

SPEECH BY YAB DATO HUSSEIN ONN,
THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA,
AT THE BANQUET GIVEN IN HIS
HONOUR BY SENIOR VICE-PREMIER,
MR. DENG XIAOPING ON THURSDAY,
3RD MAY, 1979.

Your Excellency, Mr. Deng Xiaoping,
Senior Vice-Premier.

Madame Cho Lin.

Distinguished Guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. Senior Vice-Premier, the

Members of my delegation and I are very happy
to be in your great country. I personally have been
looking forward to this visit and to renew our
friendship. Your visit to Malaysia last November
had paved the way for enhancing further the
friendly relations between our two countries.

The late Tun Abdul Razak and the Late Mr. Chou En-Lai

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had laid the foundation of our two countries' friendship, and now, it is up to the present and future leaders of our two countries to strengthen that friendship.

2. Your Excellency, on behalf of my delegation, and also on my own behalf, I would like to thank you and the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China for the kind hospitality and warm welcome which have been given to us. I would also like to thank His Excellency, Chairman Hua Guofeng, for kindly receiving us at the airport.

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Your Excellency.

3. Rapport between leaders can be built with close personal contacts. These also provide them with the opportunity to exchange views and appreciate their respective policies. The exchange becomes more meaningful when they can talk to each other frankly and openly. I am happy that our discussions this morning were held in the same spirit and candour that prevailed during our discussions in Kuala Lumpur.

4. The most significant development in our region since your visit to Kuala Lumpur,

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has been the events in Indochina. We in Malaysia, and in ASEAN, are very concerned with the conflict and tension in the area. We are also very concerned with the involvement of other parties in the conflict, and the possibility of it escalating. We want to avoid this/all costs.

5. This concern has led the ASEAN Foreign Ministers to issue the Statements in Bangkok calling for restraint, the withdrawal of all foreign forces, and for a peaceful solution. It has also been the reason for ASEAN's proposed Resolution in the Security Council of the United

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Nations to find an acceptable formula to restore peace and stability in the area.

6. I would like to stress here that in doing so, ASEAN was acting in the interest of the region as a whole. The action taken by the countries of ASEAN represents our positive contribution towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Indochina, which would create the condition conducive to the pursuit of our objective of establishing a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in Southeast Asia.

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7. The region will benefit greatly if the countries in it adopt a friendly policy towards one another. It is also in the region's interest that the countries refrain from interfering in the affairs of the others, and settle all disputes peacefully. It is imperative that ASEAN's proposal for the establishment of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in Southeast Asia should be fully supported by the super powers.

8. At the same time, we will continue to make ASEAN stronger and more cohesive to withstand the challenges ahead. However, I do not

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mean this to be in a military sense. ASEAN, from the time of its inception, was never meant to be a military organisation. The emphasis has always been, and will continue to be, on socio-economic and cultural cooperation.

Your Excellency.

9. With regard to the bilateral relations between Malaysia and China, I am happy to say that there has been a steady improvement in our friendly ties in the last five years.

The exchange of visits by Ministers and

Officials have created a better understanding ...8 / -

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and generated much goodwill. Your Excellency's own visit to Malaysia last year and my present visit to China have this object in view. My visit, I hope, will be a further step in building grater trust and confidence between our two countries.

Your Excellency.

10. Trade has featured prominently in the relations between our two countries. Trade and economic ties have always been and should continue to be the strongest basis for the development and strengthening of bilateral relations between our two countries. We should therefore make every

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endeavour to expand our trade ties. As China moves ahead with her modernisation programmes, and as Malaysia increases the pace of her industrialisation and production of primary products, there will be increasing opportunities for this expansion.

11. As third world countries, our respective economic development programmes should avoid the weaknesses and mistakes of the industrialised west, particularly in the context of international economic relations. The economies of these western nations are based on an international economic system which is inequitable to the poorer and kx developing countries.

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It is our hope that China's role in the international economic system will be towards the eventual realisation of the new international economic order. As an Asian nation, China can play useful role in the developing of cooperative and equitable trade relations amongst the developing nations of this region. Our economic relations must be based on complementary and cooperation so as to create a truly equitable economic system which will, in turn, fully benefit the peoples of the countries in Asia.

12. Malaysia and China have their respective strengths and areas of expertise. We should cooperate

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as much as we can for our mutual benefits.

Malaysia is not only an important producer of raw materials, but is also rapidly strengthening its own manufacturing base. China is embarking on her modernisation. If, at this juncture of our countries' economic development, we can be guided by considerations of complementarity and cooperation in trade and economic relations, it will certainly benefit us both. In short, relations between our two countries can be further strengthened if we continue to emphasise and develop those areas of mutual benefit.

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13. Finally, Your Excellency, it has indeed been a very happy and pleasant experience for me and my delegation to be here in your country.

This visit gives me the opportunity to renew our friendship that we had established in Kuala Lumpur.

Ladies and gentlemen.

14. May I now request you to join me in a toast:

To his Excellency, Mr. Deng Xiaoping,
for His continued good health,
success and happiness.

To the success of the Government
and people of the People's Republic of China.



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