

SPEECH BY YAB PRIME MINISTER,  
DATO HUSSEIN ONN, AT THE DINNER  
GIVEN IN HONOUR OF THE RT. HON'BLE  
MR. TUPUOLA EFI, PRIME MINISTER  
OF WESTERN SAMOA, AT HILTON HOTEL,  
19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 1980 (FRIDAY), 7.45PM.

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1. Mr. Prime Minister, I am very glad that you are able to visit us. On behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia, I would like to extend to you and the members of your delegation, a very warm welcome. The only regret that my wife and I have, is that your charming wife is not able to come with you. We would very much like her to visit our country.

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2. You and I are not strangers. We feel very much at ease in each other's company. We discuss and exchange views very frankly and sincerely. We met in London at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in June 1977, in Sydney at the Meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government of the Asian and Pacific Region in February, 1978, and recently in New Delhi.

3. These meetings gave us the opportunities to know each other more intimately, not only at formal sessions, but more important and useful, in my view, at "the Retreats" where we talked and discussed in a much more relaxed and informal atmosphere.

4. Mr. Prime Minister. The people in Malaysia know very little about the Pacific Region. They may have heard of or know a little about countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Significant changes, however, have taken place in the political status of many island countries in the Pacific.

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For examples, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa, are all now independent and sovereign countries.

Many more island countries in the Pacific Region will become independent in the future. In the same way, not many of the peoples in those island countries in the Pacific, have heard of or know much about Malaysia and the other countries of ASEAN.

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5. CHOGRM recognises the importance of these newly independent island countries. It commends their desire for greater self-reliance through increased mutual co-operation among themselves and with the other member countries of CHOGRM. We are aware that these island countries have special problems of their own, In addition to its own cooperative efforts, CHOGRM has also called upon the international community to give greater recognition to these special problems and to provide special measures which would give added impetus to their economic and social developments. ...7/-

6. CHOGRM agrees that regional co-operation can contribute significantly to the capability of member countries in the South Pacific to overcome their problems. It also agrees that it is vital for the peace and stability of the region, that the peoples in the area be allowed to exercise their right to self-determination, and non-interference by any country or outside elements in the exercise of this right.

7. Mr. Prime Minister, as I have said in New Delhi, Malaysia believes in cooperation. It believes that every country, big or small,

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developed or developing, has something to contribute to other countries, especially those which are less fortunate. It is in this spirit, Mr. Prime Minister, that we welcome your visit to Malaysia. Malaysia is a small country, and its resources and capability, limited. Nevertheless, if it can be of any assistance to the development of your country, it will be glad to do so.

8. Mr. Prime Minister. This morning, we had a long and useful discussion. I expressed to you my concern about maintaining peace and

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stability in this region, in the light of the current situation. However, the countries of ASEAN, will continue to seek a comprehensive political solution. The situation is very complex. We need understanding and support, from our friends.

9. Mr. Prime Minister. I hope that your short visit, will give you some idea of what we are doing in Malaysia. Admittedly, we have made some progress with regard to development.

But, as I have explained to you this morning,

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there is still a lot more to be done, to improve the quality of life of our people. I also hope that your stay in our country is an enjoyable one

*Gentlemen.*

10. Before I sit down, may I invite you, all to stand and join me in a toast to the health and success of His Excellency, Mr. Tupuola Efi, Prime Minister of Western Samoa.

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Gentlemen.

May I invite you to stand and join me

in a toast:

(a) To His Highness, The Head of State,

the Government and People of

Western Samoa,

AND

(b) To the furtherance of friendly relations

between Malaysia and Western Samoa.



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No Penerimaan	172/80