UCAPAN PERDANA MENTERI DI MAJLIS JAMUAN MAKAN MALAM DEWAN PERNIAGAAN DAN PERINDUSTERIAN MALAYSIA DI DEWAN PERHIMPUNAN CINA, JALAN BIRCH, KUALA LUMPUR PADA 9HB NOVEMBER, 1974

Y.B. Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh, Y.B. Tan Sri Nik Ahmad Kamil, Dif-dif yang terhormat, Tuan-tuan sekalian.

Saya sukalah terlebih dahulu mengucapkan berbanyak terimakasih kepada ahli-ahli Badan Pengelola dan juga tuan-tuan atas jemputan menghadiri majlis jamuan yang bersempena serta meriah pada malam ini.

Majlis ini mempunyai makna yang lebih besar kerana kita baru saja menyaksikan peristiwa Pembukaan Sidang Parlimen berikutan dengan kemenangan Kerajaan Barisan Nasional dalam pilihanraya umum tidak lama dahulu. Bahkan, seperti yang dikatakan oleh Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh sebentar tadi, NCCI ini yang merupakan gabungan daripada National Chamber of Commerce dan Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers dilahirkan dalam bulan Ogos tahun ini iaitu sama serentak dengan Kerajaan Barisan Nasional yang memegang teraju pimpinan negara kita hari ini.

Tuan-tuan sekalian.

Sukalah saya, pada kesempatan ini, mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah dan pujian kepada semua pihak iaitu Dewan Perniagaan dan Perindusterian Melayu, Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce, Associated Indian Chambers of Commerce, Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce dan Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers atas inisiatif dan langkah yang bijaksana menyatukan tenaga demi kepentingan negara.

Begitu juga, sukalah saya mengucapkan tahniah kepada Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh, yang telah mendapat penghormatan menjadi Pengerusi pertama badan yang baru ini. Sebagai seorang tokoh perniagaan dan tokoh politik yang sedang meningkat, terutama dengan jawatan barunya sebagai Chief Executive PETRONAS, pilihan beliau memegang pimpinan NCCI ini sangatlah kena pada tempatnya.

Saya difahamkan juga iaitu Tan Sri Nik Ahmad Kamil yang telah memimpin FMM selama ini akan meletakkan jawatannya berikutan dengan pemilihan beliau lima hari dulu menjadi Speaker Dewan Rakyat. Saya juga mengambil kesempatan ini merakamkan tahniah serta pujian atas perkhidmatannya yang cemerlang memimpin FMM dan saya percaya, meskipun tugasnya sekarang amat berat, namun beliau akan terus memberikan petunjuk dan bantuan kepada NCCI ini.

Tuan-tuan sekalian.

Tidak syak lagi, langkah yang diambil oleh Gabungan Dewan-dewan Perniagaan dan Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers amatlah kena pada tempatnya, bahkan sejajar dengan cogankata yang menjadi pendorong Gerakan Pembaruan-Gembeling Tenaga untuk Maju. Dengan ini dapatlah dikatakan juga bahawa NCCI adalah turut sama terlibat dalam Gerakan Pembaruan dan saya yakin serta percaya langkah yang dilaksana ini akan membawa kemajuan dan munafaat yang lebih bermakna kepada kita sekalian.

The formation of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry is indeed timely and significant and is certainly a step in the right direction. This single united body, by bringing under one roof the various Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers can prove to be a dynamic vehicle through which the views of the private sector can be carried across to the Government more effectively. Speaking with one voice under a single banner and by acting a concerted manner, the efforts of the private sector could lead to much more meaningful results in our endeavour to bring about prosperity and well-being to our people.

Selama ini, Dewan-dewan Perniagaan dan Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, seperti yang kita maklum, membawa haluan masing-masing meskipun kebanyakan daripada tuan-tuan adalah menjadi anggota kedua-dua badan itu. Dengan tergabungnya kedua badan ini saya percaya usaha-usaha yang telah berjalan dan yang akan dijalankan boleh dilipatgandakan lagi dan dalam pada itu mengelakkan duplication of effort dan pembaziran tenaga semata-mata. Saya suka up till now the Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers have been working in their separate ways though most of you are members of both bodies. With the incorporation of these two organisations your efforts in promoting business activities as well as the interest of

your members will be greatly enhanced and you will also be able to avoid duplication as well as unnecessary waste of efforts. I would like to commence to other organisations to follow the example of NCCJ so that they will be able to play a more important and meaningful role in the life and activities of our Nation.

Gentlemen.

As I have stated on previous occasions, our country and indeed the whole world is facing a period of economic depression in the next several months. This situation which economist term as stagflation requires a realistic and united approach and action both by the Government and Private Sector.

Despite, this bleak economic outlook the Government is determined to carry out the development phases as approved in the Second Malaysia Plan and the New Economic Policy.

I would like to assume the country that the Government will fulfill its promises to the people as stated in the Barisan National Manifested during the last election. His address at the opening of the Fourth session of Port had clearly outlined the broad lines of policy which government intends to carry out in order to lesser the impact and burden of stagflation.

Talking about recession and depression I would like to mention for your benefit definition of recession and depression.

A recession is a period in which you tighten your belt. In a depression you have no belt to tighten and when you have no pants to hold up it is pained. Of course with depression comes unemployment. I know how to settle this unemployment problems. Put all the women on one island and all men on the other. That will solve it.

How, all of them will get busy building boats.

Tuan-tuan sekalian.

Dalam hubungan ini saya sangat berterimakasih kepada Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh atas pandangannya serta syor-syor yang dikemukakannya untuk menghadapi keadaan inflasi dan recession ini. Rakan saya, Menteri Kewangan, sudah tentu amat mengambil berat dalam hal ini and although the 1975 budget is still a big secret, I can say on his behalf that the suggested measures will be strongly emphasised in his Budget Speech on 12th November.

Salah satu langkah yang akan dititikberatkan ialah pengeluaran bahan-bahan makanan yang secukupnya. Adalah penting dan mustahak pada pandangan Kerajaan usaha ini dilipatgandakan lagi supaya rakyat negara kita sentiasa terjamin dalam bekalan bahan-bahan makanan dan tidak lagi bergantung kepada bekalan dari luar negeri. Saya suka menarik perhatian tuan-tuan iaitu selama ini urusan pengeluaran padi beras umpamanya dijalankan semata-mata oleh petani-petani kecil—the small padi farmers—dan tidak ada penyertaan langsung oleh pihak swasta sebagaimana getah, kelapa sawit dan lain-lain.

Saya ingin menggesa ahli-ahli NCCI agar menimbangkan penyertaan dalam bidang ini dan meneroka corak baru dalam sektor pertanian negara. Langkah-langkah sudahpun berjalan umpamanya DARABIF iaitu usaha bersama ternakan secara besar-besaran untuk daging dan susu yang selama ini bergantung kepada import dari luar. Saya percaya tentu ada pihak-pihak yang ingin menjalankan penanaman makanan seperti padi, jagung dan kacang soya secara besar-besaran yang melibatkan mechanised agriculture dan bagi pihak Kerajaan saya sedia menimbangkan cadangan-cadangan dan permohonan dalam jurusan ini. This, I hope, is a challenge and an opportunity which merits your consideration.

Tuan-tuan sekalian.

It is heartening though to note optimistic observations such as the one in the recent issue of the US News and World Report that the US is already on the way towards more stable prices. The worst impact of the tremendous increases in oil prices is apparently over and the recent Rabat Summit further endorses the hope for a brighter future. As far as we are concerned, this is only the beginning and we can only take solace in the fact that our country is well-endowed with fertile land and rich natural resources to see us through the hard times. I should not elaborate too much on this lest our Finance Minister be deprived of anything to say in his Budget address on Tuesday.

It is also relevant to mention that for the first time in so many years that we are faced with an adverse balance of trade as a result of the reduced demand for our traditional export commodities. However, I believe we can still take advantage of our manufacturing sector to make up for this adverse situation and in this context I hope the NCCI would examine all avenues for

increasing our export to non-traditional areas such as West Asia and the Arab States. At this moment, we all know that a Trade Delegation is visiting the West Asian countries for this very purpose and I hope some positive results would come from this visit.

In this regard, I would also like to urge this new body to play a more active role in the field of export promotion. Whilst the Government can provide the basic facilities and create the necessary conditions within a given framework to promote export, the bulk of the efforts should come from the private sector. In fact, it is not only necessary that the private sector respond favourably to any Government sponsored export promotion activity but also that they should move in consonance with such efforts of the Government so as to attain maximum effectiveness.

I would also strongly urge the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry to establish an effective machinery to provide all the necessary assistance and export advisory services to its members, a large number of whom, I believe are small-scale establishments who have very limited experience in the export trade. By doing so, your new Association can play a positive role in instiling a greater sense of "export consciousness" among the members.

It is my fervent hope that this new Association will succeed in establishing and maintaining an effective liaison and dialogue between its members and the Government. The members of the private sector through the Association could thus be aware and clear of the various policies enunciated by the Government relating to trade and industry. At the same time, parallel measures could be taken by the private sector to maintain constant feed-back to the Government their problems and their views, with the object of helping Government to evolve appropriate measures and policies on trade and industry. In this way close rapport can be established between Government and the Association.

Tuan-tuan sekalian.

Saya sekali lagi mengulangi harapan agar NCCI ini akan sentiasa bekerjasama dengan Kerajaan dalam usaha menjaga serta mengawasi perkembangan dan kemajuan di bidang perniagaan dan perindusterian demi kepentingan masa depan negara kita yang dicintai.

Selamat berjaya!