

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF
MALAYSIA YAB DATO HUSSEIN ONN
AT THE DINNER GIVEN BY H.E. MR. PHAM
VAN DONG, THE PRIME MINISTER OF
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM,
AT EQUATORIAL HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR,
ON SUNDAY 15.10.1978.

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 Diplomatic
Corp.
 5. Distinguished Guests.
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Mr. Prime Minister, may I first
of all thank you for all the kind words
that you have said about my country.

Yesterday, in spite of your busy programme, you honoured my family and I with a visit to our house. We greatly appreciate this kind and personal gesture on your part. Friends are made, not only at formal and official meetings, but more so at informal and personal meetings in the friendly atmosphere of the home.

2. During these last few days, Mr. Prime Minister, you and I and my colleagues in the Government, have had

opportunities to discuss, exchange views and make known our respective hopes and aspirations. We have been frank and open with you. We have made known to the world our policies on fundamental international issues. Our foreign policies are absolutely independent, and have never, and never will be, influenced by any body or any country.

3. Mr. Prime Minister. Vietnam had gone through 30 years of unceasing war. The loss of life had been tremendous; the destruction

to property and the economy of the country incalculable; the sufferings of the people indescribable. The grimness, and devastating extent of the human conflict, that had gone on in Vietnam for 30 unceasing years, defy the imagination.

Will the tragedy of Vietnam, be repeated elsewhere?

4. Mr. Prime Minister, I am very encouraged and relieved to hear from you, that Vietnam also shares Malaysia's desire for peace, independence, freedom

and neutrality in our region of South East Asia, as well as in Asia and elsewhere in the world. Malaysia will respond positively, to any country's efforts towards these objectives. Malaysia accepts your words in good faith, as coming from a respected leader of a great and brave country.

5. As you have said, Mr. Prime Minister, Vietnam is trying to heal the wounds of war, rehabilitate and develop its economy, and improve the living conditions of its people.

I have assured you, that Malaysia will sincerely cooperate and extend whatever assistance possible. Your visit, and the discussions that we have had, no doubt have laid a firmer foundation for the strengthening of mutual understanding, cooperation and trust between our two countries. Vietnam's contribution towards peace and stability in the South East Asian Region, will be looked upon by us all, as an act of wisdom, farsightedness of and great statesmanship on the part/its leaders.

Conflict will only bring sufferings and misery; cooperation and understanding, on the other hand, have never failed to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity.

6. Our discussions are not only confined to generalities, policies and principles. Between Ministers and officials on both sides, there have been discussions on specific matters. Our Ministers of Agriculture and officials, have met to map out strategies for future cooperation between Vietnam and Malaysia in agricultural matters.

The discussions range from technical cooperation, commercial crops such as rubber, oil palm, cocoa and coconut, to exchange of personnel and information.

7. I understand that Vietnam seeks assistance in kind and technology. Malaysia has agreed to make available the following items:-

- (a) Coconut seeds of the MAWA variety for experimental purpose.
- (b) Cocoa seeds for experimental purpose.

(c) Vaccine for poultry.

I understand that this is urgently required because of the current devastating floods.

8. As regards rubber, we have agreed to assist Vietnam in providing laboratory equipment and training facilities for research, worth about Malaysian \$1 million. At present, 5 Vietnamese personnel are undergoing training in the Rubber Research Institute Experimental Station. I am glad

..10/-

to know that Vietnam has decided to join and be a member of the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries. This, if I may be permitted to say so, is a wise and farsighted decision.

9. As regards Palm Oil, Malaysia is prepared to make available training facilities for Vietnamese personnel, if they are so required.

10. Mr. Prime Minister. Malaysia shares in your country's misfortune, as a result of the serious flood which your country is currently suffering. Thailand and India are also suffering the same calamity. I would greatly appreciate if you would be good enough, to convey to the Government and the people of Vietnam, Malaysia's sympathy and feeling of grief. As a token of friendship, which the people of Malaysia have for the people of Vietnam, we would like to extend a small donation of Malaysian \$100,000/= for relief work.

I trust that this small token of ours, will be accepted in the same friendly spirit, in which it is given.

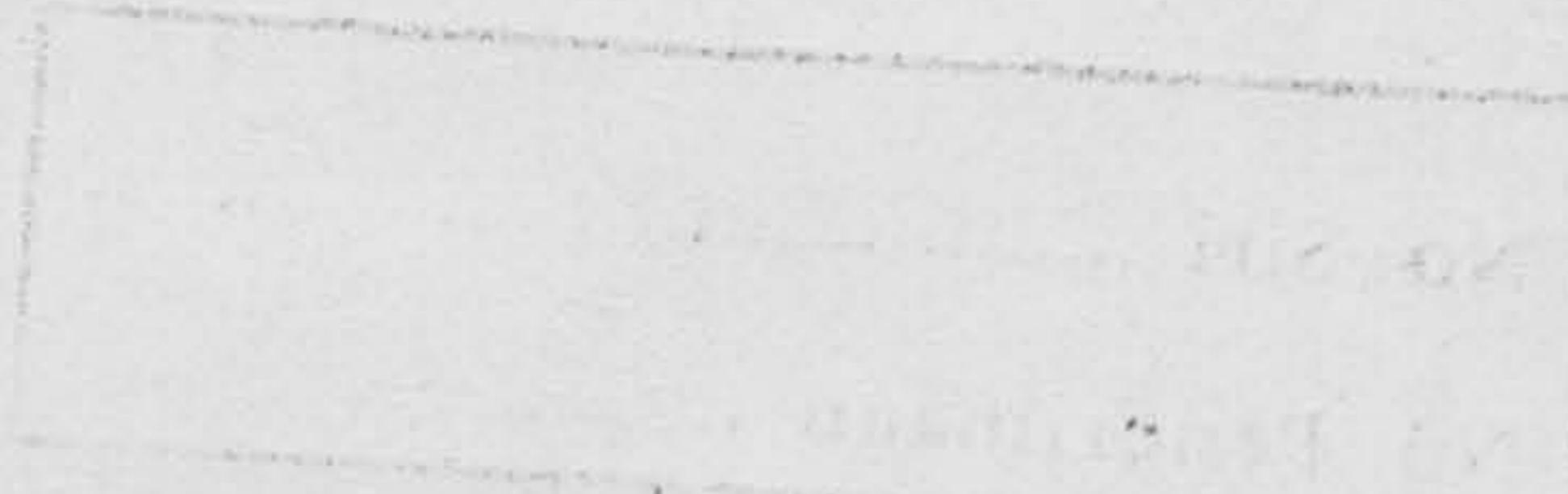
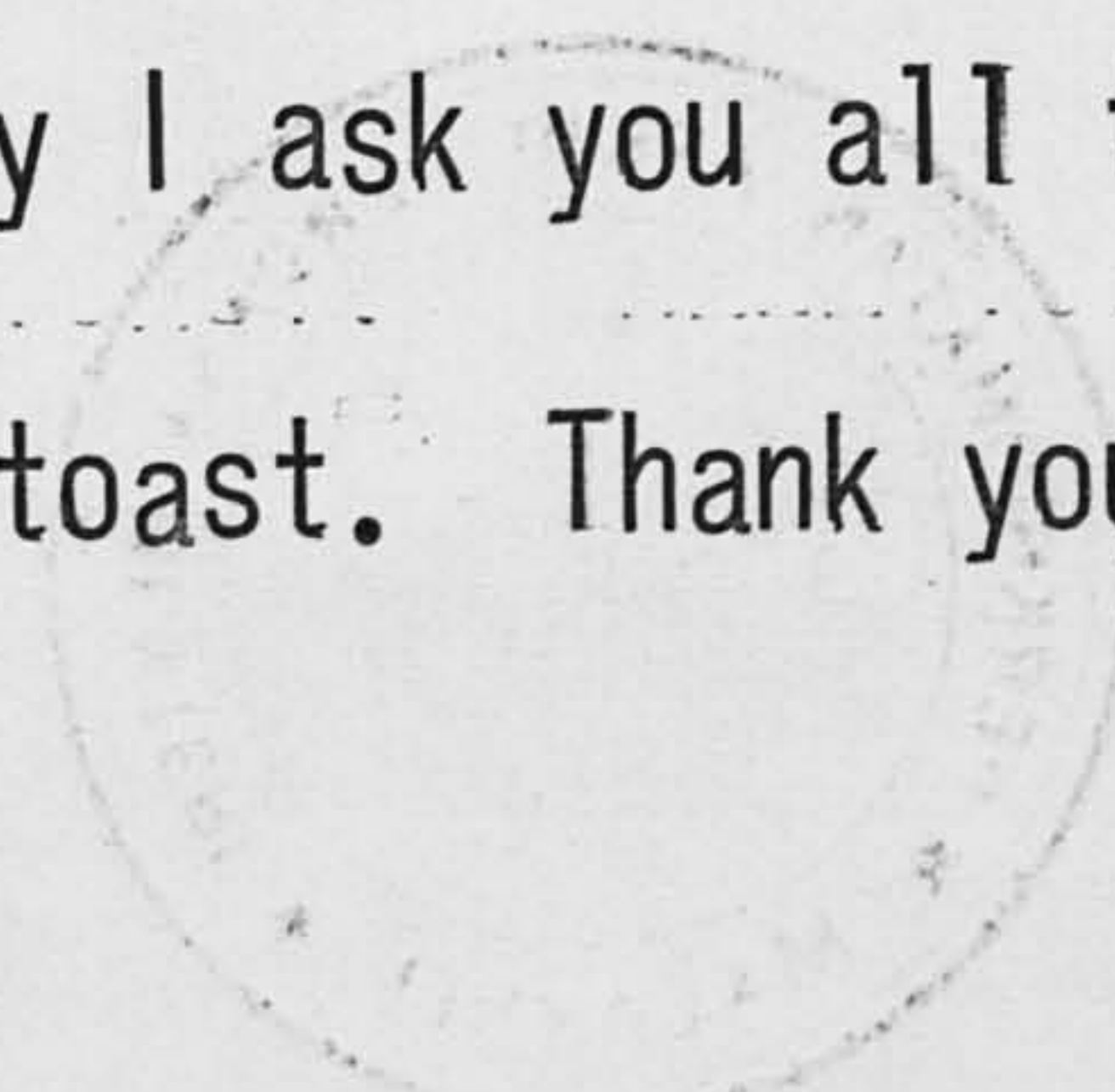
11. Mr. Prime Minister. Our two countries have made an earnest and sincere start to be friends, and cooperate with each other for our mutual benefits. We must make every effort to achieve peace and stability in this region. I am confident that your visit is the beginning of positive efforts to improve and further strengthen the already good, friendly and cordial

relations between our two countries. As you have said, Hanoi is only 3 hours away by air from Kuala Lumpur, and Ho Chi Min City only one and a half hours away. How near our two countries are! Cannot the friendly relations between our two countries, be that near too?

12. This afternoon, Vietnam and Malaysia signed the Air Services Agreement. This is a good start. We also signed a Joint Statement. As I have said, let us make every effort, by words as well as by deeds, to dispel any remaining feeling of distrust

and fear, between our two countries. We can
do it, if we can show that our words and
deeds, are genuine and sincere.

13. Before I conclude, I would also like
to drink to your continued good health and
success, as well as to the Government and
people of Vietnam. Your Excellencies and
Distinguished guests, may I ask you all to
rise and join me in the toast. Thank you.





No Siri	400
No Penerimaan	39/81