

It is my belief that if all political leaders in the world were really dedicated to these types of *noises*, then less frequently would we have in this troubled world the *noises* made by guns and bullets because I believe that the true application of sound economic planning in countries such as ours with the resultant benefits of higher standard of living and greater economic productivity is in fact the best defence against aggression and an insurance policy against internal subversion.

You have made great strides towards the aim of every sensible citizen in the Region. The aim of ***regional cooperation*** is substantiated by tangible results. You have, before your Association, a tremendous challenge and opportunity to help stabilise Development and help push along the path of progress all member countries in this region.

CLOSER LINK URGED

"IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF EUROPE AND
SOUTH EAST ASIA"

Though separated geographically by thousands of miles and though they differ in culture, creed and stock. both Malaysia and Belgium share the same ideas. This was pointed out by Tun Abdul Razak at a luncheon given in his honour by Mr W. De Clercq. the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, in Brussels in May. 1968. Opportunity was taken by the Tun in the course of the following speech. to thank Belgium for the assistance she had given Malaysia in the past and for her promise to continue such help.

Our two countries, Malaysia and Belgium, have maintained close and friendly relations ever since we in Malaysia achieved independence 11 years ago. Last year we have had the privilege of receiving the Economic and Trade Mission from your country headed by His Royal Highness Prince Albert, and a year before that in 1966 we also had another economic mission from your country.

Your country has therefore shown great interest in the stability and progress of our country, Malaysia, and has shown a sincere desire to assist and co-operate, with us in our efforts to achieve economic growth and to give our people a measure of happiness and prosperity.

Therefore. Your Excellency, it gives me real pleasure personally today to thank you and your Government for the friendship and co-operation, for the help and assistance which you have rendered us in the past and for your promise to continue to give us all the help you can.

We both believe in Constitutional monarchy and in regional co-operation because it is our earnest hope that all countries in the world should live together in peace and harmony and should work together for the benefit of mankind and the world at large.

We in Malaysia have, in our own way, endeavoured to establish close relations among neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia.

Many years ago. to be exact in 1961. with Thailand and the Philippines, we established the Association of Southeast Asia (ASA) and now this regional co-operation has been expanded to include Indonesia and Singapore.

Your Excellency will no doubt have heard of the formation of this new regional co-operation known as ASEAN. It is our belief in Malaysia that expansion of regional co-operation is an important step towards the creation of a peaceful and prosperous world at economic. social and political level.

I note with great pleasure Your Excellency's statement on the necessity for co-operation between Europe and South East Asia and that the European communities are conscious of that and the desirability of the developed countries in Europe to assist the under-developed and developing countries of South East Asia.

It is in the interest of Europe as well as South East Asian countries that there should be this co-operation and assistance. We greatly welcome Your Excellency's statement.

We in Malaysia, are endeavouring to obtain a closer link with the European communities and I trust we shall have the support not only of your country but of all the other countries concerned.

We also note with a real sense of satisfaction that Belgium has made concrete and possible efforts towards this end.

Your Excellency, the technical and cultural agreement which has been signed between our two countries has encouraged the development of closer relations and co-operation.

Today we have a Belgian expert assisting us in the Sungei Tong Palm Oil Scheme in Terengganu and there are a number of Malaysians studying in your country on grants given by your government for the period 1966/67. I am looking forward to an even closer co-operation between our two countries in other fields as well

As I said just now, your country has sent two Economic Missions to Malaysia, and therefore your experts here know well of our needs in the various fields of activities which your Government and your people could interest themselves in. There are already a number of Belgian firms in Malaysia and the door is wide open for the entry of other interested Belgian enterprises.

We welcome your industrialists and technicians to be partners in our economic efforts and the two missions that you sent know the pioneer status which we grant to newly established industries as well as other incentives.

Your Excellency, our country, Malaysia, has been following a policy of friendship and co-operation with all friendly countries. Our economy is basically agriculture and we are producing a number of food crops which other countries require. We, therefore, need trade and co-operation.

We look forward to developed countries such as yours to show faith in us, in our efforts to survive as a young nation and to give our people that measure of peace and happiness which they desire.

We would like you to show faith in our efforts to maintain peace and stability in that important region of Southeast Asia, - peace and stability which will not only benefit countries in the region but other countries of the world.