

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF  
MALAYSIA YAB DATO HUSSEIN ONN  
AT THE DINNER HELD ON 13-10-78  
IN HONOUR OF H.E. MR. PHAM VAN  
DONG, ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME  
MINISTER OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC  
OF VIETNAM TO MALAYSIA AT PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE, KUALA LUMPUR.

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*At Banquet on 13.10.78.*

1. Your Excellency, Mr. Pham Van Dong,  
Prime Minister of the Socialist  
Republic of Vietnam.
  2. Your Excellencies, members of the Delegation.
  3. Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers.
  4. Your Excellencies, members of the  
Foreign Diplomatic Corp.
  - 4A. *Honourable members of Parliament.*
  5. Distinguished Guests.
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1. It gives me great pleasure to host  
this dinner in honour of our distinguished  
guest, the Prime Minister of the Socialist

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Republic of Vietnam. At the same time, I would like, on behalf of the Government and the people of Malaysia, to extend a warm welcome to the Prime Minister and members of his delegation to this country.

This is the first time that he has honoured us with his visit. He has already visited

Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia -----

-----the three other member countries

of ASEAN.

2. Mr. Prime Minister, this visit of yours to Malaysia, is an important and significant milestone in the development of friendly relations between our two countries. The discussion we had this morning was very useful and informative. I am looking forward to our second discussion on Sunday.

3. Mr. Prime Minister, it was in March 1973, that our two countries first established diplomatic relations. This was done with the

realisation that as neighbours, our two countries would have to live together in peace, and as friends. Malaysia is a peace-loving country; it welcomes friends.

Malaysia is a developing country, and values cooperation in all fields of development from any country. <sup>(3A).</sup> Mr. Prime Minister,

I am very glad to know that Vietnam is giving first priority to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country. Malaysia will be glad to assist Vietnam in any way it can, with the technology and experience

that it possesses. It has already made a start with rubber.

4. Mr. Prime Minister, as I have said, nothing is more dear, and close to the hearts of all Malaysians, than peace and stability, not only within the country, but also in the region of South-East Asia. Malaysia does not wish to get involved in big power rivalries or conflicts. It wishes to be left alone in peace to pursue its own destiny; to get on with its developmental efforts;

to raise the standard of living and the quality of life of its people. At the same time, however, it is always ready and willing to cooperate with other countries irrespective of their ideologies and systems of government.

5. Malaysia is a member of ASEAN. It has great faith in the goodness and usefulness of the Association. ASEAN, as its objectives clearly show, poses no threat to any country. It's viability has been tested over these years, and found to be a practical example

of regional cooperation, especially in the fields of trade, industry, communication and culture. <sup>(5A).</sup> As peace and stability are of vital importance to the countries in ASEAN, it is, therefore, natural that ASEAN should initiate and work for the establishment of a zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in the South-East Asian Region. We hope that the big powers fully appreciate our feelings in this important matter; and that is also the reason why we do not wish to get involved in or be dragged into big power rivalries and conflicts.

6. Mr. Prime Minister, I venture to hope that this, your first visit to our country, will be the beginning of much greater efforts, on the part of your country, to strengthen further, the already good and cordial relations between our two countries. We should also explore in depth, the possibility of increasing trade between our two countries. I am sure that the potentials are there; what is needed, is to really study and identify the potentials.

7. In strengthening our bilateral relations, Malaysia believes in the step-by-step approach of developing mutual confidence and trust. There should be more contacts and visits, not only between leaders, but also between officials. We should foster a feeling of goodwill and friendship towards each other; we should dispel, not only by words but by actions as well, <sup>remaining feeling</sup> any spark of distrust and fear.

8. Mr. Prime Minister. We welcome your visit. This feeling is shared by all Malaysians. We hope that you and the members of your delegation enjoy the visit. We are sincere in our desire to be your friends.

9. Before I sit down, may I ask Your Excellencies and Distinguished Guests, to <sup>rise</sup> ~~stand up~~, and join me in a toast for the continued good health and success of His Excellency, The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and to the Government and people of Vietnam. \*\*\*\*\*



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No. Penerimaan	38/81