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SPEECH BY Y.A.B. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,  
DATUK MUSSEIN OMH, AT THE OPENING  
CEREMONY OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE  
MALAYSIAN/THAI MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE  
ON FISHERIES, AT THE DEWAN TUNKU ABDUL  
RAHMAN, ON THURSDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY,  
1974 AT 9.30 A.M.

His Excellency Y.A.B. Deputy Prime Minister,  
Datuk Mussein Omh, Minister of  
Agriculture and Fisheries,

The Ministerial Committee on Fisheries,  
on behalf of the Malaysian Government, I  
would like to extend a very warm welcome to  
His Excellency Y.A.B. Deputy Prime Minister  
Datuk Mussein Omh, the Minister of

His Serene Highness Prince  
Chakrabandhu Pensiri Chakrabandhu,

Y.B. Tan Sri Ghazali Jawi, Minister of  
Agriculture and Fisheries,

Hon'ble Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is a great honour and pleasure to me to be invited to address and declare open the Fourth Meeting of the Malaysian/Thai Ministerial Committee on Fisheries. On behalf of the Malaysian Government, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to His Serene Highness Prince Chakrabandhu Pensiri Chakrabandhu, the Minister of

Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand and other members of the delegation from Thailand.

2. Malaysia and Thailand are immediate neighbours with common boundaries on land and at sea. Such being the case, it is inevitable that we have common problems which need to be looked into and resolved.

Malaysia and Thailand have a long history of friendship and cooperation. With each year, these have been further strengthened to the advantage of both our countries. We have cooperated with each other in many fields through ASEAN and SEAMEO and bilaterally. We have cooperated and worked closely and effectively together on border security matters.

This meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Fisheries is another example of cooperation between our two countries on matters of mutual concern and interest. There are many others.

3. Fisheries are no less important to Malaysia as rubber, tin, palmoil and timber. They are one of our sources of food and foreign exchange earning. They provide a means of livelihood for quite a great number of our people.

4. Under the Second Malaysia Plan, the fisheries programme is designed to develop and exploit more fully Malaysia's fisheries resources and to improve the income

of fishermen. By law we have established a Fisheries Development Authority to promote and develop efficient and effective management of fisheries enterprises; to provide and supervise credit facilities for fish production and to ensure that these facilities are put to maximum use; and to engage in fisheries enterprises. The Authority has started work in promoting the more extensive use of modern techniques and providing cold storage and processing facilities. The Authority is operating a trawler fleet which is expected to number about 300 by 1975. All these activities will facilitate the transfer of low-productivity inshore fishermen to the modern sector of the industry.

5. Projects which have or are in the course of being put into effect under the Second Malaysia Plan include fish landing facilities, provision of warehouses, boat-yards, cold storage and ice-making facilities, trawling, purse seining and provision of multi-purpose boats to accelerate the modernisation of the fisheries sector. To complement the fishing operation projects, ice factories, fish/prawn processing factories and fishmeal plants in major fishing centres have or are being established. We are planning to go into deep-sea fishing. Training programmes for marine and inshore fisherman are being expanded. The fishermen's Training Institute in Penang are fully operational. This institute provides

training in navigation, seamanship, gear maintenance and modern fishing techniques. Extension services are being expanded through Fishermen's Associations. A fish resource survey is being undertaken to locate and determine the extent of offshore fish resources. I mention all these to indicate, in a humble way, the planning and efforts we have made to improve, modernise and expand our fishing industry. There is still much to be done and we are confident that we will be able to meet whatever challenges there may be before us.

6. I am sure that the spirit, the motivating force and the determination evident in Malaysia is also equally evident

in Thailand. The agreement to establish this Ministerial Committee on Fisheries between our two countries shows not only our desire to look into and resolve our common problems, but also our intention to share and pool our knowledge and experiences. We can learn a lot from each other's mistakes and successes. Malaysia is always glad and willing to share her knowledge and experiences with Thailand. Since the establishment of the Ministerial Committee, we have resolved or lessened a number of common problems which otherwise would have aggravated the stress and strain, disputes and tensions between our countries fishermen. Admittedly, not all the problems have been solved, and many were new ones will

come up in the future. Nevertheless, the existence of this Ministerial Committee gives us confidence and hope that they will <sup>be</sup> discussed and resolved amicably. <sub>h</sub>

7. I understand that at this meeting you will be discussing a number of important and urgent matters. May it be a success. May the spirit of cooperation between our two countries shown over the years be further strengthened. With this prayer, hope and trust I will leave you to your tasks. I now have much pleasure in declaring open this Fourth Meeting of the Malaysian/Thai Ministerial Committee on Fisheries.





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