

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES OF MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND THE FAR EAST AT DEWAN TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN, KUALA LUMPUR ON 30TH JANUARY, 1964

Distinguished delegates and gentlemen,

I am indeed very grateful to you for the honour that you have given me and my country Malaysia in electing me to this high and important office of President to this important and historic Conference. I shall endeavour to do my best to live up to your expectations and I hope, with your cooperation and the assistance that will certainly be given to me by the two Vice-Presidents whom you will soon elect, we shall be able to run this Conference smoothly so that it will be able to achieve the objectives for which it was convened.

I should like, on behalf of the Government and the people of Malaysia, to welcome all distinguished delegates from so many countries in this region of South-East Asia and the Far East to this Conference here today. We in Malaysia regard it as a great honour indeed that the various Muslim Organisations and Communities in this region have decided to hold this Conference in Kuala Lumpur. We are grateful to the World Muslim Congress, under whose auspicious this Conference is being held, for having selected Kuala Lumpur as the venue of this Conference. I should also like to extend our very sincere welcome to His Eminence Syed Mohd Amin Al-Hussaini, President of the World Muslim Congress and to say that we are very much honoured to have him with us. Also, we are grateful to Mr. Inamullah Khan, the Secretary-General of the World Muslim Congress for his presence here at this Conference. This Conference is being held in the holy month of Ramadan and I am sure that not only Muslims throughout South-East Asia and the Far East, but also throughout the world, are looking to us here to hear our deliberations and to see the results of our conference. All Muslims throughout the world agree that it is important and useful that Muslim leaders should get together in this way to discuss frankly and fully on matters affecting our religion. All of us are meeting here as Muslims and our religion Islam is the one thing that unite us all. Muslims belong to one brotherhood. We sink all our differences for this brotherhood and it is necessary that this tie should be strengthened from time to time so that all Muslims will be able to achieve greater progress and closer coopera-

tion. I am sure during this conference and in the commission which you all will be electing after this conference, various matters affecting the progress and well-being of Muslims, as well as matters affecting the promotion of our religion, will be discussed. I do hope that we shall discuss all these matters in the real spirit of brotherhood as taught by our religion. In some countries in this region, Muslims are in minority but it is necessary for all Muslims to endeavour to show that our religion is a living force and that Muslims, no matter whatever our political beliefs may be, are united in endeavouring to promote our religion to move with the changing times. Islam is a religion for all times and we, in the present generation of great scientific progress, must, while upholding the principles of Islam and the teachings of the Prophet, be able to live our way of life, be able to make the best of the progress that the world has achieved and be able to contribute our utmost to the peace and happiness, not only for Muslims, but of other people of the world. This must be our objective and I do hope that during the course of this conference we shall be able to give guidance to our brothers in our respective countries to the way in which they should live their lives as a progressive community, so that we Muslims will be able to play our full part in the administration, the progress, and happiness of our respective people.

Distinguished delegates, once again, thank you very much for the honour you have given me. I do sincerely hope that in the deliberations that we shall have during the next few days, we will achieve the objective and enlightenment, not only to our brother Muslims, but to the peace and enlightenment of the world.