

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON WELCOMING THE U.S. PEACE CORPS AT THE NATIONAL OPERATIONS ROOM, MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT KUALA LUMPUR ON 19TH MAY, 1964

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the sixth occasion on which I have the pleasure of receiving U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers at this National Operations Room and I like to take this opportunity of extending to you all a very warm welcome to Malaysia.

I. Peace Corps role in helping us carry out development projects

As you know we, in Malaysia, have embarked upon a many-sided and ambitious programme of social and economic development. This programme is designed to help raise the standard of living of the people in this country particularly those living in the rural areas. Our object is to give our people a decent standard of living so that they can live with human dignity free from the bonds of poverty, ignorance and disease.

In this gigantic task of achieving our objective we need all the available men and women to help implement the projects in our Development plan. We are short of trained and skilled personnel and have therefore requested your Government to supply us with the necessary middle level-manpower. You all have responded to our request for volunteers and by joining the Peace Corps programme, you will render service not only to Malaysia but also the world community in promoting friendship and deeper understanding between peoples of your country and ours.

II. Malaysia's belief in democratic way of life

We, like your country, believe in a democratic system of Government. We believe in living at peace and harmony with our neighbours and with all peoples irrespective of race, creed, and religion. For twelve years we have fought militant communism in our land to maintain our free and democratic way of life. After the Emergency was over, we directed all our efforts and attention to develop the country and provide the people with all the amenities of life for which they deserve. We will continue to intensify our efforts to promote rapid social and

economic development in Malaysia in spite of the difficulties which arise from the unwarranted and inhuman attacks by Indonesia disguised in the form of "Confrontation". I am therefore very happy that your Government have so readily provided us at our request the services of U.S. Peace Corps volunteers to help us in our plan for rural uplift. In this connection I have observed during my tours of inspection in the districts that the Peace Corps are doing an excellent job. They have created a very favourable impression on the people with whom they serve and I am sure you will also do the same.

I am advised that in this Group of 27 volunteers there are among you teachers, nurses, medical technicians and people to assist in rural development. Each and everyone of you are qualified in the special field for which your services have been requested. We need men and women like you to supplement our manpower resources so as to accelerate the development programmes now being undertaken in the country. Many of you will serve in the remote rural areas. You will live in conditions quite different from the affluent society of America but your work will be an interesting and stimulating one and I can assure you that your spirit of sacrifice for the good of others will not only be rewarding but also greatly appreciated.

I hope that I shall soon meet you again on the ground in some of my visits to the districts and wish you all the best and an enjoyable stay in our beloved country.

Thank you.