REMARKS BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE LAUNCHING OF AIMBANKERS, AT THE LAKE CLUB, KUALA LUMPUR ON 19TH NOVEMBER,

Y.B. Tan Sri Omar Ong, Ahli-ahli Lembaga Pengarah AIMBANKERS, Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan,

Saya sukacita dan gembira dapat hadir bersama-sama di sini pada majlis yang permai untuk melancarkan sebuah lagi Merchant Bank yang baru iaitu Asian International Merchant Bank (AIMBANKERS).

Sukalah saya mengambil kesempatan ini mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada rakan kita yang juga seorang ahli politik veteran dan diplomat terkenal—Tan Sri Omar Ong[1] atas segala usaha beliau hingga berjaya menubuhkan AIMBANKERS ini. Dengan ini kita sekarang mempunyai enam buah Merchant Bank yang menjalankan kegiatan dalam berbagai bidang kewangan khasnya pembangunan perlndustrian untuk ekspot, supaya negara kita juga dapat menikmati faedah-faedah yang didapati pada jurusan itu.

Saya sangat tertarik hati melihat dalam usaha ini UMBC sebagai institusi tempatan bekerjasama dengan dua buah bank—satu dari Barat dan satu dari Timur—yang mempunyai sejarah lama dalam operasi bank iaitu National & Grindlays Bank dari United Kingdom dan Fuji Bank, sebuah bank yang terkemuka di negara Jepun. Nama dan pengaruh dua bank yang berpengalaman ini sudah semestinya akan menjamin kejayaan AIMBANKERS dalam menjalankan kegiatannya di masa hadapan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

AIMBANKERS is unique among the Merchant Banks in Malaysia in that for the first time we have the joint participation of a Japanese and a British bank with a Malaysian bank in partnership. Needless to say both The National & Grindlays and the Fuji Bank have a long history of banking behind them while the UMBC itself, as we know, is the first locally incorporated banking institution in Malaysia.

1 Yang Dipertua Dewan Negara.

You will agree with me that much of the credit for establishing this new institution goes to our indefatiguable friend Tan Sri Omar Ong who is most eminently placed as its Chairman. This is quite an achievement for Tan Sri Ong, having been a Cabinet Minister in the early days of independence, a diplomat of long standing and now a Banker (not forgetting the fact that he is a veteran politician and still an active one).

I also notice another familiar face among the Board members—an old friend who of late has been dabbling in journalism and claims to have a large following of readers for his "Ponder" column. For him too this is certainly an occasion of great signi-finance—after all not every ex-civil servant finally ends up as a Banker but only the Mandarins among them!

Coming back to the substance of this evening's occasion, I on behalf of the Government heartily welcome the new Bank with the hope and confidence that it will play its role and contribute meaningfully to our economic progress, in particular our industrialization programme. The steady expansion of our manufacturing sector is a clear indication of the food prospects openly available to entrepreneurs especially from overseas who are most welcome to invest here and participate with local investors in joint-venture effort

I am confident that the AIMBANKERS will involve itself immediately in this arena and, with the expertise available, contribute in a large measure to the economic and industrial development of Malaysia in future.

On that note, I happily launch the AIMBANKERS and wish it all success.