

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,
19th 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.

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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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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.

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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^{ies} are 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*
~~Ladies and Gentlemen~~, 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,

~~Ladies and~~ Gentlemen.

May I invite you ~~all~~ 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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