

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE  
DINNER GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF  
JAPAN IN TOKYO ON 14TH OCTOBER, 1971

Let me say, first of all, how very much I appreciate the warm reception and the generous hospitality that have been so kindly extended to my wife and myself and members of my party by you, Mr Prime Minister, and your Government.

It is a great pleasure for me to be here again after a lapse of nearly eight years during which we have witnessed ever growing links between our two countries. The ties that bind us have been further strengthened and enhanced through personal contacts and visits, the most memorable of which was the visit of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko, who won the hearts of all Malaysians by their youthful grace and charm. And we still recall with pleasure, Mr Prime Minister, the visit that you and Madam Sato paid to Malaysia some four years ago.

These visits are indicative of the close ties which are being forged between our two countries and peoples. (Today, Japan is one of Malaysia's most important trading partners and some 18 percent of Malaysia's total trade in 1970 was with Japan. Your country is also the fourth largest foreign investor in Malaysian pioneer companies, with a total capital investment of some 42 million dollars.) These figures are perhaps less significant to the man-in-the-street than the pervasive Japanese presence—by way of radio and television sets, motor cycles and cars, cameras, mechanical and electrical equipment—in every Malaysian home in the towns as well as in the remote villages.

Our people have also become more conscious of our growing relationship in the last few years because both our countries have been co-operating together in promoting and strengthening regional co-operation in such organisations as the Ministerial Council for the Economic Development of Southeast Asia, and the Asian Development Bank. Another notable instance was the Jakarta Conference last year and the subsequent follow-up mission. This mutuality of interests has enabled us to understand each other better and drawn us closer together.

Mr Prime Minister, in all these activities a central question for Malaysia, as indeed for other countries in Southeast Asia, is the role of Japan in the years to come. We are all aware that for a long time Japan has adopted a "low posture" foreign policy, concentrating on building up and strengthening your economy. Your economic miracle has resulted in Japan emerging as the most economically advanced nation in Asia and a major power in the world. The position of eminence which you have gained places a moral obligation upon you to concern yourself rather more than before with the fundamental issues of peace, progress and prosperity particularly in Southeast Asia, because this area is of vital strategic, economic and commercial importance to your country. As an Asian power, it is clearly as much in your interest as it is in ours, to seek a peaceful and stable Southeast Asia.

I would venture to suggest that Japan can make an important contribution to the peace and stability of Southeast Asia by helping us to develop and progress and thus to realise quickly our hopes and aspirations. Your achievements, particularly industrial technology, stand as a beacon for us the developing countries of the region. We would naturally like to emulate your success and we do not think that economic advancement and progress can be meaningful if we are to continue to serve passively as suppliers of raw materials and as markets for manufactured products. We seek a new kind of relationship, one that would be orientated more towards profit sharing and towards partnership for mutual benefit. In this way, we believe we can achieve a sounder, a more meaningful and a mutually advantageous relationship.

I sincerely believe that the field of economic development is one in which Japan can play a very constructive and beneficial role as all of us are giving the highest priorities to raising the standard of living of our peoples. I would like to cite my own country as a case in point. We have just launched the Second Malaysia Plan which represents fresh hopes and aspirations of the Malaysian people. Our new economic policy as embodied in the plan would realise our potential as a people and nation in the pursuit of lasting prosperity and stability. We seek to establish an unshakeable foundation of lasting unity among our people of diverse origins, a unity which shall be forged through expanding

national development. To translate this bold but realistic programme into concrete reality, vast expenditure of funds will be required.

Needless to say, Mr Prime Minister, Japan's participation in this plan would be most welcome. Our discussion this morning lead me to believe that Japan is sympathetic and responsive to our needs. You have just confirmed this in your statement and this is a source of much encouragement to me. I look forward to closer collaboration between our two countries as true partners in development.

It is through these concrete and tangible co-operative projects that we can strengthen even more the ties which bind our two countries and peoples. There is much indeed that we in Malaysia can learn from you. The energy and enterprise of the Japanese people, the discipline and dedication you have shown, the modern and technological society you have created without losing the ancient traditions and spirit of Japan: these have won the admiration of the Malaysian people and indeed of the whole world.

Mr Prime Minister, finally let me thank you once again for the great honour you have done me in inviting me to visit Japan. I have had the opportunity of meeting you and discussing with you many matters of common concern and interest to both our countries. I sincerely hope that both of our countries will continue to work together for our mutual benefit.

May I now invite all honoured guests to join in a toast to the good health and happiness of Prime Minister Sato and Madame Sato and the continued well-being and progress of Japan and the Japanese people.