

PRESS RELEASE**STATEMENT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

Dr. Toh Chin Chye, Deputy Prime Minister, has been offered the Vice-Chancellorship of the University of Singapore by the University Council when it met on the 6th March, 1968. The post has been vacant as a result of the death of the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lim Tay Boh.

At an informal meeting on 7th March with members of the Senate of the University, the Prime Minister informed them that he intended to release Dr. Toh from his present ministerial duties, so that he can take up this appointment as Vice-Chancellor.

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However, Dr. Toh will remain a member of the Cabinet as Minister for Science and Technology. His ministerial staff will be with him at the office of the Vice-Chancellor in the University. His duties will be to co-ordinate development of the University of Singapore, the University of Nanyang, the Polytechnic, and later the Ngee Ann Community College.

Dr. Toh has been Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Polytechnic since 1959. With increasing emphasis on industrialisation, a faculty of engineering, particularly marine engineering, naval architecture, and several other faculties in the applied sciences will be established, either as part of the University of Singapore, or Nanyang, or an Institute of Technology into which the Polytechnic will move. These institutions should complement and not duplicate each other in their fields of specialisation.

In the next few years, major decisions will have to be made on the siting of the new Institute of Technology, since the location of the Singapore Polytechnic is too limited and unsuitable for expansion. Decisions have to be taken also on the University of Singapore, with its Medical School in Sepoy Lines, its main University buildings crammed at Bukit Timah, and Cluny Road, and the “temporary” hostels consisting of semi-detached houses in Dunearn

Road.

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With the withdrawal of British forces from their bases, a unique opportunity is offered for the siting of the Institute of Technology or resiting of the University of Singapore, if after careful costing this is considered in the long term to be of greater advantage than the development of the University at its

present site but with the addition of Tanglin barracks and the lands adjacent to Cluny Road and the Botanic Gardens.

Dr. Toh will take up his appointment as Vice-Chancellor when the new Government is sworn in after 15th April.

Date : 9th March, 1968.

(Time issued : 1300 Hours)

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APPENDIX TO STATEMENT

A Vice-Chancellorship Committee constituted under Article 9 of the University Constitution consisted of

- (a) Two persons elected by the Council from amongst its own members: Mr. Chua Sian Chin and Mr. Kwan Sai Kheong;

- (b) Two persons elected by the Senate from among its own members: Professor T. H. Elliot and Professor K. Shanmugaratnam; and

- (c) One non voting assessor appointed by the Council after consultation with the Senate: Sir Stanley Prescott, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia.

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Sir Stanley the non voting assessor supported the appointment of Dr. Toh as Vice-Chancellor. The University Council on the 6th March unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellorship Committee.

In June 1959, when Dr. Toh took office as Deputy Prime Minister, he was seconded from the University of Malaya/Singapore, where he was Reader in Physiology. By taking office as Deputy Prime Minister, he had to forgo the professorship in Physiology, which was then vacant, and to which he had been recommended by the Inter-University Council in London.

As Deputy Prime Minister since 1959, Dr. Toh has continued his own research work and has helped in the supervision of post graduate student research in physiology in the University.

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He has had four papers published in the Journal of Physiology between 1960-1967 whilst he was Deputy Prime Minister.

The following are his personal particulars:

- (1) Name: Dr. Toh Chin Chye

Date and Place of birth: 10 December 1921. Taiping, Perak.

Citizenship: Singapore.

(2) 1947 Dip.Sc (S'pore); B.Sc. (Lond.)

1952 Ph.D. (Lond.)

(3) Held Federal Scholarship at Raffles College, Singapore, and Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarship in London.

(4) Member of Physiological Society (London)

Associate Member of Royal Society of Medicine (London).

(5) Academic Appointments held:

1946-47 Part-time Demonstrator in Chemistry,

Raffles College, Singapore.

1947-49 Tutor in Physiology, King Edward VII College

of Medicine, Singapore.

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- 1952-53 Medical Research Council Scientific staff,
National Institute for Medical Research, Mill
Hill, London.
- 1953-58 Lecturer in Physiology, University of Malaya.
- 1958-64 Reader in Physiology, University of
Malaya/Singapore.
- 1964 to Research Associate in Physiology, University
date of Singapore.

(6) Official Appointments held:

- 1959-63 Member of Parliament for Rochore Division
- 1963-68 Re-elected.
- 1968 Re-elected.

1959 to Deputy Prime Minister

date

1954 to Chairman, People's Action Party.

date

1959 to Chairman of Board of Governors, Singapore

date Polytechnic.

(7) Research Publications:

- 1951 Experiments on the barium contraction of the guinea-pig's ileum. *J. Physiol.*, 114, 331P.
- 1953 Fractionation of the smooth muscle stimulants present in extracts of the gastro-intestinal tract. Identification of 5-hydroxytryptamine and its distinction from Substance P. (with C.E. Dalglish & T.S. Work) *J. Physiol.*, 120, 298-310 P.
- Distribution of 5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin, enteramine) in the wall of the digestive tract. (With W. Feldberg). *J. Physiol.*, 119, 352-362.
- The respiratory stimulant action of 5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin) in the dog. (With W.W. Douglas). *J. Physiol.*, 120, 311-318.
- 1954 Absorption of serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine) and histamine by dog platelets. (With J.H. Humphrey). *J. Physiol.*, 124, 300-304.

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Release of 5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin)
from the dog's gastro-intestinal tract.

J. Physiol., 126, 148-254.

1955 Pharmacological actions of capsaicin and its
analogues. (With T.S. Lee & A.K. Kiang).
Brit. J. Pharmacol., 10, 175-182.

1956 Release of 5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin)
and histamine from platelets by tissue extracts.
J. Physiol., 133, 402-411.

1957 The presence of a 5-hydroxytryptamine
(serotonin) liberator in the gastro-intestinal
tract. J. Physiol., 138, 488-494.

5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin) content of the
gastro-intestinal tract during digestion.

(With W.J. Simmonds). Australian J. Science,
20, 148.

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- 1958 Vasoactive substances in the nasal mucosa.
(With A. Mohiuddin). *Brit. J. Pharmacol.*, 13,
113-117.
- 1960 Effects of temperature on 5-hydroxytryptamine
(serotonin) content of tissues. *J. Physiol.*, 151:
410.
- 1963 Biologically active substances in brain extracts.
J. Physiol. 165: 47.
- 1964 Preparation of a nerve stimulating
phosphopeptide (Substance B, Nerveside) in
brain extracts. *J. Physiol.* 173: 420.

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- 1967 Regional distribution of the nerve stimulating
phosphopeptide (Nerveside, Substance B) in
the central nervous system. *J. Physiol.*, 188:
451-6.

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