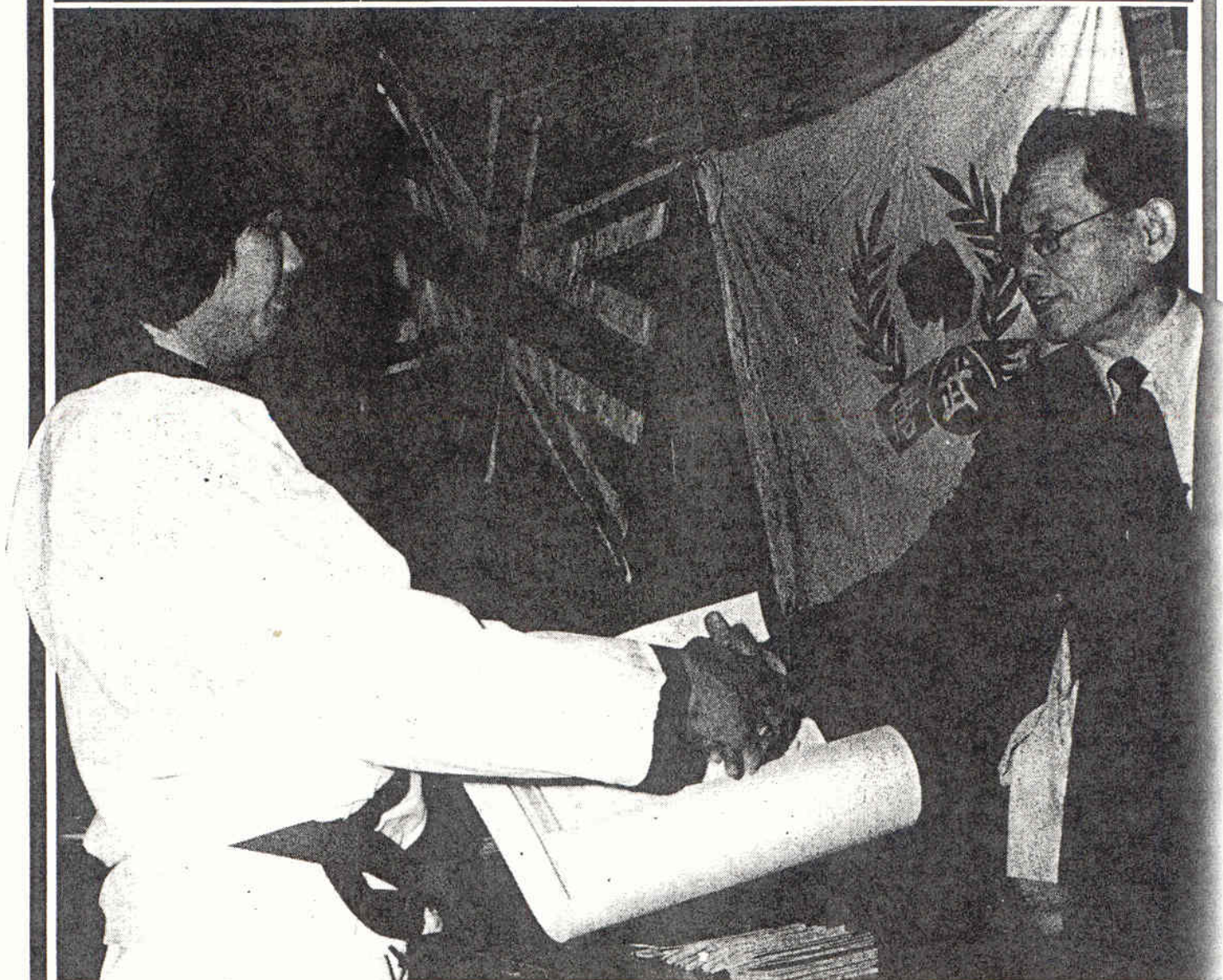


# MASTER M.K. LOKE

(7th Dan)

## & THE BRITISH TANG SOO DO FEDERATION



1981, Grandmaster Hwang Kee, President: Korean Tang Soo (Soo Bank) Do Association visit Rainham, Essex. Receiving certificate of commendation.

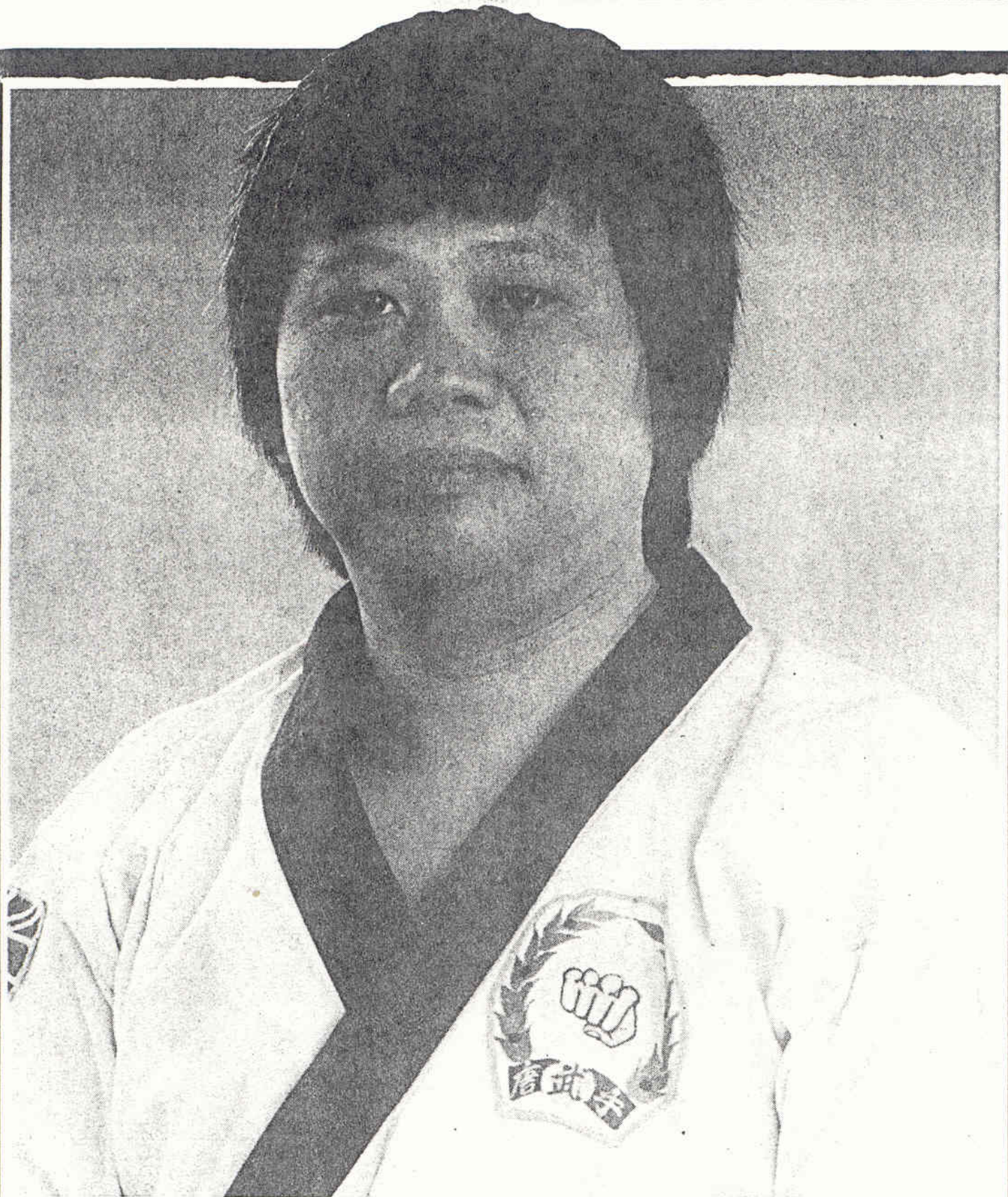
Master Loke is one of the founder members of the Martial Arts commission, a founder member of the United Kingdom Tang Soo Do Federation and holder of an internationally recognised Tang Soo Do Senior Master Instructor Grade. Over the next few months, Master Loke will be providing COMBAT readers with a detailed analysis of Tang Soo

Do kicking techniques. This article serves to introduce both him and his new federation.

Mong Kwong 'Louis' Loke was born in 1952 in the former British Crown Colony of Penang in Malaysia. As a child, he suffered from osteomyelitis and now one leg is three inches shorter than the other. The weakness caused by this disease made him a target for

bullies, so martial arts seemed the obvious self-help solution. The story is not an unfamiliar one.

Master Loke's first instructor was Patrick Lim, martial arts teacher of no mean ability. Master Lim had studied several Chinese and Japanese fighting systems and was not averse to combining the best elements of each. He

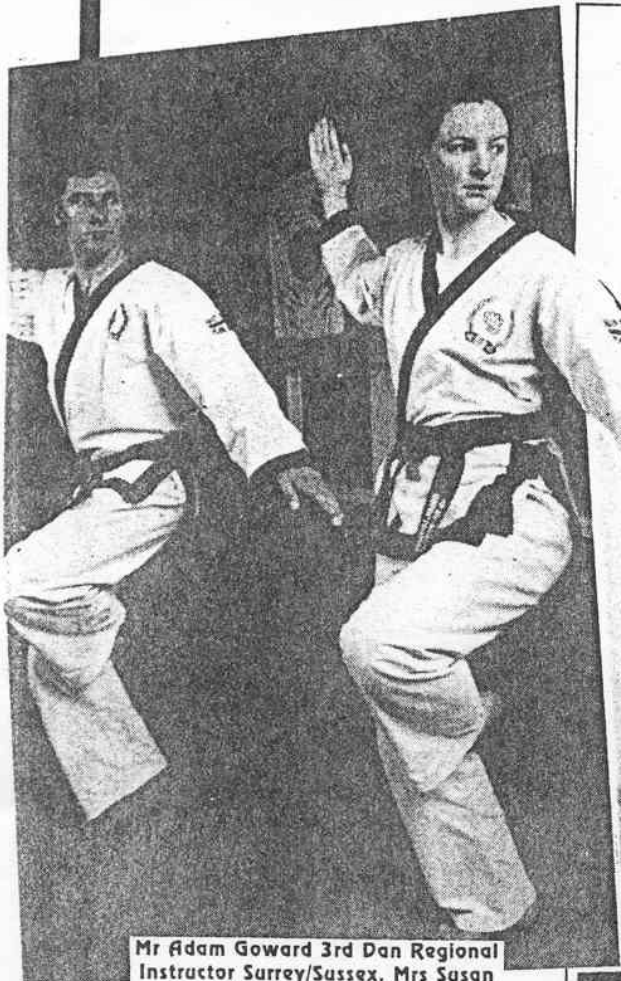


**Master Loke 7th Dan President/Chief Instructor British Tang Soo Do Federation.**

preferred the Japanese systems for their clear and straightforward approach to teaching the fundamentals of technique, and the Chinese systems for their sophistication. Incidentally, Master Lim now runs a successful physiotherapy clinic in Penang, where he combines the best elements of Western treatment with traditional Chinese theory.

Master Loke achieved second dan grade by the age of just seventeen and that same year (1969), he was selected to represent Malaysia in the 6th Asian Martial Art Championships held in Manila. These championships had been in existence since 1956 and four of the earliest members were the Malaysian Karate Federation, the Korean Tang Soo Do (Soo

Bakh Do) Association headed by its founder, Grandmaster Hwang Kee, the Japanese Rembukai and the Philippines Karate Association. Chinese martial arts associations from Taiwan were also invited to participate and the event was organised under semicontact rules in order to accommodate the wide variety of styles competing.



**Mr Adam Goward 3rd Dan Regional Instructor Surrey/Sussex. Mrs Susan Merrell 3rd Dan Regional Instructor Kent. Both: U.K. Hyung Grand Champions for several years.**



Master Loke's own instructor won the middleweight division while Grandmaster Hwang's squad took several gold medals in the other weight divisions.

Master Loke was very impressed with the Tang Soo Do kicking techniques. 'Kicking', he observes, 'has a great appeal to the younger martial artist.' But if the kicks impressed him, then so did their originator. From the very first meeting, Grandmaster Hwang came across as a true classical martial arts master—modest, quietly spoken and so obviously skilled. So imagine master Loke's pleasure when he was invited to join the Korean Tang Soo Do (Soo Bakh Do) Association by the founder himself! Master Loke's admiration and respect for the Grandmaster have deepened over the years. Even now he acknowledges with obvious pleasure, the many occasions, both in Malaysia and in Britain when he was taught by Grandmaster Hwang. There's no doubt, he feels, that the Grandmaster's teaching enhanced both his technical skill and his philosophical understanding of Tang Soo Do.

Grandmaster Hwang is now more than eighty years of age and still very active. In 1986, when he was over seventy years old,

Grandmaster Hwang reopened his dojang in Seoul! He is helped by his own son Hwang Hyun Chul who is also the head of a large American Tang Soo Do Federation. Hwang Hyun is now, in effect, the technical head of his father's organisation.

Inspired by the Grandmaster's teaching, Master Loke trained hard and founded his own group of Tang Soo Do clubs in Telok Intan, Perak. Known as the Perak Tang Soo Do Association, the group still thrives under the direction of Master Loke's senior student

there—Master K.K. Chin.

Then in October 1973, Master Loke left Malaysia and came to Britain as a student. He explained how many Malaysians want to come here because of the old colonial links between the two countries.

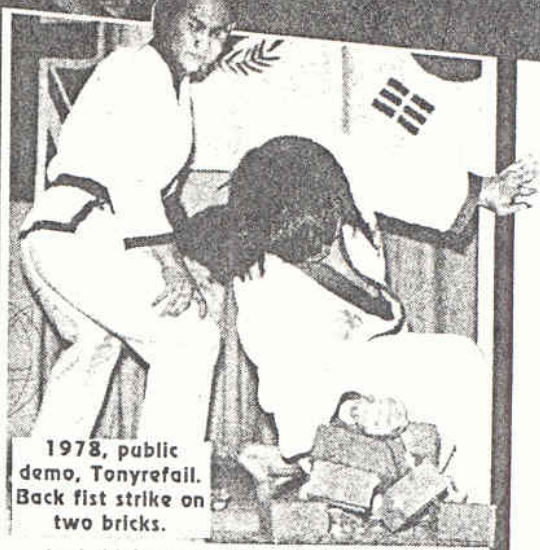
Soon after arriving, Master Loke founded his first British club in December 1973, at South Ockenden, Essex. Over the last twenty years, this particular club has grown into the largest Tang Soo Do school in the U.K., an impressive testimony to Master



1981, Side Snap Kick.



1992, Front twist kick. Mrs Susan Merrell 3rd Dan B.S.C. Hons Mathematics "Qualified teacher". Regional Instructor Kent Area. British International Hyang and Free sparring.



1978, public demo. Tonyrefail. Back fist strike on two bricks.

Loke's success as an instructor. But Master Loke was not the first Tang soo Do instructor to come to Britain. That distinction belongs to a Malaysian first dan student named Chuan-Ho Tnay and the first clubs he opened were in Watford and nearby towns. Twenty-one years on, Mr Tnay now practices Tang Soo Do in Melbourn as a member of J.C. Shin's World Tang Soo Do Organisation. Readers may recall that master Shin is Chuck Norris's former instructor. Mr. Tnay learned his Tang Soo Do in Kuching, Sarawak, under

Master Kang Uk Lee (then a 7th dan). Mr. Tnay's Watford Tang Soo Do Federation subsequently brought Master Lee to Britain when his teaching tenure in Kuching came to an end. Masters Lee and Loke had briefly worked together with Bryn Williams in the original conception of the Martial Arts Commission, or 'British Union of Martial Arts' as it was known then. The United Kingdom Tang Soo Do Federation was founded in 1974 and Master Loke became its first general secretary, a position

he held for twenty years. Though Masters Lee and Loke belonged to the same Federation and practiced the same art, there were significant technical differences between them. This is probably because Master Loke was already a third dan when he first began to work with Master Lee. Even so, Master Loke acknowledges with thanks the technical help which Mr. Lee provided in those early years. Formerly, Master Lee was Grandmaster Hwang's British representative but a major

split in Tang soo Do occurred when Master Lee, supported by Master Loke and the United Kingdom Tang Soo Do Federation, broke with Grandmaster Hwang and set up an alternative Tang Soo Do body. As the only coherent group of Tang Soo Do practitioners then practising in the U.K., they were recognised by the Sports Council. Only a short time after that traumatic incident, a second split occurred on 21st March 1993 and Master Loke has left the U.K. Tang Soo Do Federation to found his own British Tang Soo Do Federation.

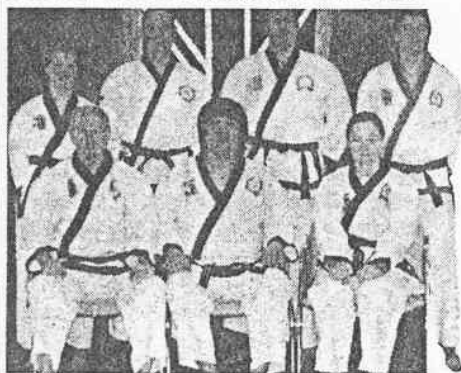
The two splits are similar only insofar as both parties to them were placed in intolerable situations from which there was no hope of reconciliation. So in fairness to his own personal students, Master Loke felt impelled to leave the Federation which he has served so well. He records his public thanks to all those who worked with him over two decades of building tang Soo Do into a creditable martial art in the U.K.

Executive Committee members of the new British Tang Soo Do Federation are all personal students of Master Loke. They are: Clive Butterworth (4th dan), Mrs Susan Merrell (3rd dan), Mrs Janice Maynard (3rd dan), Chris Cook (3rd dan), Peter Maynard (3rd dan), Adam Goward (3rd dan) and Allan Brett J.P. Clive Butterworth has been training since 1975.

The British Federation's emblem is based upon the widely used and familiar Tang Soo Do motif originated by Grandmaster Hwang.

Master Loke is now busy forming an international body together with past colleagues and students in Germany and Malaysia. The most important characteristic of this new body will be the friendship it seeks to engender. The organisation will include an international technical committee upon which Master Loke will sit alongside Masters from other countries.

Headquarters for both the national and international federations is Norman Hall, a 3,000 square foot dojang situated in Grays,



**Back row: Mrs.J.Maynard 3rd Dan Ex.Comm.Member, Mr.C.Cook 3rd Dan Ex.Comm.Member, Mr.P.Maynard 3rd Dan Ex.Comm.Member, Mr.A.Goward 3rd Dan Treasurer. Front Row: Master.C.Butterworth 4th Dan Vice-President, Master Loke 7th Dan President and Mrs.S.Merrell B.Sc.Hons 3rd Dan Secretary General.**



**1982: Atlantic City, U.S.A. International C'ships. Leading U.K. National Team. Standing: Robert Woodiwiss, Clive Butterworth, Christopher Whalley, Ian Tucker. Kneeling: 1. P. 2. Majahid Khan and 3. Elliot Titus.**



**1986 June 21-22nd visit to Malaysia: Conducting Hyung workshop at Holiday Inn, Kuching, Sarawak.**

Essex, just a few minutes from the M25. The dojang comprises two fully equipped training gyms with an office and relaxation area. Training is available every day of the week at times to suit the individual and weekends are particularly busy times, with a hectic schedule of senior classes, dan workshops and coaching courses. A second large dojang will be opening shortly.

Tang Soo Do as we know it today was founded in the first half of the Twentieth century by Grandmaster Hwang Kee. Though its principles are very old, the art itself is a modern synthesis. So it makes less sense to speak of Tang Soo Do as a traditional art than to describe it as a fighting art with traditions. It has a core of fundamental techniques which are sufficient to guide a student to at least fourth dan standard after which personal interpretation and self study become relevant issues.

Master Loke is convinced that any thriving martial art system must grow as successive generations of high grades add their own knowledge and interpretations to the syllabus.

Master Loke has always practiced his Tang soo Do from this developmental viewpoint though he was unable to publicly promote it whilst still in membership of the U.K. Tang Soo Federation. The formation of his own group - The British Tang Soo Do Federation - has now freed him to develop his practice further and the near future promises to be very interesting for his 900 odd students, of whom 120 are dan grades training in thirty-plus clubs.

Over the next few months, Master Loke will be inviting COMBAT readers to join with him in a celebration of Tang soo do techniques. The series will examine each technique in great detail and explain the various applications through a specially commissioned series of photographs.

In the meantime, anyone interested in learning more about The British Tang Soo Do Federation should write to Master Loke at the national headquarters,

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Cromell Road,  
Grays,  
Essex RM17 5HF.

Telephone:  
0375 386225.