

"GOD CREATED THE EARTH BUT DUTCHMEN CREATED HOLLAND"

At a dinner on 8th July. 1968, in Kuala Lumpur in honour of Dr Luns, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. the Netherlands, Tun Razak paid a glowing tribute "to the indefatigable capacity of the Dutch people to drive themselves to the utmost in whatever sphere of activities that they are committed". He added. "It is something which we in Malaysia could well emulate" Parts of his speech follow.

Your Excellency. may I say sincerely how much I enjoyed my visits to your great country, to see your beautiful and tranquil water-ways in the country-side, but these do not entirely reflect the real character of the Dutch people who are renowned for their energy and industry.

I really admire the people of your country, which, though it is somewhat water-logged, does in no way deter their energy and their ingenuity to make it a prosperous and thriving nation.

From this large area of reclaimed land, which I believe in the Netherlands you call "the Polders" your people have enriched the world with your industrial and agricultural produce, and you have gladdened and brightened the world with your Tulips and other flowers.

Not only this, you have made good use by your energies, by turning the water which used to be your greatest enemy into one of the world's best friends. Gin. Snapps and all the other delightful liquors made in Holland.

As you yourself said, when I was in your country. "God created Ac earth, but Dutchmen created Holland."

I heard a story which I think reflects the typical attitude towards hard work which is a national characteristic of your people.

There was a Dutch immigrant farmer in the United States who being examined for naturalisation as an American citizen.

He was asked. "Who was the President, and Vice President of toe United States?"—and he *answered correctly*.

Then he was asked, "Would *you* like to be the President?" to which he replied. 'Wo, *Never !*"

His examiner asked him. "Why not?*", and he replied. "Because I am *so busy* at my work on my farm all day and night that I could not possibly have time to take on the duties of President as well!"

This, to my mind, typifies the industrious and energetic attitude of your people.

Your Excellency, your country which has a tremendous tradition and historic record in the world of progress, is one which I have always admired. My recent visit to the Netherlands, has impressed me even more. Tonight, we have with us. you, Dr Luns, embodying all the impulses and talents that made your country among the foremost in Europe; and you as an eminent man gifted with both talent and wit, an internationalist of great renown -having been Foreign Minister of your great country for 16 years.

This is something which we Ministers in this country strive to learn; that is, how to remain in office *uninterrupted* for so long. You told me that the way to continue to remain in office is to make yourself absolutely, utterly and completely indispensable!

The question is how to do this in a Democracy, when your fate precariously hangs at regular intervals on a string of ballot paper crosses!

It is a pity that you are not a registered voter in Malaysia; otherwise, you can help to make the Alliance Government absolutely, utterly and completely indispensable, by helping us apply your philosophy and practice of "indispensability!"

Your extra vote would be most useful to us with elections just around the corner! However, if we cannot have this extra vote, extra financial aid would do just as well!

I would like to say here. Dr Luns. how much we appreciate the assistance your country has given us so far and as a Member of the Aid Malaysia Club, you have promised to give us further aid-

You have just been to our great neighbour Indonesia, where you have decided to give whatever aid you can. While we appreciate this gesture towards our close and friendly neighbour. I hope you will not forget us!

Your Excellency. as I told you when I visited your country, you will find in your visit here that Holland and Malaysia have many things in common.

We are both a democratic country, a monarchy. and we value and cherish our freedom and democratic way of life. Like your country Holland. Malaysia is a small nation. Our greatest wish is to live in peace with all nations. We are not against anyone, against any system of Government or against any ideology, we want to be friends with everyone who wants to be friends with us.

However, we have in our midst a small section of people here who have resorted to armed rebellion and whose sole aim is to destroy our democracy and our democratic way of life. On our part we are determined to do everything in our power to resist them and to destroy them because the overwhelming majority of our people want to live in peace and harmony, not only among themselves, but with the rest of the world.

Your Excellency. as you well know, we are a young nation.

Though we have a long history. we have only been independent for 11 years. During these 11 years, we have endeavoured to do what we can to develop our country together with our people and to attain a measure of peace and happiness so that they will enjoy the fruits of our Independence.

Despite the many problems we have to face—the usual teething troubles of a young nation, the efforts of our enemies from within and without we have done everything possible to expand our economy to increase the income of our people and to give them the amenities of life necessary for a decent and a civilized society.

However. Your Excellency. 11 years is a short period for any country to achieve real progress. There is still much to be done. That is why we look towards the developed countries of the West, our friends, such as you, to help us in accelerating further the rate of our economy.

The lowering of the price of rubber has affected our economy very badly. I do hope that our other products through our economic diversification policy, such as oil palm, pepper, pineapples, and other crops will be able to find market in the developed countries of Europe.

Although we say we need aid. more than that we need trade. We need our friends in the developed countries to show faith in us—in our democratic way of life.

Your Excellency, we are faced with challenging problems—the security of our border where our enemies are lurking around to shoot at our soldiers and our policemen. the economic stability of our country, and the peace and harmony of our multi-racial society.

As a sovereign and independent nation, we are determined to roll our sleeves and toil with our sweat. We are confident that if we are left alone to pursue our way of life, we will be able to achieve the goal of peace and security for our country and happiness and prosperity for our people.

I gathered on my visit to Holland that your idea of relaxation, your idea of a good time, is to get deep into "the thick of things" and that you are happiest when you are right in the centre of the tempest of present-day events.

I believe in America they call your favourite place "the eye of the hurricane."

The great Greek philosopher Epicurus said that "Skilful pilots gain their reputations from storms and tempests". Tp

You are living proof of the truth of this philosophy!

I hope therefore that with your skill as a statesman and diplomat, together with your "ship-load of sense of humour" you will help us to pilot South-East Asia out of the present storm which besets this part of the world.

Let us all realize that the ideals of freedom and Parliamentary Democracy on which we stand and which we firmly believe in are the only ideals which can serve the true interests of our people and of our country. Let us dedicate ourselves to defend those ideals. Let this victory over Communism be a starting point on which to build yet a better and more prosperous Persekutuan Tanah Melayu.

— *Tun Razak in opening the Emergency Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur on 1st August. 1966.*