

MANY THINGS IN COMMON

NEW ZEALAND THANKED FOR HER SUPPORT TO MALAYSIA

Speaking at a luncheon given by the Prime Minister of New Zealand in the Members' Dining Room of the Parliament House, Christchurch, in April, 1967, Tun Razak disclosed. "In our country the threat from Communist subversion and terrorism is still serious." Opportunity was taken by him in the course of the following speech to thank New Zealand for the support given in defeating the militant communists in Malaysia in July, 1960

When we achieved Independence in August, 1957, we had the communist war and, as Minister of Defence and Security, I could not find the time to leave the country. We had to devote our energy and resources towards bringing an end to this war. And thanks to the help given by your country, Australia and the United Kingdom, and with the solid support of our people, we were able to defeat the militant Communists in July, 1960.

However, immediately after that, we had to embark on a gigantic development programme, in particular, rural development. We had to show to our people, particularly those who live in the rural areas, in the villages, who stood by us during our fight against the Communists, that our democratic form of Government is the only form of Government that could serve them and meet their expectations. I had to create a new Ministry of National and Rural Development under my personal charge and had to divert all our energy and resources and indeed, the whole machinery that fought the war against the Communists, towards development. We felt it was necessary that we should produce results quickly in order to prevent our people from being subverted and attracted to Communism.

After concentrating our efforts on development for about a year, we had to begin negotiations for the establishment of Malaysia, and, as you know, Mr Prime Minister, Malaysia was established in September, 1963 when the States of Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak joined us to form this new nation.

However, on the very day that this new nation was born, the former Government of Indonesia launched their confrontation

against us and we had to face another war. Again, our Independence and sovereignty was challenged by aggression from outside. However, with the full support of our people and again with the help of friends, such as New Zealand, we were able to stand and fight for our own freedom and survival.



Tun Razak is meeting Mr Keith Holyoake, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, on his arrival in Kuala Lumpur on 8th June, 1968.

Therefore, Mr Prime Minister, the strength and the unity of our young nation had been tested in war twice during its short life of 10 years. We are happy and thankful to Providence for sparing us during these years of stress and strain.

That is why, Mr Prime Minister, I am so happy to have this opportunity to visit New Zealand as it enables me to thank you, members of your Government, and the people of New Zealand, for the assistance that they have given us in so many ways—in the economic field, in the education of our young men and women, in the expansion of our Armed Forces, and most important of all, in the defence of our country. During the confrontation by the former regime of Indonesia, your soldiers stood side by side with our own and with our other friends from the Commonwealth in the defence of our country. Some of them have sacrificed their lives and for all these, we are ever grateful.

Mr Prime Minister, our two countries have many things in common. We are both small nations—both multi-racial in character. We have similar problems and our people share the same ideals and aspirations. Over the years, through our students coming here in their hundreds to study and through your soldiers helping in the defence of our country, and through constant contact between leaders of our two Governments, we have built up close and warm relations between us.

As I have said, the last 10 years had been difficult and indeed turbulent years for us in Malaysia as well as for the whole of Southeast Asia. The Communist threat from the north loomed large on the whole of Southeast Asia. At one time in 1965, the situation appeared somewhat critical. Vietnam seemed almost lost. Indonesia appeared to be tottering on the brink.

Now, the situation has considerably improved. The position in Vietnam appears brighter. Nationalist forces in Indonesia rose to the occasion and saved their country from being dominated by the Communists. We can now look to the future with cautious optimism.

In our country the threat from Communist subversion and terrorism is still serious. On the border between us and Thailand there are still about 500 Communists lurking in the jungle, waiting for a chance to strike again at us. In Sarawak and on the border with Indonesia there are about 1,000 hard-core, determined Communists carrying out acts of subversion and terrorism. That is why we have to continue to be vigilant. Our soldiers and our Police force are continually operating against them, searching them in their jungle hide-outs.

We in Malaysia are determined to stamp out this menace. We believe that we are fighting not only for our own survival but for the common cause for the survival of all those who believe in freedom and democracy and for the principle that any nation, however small, has a right to be left alone to pursue its own way of life.

That is why, Mr Prime Minister, we are doing all we can to fight our common enemies, the militant Communists, not only in the military field, but perhaps more important, in the economic field. We believe that the only sure way of fighting against the appeal of Communism is by giving our people the promise of a better life with freedom and democracy.

While doing everything possible internally ourselves, we are also endeavouring to bring the countries in Southeast Asia closer together to co-operate in economic, cultural and other fields for mutual benefit: for. Mr Prime Minister, in the present age. it is not possible for any country to live in a vacuum or be isolated, particularly. small countries. We can only survive if we stand together united in the defence of the common cause of democratic freedom and of the ways of life which we cherish and uphold.

I can assure you we will go back to Malaysia carrying with us happy memories of our short stay and confident in the thought that our two peoples will always stand together in the defence of the ideal which we both believe in. Though I do not wish and God forbids that we in Malaysia will again go through the ordeals that we have just passed, but if such a catastrophe does happen again, I am convinced your Government and your people will come readily to our aid.

A MAGNIFICENT VILLAGE

THE TUN'S CALL TO AUSTRALIAN BANKERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS

In his address to the bankers and industrialists in Melbourne on 21st April 1967. Tun Abdul Razak expressed the hope that more Australian investors would avail themselves of the tremendous opportunities that Malaysia offers. His reasons: Political stability, sound currency and extremely favourable investment climate and a growing market.

I understand that the first man who came to this part of Australia, a man named John Batman, sailed up the river Yarra and wrote in his diary. "This will be the place for a village." what a magnificent village it has turned out to be! I come from a land of 1.000 villages and I hope I learn something here about making villages grow like this one.

Traditionally, our villages have been built in the spirit of what we call "Gotong royong" or "Mutual help". Before the coming of money and banks there was no other way and the system worked well enough. Even today it works, and it will continue to work as long as human beings remain civilised because there