

THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT

SPEARHEAD FOR YOUTH TRAINING

The youth of today need to be properly equipped to be leaders of tomorrow " said Tun Razak at the fourth Far East Scout Conference in December. 1964. He said that the Scout Movement was a sound spearhead for youth training in any country.

One of the advantages of being a Deputy Prime Minister, is that I always make the second speech; I can therefore have the last word over my Prime Minister.

I believe the Tunku told you that he, in his early youth, had been a Boy Scout but he did not elaborate on his scouting career.

I have, therefore, done a little research into the scouting days of our Prime Minister because I believe you say that "Once a Scout always a Scout".

I have been checking up on the Scout law which says that a Scout is trusty, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

I think that our Prime Minister has retained all these qualities throughout his life except perhaps nowadays he does not need to be obedient, and he certainly is not very thrifty at race meetings.

Otherwise, he is still a good Scout; certainly a cheerful one.

I was told a story about the Tunku and his daily good deed as a young Scout.

He was asked one day by his Scout Master if he did a good deed every day and his reported reply was. "Yes Sir, yesterday I visited my Aunt in her house some miles away in Alor Star and she was very glad."

"That was my good deed for yesterday."

"Today, I left her in peace and came back home. She was even more glad at me not disturbing her any more."

That was my good deed for today."

That is what I like about democracy, we can even say what we like about our Prime Minister! And being a cheerful Scout he does not mind.

However, to be more serious. I think that it has been a great honour for our country for you to hold your conference here in our capital.

In your daily contact with Malaysians everywhere here, you will have realised that we are a friendly and peace-loving nation and we believe that it is only on this interchange of friendship and goodwill, the future peace of the world depends.

Many conferences that I have attended have been defined as follows: "A conference is a meeting at which people talk about the things they should be doing, instead of getting on with the job and actually doing them."

I am sure, that this definition does not apply to your conference because I can see from the subjects and papers which you have discussed, considerable benefit will be achieved, for the future progress of Scouting.

I am particularly interested in one or two points which have arisen in your conference. The first point, mentioned in the Keynote address by Mr Nichols, that the pattern of our society is changing from day to day. and that you must make a full review of your scouting programme in order to compete with other youth activities and present-day attractions and distractions to which our young children are continually subject to.

I have four sons myself. Sometimes I wish I had four daughters* instead but it is unfortunately too late to change!

And speaking as a father. I would like to see an injection of new energy and new imaginative ideas into the Scout movement with programmes of exploration, out-door life and training in self-reliance, so that our children are completely absorbed, during their spare time, and school holidays, in many pursuits and activities which will fit them for their life ahead.

I feel that, in this modern world, if we are going to equip the youth of today, to be leaders of tomorrow, a more definite, a more imaginative youth training programme is essential in every country, particularly in the countries of this South-east Asian region.

I realise, however, that in carrying out a programme of camping jungle exploration, and other strenuous physical activities, you scouts sometimes have difficulty in persuading parents to allow

their children to participate. The fathers are generally willing but the mothers tend to over-pamper their young sons.

I heard a story the other day of a Scout Camp when, during the first morning, the Scout-Master was carrying out a kit inspection and, in going through the kit of one particularly young Scout, found all sorts of extra things such as umbrellas, hot water bottles and other things packed into the young fellow's kit bag. The Scout-Master got annoyed and told him that he should not have brought all those things which were indicative of a soft, town life. The little Scout looked up into the Scout Master's face and said, "Sir, didn't you ever have a mother too!"

I do sincerely feel that the Scout Movement is a sound spear-head for youth training in our various countries. It has been mentioned, in the Keynote address that one of your difficulties, is the training of dedicated staff and instructors, and another problem, is that of finance and the raising of funds. Like everything else in this world which we do, we tend to become set in our ways, and follow the same practice year by year, and this applies equally to fund-raising. In my opinion, it is a matter which requires serious and imaginative thought in order to extract from the public the maximum contribution.

A POTENTIAL FORCE FOR GOOD

As I stand here now, I face a potential force which is greater than the combined strength of the armies of Napoleon, Alexander the Great, and Hitler. This great potential force for good, in the ranks of the womanhood of Asia, has been recognised by some of the outstanding leaders of our time. The great Mahatma Gandhi if I may quote his own words, said "I am firmly of the opinion that India's salvation depends on the sacrifice and enlightenment of our women".

In Malaya, we too have always recognised the importance of the part to be played by women in our task of nation-building, and I should like to take this opportunity today of thanking the women of Malaya for the great support and contribution which they are giving towards our National Development Programme.

—Tun Razak said this at the Asian Regional Seminar of Associated Country Women of the World in Kuala Lumpur.