

David Marshall (1908-1995), Politician/Diplomat

The David Marshall Private Archives consists of documents relating to the Workers' Party elections and his term as the Chief Minister, which includes correspondence outlining his stand on Merger/Independence issues as well as news clippings. His photographs and audio/video cassettes of his interviews are also available.

David Marshall is best known as Singapore's First Chief Minister. He was born in Singapore to a Jewish family in 1908. In 1937, he was called to the bar (Middle Temple) and became one of the most famous criminal lawyers of Singapore.

In April 1955, he won the parliamentary elections for Singapore's first elected government on the Labour Front Party's ticket to become Singapore's first Chief Minister.

He resigned in June 1956 after failing to negotiate better terms for Singapore's self-rule in London, after which, he visited China and managed to help many Jews to leave China. He wrote letters to his brother detailing his visit.

In 1978, at the age of 70, he was offered the job as Singapore's ambassador to France, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland until 1993, when he returned to Singapore.