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## A legacy of friendship

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad commented at a recent joint meeting of the Malaysia-British Society and British-Malaysia Society held in Kuala Lumpur in April that relations between Britain and Malaysia were that of 'equals'. The prime minister said, 'There is a sense of familiarity with each other and along with it, a degree of comfort ... We don't need interpreters when we talk to each other, for example, and this in itself contributes towards better understanding.'

Referring to the Buy British Last policy of the early 1980s and the more recent Trade Embargo of 1994, Dr Mahathir stated that 'hiccups can always occur between countries which maintain a close relationship but we come out of such difficulties stronger. We should be able to take any further disagreements in our stride'.

Dr Mahathir was confident that both countries could be partners and do well in third country joint venture endeavours. But to achieve its ambition of becoming a fully industrialised nation by the year 2020, Malaysia needs help from its friends. Dr Mahathir's visit to Britain to promote the Multimedia Super Corridor reinforced this idea.

Against this backdrop, Hanim Melan interviewed the British High Commissioner to Malaysia, David Moss. Describing the bilateral relationship between the two countries as 'excellent', the High Commissioner stressed that the ties forged stretched back centuries and needed to be sustained. Below are excerpts from that interview: