

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TRIPARTITE
FOREIGN MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MANILA,
PHILIPPINES ON 11TH JUNE, 1963

We have now come to a close of this historic Foreign Minister's Conference. The happy and fruitful conclusion of the Conference is an occasion for rejoicing to all of us, certainly to me and my delegation.

The Conference has achieved the purpose for which it was convened. It has helped to clarify matters on issues of common concern to all our three countries and to our region, brought about a convergence of views on subjects of mutual interest to us, and helped our three countries to find common ground towards solving current problems confronting us. In short, this Ministerial Conference marks a beginning of a new era in our relationship, an era of the rediscovery of our common origin and heritage. This rediscovery and the resultant meeting of minds as well as the reassertion of our common ties will, I am confident, open for us new vistas of effective and fruitful co-operation and collaboration for the peace, stability and prosperity of our region.

This is no mean achievement if we recall the tension which unhappily had strained our relationship in recent past. This achievement could not have been possible but for the conscious realization of all taking part in the Conference on the imperative necessity of reducing tension in our region, as well as their firm and common determination to reach real understanding and closer co-operation among the three countries.

The success of the Conference is furthermore an eloquent tribute to the inspired statesmanship of my eminent colleagues, Vice President Pelaez and Dr. Subandrio. Their friendship and charm

contributed in large measure to the cordial atmosphere which prevailed throughout the Conference. Their sense of dedication to the common cause of peace in our region and of co-operation among our three countries, as well as their patience and perseverance in dealing with delicate and difficult problems, facilitated a great deal the frank and constructive exchange of views which had resulted in bringing about among our three countries a common ground and unity of purpose in solving common problems and in sharing our common destiny. Throughout the series of intimate discussions I had with Vice President Pelaez and Dr. Subandrio, I was most impressed by their high quality of statesmanship and leadership.

The agreement reached at this Conference on the establishment of a consultative machinery as a first step towards achieving a form of close association of the countries of our region, in particular of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaya, is a positive manifestation of the common desire of the peoples of the region to re-assert their historical and brotherly ties. This will be a firm basis for the re-union of our peoples, for the revival of the old ties which bound our forefathers together. I have said at my opening address last Friday, and I say it again now, that for countries such as ours, which have so many things in common, there is no limit to the area of activities in which we can cooperate and work together for the material as well as the spiritual benefits of our peoples.

Let us now, in the same spirit of friendship and goodwill that has brought about the sense of common understanding and co-operation among our leaders in Tokyo and here in Manila, dedicate ourselves forthwith in a determined effort to translate this agreed measure into a formidable vehicle for the progressive attainment of economic and social progress of the peoples of our region.

I can say without any hesitation that the people of Malaya who aspire to nothing but peace and prosperity in justice and freedom wholeheartedly welcome the establishment of this system of tripartite consultations. They look forward with eagerness and hope to the increasing co-operation and collaboration at all levels among

our three countries. The Malayan Government therefore pledge itself to give its utmost to our joint endeavour to make this tripartite consultative conference a living and growing reality.

We are particularly gratified that the frank discussions during the last few days have brought about an understanding and agreement on how to solve the problem arising out of the proposal to establish a Federation of Malaysia and also on how to resolve the Philippines claim to North Borneo. Malaysia in itself is a manifestation of the desire of the peoples in the territories to re-establish common ties and to forge their own destiny together as one family.

Malaysia is conceived to ensure that the subject peoples of the Borneo territories and Singapore would achieve independence in the quickest and most orderly manner by becoming members equal in status with the other existing eleven members in the independent Federation of Malaya. When it comes into being, Malaysia will be a keen partner in our common endeavour to bring about wider unity and harmony among the countries of South-East Asia in conformity with its desire for peaceful and brotherly relations among the countries of the region.

In closing my address, Your Excellencies, allow me once again to pay our highest tribute to His Excellency President Macapagal for the statesmanship he has shown, his far reaching vision and the inspiration he has generated which not only made this meeting possible, but also contributed largely to its success.

I would also like to recall here the spirit of friendship and goodwill as well as the high degree of statesmanship among the three leaders of our countries.

All these, as well as the fruitful conclusion of our Conference, are indeed happy auguries for the success of the forthcoming meeting of the leaders of our three countries.

Finally may I again take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Vice President Pelaez and through him to the government and the people of the Philippines

for the warmth of their welcome and hospitality which has made our stay in Manila most pleasant and memorable. I would also like to pay a warm tribute to you, Mr. Vice President, for the extremely able manner in which you had acted as Chairman of our Conference. In spite of the fact that you are yourself an active participant you have not allowed your own position to interfere with your impartial duties as Chairman. Your charm, your wit and your patience had certainly enabled us to resolve difficult matters and conclude our business according to schedule, while at the same time affording us the opportunity to enjoy ourselves.

In conclusion, I would like also to express my warm appreciation to the officials of the three delegations as well as to all members of the Secretariat staff for the extremely efficient and able manner they served our Conference, and in meeting our exacting demands with cheerfulness and enthusiasm. To you, Mr. Chairman,—and to all who have contributed to the success of this Conference—I wish to say Selamat Po.