

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER INTRODUCING DR. PLUVIER AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS COCKTAIL AT LOKE YEW BUILDING, KUALA LUMPUR ON 6TH AUGUST, 1965

The Representative of Oxford University Press in Malaysia (Mr. Bramah), Ladies & Gentlemen:

I must apologize for keeping you all waiting for me. I have just finished one appointment and after this I have another meeting to attend. I thank the Oxford University Press for inviting me here tonight. It is indeed a pleasure to be here tonight and to introduce to you all Dr. Jan Pluvier, the author of *Confrontations* – an Oxford University Press Book which has just been published and currently on sales in our country. Dr. Pluvier teaches history at our National University in Pantai Valley.

I have not read the book myself so I cannot review it for you. Even if I had wanted to I would not try. I must refrain from doing so because I am such a poor book reviewer and that being the case, if I try, you might not want to read this good book after listening to me. If someone has not reviewed it already, I urge you to wait for a competent reviewer to do justice to the book. But I have heard the book is quite informative. Despite the title, there is only one chapter on confrontation proper. The motives behind Indonesian confrontation are discussed quite extensively.

For those who are not in the know or directly involved with Indonesian confrontation or the policies of this country – the book does throw some new light about Indonesian motives in its confrontation, about Dutch Official neutrality in the Indonesian-Malaysian confrontation and many other aspects of confrontation. According to my friends, it is a good book, certainly, a good book for students of Indonesian politics.

Indonesian's chief argument against Malaysia is that we are an accomplice of Western Imperialism. We are what the Indonesian call, a neo-colonialist plot. I do not want to say very much about this but you yourself being an informed group know that this is not true. Malaysia was born as a result of the desire of the peoples of Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore and Malaya to get together under a Federation. Despite Indonesian aggression, and what President Soekarno says or does, I am very glad that we have been able to maintain and strengthen

our national integrity and sovereignty. We are working slowly but surely towards a united nationhood and one common loyalty. Ironically, confrontation has been an added impetus towards nationhood.

I would like very much to emphasize here that we have no quarrel with the people of Indonesia. We do not even have any quarrel with President Soekarno for that matter, not until he started shouting at us that he wanted to crush us. This is a question of self-defence — defence against someone who is determined to crush us and our country.

The people of this country have the greatest respect and esteem for the Indonesian people and we wish them well and we hope that the time will not be too long before Malaysia and Indonesia are friends again.

Indonesia and Malaysia must inevitably get together again, for any prolongation of this confrontation will neither benefit Indonesia nor Malaysia. The continuation of animosity between these two countries will benefit only the enemies and the imperialists. So it is for the good and well-being of both Malaysia and Indonesia that solutions must be found to end the confrontation. We on our part are always ready to talk peace with Indonesia but any such talk can only take place when and if Indonesia stops its aggression against us.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Now I have much pleasure in introducing Dr. Pluvier to you all — Dr. Jan M. Pluvier.