



Datin Suhaila shows the fruits of her labour, her orchids, to Mrs. Salim.

## *From high school and into a diplomatic whirl*

**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.** — Mrs. Amne Salim, wife of the president of the United Nations General Assembly, is an asset as a diplomat's wife.

Soft-spoken, charming and utterly feminine, Mrs. Salim, 35, believes that "a diplomat's wife should give all the moral support to her husband, be understanding, patient and encouraging. He needs all the support and attention he can get."

Life hasn't all been plain-galling for the Zanzibar-born lady with the

model-girl looks. She was plunged into marriage and the diplomatic whirlpool straight after high school.

"At 19, I had to leave my family and live abroad (her husband's first posting was Cairo) and start a whole new life for which I had not been trained.

"I plunged right into it and I learnt to cope by looking, listening and talking to people. Most of the people I met were much older and they tell me 'Oh, you're just a child' but they were helpful and guided me

along the way," said Mrs. Salim.

Yet, given the chance, she would live her life all over again — she has no regrets at all about missing out on a career.

"Going to school and getting a diploma is great. But what I've been exposed to and the experiences I've had have enlightened and enriched my life, more than school could have," she said.

She had tried going back to college but found it impossible having to keep up with hubby and looking after their two

children, Mariam, 14, and Ali, 12.

Home for the past 10 years is New York where hubby is Tanzania's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Though her life is centred around the home and family, Mrs. Salim is a Woman Libber, believing that a woman should be "recognised as a human being, not as just somebody's wife or mother."

This morning, she visited Datin Suhaila at Sri Taman.