

of ASA, are loyal and persistent in our task in endeavouring to fulfil this hope and to cultivate this seed of accord, then there is no reason why our success should not be rewarded by the growth of a tree, the branches of which will stretch in brotherhood to other nations in this area. And with the frontier of ASA. this frontier of faith and hope among fellow freedom loving nations in this region of Asia we will show, in time to come, that Southeast Asia is an example to the world, of progress, of mutual understanding and of peaceful co-operation.

We have made our decision, we have charted our course. let us. therefore, march forward resolutely with unyielding fervour and drive towards our ultimate goal.

## **THE PROGRESS OF JAPAN**

### **A REAL EXAMPLE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA**

*Tun Abdul Razak paid a glowing tribute to Japan for the guiding example she has set for other countries of Southeast Asia. He was speaking at the Ministerial Conference on Economic Development in Tokyo on 12th April. 1966. Parts of his speech are reproduced here.*

Mr Prime Minister, this morning you have given a most instructive picture of the need for progress and development in Asia and South East Asia. We have great admiration for the manner, in which you and your colleagues as well as the people of Japan had successfully tackled the many economic and social problems in your country - problems which in many ways are similar to those in developing countries in South East Asia.

Japan has developed so rapidly in the last decade that not only has she the knowhow but also the resources, both human and financial, to share with other countries in this region. This & indeed, a matter of great satisfaction.

The rapid rate of progress and the outstanding recovery that Japan has made from the ravages of the second world war constitutes a real example to the people in South East Asia.

The skills, hard work, sweat and sacrifice which the people of Japan have made in nation building are guiding examples other countries to follow.

We from other countries in the region can learn much from Japan's knowledge, skill and experience in solving economic and social development problems. We can also learn a great deal from the remarkable progress made and the success that the people of Japan has achieved in dealing with the problems or raising the standard of living of the densely populated country and in creating dynamic industrial economy despite the lack of space and natural resources.

We in Malaysia as a developing nation strongly believe in the importance of having a realistic and comprehensive development plan and in carrying out such plan successfully in order to give our people a new deal, a better and higher standard of living and a fair and just society.

That is why, Mr Prime Minister, we share your view and that of your Government that in carrying out economic development countries in this region should work in closer co-operation. We share your view that in the field of economic and social progress nations are interdependent and in order to achieve real progress in economic development countries must work together for mutual benefit

In this somewhat disturbed and divided world in which we live—a world beset with fears and threats of aggression—all free nations must recognise that the interests of one is dependent on the other and that in economic and social development we must work together and move forward as partners.

No nation can live in isolation and my delegation and I sincerely hope that countries in South East Asia and indeed in other parts of the world will give concrete expression in promoting co-operation not only in the fields of economic development trade and industry but also in the sphere of political diplomacy which often transcends and overrides all other considerations.

While respecting each other's independence and sovereignty and each other's right to choose its own way of life and system of Government we should promote the closest co-operation as suggested by you. Mr Prime Minister, for the well-being of our respective peoples and the peace and progress of this region.

Mr Prime Minister, the fact that there are delegates present here from so many countries today in response to your Government's invitation is clear evidence of the determination of the Governments of countries in this region to work together in the field of economic and social development for the benefit of our

respective peoples. We are determined to work together and make this region of South East Asia a better and happier place for all of us to live.

Mr Prime Minister, your Government has given the lead in promoting and expanding the frontiers of co-operation among countries and regions. I am confident that this lead will be followed up and that as a result of the deliberations of this conference the countries in South East Asia will move closer together in the field of economic and social development in order to bring greater happiness and prosperity to our people in South East Asia. Thank you.

## VISIT OF THAI PREMIER IS OF "GREAT SIGNIFICANCE"

*"The close and awdied relations between our two auntries have been sustained and refreshed by constant exchanges of visits. not only by our leaders but also by the people of our two countries—people from all walks of life' said the Tun in a speech to welcome Field Marshal Tun Thanom Kittikachorn. the Prime Minister of Thailand on May 23, 1966.*

Your Excellency, it always gives my colleagues and me. and indeed all the people of Malaysia, the greatest pleasure to welcome you or any of your colleagues to our country. Your visit here at this time is indeed of great significance in view of recent developments in this region of Southeast Asia. As you know, Your Excellency. President Marcos of the Philippines has announced his intention to normalise relations with Malaysia, and it has been possible for us to revive and reactivate ASA. a concept of regional co-operation which is dear to both our countries. Abo. the new Indonesian Government has expressed its wish to bring an end to Indonesia's confrontation against Malaysia, and ha\* agreed to discuss with us ways and means of doing this. We, on our part, have of course readily responded, and it is expected that a meeting between the Indonesian Foreign Minister and myself will take place in the very near future.

We in Malaysia hope and pray that, with the assistance and co-operation of Thailand and other friendly countries in Asia, it will be possible to bring a speedy end to this confrontation, and