

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON UNITED  
NATIONS DAY OVER RADIO MALAYA ON 24TH  
OCTOBER, 1964

Good Evening,

The United Nations is 19 years old today. It came into existence on 24th October, 1945 as a result of decisions at international conference during the Second World War. October 24th has been declared United Nations Day in all countries which are members of the United Nations or in those countries which respect and uphold the Charter of the United Nations.

In Malaysia, we have the Federation of Malaya United Nations Association of which I am the President. The United Nations Association of Malaya is quite an active organisation. Next month the World Federation of United Nations Association will hold a Seminar on "Teaching about the United Nations" at the University of Malaya. We in Malaysia are very happy that the world Federation of United Nations Association should choose our National capital to hold its seminar. The United Nations Association of Malaya is proud and happy to be host to the Seminar.

The United Nations is growing in size and importance. Nineteen years ago, fifty countries presided at the birth of the United Nations. Today, the United Nations has a membership of 112 countries. As more countries emerge as independent Nations they will join the World Body.

The purpose of the United Nations as stated in Article I of the Chapter are to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations based on the principle of equal rights and self-determination, to achieve international cooperation in solving economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems, to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to be a centre for harmonization of nations' action in the attainment of these common aims.

If all member nations sincerely adhere to these principles, peace and security can be established throughout the world and nations can engage themselves profitably in solving at international and national levels economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of race, sex, language or religion.

But unfortunately for us, a fellow-member of the United Nations and our neighbour, Indonesia, commits aggression against our country. Indonesian aggression against Malaysia violated the Charter of the United Nations. Indonesia's attack on us is also an attack on the United Nations itself, its principles and aims. Indonesia refused to accept the Secretary-General of the United Nations findings on Malaysia because the findings were against her interests. Indonesia has discredited the good name of the United Nations and yet it was this very United Nations that was responsible for Indonesia's birth in 1945.

In September this year we brought up the subject of Indonesian aggression against our country to the Security Council of the United Nations and I am very glad to say that nine out of eleven members of the Security Council deplore and condemn Indonesia's acts of aggression. Only Russia and Czechoslovakia voted against the Resolution.

Malaysia became a member of the United Nations in 1957. Our country is proud to be a member of the United Nations and to fulfil all her obligations to this body and to member-nations. Ever since we were admitted to the United Nations, Malaysia has worked closely with all member-nations and especially with the Afro-Asian Group. We are always ready to play our part in support of the principle and Charter of the United Nations. When there was need to send United Nations troops to help restore peace in the Congo we gladly played our part.

We in Malaysia are a peace-loving Nation. We have followed a policy of friendship and cooperation among Nations. As a new emerging and developing Nation, we would like to devote our energy and resources to development — to giving our people better amenities of life and a higher standard of living. We have to some extent succeeded in doing this. We are, however, determined to continue doing so, so that our people of all races will be able to enjoy a measure of peace and happiness which they desire so much.

Science has made the world small — it has become a neighbourhood of nations. Because of this, it is even more important that we learn to live together and share our resources, so that man can live in the manner he is intended to live, so that injustice, ignorance, hunger and poverty can disappear. It is important that we harness the knowledge released by science for the benefit of mankind and not for its destruction. It is important that every person is aware of the purpose and principles of the United Nations so that he may contribute his share in the building of world peace and prosperity.

Some countries are very critical of the United Nations. But Malaysia has great faith in the United Nations and will always support it. We

believe the United Nations is the best guardian of the rights, independence, and integrity of the small nations of the world against hostile and aggressive nations such as Indonesia. Security and independence of small nations will be threatened if the United Nations is weak and ineffective and if its existence is threatened. I would like to call upon all nations, especially small nations to rally and support the United Nations and its activities of keeping peace in the world. Malaysia has complete faith in the United Nations. The United Nations has successfully discharged its duties to member nations and it cannot and must not fail if all its members support it. We must strengthen the United Nations because by doing so we also strengthen ourselves. We must uphold the principles and Charter of the United Nations so that the United Nations can continue to fulfil its duty to maintain peace and promote happiness of mankind.