TITLE

Britain, the US, and the Neutralisation of Laos

SPEAKER

Prof Nicholas Tarling,
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Abstract

Britain took a leading role – hitherto rather ignored - in the Geneva conference on Laos in 1961-2. It would not have been possible, however, without a change of policy by the new Kennedy Administration in the US. The conference provided for the neutralisation of Laos. That failed to come about. But the concept of neutralisation, and indeed the documents the conference produced, were taken up in subsequent discussions, including those about ZOPFAN.

About the Speaker

Professor Nicholas Tarling taught history for more than three decades at the University of Auckland (New Zealand). Since his retirement in 1996, he has had institutional appointments and visiting positions in various universities. His long list of publications includes Anglo-Dutch Rivalry in the Malay World (1962), A Concise History of Southeast Asia (1966), Britain, the Brookes and Brunei (1971), Sulu and Sabah (1978), The Fall of Imperial Britain in Southeast Asia (1993), Britain, Southeast Asia and the Onset of the Pacific war (1996), Britain, Southeast Asia and the Onset of the Cold war, 1945-50 (1998), Historians and Southeast Asian History (2000), Britain, Nationalism in Southeast Asia (2004), Southeast Asia and the impact of the Korean War (2005), Regionalism in Southeast Asia (2006); and, as editor, The Cambridge History of South-East Asia, 2 vols (1992).