GUY PAUKER: A EULOGY

Michael D. Rich
PREFACE

This Paper contains the eulogy delivered by Michael Rich, Executive Vice President of RAND, at a memorial service in honor of Guy Pauker, held at the Bel Air Bay Club, on September 21, 2002.
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Let me begin by thanking Eva and Tony for giving me the opportunity to be part of this celebration today. Guy is an important figure in RAND history and he has many, many friends in the extended RAND family. Jim Thomson, RAND's president, is in England today. Otherwise, he'd be up here and I'd be in the audience with you.

Guy came to RAND in 1960 after six years on the faculty at Harvard and four years at Berkeley. In his 22 years as a full-time RAND analyst, he published over 100 reports, articles, and books, some of them still classified. I thought that the story of his life in the Los Angeles Times earlier this week painted an impressive picture of his career, but it really only told part of the story. His influence on the world of ideas and his contributions to RAND were substantial and he won both the respect and affection from many, many colleagues, both within RAND and outside. Just this week, I received remembrances from Dick Solomon, Charles Wolf, Brian Jenkins, Jonathan Pollack, Steve Hosmer, and from friends in Indonesia, and I will draw on those in my remarks.

The passage of time may have faded some of our memories, but Guy was able to make important contributions to some of the most important and controversial policy dilemmas of his time: Leadership crises in both Indonesia and the Philippines, the war in Vietnam, the growing influence of radical Islam, the role of energy resources in regional stability. Over and over again, his work proved to be unusually insightful -- especially on elusive but important factors like intentions, morale, behavior, will, and leadership style -- and often prophetic.

He certainly did not shy away from controversy. Charles Wolf reminded me that at one point when RAND was doing lots of work—widely used and widely praised—on the interrogation of Viet Cong prisoners of war, Guy raised warning flags about the quality and reliability of the harvest from those interviews. Guy's position—that there was probably less credible information there than met either the eye or the ear—was not very popular. But, time showed that Guy was right.

Guy was a unique talent as a “foreign area specialist.” Part of it stemmed from his keen intelligence, part of it from the sheer breadth of interests and readings (in multiple languages, of course), and part of it from his interpersonal skills. While he was at Berkeley, he established personal ties with Indonesia's economic elite—the so-called "Berkeley mafia"—who later
guided the nation through difficult years after the Sukarno era, struggling to develop an agricultural economy. His personal contacts in Southeast Asia were legendary and were of great value to his research, to RAND, and to the nation. And, his reputation in Southeast Asia lives on.

I was at a meeting last weekend in London with Jusuf Wanandi, former director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, and he sent me a letter about Guy, which I gave to Bwa and Tony. Let me and read a few excerpts from it now:

For more than thirty years, our friendship has been enriched by both personal mutual appreciation and professional interests in Indonesian politics. Guy's early interest in Indonesian military and politics paved the way for younger scholars to follow his footsteps. He is indeed a pioneer in the field and will always be cherished by us. Guy is a great person and scholar and I will also cherish the memory of him and the work he contributed to the richness of Indonesian political studies. . . . Your loss is ours, too. Jusuf Wanandi

If ever there were someone who deserved to be described as "colorful," it was Guy. Everyone who knew him has a story that says a lot about not only what he accomplished but how he did it. I have several of my own, but my favorite is from Brian Jenkins, who accompanied Guy on a briefing for President-Elect Nixon's national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, in December 1968. This was before the Nixon Administration had moved to Washington, so the meeting was in Kissinger's office suite at the Pierre Hotel in New York. They were ushered into Kissinger's office and waited there alone for a few minutes when Brian asked how much time they were going to have. Guy shrugged, then went over to Kissinger's desk, opened a drawer, found his appointment book, opened it up and said to Brian, "it says we have 45 minutes." Brian recalls that once Guy started his briefing, Kissinger was spell-bound.

I agree with Dick Solomon when noted that in a broader sense, Guy's passing reflects the end of a generation of skilled foreign area specialists who were highly valuable to our country during decades of conflict with the Communist countries. The United States no longer trains such specialists and reflecting on Guy's contributions underscores for me just how serious a problem that is.

Guy has left behind many contributions, both tangible—his writings—and intangible—our many memories of him. It was a privilege to know him and to be with you today.
A Joyous Celebration of His Life

Gary Jean Pauker
September 15, 1916
September 4, 2002
A Joyous Celebration of His Life - Guy Jean Pauker

Speakers

Ewa Pauker

Michael Rich
Executive Vice President
RAND Corporation
"RAND Reflections"

Murray Fromson
Professor of Journalism
& Veteran Foreign Correspondent
"Looking Back on Asia"

Michael Bonesteel
Longtime Friend

Tony Pauker

Refreshments Served
Donations in Guy's memory may be made to:

The Los Angeles Society For
The Prevention of Cruelty To Animals
5026 W. Jefferson Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90016

or

St. John of God Care Center
2468 South Saint Andrews Place
Los Angeles, California 90018