



**SELECTED
FOREIGN
POLICY
SPEECHES**

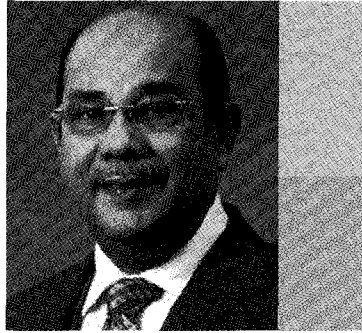
BY
SYED HAMID ALBAR



FOREWORD

Looking back on the multitude of speeches I have delivered both at home and on the international stage since assuming the post of Foreign Minister in 1999, I realise the wide range of issues which Malaysia and the Ministry has addressed. Speeches and statements have been made on international issues and current events, from the mundane and straightforward to the more complex and potentially contentious subject matters. Through these speeches, policy decisions have been formulated and put forth, with the national interest as the guiding principle. As Foreign Minister, this has been my foremost responsibility and above all, my supreme privilege in serving the nation.

Malaysia's foreign policy objectives have remained constant through the years. Since achieving independence in 1957, Malaysia's goal has always been to protect and promote its interests in the global arena. It has managed to do this by ensuring a transparent foreign policy



based on the principles of economic cooperation and mutual prosperity as well as respect for the principle of sovereignty. Malaysia's strong stance on issues of principle has earned it a reputation as a champion of the developing world - a role we at the Ministry and on the frontline of Malaysia's foreign policy take to heart.

The idea to compile my speeches into a book was mooted and encouraged by both academicians and diplomats who saw a need to put into print a gist of Malaysia's foreign policy since the last decade. I believe that this book will allow its reader a better insight into the various international issues viewed from a Malaysian perspective. I hope too that this book will become a tool of reference for future generations.

Because foreign policy is never straightforward, it is appropriate to view the issues under discussion in the context of the events happening at that particular

time. While the approaches and strategies may vary, the basic underlying principles which Malaysia holds close to its heart remain firm. In light of this, I hope this book will succeed in putting forth Malaysia's foreign policy in a clearer perspective and create a better understanding of Malaysia's standpoint on various international issues.

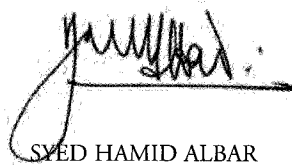
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the many people who helped in the transition of foreign policy principles. I value the exchange of ideas and the long working hours spent together in making foreign policies understood by Malaysians and others. I know that this has been done out of our labour of love to the country and this has made it extra special to me.

I owe a debt of gratitude both to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who took a chance and place his trust on me so many years ago, and to Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, whose shoes I have been trying to fill here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Without their encouragement, their support, and above all, their trust and confidence in me, I would not have found the resolve to handle the complex world of foreign relations. Both these leaders have allowed me to find my own voice on the international stage.

My own officers at the Ministry – at every level of the hierarchy - have proved to be a valuable source of information and my consultation partners in almost every respect. I find that the close interaction and numerous discussions between superior officers and junior officers and between civil servants and myself have made the Malaysian Foreign Service a close-knit family with a strong sense of togetherness. I would be hard pressed to find such a remarkable team elsewhere.

My appreciation also goes to the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) for publishing this book and to its Director-General for her careful editing of delivered speeches into the written word.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family who has shown so much understanding and support even when my job as Foreign Minister takes me away from them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Syed Hamid Albar', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

SYED HAMID ALBAR
Putrajaya, 10 July 2005

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