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SPEECH BY Y.A.B. TIMBALAN
PERDANA MENTERI AT THE DINNER OF THE
PERAK CHINESE GUILDS AND ASSOCIATIONS
IN IPOH ON 16TH JULY, 1966.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Organising Committee, Honourable Menteri Besar and Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am very grateful to you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Organising Committee, for having taking so much trouble to organise this dinner in my honour. Your support for the Tunku as our National Leader and for myself really means that you support the top leadership of the Alliance, because the leaders of the Alliance work as one team and in complete agreement and harmony. It also means that you support the Alliance Party, its policies and all that its stands for.

Eversince the Alliance Party was form in 1953, we have pledged to serve the people and the country. We have pledged to do three things: to bring harmony and unity between our people of various racial origins; to bring peace to our country; and to give our people of all races a better deal, i.e., happiness and prosperity. For eleven years since we have been entrusted by the people of this country to govern Malaya and then Malaysia, these three aims have been the cardinal principle of our policies. We have never veered nor departed from these aims. As a young Nation, Malaya and then Malaysia has had to face difficulties and to meet challenges. But, because of our sincerity and purpose and the righteousness of our aims, we have overcome all these difficulties with triumph.

As you know, we have had to face the last nine years since we achieved independence, two emergencies. The first was caused by the Communist terrorists and this we ended in less than 2 years after we achieved independence, although the British had fought for nearly 10 years. Then we had to face the Indonesian Confrontation. But because we always believe in peace and because we have no ill-feelings against anyone, we now clearly see that the Confron-

tation has virtually ended and that those who are responsible for bringing about this Confrontation, i.e., the Party Communists in Indonesia, are now suffering their fate at the hands of the good and loyal people of Indonesia, the Indonesian Armed Forces and their leaders who sincerely have the interests of the Indonesian people at heart. Let us all, therefore, pray that the understanding we reached at Bangkok would bring about permanent peace, not only between us and Indonesia, but also for the whole of South-East Asia.

With the coming of peace, we can now look to the future with real hope and confidence. Externally, we can look forward to close and friendly cooperation among the countries in this region of South-East Asia. In this present world of conflicting ideologies and power blocs, we as a small Nation cannot stand on our own. It must be our policy to work together with other Nations who share the same ideals as we do and who believe in freedom and justice. It is to the benefit of us all and to all the countries of South-East Asia, to work together in close and friendly cooperation in all fields; in economic, trade, cultural and other fields. It is only by doing this that we will have the hope of not only surviving but of an era of peace and happiness for all our people. The foundation has already been laid for this regional cooperation in the establishment of ASA. We hope that in the near future it will be possible to bring other countries in this region to work together for mutual benefit and for mutual interests.

Internally, with the coming of peace, we can now concentrate on our efforts to consolidate our freedom and our independence. We can now concentrate on our efforts and our resources on economic development in order to give our people, the 'have-nots', in the towns as well as in the rural areas, a better and a higher standard of living and a rightful place in our society. Despite difficulties and challenges in the last several years, we have done much in this respect. But as you all agree, there is still much to be done. There is still a large number of our people who have not enjoyed a standard of living that we desire of them or a standard of living compatible with a decent and civilized society. There are many of our people in the towns who are living under poor conditions and some of them have no home of their own. It will be the policy of our Government to provide them with all these. For those who have

no home, to provide them with a decent home, and for those who have no means of employment, to provide them with decent employment; and for those who desire amenities of life, to provide them with amenities of life compatible with a decent and civilized society. These will be our tasks in the coming years, and we, the Alliance Government, will concentrate all our efforts and resources in this field.

Our progress in the last five years has been great and has received the admiration of nearly every country in the world. But we intend to do more. We intend to quicken the pace and the tempo of our development so that our people will be able to reap the benefits from the wealth of our country in the not too distant future.

It will also be our duty to continue our efforts to build up institutions of learning so that we will continue to strengthen the harmony, goodwill and friendship, which have always existed among our people of various races. We are determined to bring about that unity which is so essential for peace and prosperity of our country. I know there are people, there are Members of the Opposition Party, who continue to make use of communal issues for the sake of gaining a few seats in Parliament or for the sake of personal power. These people have not got the interests of the people of our country at heart. They are only looking after their own personal interest. We, the leaders of the Alliance, have always looked far above, individual, sectional or party's interests. We have placed the interests of our country and our people above everything else. That is why I am so happy tonight that so many of you, leaders of various Guilds and Associations, have understood our policies and our aims. I have always believed that the majority of our people have got enough common-sense to know what is good for them; have enough common-sense to know what should be done for their future peace and happiness. We want to make Malaysia a happy country for all our people. A happy country, not only for us, but for our children and the children to be in years to come. We have no other wish and no other ambition. As I have said, from the moment we formed the Alliance, this has been our wish, ambition and aim, and we have never veered nor departed from these aims. We know we are doing the right thing. We know that we are serving the true interests of our people. So, no matter what mischief-makers may try to do, whether they come from inside or outside

our country, we shall oppose them and fight them in order that the true interests of our people and our country will prevail.