

Finally. I would like to wish your conference every success in its deliberations. We owe an immense debt to you and to those who have made the supreme sacrifice for the defence of our region against the forces of tyranny and oppression. For without your sacrifices we would not be standing, as we are today, on the threshold of a new era of hope and progress, of happiness and peace, in this important part of the world to which we all belong.

THE COMMON POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY — AND HOW TO MEET THREAT OF COMMUNIST EXPANSION

How to meet and master the main problems of Southeast Asia—the constant threat of militant communist expansion—was explained by Tun Abdul Razak when he addressed the members of the Australian—Malaysia Association in Sydney on 19th April. 1967. His remarks are given below.

You know what exists in Malaysia for which we are renowned. For example, there is a lot of rubber, there is a lot of tin and plenty of timber. You know all about this by looking at the world stock market where you see the prices of rubber and tin fluctuating from day to day!

But there is one thing in my country. Malaysia, which is equally abundant as rubber and tin but not recorded in the world stock market. Even if it were recorded this commodity, if you can describe it as such, does not fluctuate from day to day but remains at a high level. That thing is the abundance of goodwill we have for Australia and you Australians. Tin, as you know, is produced by diggers and rubber by planters.

The main producers of goodwill in Malaysia towards Australia are the thousands of students who have already graduated at your colleges and Universities and have returned to my country fully equipped to play their part.

The kindness and hospitality which they received not only on the campus but in the homes of honest to God, decent living and

sincere Australians have left its mark on those who have had the opportunity of obtaining their higher education in this country. In many cases they have brought back a bit of your country in the form of shapely Australian girls as their wives, and we have many young Malaysian female graduates who have been unable to resist the manliness of the Australian males and succumbed to their marriage proposals.

Another source of the production of mutual goodwill between our two countries is the many thousands of Australians living and working in Malaysia in all fields.

Indeed, we Malaysians, have a lot in common with you Australians. We both have a Federal form of Government. We are both determined to uphold the principles of Democracy.

We are both determined to develop the potential of our country towards the economic stability and prosperity for our people. We are both determined to defend that democracy against the threat to our individual sovereignty from the militant communist menace which overshadows the security of the region in which we live.

Let us take democracy.

Under our Parliamentary system which is practised both in Malaysia and Australia, the most important fact which faces the political leadership of both our countries is the sobering experience that, as democratic leaders, we have to hold our breath every five years and you every three years while our people decide to review the record of our action and make their own free decision whether or not to kick us out or give us another chance! True parliamentary democracy therefore requires the party in power to translate into action sensible policies with tangible results on the ground.

We in Malaysia realise this fact—in fact this is the very basis of the common political philosophy both in your country and **mine.**

It is my belief, a belief strengthened by experience of my dual portfolios of Defence and Development, that the strongest safeguard of a young nation's sovereignty and the greatest guarantee for progress lies not only in Defence and adequate military strength but very much more so in the attainment of development results and economic strength.

We in Malaysia have evolved our own technique of development plan implementation. I can say with modesty that these techniques have been a success. We have been able to bring changes to both rural and urban areas. Today our people are enjoying a measure of happiness and progress which they desire. However we are determined to do more.

I can assure you that every ounce and cent of the development aid which Australia has already so generously given to my country has been absorbed into our implementation process and has been put to the fullest use for the benefit of our people. I can further assure you the same will apply to any such aid in the future.

I myself am confident that with mutual trust and co-operation, goodwill, hard work and determination on the part of all Malaysians, both Government and our people, and with the goodwill financial and technical assistance from friendly nations, Malaysia will develop from strength to strength to play our part and make our full contribution towards the security and economic stability of this region.

Let me now say a few words on the main problem of this region of Southeast Asia. It is the constant threat of militant communist expansion and ultimate domination. We in Malaysia have taken a firm stand against militant communism in our country. For 12 years we experienced active militant communist terrorism in our country. They drained our resources, both manpower and financial and delayed our development. We fought them and defeated them and we are now determined that this period of our national history will not repeat itself.

The presence in our midst of hard core communists ever willing given a chance, to resort to guerrilla tactics and armed terrorism demand constant vigilance on our part and the maintenance of sufficient militant deterrent to maintain law and order.

But the maintenance of a strong cordon of military security as my people have realised, is not the final answer to militant communism. That military strength is needed is undeniable to prevent us from being swamped by force by our enemy. But equally necessary is the strength and ability to carry out social and economic development.

The mutual aim of the people of our region must not only be the elimination of militant communism but also to **sustain and**

preserve the democratic way of life. We must, therefore, build up democracy so that it becomes so deeply woven into the fabric of our national way of life that it will never be allowed to be substituted by any other form of Government.

I would like to give you a formula for this region to stop the creeping paralysis of communism which, if not arrested, will mutilate the whole of Southeast Asia.

The formula is simple. I call it "4 D's"

- *Democracy is our base.*
- *Defence to protect our democracy.*
- *Development for the prosperity of our people.*
- *Determination by all free countries in the area to cooperate with each other through trade, commerce, industry and all other aspects of economic development.*

Before I close my address I would like to take this opportunity to thank you. Mr President, and members of your Association for the unfailing support and assistance that your Association rendered to us during the period of our trials and tribulations, that is the period of Indonesian confrontation, and more recently the funds that you raised for flood relief in Malaysia. Thank you.

There are still barriers to modernisation in the villages where traditional societies in some cases still cling to ancient beliefs and are slow to change. We are continuing by means of persuasion, education and example, to change the mental outlook of the people to show to them the benefits that they would obtain from a modern and civilised life. We are satisfied with the progress we are making in this respect and people are now demanding for better amenities of life and for improvements in their means of livelihood. We have, therefore, to do all that we can to meet their rising expectations. And we are doing all these through the process of democracy.

— *Tun Abdul Razak in a message relating to Malaysia's Rural Development Programme.*