

# Evidence Of State's Progress

(From Our Staff Reporter)

IPOH, Jan. 15. — His Highness the Sultan of Perak told his subjects today that for some time he had intended to hold his birthday celebrations on the Ipoh Padang, but his advisers had counselled him against doing so because of possible Communist terrorist interference. He had not been prepared to take the risks that were then involved.

The fact that it has been decided to hold the celebrations in full view of the public this year was clear evidence that the emergency situation in the State had improved greatly and that 12,000 people could assemble in Ipoh without incurring undue risk.

The last time the Royal birthday celebration were held anywhere other than at the Palace at Kuala Kangsar was 47 years ago, when the birthday of the present Sultan's grandfather was celebrated at Lumut.

Replying to the loyal addresses made by the Mentri Besar and Enche Nasaruddin bin Abdul Rais (on behalf of all the communities), His Highness said: "I thank you for the good wishes you have expressed on the occasion of my birthday and for your pledges of loyalty to myself and the State for the future. I have every reason to be thankful for the loyalty that has been shown to me in the State in the past years of my reign."

## ELECTIONS SOON

"During the last year, a further step forward in the establishment of a plural society living in peace and harmony was taken by the passing of the Perak Nationality Enactment. Since that date, a number of members of the public have applied for and obtained their certificates as nationals of this State. It is my intention to promulgate Part II of the State Constitution on Feb. 25 next.

"The question of election to local bodies in the State of Perak has been one that has been the concern of myself and my Administration for some considerable time. The difficulties which existed were numerous but have now, to all intents and purposes, been overcome and I am proud to announce that it is my intention and that of my Administration to introduce elections to certain of the local authorities in the State in the near future.

## TIDE TURNS

"I have noted from the reports made to me periodically that the destructive forces in the State are losing ground and that steady progress is being maintained. This is due to the courage and enthusiasm of the security forces to no little extent and to them, one and all, I extend my thanks.

"This is the first occasion on which I have had the pleasure of celebrating the anniversary of my birthday with so many of the people of Perak. It has for many years been my intention to hold the celebrations in the town of Ipoh. The existence and state of the emergency was such that I was advised that in so doing, I would be placing a large number of people celebrating with me in a position of danger. This I was not prepared to do.

"In conclusion, I thank you again for the good wishes you have expressed and express my sincere hope that the next year may see us a good deal further on the path towards being a pattern and an example of a plural society in peace, harmony and prosperity."