

**OPENING ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE,  
THE PRIME MINISTER, DATO HUSSEIN ONN  
AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE  
REGIONAL ISLAMIC ORGANISATION  
OF SOUTH EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
AT THE HOTEL EQUATORIAL, ON MONDAY,  
10TH NOVEMBER, 1980 AT 9.00 A.M.**

**BISMILLAHIR- RAHMA-NIRRAHIM**

**Assalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**

**Yang Teramat Mulia Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj.**

**Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun-Tun,**

**Yang Berhormat Menteri-Menteri dan  
Timbalan-Timbalan Menteri.**

**Dif-dif Kehormat,**

**Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan sekalian.**

**Saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada  
Yang Teramat Mulia, Tunku Abdul Rahman  
Putra Al-Haj, Pengerusi Pro-tern,**

**... 2/-**

jemputan dan penghormatan yang diberikan

*membuka peridangan*

kepada saya untuk

yang bahagia ini. Saya mengamhil kesempatan

ini, untuk mengalu-alukan kehadiran para peserta

*yang datang*

sekalian, terutamanya mereka/dari

luar negeri.

2. Saya menyanjung tinggi, terhadap langkah

untuk menggabung dan menyelaraskan usaha-usaha

pertubuhan-pertubuhan sukarela Islam di rantau

Asia Tenggara dan Pasifik. Ia membuktikan

wujudnya hubungan persaudaraan Islam sebagaimana

... 3/-

kehendak ugama suci kita. Di samping itu juga,  
ia dapat memperkukuhkan lagi azam dan usaha  
untuk meningkatkan syiar Islam.

## Guests

### Distinguished

1. I would like to thank  
yang Teramat mulia, Tengku  
Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Hajj,  
the Pro-tem Chairman of  
the Regional Islamic Organisation  
of South-East Asia and the  
Pacific, for inviting me to open  
this inaugural meeting. I am  
informed that this meeting is  
being attended by representatives  
of about forty voluntary muslim  
organisations from sixteen countries.

②

To those representatives, I would like to extend to them a very warm welcome to Malaysia.

I also understand that this meeting will discuss the constitution and other matters relating to the setting-up of the Regional

Organisation.

I am also informed

that the Organisation has decided to have its Regional Headquarters and Islamic Training Centre in this country

③

the Malaysian society is  
Although, Islam has been made  
multi-religious, the official  
religion of the country. The Federal  
and State Constitutions guarantee  
the freedom of worship. Our  
national Ideology, the Rukun  
negara, provides for the belief  
in God. Malaysia has always  
supported the causes of Islam.

(4)

It takes an active part in the Islamic Conference and the Islamic Development Bank. It is also active in the propagation of the Islamic faith. We believe that material development alone cannot ensure <sup>attack</sup> we also ~~are~~

5

Islam is one of the great religions of the world. Every true and great religion teaches its followers to be humble, tolerant

and God-fearing.

and

Islam is such a

religion.

Allah has given

us His religion which is Islam.

His teachings and guidance are fully

inscribed in the Koran. He has

chosen Mohamed as the Prophet

to teach and spread the religion.

And we, 1400 years later, have

⑥

the same duty as our Prophet,

to teach and spread

Islam. This is the purpose of your meeting to-day. Our religion, however, has been misinterpreted and exploited by ill-informed, misguided and unscrupulous people. This has caused a lot of harm to us

muslims,

Further, it has

brought our religion into disrepute. It is, therefore, very necessary that we fully understand the true teachings of Islam.

(7)

## Distinguished Delegates

I am glad that this meeting has brought together representatives of muslim organisations in countries of South East Asia and the Pacific.

With the wise guidance of Tunku Abdul Rahman, I am sure that your Organisation will grow in strength. With your great faith and dedication, Islam will become more known and understood in this part of the world <sup>so that</sup> ~~and~~ it will attract more followers. May Allah bless all your endeavours. It is with great pleasure that I now declare this meeting open. Thank you.

