

SPEECH BY THE
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AT THE DINNER IN HONOUR OF
H.E. MR. ETSUSABURO SHIINA,
FOREIGN MINISTER OF JAPAN
AT SERI TAMAN, KUALA LUMPUR
ON 21ST OCTOBER, 1966.

Your Excellency, Madam Shiina¹, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like, on behalf of the Government and the people of Malaysia, to extend to you, Your Excellency, Mrs. Shiina and members of your delegation, our warm and sincere welcome to this country.

For me personally, it gives me special pleasure to welcome you, Your Excellency, as a good and trusted friend of Malaysia. Also, your visit here gives me the opportunity of reciprocating a kind hospitality which you showed to us, the Malaysian Delegation, and myself, in particular, at the Ministerial Conference for Economic Development of South-East Asia held in Tokyo some months ago.

Your Excellency, I should like also to take this opportunity to place on record once again Malaysia's sincere appreciation of the deep understanding and co-operation shown by Japan towards her brother Nations in Asia.

We, in Malaysia, sincerely appreciate Japan's leading role in the great and challenging task of bringing about peace, prosperity and progress to the people of Asia. Indeed, this noble task binds us together – Japan and Malaysia – in a common endeavour to achieve our aim. As Your Excellency will appreciate, the outcome of our endeavour and of our struggle will directly benefit no less than two thirds of the human race.

Your Excellency, the relationship between our two countries and our two people is cordial, and this relationship could be described as informal but practical and working partnership in the spirit of mutual respect and of common determination to work together for the peace and economic well-being of Asia, in general, and South-east in particular.

Your Excellency, your country Japan has been playing a leading role in search of peace in South-east Asia. We, in Malaysia, deeply appreciate Japan's patience and consistent efforts in endeavouring to bring Indonesia and Malaysia together during the unhappy period of Confrontation. We deeply appreciate Japan's sincerity in trying to restore friendship between two brother Nations – Indonesia and Malaysia – during the Tripartite Conference in Tokyo in 1964. These efforts by Japan are convincing proof of Japan's determination to do everything possible to bring about peace and stability in South-east Asia.

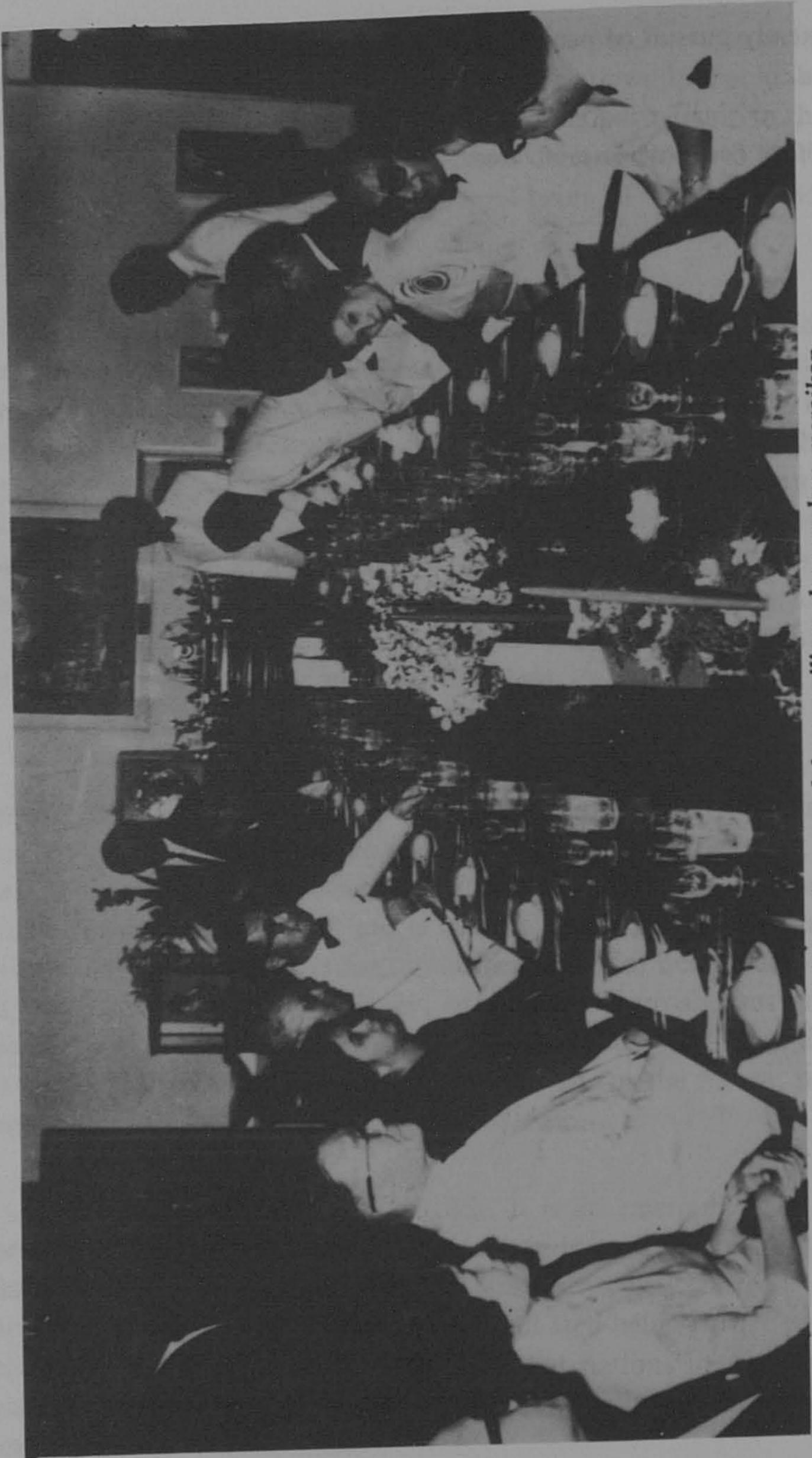
Your Excellency, Japan has already shown us and to the world her will and capacity to work towards peace and progress. If I may say so, Japan's example to the rest of Asia is very significant. It is an example of a great nation, both ancient and modern; a nation in spite of her ancient tradition, is modern and a powerful industrial nation, within the constitutional framework of democracy. It is this example, Your Excellency, of a modern, prosperous and democratic Japan whose growing responsibilities in Asia are matching her growing power, that augurs well for the future, not only of Japan, but also of the whole of Asia.

In Asia today, there is a new spirit. It is an emerging Asia, a new Asia. This spirit demands cooperation instead of confrontation, freedom instead of tyranny, and prosperity instead of poverty. The new Asia desires dignity and well-being of her people. It is in this spirit I hope and trust that nations in Asia will work together and co-operate for mutual benefit and for peace and prosperity in this region.

Your Excellency, in welcoming you to Malaysia, may I assure you that, through you and the friendly Government of Japan, Malaysia can be assured to go forward hand in hand with Japan

in steady pursuit of peace and prosperity for all the free people of Asia.

¹ Wife of Foreign Minister of Japan.



Timbalan Perdana Menteri Tun Abdul Razak mengadakan majlis makan malam meraikan Menteri Luar Jepun, Tuan Etsusaburo Shiina di Seri Taman Kuala Lumpur pada 21 Oktober 1966.