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## SOMEBODY PUT THE FINGER ON ME, SAYS RAFT

HOLLYWOOD, Wednesday (AAP). — Former actor George Raft claimed today that "somebody must have put the finger" on him over the ban on his entry to Britain.

"The only thing I can figure is that it was the FBI", Raft said. "And so I'm going to try to see the director, J. Edgar Hoover, and find out what they've got against me".

The former coin-flipping gangster of movies was discussing the latest blow in a decade of personal trouble. For a year he had been "front-man" and host for the Colony Sporting Club in London, where gambling is legal. During a trip home, Raft was notified that he was one of eight Americans whose "continued presence in the United Kingdom would not be conducive to the public good".

A month later, Raft is still shocked. "What have I done?" he

asks as he chain smokes (despite an asthmatic condition) in his Beverly Hills home.

"They haven't accused me of anything, they've just barred me from the country without charges, without a trial or anything. And just when I was about to start participating in the profits of the Colony."

"All I got was an apartment, the use of a car and a small salary until the investors were paid off. Now they have been, but I won't be there to collect."

"I suppose the British had some information on me, and it must have come from the FBI. I'm going to New York this week to see about a job, and I plan to



GEORGE RAFT

drop down to Washington and wait in Hoover's office until he sees me. I know him — once I introduced him to Aly Khan at Del Mar Racetrack.

"Hell, I'm not a member of any mob. Never was."

"Sure, I know some guys that are, but I know a lot of people. What am I supposed to do when those guys says hello to me — tell them to get lost?"

"What have I got to do to clear myself? I lead a quiet life. I don't ask for any trouble. I have never taken a drink. I don't get in any fights. If my offence is broads, then I plead guilty. That's the one thing they can accuse me of."

Raft, who was married briefly in 1923 to Grace Mulrooney, was never divorced, claims to have spent a million dollars on women.

Such extravaganzas and a fading career as a film tough guy led to his financial troubles. In 1965, he was fined after pleading guilty to tax evasion.

# Sabah: A State in dispute



MR MARCOS



THE TUNKU

## KUALA LUMPUR (AAP - Reuter).

Lumberjacks, fishermen and tribesmen who still hunt with poison darts could revive a controversy that may damage co-operation between the countries of South-east Asia when they go to the polls next month to elect a new assembly in the Malaysian State of Sabah.

The Malaysian Government's decision to invite observers from six countries to watch the votes being cast in Sabah's first full-scale elections has again spotlighted the claim by the Philippines to the rugged, jungle-covered state—an explosive issue which led to a break in diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1963.

### The break

The break, which came because the Philippines objected to Sabah joining Malaya and Sarawak in the Malaysian federation, wrecked the association of South-east Asia (ASA).

This organisation, the main international co-operative effort in South-east Asia, was formed in 1960 to promote economic links between Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia.

ASA is thriving once again after a ministerial meeting of the three countries agreed to give it new life last August.

It has a crowded pro-

## ELECTIONS MAY LEAD TO MORE FRICTION IN ASIA

programme of co-operation conferences, and ambitious goals such as the creation of a free trade area, which could probably collapse under the strain of a new Malaysia-Philippines quarrel.

The elections in Sabah are the first direct reference to the people of the State who previously elected their own assembly through village and district councils.

British and United Nations teams have already sounded out their views on belonging to the Malaysian federation.

There is little doubt that the population, of 570,000, well-off economically with a high standard of living and a prosperous timber industry, will register a vote of confidence in Malaysia.

In fact they will have little choice, short of abstaining, because the rul-

ing alliance party, including most of the candidates, has more loyalty to Malaysia and the rejection of the Philippines claim one of the main planks of its manifesto.

Although local rivalries have caused a serious split in the party, both contending factions still agree on these points.

The elections represent a further step in mending Malaysia-Indonesia relations, because they are a partial fulfilment of a pledge Malaysia made the Indonesian Government when the latter called off its three year confrontation of Malaysia last year.

This was to hold elections in both the Malaysian Borneo States of Sabah and Sarawak to demonstrate they wanted to belong to Malaysia and were not pressed into it against their will as

claimed by the then President Sukarno.

The Philippines, like Indonesia has agreed to send observers to the elections, but this has caused an outcry among people who say this will prejudice the Filipino claim to Sabah.

This has been denied by Philippines Foreign Secretary Mr N. Ramos, who recommended to President Marcos that the observers be sent.

The complex dispute over Sabah took almost 100 years to break into the open.

It centres round an agreement which the Sultan of Sulu, in the southern Philippines, signed in 1878, handing over territory in North Borneo to the British company of Dent Brothers. North Borneo later became a British protectorate and finally a British colony in 1946.

The Philippines Government, sticking to one translation of the Malay-language agreement, maintains it was only a leasehold deed, while the British and Malaysians, using another translation, say it amounted to a cession of sovereignty.

The Philippines first gave notice of their claim in 1962, and Filipino objections to the North Borneo colony joining Malaysia led to a rapprochement with Indonesia, which was then about to launch its confrontation of the federation.

This aroused bitterness among Malaysians who accused the Philippines Government of opportunism, partly because part of the area included in the Filipino claim actually lay in Indonesia.

### No claim

The 1878 deed of transfer mentions the Siburo river as the southern limit of the Sultan of Sulu's domains — which means that he ruled over a few hundred square miles of Indonesian Borneo, although the Philippines has never laid claim to this territory.

Some members of the Philippines Government in turn accused the Malaysians of going back on a pledge to take the Sabah issue to the World Court.

The Malaysian Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman denies that such a pledge was ever made.

—AAP.

## SEARCH FOR MAGNATE

KUALA LUMPUR Wednesday (AAP-Reuter).

Twenty-five British soldiers have volunteered to join the search for the American silk magnate Jim Thompson.

Thompson, 61, has been missing for three

days after going for a walk while on holiday in the Cameron Highlands in central Malaya.

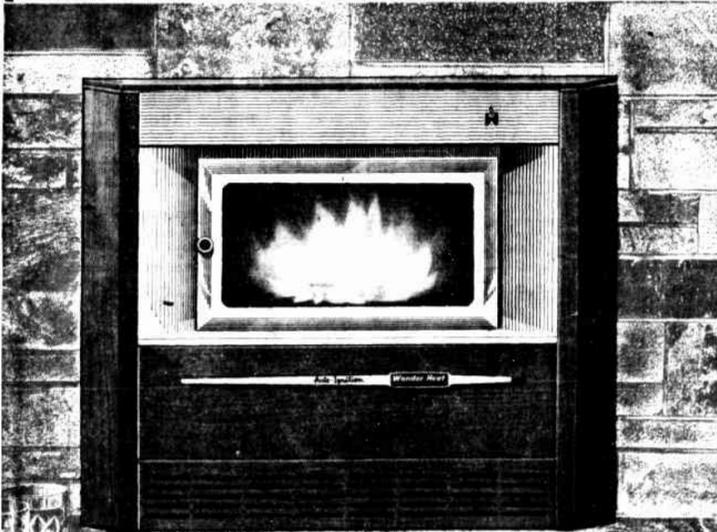
The troops are staying at a nearby rest camp.

Helicopters, 600 police, Malaysian troops

and even schoolchildren are searching for Thompson.

The police has dismissed as rumours reports that the 61-year-old Bangkok-based millionaire had been kidnapped for ransom.

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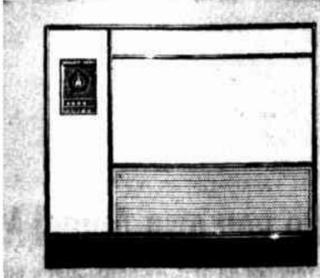
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