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SPEECH BY Y.A.B. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
DATUK HUSSEIN ONN AT THE OPENING OF THE
ASIAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF LEADING
TRAINING INSTITUTIONS IN ASIA, AT THE
PREMISES OF THE ASIAN CENTRE FOR
DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION, JALAN SPOONER,
KUALA LUMPUR ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY
1974, AT 9.30 A.M.

Chairman of the Governing Council
of ACDA,

Mr. Mahadeva, ACDA Director,

Excellencies,

Heads of Leading Training Institutions
in Asia,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I wish to thank the Director and Staff of the Asian Centre for Development Administration for inviting me to officially open this Asian Centre for Development Administration and the Conference of Heads of Leading Training Institutions on Administration and Management in Asia. I understand, this Conference is the first programme of this new Centre.

I also wish to take this opportunity of welcoming all of you to Malaysia. I hope that after the Conference, you will find time to visit other parts of the country and meet our people.

2. I am happy to note that in October last year, a Plan of Operation for the Asian Centre for Development Administration was concluded between the United Nations, the Government of Malaysia and other participating countries in the Region. The conclusion of this agreement, as embodied in the Plan of Operation, has enabled the Asian Centre for Development Administration to commence its work. I would like to express our Government's appreciation to the United Nations, under whose auspices the Centre

is established, and to all member countries within the ECAFE Region, for giving Malaysia the honour of hosting the Centre - the first international institution for Development Administration in Asia. I also wish to thank the United Nations and member countries in the ECAFE Region, for their encouragement as well as for this moral and material support to the Project. This Centre being new will need all the support, without which, it will be impossible for it to fulfill its function.

3. The Malaysian Government attaches great importance to the establishment of ACDA, and it is our earnest hope that this Centre will realise its objectives, namely, the development of administrative and

managerial capabilities of Asian countries, the provision of research and comparative studies, especially on contemporary problems on Development Administration, and, the provision of consultancy services.

4. To achieve these objectives is not easy. However, we are fortunate in that we can rely on the rich experience and vast reservoir of expertise available to us, within the ECAFE Region. The years ahead for the Centre will be full of challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. At this juncture, the Malaysian Government is in the process of implementing

the twin objectives of its Second Malaysia Plan - namely,

- (a) the eradication of poverty by raising income levels and increasing employment opportunities for all Malaysians irrespective of race; and
- (b) the restructuring of society to correct the economic imbalance so as to reduce or eventually eliminate the identification of race with economic function.

6. The attainment of these objectives will be done in the context of rapid structural change and economic growth and in such a way that no ethnic group will suffer or feel any deprivation.

7. ... The Malaysian Government is fully aware of the tremendous challenges posed by these ambitious objectives, especially ... having regard to the fact that no matter how well it is conceived and structured, a development plan is after all only as good as it is implemented. Innovations and improvements are, therefore, necessary to make the process of implementation effective and we, on our part, have produced the National Operations Room technique which provides timely action to identify short-falls, to break impasse and to assess responsibility for success and failure in the whole spectrum of the development effort.

8. However, to achieve the ambitious targets and to cope with the new dimensions in socio-economic development, as envisaged in the Plan, we recognise that bold and effective measures would have to be taken to improve the administrative machinery for planning and implementation. We are continually streamlining our administrative system under the surveillance of the National Action Council which oversees the entire implementation process.

9. I would like to emphasize that we are looking forward to further innovations to enhance our administrative capacity to achieve results, and I am glad to say that the establishment of the Asian Centre for Development Administration in our country,

at this present time, is a timely and momentous occasion in terms of our development needs and expectations. And I trust this feeling is shared by other developing countries of the Asian region as well.

10. The present development decade is one of ever-rising expectations and the Asian Centre for Development Administration has a tremendous regional role to play to help Governments bridge the widening gap between development plans and implementation short-falls. This can be done through helping Governments to evolve a dynamic and change-oriented civil service which will always adapt itself to new technologies and which will continuously review its performance and judge its own effectiveness by the manner it

"delivers"

"delivers the goods".

11. It is our earnest hope that the Asian Centre for Development Administration will develop itself into a Centre in which new ideas, new practices and new values associated with modern administration can be tested and diffused throughout the member Governments of the United Nations in the Asian region. Such a development would effectively speed Government action, reduce costs and improve the quality of service. For this type of programme, the Asian Centre for Development Administration has been aptly termed as Asia's "Think Tank."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. At present, the Malaysian Government is in the process of constructing permanent premises for the Centre with a modern building equipped with hostel and other facilities in an eight-acre site well situated not far from here. We have chosen a beautiful site at Jalan Duta for ACOA's permanent home. We are all hopeful that with the establishment of this new training institution, member countries from this region will be able to send their top administrators and managers for training. I believe that the training of personnel in this category is a matter of urgency not only for the success of any development programme, but also as a valuable asset to all the developing countries.

It seems to me that this is also the most appropriate moment for the Centre to associate itself with other established national training institutions so that more joint efforts could be made towards the improvement of training methodologies and research into problems on Administration and Management.

Further, the willingness of the various Governments to participate in this Project indicates also the wide acceptance of the concept of regional co-operation, and the benefits that could be derived therefrom.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. The Conference of Heads of Leading Training Institutions in Asia which will begin in a few moments is only a start which would pave the way for a more ambitious work programme in the future. The presence of such a large number of eminent heads of leading training institutions here today, indicates an overwhelming support to the establishment of this Centre.

14. I have been assured that the establishment of this Centre as a regional training institution, will not be in competition with national institutions which already have been established. Rather, it will be complementary to existing ones. I suggest that ACDA should concentrate on programmes which are not at present provided by national institutions. This will avoid duplication of efforts and expenses.

15. It is also the function of ACDA, as well as national institutes of public administration to train civil servants into competent administrators and managers so that they can be an effective means for social change.

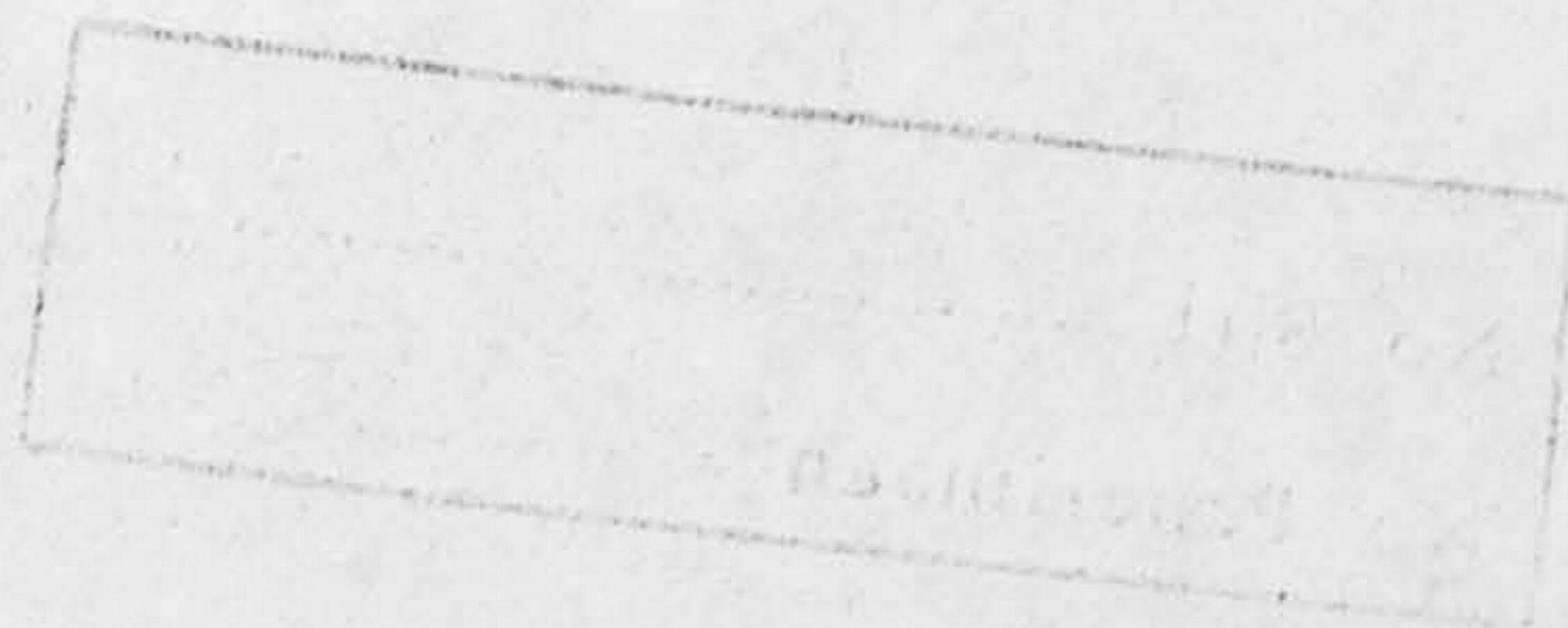
16. I am confident that the training programmes provided at this Centre would be

as useful as those provided by similar training centres in other parts of the world. Let us then put all our efforts and give all our support to this Centre so that it will grow and flourish and attain greater status and prestige to serve our Region.

17. On this note, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in declaring this Centre and this Conference open.

Thank you.

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