

# *There's no need for realignment*

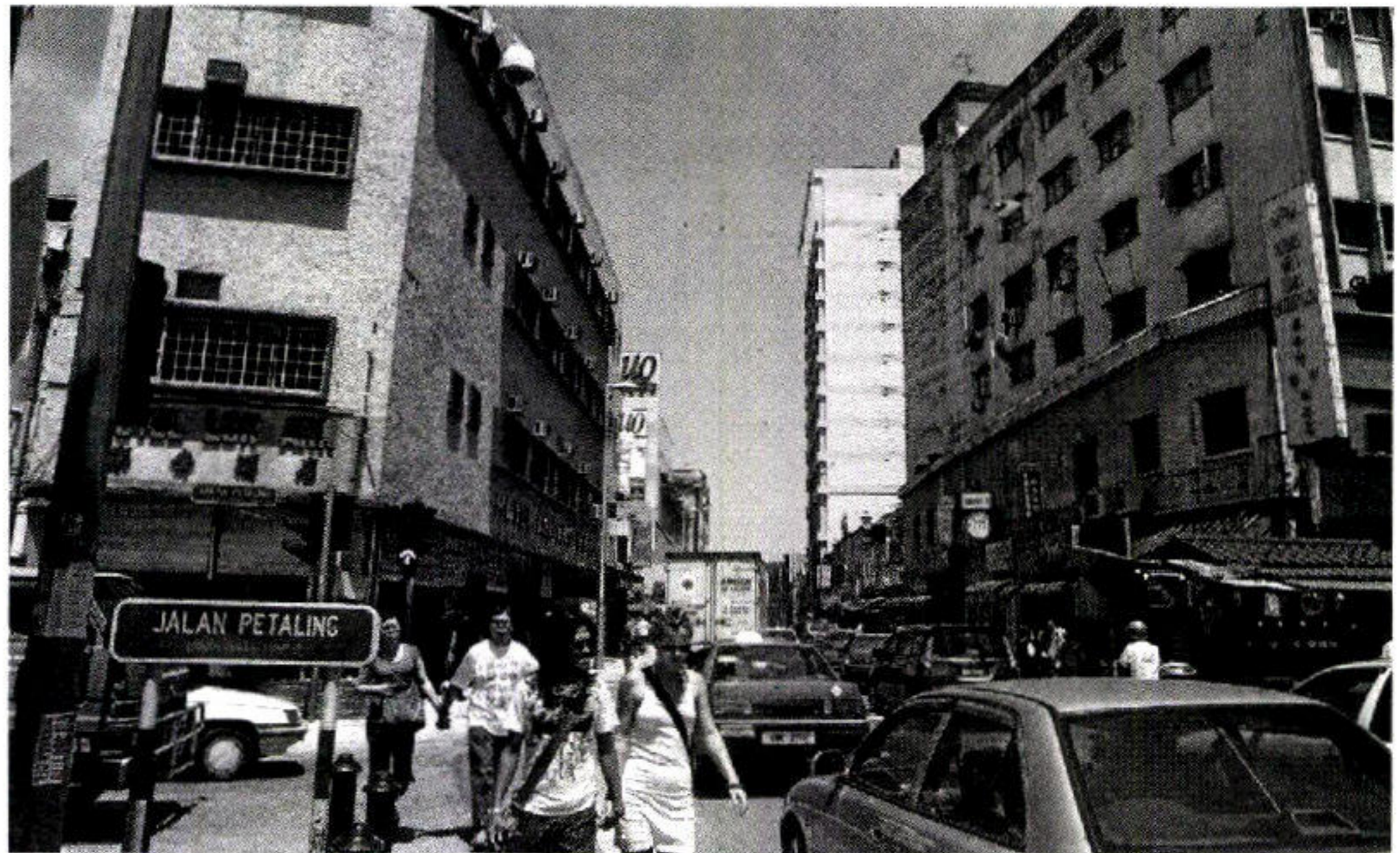
I READ with great interest the strong objections of Kuala Lumpur Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH), the Committee for Preserving Jalan Sultan and Jalan Bukit Bintang, Bukit Bintang member of parliament Fong Kui Lun and several Jalan Sultan landowners to the implementation of the Mass Rapid Transit project along Jalan Sultan. It seems to be a never ending story.

According to news reports, these MRT opponents are adamant in not giving up their land for the project and insist that MRT Corp realign the line to Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock.

They claim that the proposed alternative route would not involve any land acquisition and would not destroy the heritage buildings in Chinatown. They've embarked on the "Save Jalan Sultan" signature campaign, with the support of 250 non-governmental organisations.

They are even ready to go to the prime minister to get their way. They allege that the government, particularly MRT Corp, has not been listening to their concerns.

I recently came across an article, quoting MRT Corp chief executive



*The tunnelling for the MRT project **will not involve demolition of shophouses** in Jalan Sultan and Jalan Petaling, Kuala Lumpur.*

officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid who said that there would be no acquisition and no demolition of any shophouse or heritage building along Jalan Sultan and Jalan Petaling.

From my understanding, the tunneling will be underground and will not affect the land above the ground. If this is the case, common sense will tell you that there is no need for realignment.

I wonder why people are still raising this issue when it is clearly a non-issue. Why should we give in to the demands of a few people who refuse to understand the real situation? And why are we making a big fuss about heritage now when all these years, we never even lifted one finger?

**Angela Lee**, Kuala Lumpur