

FEN. 10/79/137 (PM)

SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK HUSSEIN ONN DURING
THE CEREMONY ON THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY RELATING-
TO THE DELIMITATION OF THE TERRITORIAL SEAS AND
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE DELIMITATION
OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY IN THE GULF OF
THAILAND AND IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AS WELL AS THE
EXCHANGE OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THAI PRIME MINISTER ,
H.E. GEN. TUN KRIANGSAK. CHOMANAN, ON 24TH OCTOBER, 1979
IN KUALA LUMPUR.

It is my pleasure to most warmly welcome His Excellency General Tun Kriangsak Chomanan and members of his delegation to Malaysia. I hope General Tun Kriangsak, who is no stranger to most of us, has found, as I do, this visit most useful and fruitful.

A few minutes ago you would have witnessed what Gen. Tun Kriangsak and I would, I am sure, consider an historic event in Malaysia/Thailand bilateral relations. Both of us have exchanged, in the first instance, the Instruments of Ratification on the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a Joint Authority for the Exploitation of the Resources of the Seabed in a defined area of the Continental Shelf of the two countries in the Gulf of Thailand. You would recall this Memorandum was signed by both of us during my visit to the beautiful and refreshing city of Chiangmai in February this year. I regard the final act on this particular exercise today as a unique and a great step forward in the development of close cooperation and friendly relations for mutual benefits of our two countries. What we have agreed to, in fact, is to cooperate and proceed in sharing alike the costs and benefits accruing from the still unresolved triangle claimed by both countries in the Gulf of Thailand for the next fifty years. This constitutes a significant landmark and achievement which goes to prove that through friendly negotiations two neighbouring countries can transform and seek solutions on bilateral problems on such a magnitude as of territorial claims based on bonds of friendship, cooperation and understanding.

It is with much pleasure for me to inform you, Mr. Prime Minister,