



INFORMATION SECTION • EMBASSY OF INDONESIA • 2020 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036 • 293-1745

BIOGRAPHY OF H.E. SOEDJATMOKO,
AMBASSADOR OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED STATES

H.E. Soedjatmoko was born in Sawahlunto, Sumatra, on January 10, 1922. In 1940 he began attending medical school in Djakarta, but, because of his political activities, was expelled by the Japanese Occupation Authorities in 1943.

With the beginning of the Indonesian Revolution in 1945, he became Deputy Chief of the Foreign Relations Department of the Ministry of Information until 1947, then was appointed to the United Nations as a member of the Indonesian Delegation. In 1950 - 1951 he acted as Alternate Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, serving concurrently as Counselor of the Indonesian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

After Indonesian independence was internationally recognized in 1949, Mr. Soedjatmoko left the foreign service and, for his own political orientation, travelled extensively in western and eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union.

Returning to Indonesia in 1952, he went into politics and also became active in the field of journalism and publishing. In 1954 he was appointed Advisor to the Indonesian Delegation to the Asian-African Conference in Bandung. From 1954 - 1958 he also held the post of Secretary General of the Indonesian Institute of World Affairs. In 1956 he was elected a Member of the Constituent Assembly, which position he held until the dissolution of the Assembly in 1959.

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When Sukarno gained power in 1958, Mr. Soedjatmoko declined a cabinet post for which he was being considered and fell into political disfavor. In 1960 the Indonesian Socialist Party, to which he belonged, was banned. The newspaper of which he was associate editor was also banned and its printing plant expropriated by the Government.

Even though his home was kept under close surveillance, he and a number of friends continued writing clandestine newsletters.

In the course of that period, he accepted an invitation to come to the United States to teach at Cornell University, where he was a guest lecturer in Southeast Asian History and Politics in 1961 - 1962.

With the political change in 1965 - 1966, his participation in politics became overt again and when in 1966 Indonesia rejoined the United Nations, he was Vice Chairman of his country's delegation to the 21st General Assembly and in 1967 Advisor to the delegation.

Prior to presenting his credentials to President Johnson on May 7, 1968 as the new Ambassador of Indonesia to the United States of America, Mr. Soedjatmoko was personal advisor to Foreign Minister Adam Malik.

Mr. Soedjatmoko has written a number of publications on the history of Indonesia and on cultural and political developments in his own country and in Southeast Asia in general. Among his works, he has contributed to "Religion and Progress in Modern Asia," edited by Robert Bellah, Free Press of Glencoe, 1964. He edited, with others, "An Introduction to Indonesian Historiography," Cornell University Press, 1965. The Dyason Memorial Lectures he delivered in Australia have been published in article form under the titles "Indonesia: Problems and Opportunities," and "Indonesia and the World" in Australian Outlook, Journal of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, December, 1967.

Mr. Soedjatmoko is married and has three children.

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