

Opening of the Emergency Exhibition  
in the Chin Woo Stadium on August 1, 1960

Your Excellencies, Hon'ble Ministers, distinguished guests, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

The end of the Emergency is a great and proud occasion for our people and for our country. Our success has "been due to the efforts of "both the Security Forces and of the people themselves. However, the struggle for the achievement of this great victory has been long and rduous. It has cost us dearly "both in life and in resources. Thousand of lives of our young men and women in the Security Forces, including those in the Commonwealth countries and also of the civilian population, have "been sacrificed in the cause of the freedom and the safety of our land. During these twelve long years of struggle and tribulation, our people of all races have been united in their efforts to resist the communist terrorism. The rise of

- nationalism manifested by the formation of the Alliance Party formed the rallying point for our people, and the Independence which the Alliance brought about three years ago contributed in a great measure to the rapid ending of the state of Emergency. Everyone of our people rallied round to defend and consolidate our newly won freedom with the result that this prolonged war was brought to a speedy and victorious conclusion.

However, in the midst of our joy and jubilation in celebrating this great and momentous occasion, it is well for us to remember the trials and tribulations as well as the restrictions and privations of the Emergency period so that we shall exercise the utmost vigilance that such horrors and hardships will not arise again in our lifetime and the lifetime of our children.

Also we should remember those who have laid down their lives in conquering the forces of evil and in "bringing this victory to us.

On "behalf of my colleagues in the Alliance Government as well as on my own "behalf as Minister of Defence I am indeed proud that we have succeeded in fulfilling our declared policy to bring peace to this country. This policy was given highest priority since Merdeka. However, the potential evil which has so long "been responsible for damaging the peace, prosperity and harmony of our land, is still lurking in our midst. The threat of subversion facing the security and constituted authority of the country is very imminent. Our victory over militant communism **i s** not the end but the beginning of an even greater battle against Communism in its ominous form. As instances to overrun in other countries show, Communism in Malaya cannot be considered in isolation from international communist activities elsewhere. The dangers of Communism cannot be over-emphasised and we must always bear in mind the need for continued vigilance against subversion in this country.

Now that the Emergency has come to an end, it is the intention of the Government to concentrate its resources and efforts on the development of the country, and I do hope that our people of all races will respond to this call by the Government. Let us by the united efforts of both the Government and the people carry out this development in the economic and social fields and give our people, particularly those in the rural areas, a new and better standard of living which they have long desired.

Let us all realise that the ideals of freedom and Parliamentary Democracy on which we stand and which we firmly believe in, are the only ideals which can serve the true interest of our people and of our country. Let us dedicate ourselves to defend those ideals. Let this victory over Communism be a starting point on which to build yet a better and more prosperous Persekutuan Tanah Melayu.

I would finally like to congratulate the Chairman and all those who have assisted him in preparing this novel and stimulating exhibition and, on behalf of the Government, to thank all those who have contributed to its production and its success.

I would also like to take this opportunity in announcing that it is the intention of Government to sponsor the writing of an official History of the Emergency so that what this Exhibition now recalls to our memories will be recorded for all time.

I now have great pleasure in declaring this Emergency Exhibition open.

KUALA LUMPUR,  
August 1, 1960.