would predict and it is also becoming clear that the theoretical service areas of the 8 and 12 element arrays are clearly defined in practice. The survey team also do good work in giving advice on reception generally. In order to keep down expense the exercise is so far as possible combined with journeys in search of programme material.



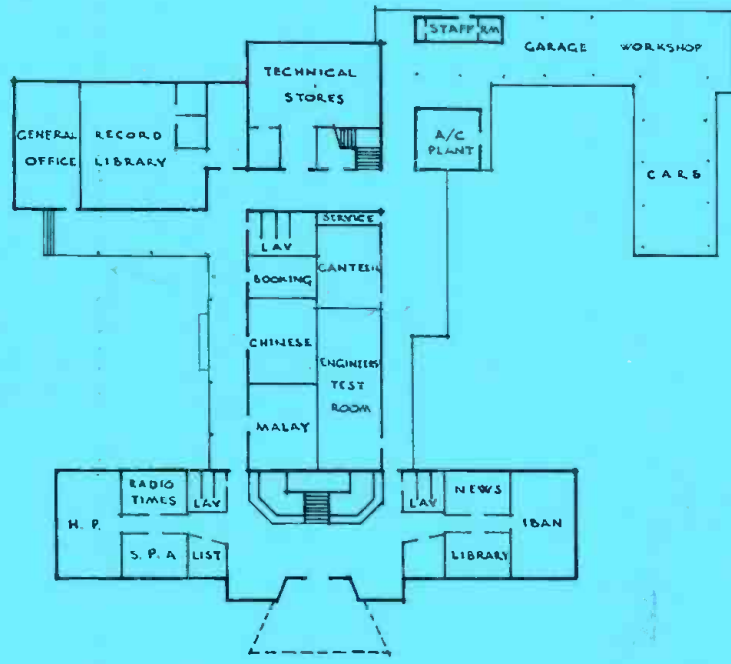
— Receiving Station at Batu Kava Road



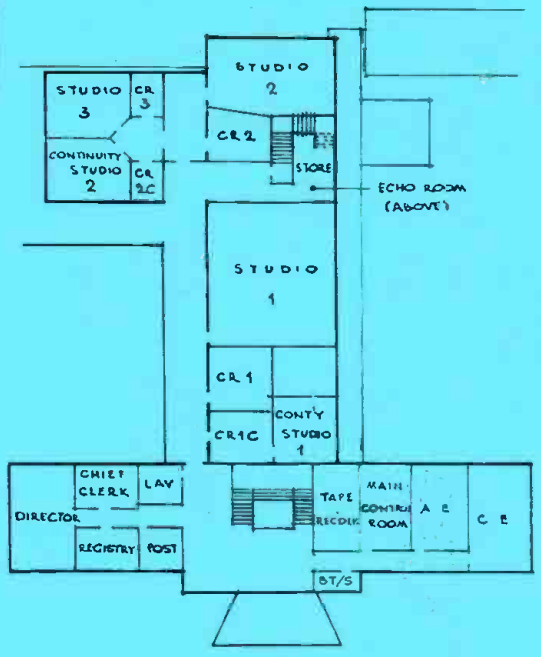
Short Wave Transmitter at Kuching Transmitting Station



— No. 1 Continuity Suite



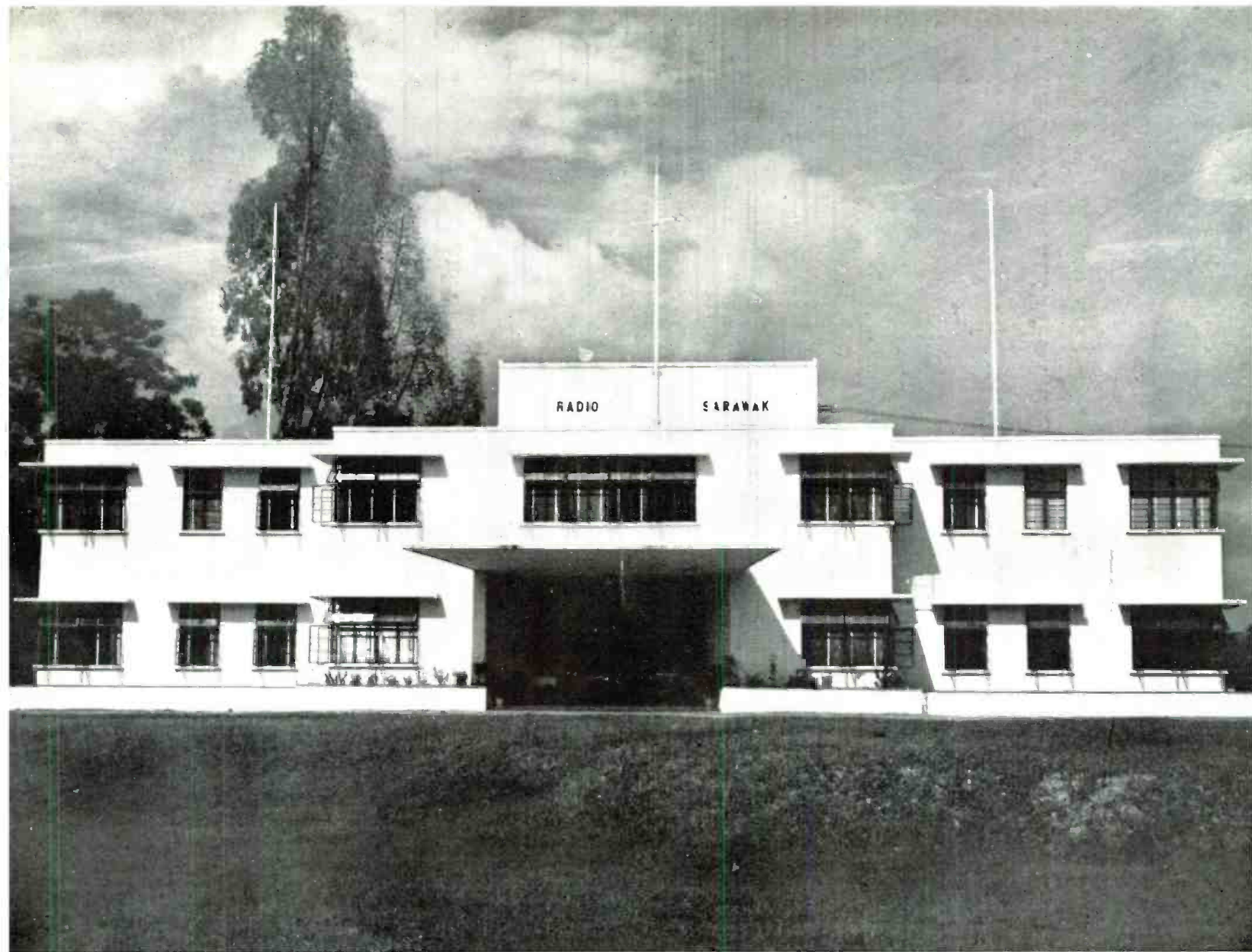
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



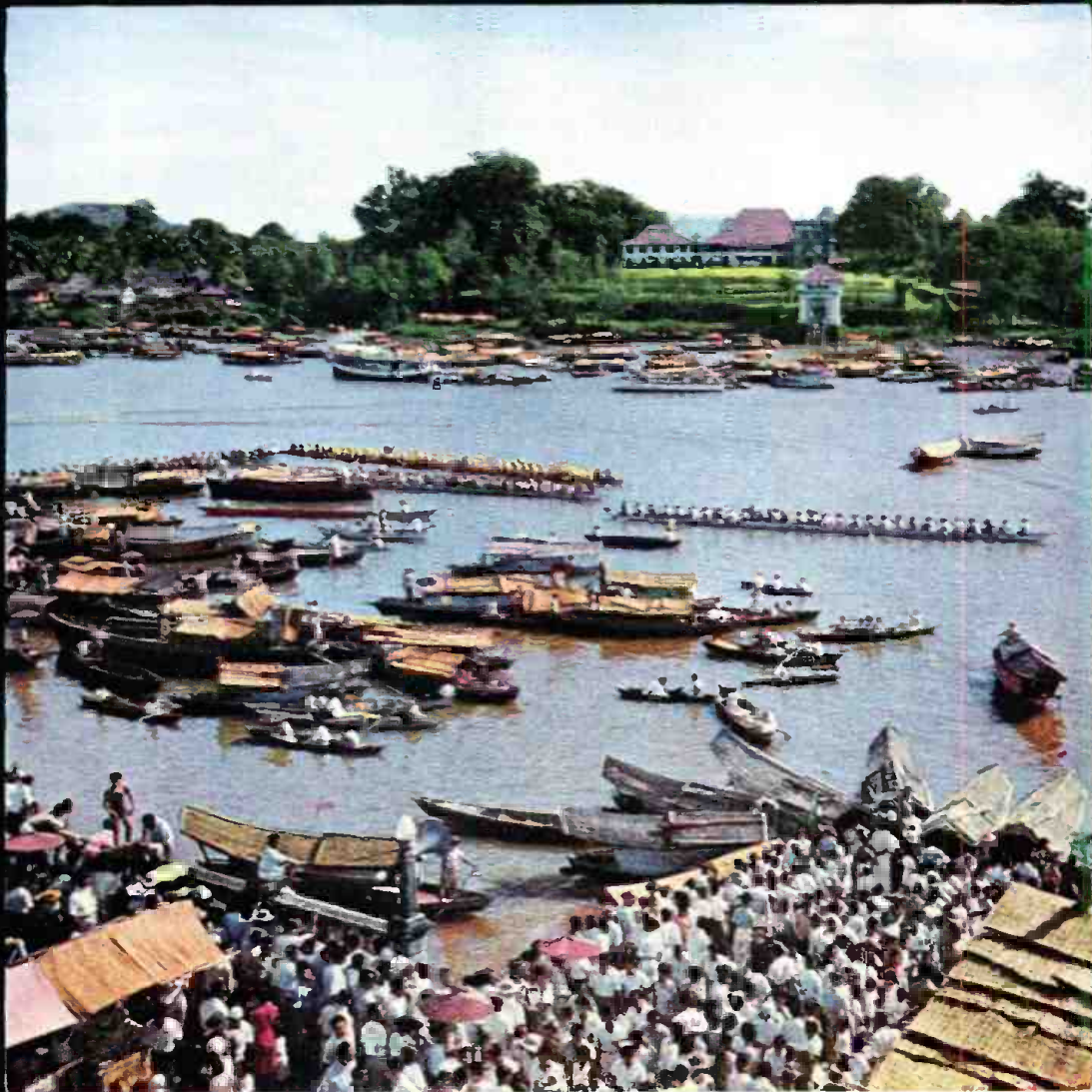
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

BROADCASTING HOUSE

KUCHING



Broadcasting House, Kuching



Kuching Regatta

境地，在砂勝越利用無線電作為教育之用，已經逐漸的得到了大家的注意，而且很顯明的今後將變為主要的優先工具了。

由於本台的鼓勵，當地藝人的才能的水準和質素大為提高。各色各樣的節目贊助人和藝人日增不已。從聽眾方面收到的意見和批評，都足以表示砂勝越人民所要求的是最高的水準。砂勝越廣播電台的目的在於把聽眾連繫在一起，打破殘餘的種族的不和諧以及偏執的障礙。

本台工程部和節目部的同人敬樂

Lily Lee, a talented Chinese singer



Heart of Chinese Programmes

意接受各方面對於收音的品質和節目內容的批評。聽眾的反響自然是極端有價值的。所有信件，我們將以感激的心情迅速的予以答覆。本台當前的急務是要確保在節目的推出和效果上有穩定而不斷的改進。本台自從成立以來，曾獲英美國廣播電台和其他與我們有密切和誠意關係的各鄰邦電台的指導和協助。

不過，最重要的還是接受每天經常收聽本台節目的聽眾的反應，不論這種批評怎樣的苛刻，都是我們所歡迎的。

砂勝越廣播電台成立於一九五四年，用米作爲這個交通遼闊而困難的國家，溝通人民聲氣的一個重要的工具。砂勝越有許多源長廣闊的河流橫斷着。她的大部份領土都是叢林蔽野的山地。組成砂勝越社會的各種民族，不但和東亞其他國家間消息來往極感不便；抑且和居住在砂勝越本身境內距離他們不遠的市鎮和鄉村之間，音訊也很難相通。所以像砂勝越這樣的國家，早就深感需要英語，以及當地各主要民族的語言的高度的娛樂，新聞，消息和教育來供給民衆。無線電廣播便是一個現代國家適應這些需要的最理想的利器。

砂勝越廣播電台每天用英語，馬來語，中國國語以及伊班語廣播。伊班是砂勝越最大的一個種族，俗稱海達雅。

砂勝越廣播電台爲公衆服務的原則，首先要爲語言不同的各族的聽衆準備他們可以接受而適合他們的娛樂，同時將各種族固有的文化，歌唱和音樂傳送到他們的家裏去。

新聞的發報是翔實而客觀的。每天的英語，華語和馬來語的國際新聞都是轉播倫敦英國廣播電台的。英國廣播電台的新聞不偏不倚；已經獲致了聽衆巨大的歡迎，博得了尊敬。同



The Kiw Musical Party



Above: Head of Malay Programmes

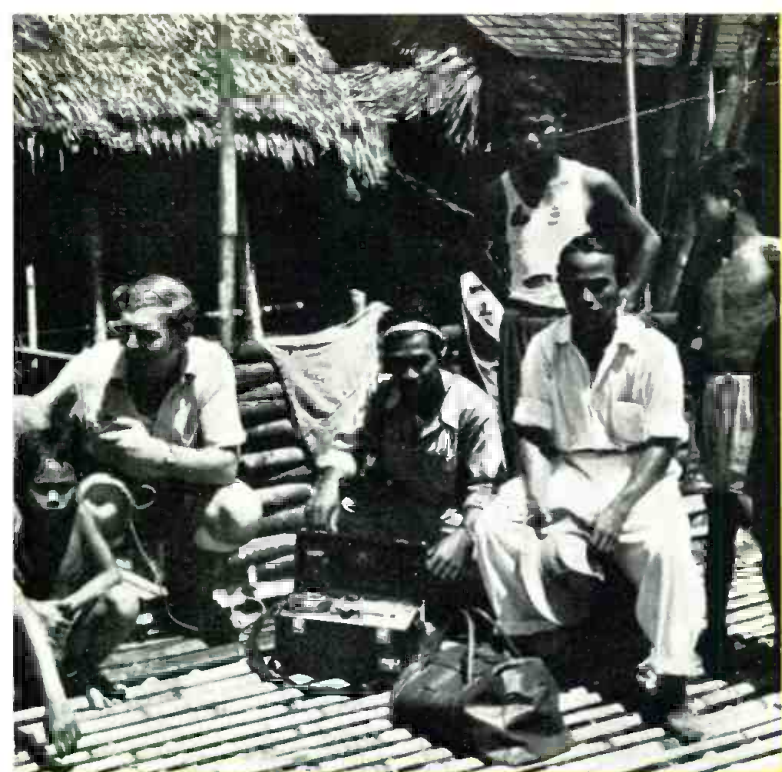
Below: "Gendang Melayu", Malay Musical Entertainment



Radio Sarawak telah tertaja dalam tahun 1954 untuk mengadakan satu chara perhubungan ramai kepada raayat dalam sebuah negeri yang mempunyai chara perhubungan yang maseh lambat serta sukar. Ada pun negeri Sarawak itu di-rentasi oleh beberapa buah sungai yang besar serta panjang, dan kebanyakan daripada negeri itu ada-lah kegunngan serta di-liputi aleh hutan rimba. Berbagai bangsa yang menjadikan mushrakat Sarawak itu kerap kali maseh tidak mengatahui perihal jiran2 mereka bukan sahaja terhadap mereka yang di-negeri2 lain dalam Tenggara Asia bahkan mereka yang tinggal dalam bandar2 dan kampung2 yang berdekatan dalam Sarawak pun. Keperluan terhadap penghibaran, warta berita, penerangan dan pelajaran yang bermutu tinggi itu memang telah lama di-sedari baik dalam bahasa Enggeris mau pun dalam bahasa2 tempatan yang terbesar, dan di-dalam negeri saperti Sarawak maka radio-lah yang elok sasuai untuk menunaikan keperluan2 demikian dalam sebuah negeri yang modern.

Radio Sarawak memancharkan siaran-nya pada tiap2 hari dalam bahasa2 Enggeris, Melayu, China (Mandarin) dan Iban. Ada pun bahasa Iban ini ia-lah bahasa kepunyaan suku bangsa yang paling ramai bilangan-nya dalam Sarawak yang terkenal dengan nama Dayak Laut.

Ada pun dasar Perkhidmatan itu ia-lah pertama-nya menyelenggarakan penghiboran yang di-setujui dan sasuai untuk sakalian golongan pendengar2-nya serta menyampaikan ka-rumah2 mereka lagu2 dan bunyi2-an dari kebudayaan asli mereka sendiri.



Radio Sarawak at a Dayak Longhouse

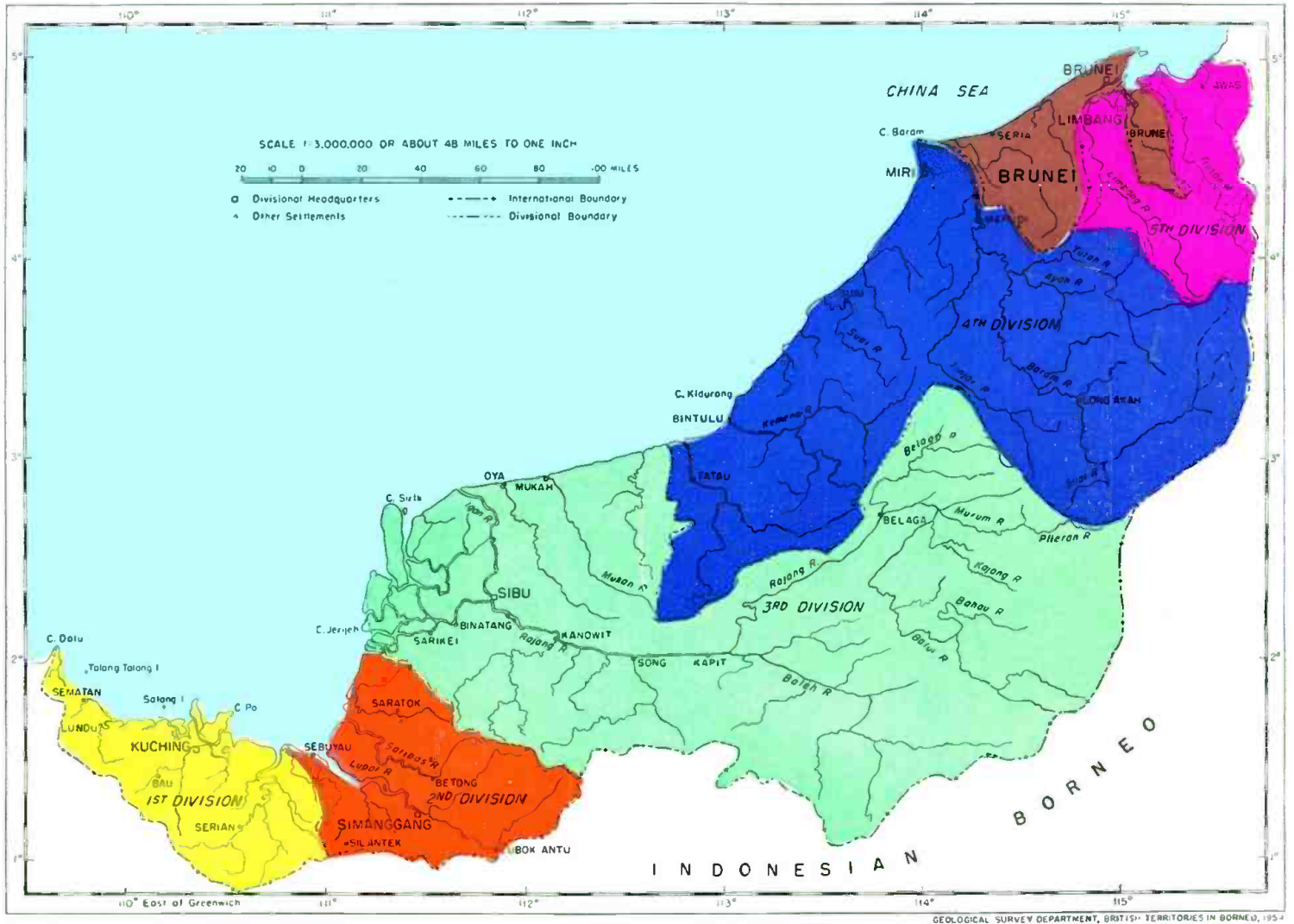
Penghebahan berita2 itu berasaskan yang benar dan bukan terpengaruh. Warta Berita Dunia ada-lah di-siarkan samula pada tiap2 hari dalam bahasa Enggeris, Melayu dan China dari siaran B.B.C. London, dan Berita2 dalam Negeri yang juga bermaksudkan darjah kelurusan saperti itu telah pun mendapat sambutan luas dan mendapatkan penghargaan dari pendengar2-nya. Dalam Sarawak juga, pelajaran menerusi siaran radic ada-lah satu mata pelajaran yang makin mendapat perhatian dan nyata akan menjadi satu perkara yang terutama penting pada masa hadapan ini.

Galakan yang telah di-adakan oleh sebuah Perkhidmatan Radio yang chekap itu sudah pun memberi sumbangan-nya yang kuat pada membaiki

darjah dan mutu bakat seni tempatan. Berbagai jenis penyumbang dan seniman seniwati makin bertambah bilangannya yang tampil kahadapan, dan segala ulasan dan bidasan yang di-terima dari para pendengar itu ada-lah satu isyarat yang benar bahawa arang ramai dalam Sarawak akan menyambut ha-nya mutu darjah yang paling tinggi sahaja. Ada pun tujuan Radio Sarawak ia-lah hendak menyatukan para pendengar dengan sa-erat-nya menghapuskan mana2 baki halangan yang menyebabkan pechahbelah dan benchi-membenchi antara puak2.

Kakitangan dalam bahagian kejuruteraan dan ranchangan sangat2 menghergakan berbagai jenis ulasan dan bidasan pada kedua2-nya mutu penerimaan dan isi segala ranchangan. Sambutan para pendengar yang demikian memang-lah sangat di-hergai dan semua perutusan itu di-jawab dengan segera dan dengan perasaan shukur. Ada pun perkara yang sentiasa dalam ingatan Perkhidmatan itu ia-lah menetapkan supaya darjah persembahan dan perkeluaran tetap saterus-nya di-perbaiki. Salama perkembangan-nya, Radio Sarawak sudah pun menchari nasihat dan panduan sama ada dari segi technical mau pun pengalaman bukan sahaja dari B.B.C. tetapi juga dari sakalian Perkhidmatan2 Radio yang berjiran dengan-nya yang mana telah ada terujud perhubungan yang rapat lagi mesra di-antara mereka dengan-nya. Akan tetapi, ada-lah paling penting sekali bagi kita menerima dari segala pendengar2 yang tetap mengikuti siaran kita pada tiap2 hari itu terhadap sambutan mereka kapada siaran2 yang mereka terima, dan segala bidasan itu walau bagaimanakah keras sekali pun ada-lah di-sambut dengan ikhlas.

MAP OF SARAWAK SHOWING THE DIVISIONS



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A Mural painting in a Kayan longhouse.