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Belgian Akhbar

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STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DATUK

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HUSSEIN ONN, PRIME MINISTER OF

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MALAYSIA, AT THE CLOSING SESSION

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OF THE ASEAN SUMMIT CONFERENCE --

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of joint economic action, joint political action, social co-operation, cultural co-operation, as well as the setting up of the Permanent Secretariat. Together they mark the beginning of a serious attempt at consolidating ASEAN.

is every bit as important. There is ample room for co-operation under the umbrella of Excellencies:

2. As we enter into the phase of ASEAN consolidation, we are acutely conscious that we do not exist in a vaccum. The ASEAN sub-region is an integral part of the Southeast Asian region. We can no more shut off the other countries of Southeast Asia than they can us. A decade ago, we too were steps that would translate concepts into reality.

free from all manner and form of external interference. We in ASEAN have advanced this concept, but it is not a concept that is exclusive to ASEAN. It involves each and every Southeast Asian country and their contribution to the realisation of the Zone is every bit as important. There is ample room for co-operation under the umbrella of a perceived common destiny. We should not lack the vision to try.

4. By our action at this Meeting in endorsing the conceptual framework of the Zone, we have taken a very big step forward. We are now ready to begin to take initial concrete steps that would translate concepts into reality.

alienated in varying degrees from each other. But once we made the new beginning in our relations, we did learn the negative nature of conflict and the positive benefits of co-operation. Malaysia feels certain that a new beginning can similarly be made in the relations between all Southeast Asian countries. We cannot resolve our differences or overcome our prejudices all at once. But if we can learn to co-operate even as our differences and prejudices remain, we would at the very least be heading in the right direction.

3. All of Southeast Asia have a common stake in a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality

The treaty of Amity and Co-operation, the first wholly indigenous multi-lateral treaty in the history of Southeast Asia, is a most important initial step towards the realization of Zonal Neutrality. If the pattern of our relations with each other can be made predictable and stable, we can not only devote more collective attention to improving the terms and quality of our relations with extra regional partners, but also oblige them to explore more constructive and equitable relations with us. This development would serve both our individual as well as regional interests. The improvement of the terms and quality of our relations with others require

that we first improve the quality of our own relations with each other.

5. Beyond improving the climate of intra-regional relations, it is also necessary for us individually and in concert to get on with the work of building the dynamism that will sustain the Zone. We are already in effect building these in our separate endeavours in our respective countries, and in our common endeavours through ASEAN.

6. We are each in our own way and according to our own circumstances mobilizing our population for nation-building and rapid economic development. Together we are also

engaged in laying the foundation for the harmonisation of our interests in the region. We have come to recognise that there is the real possibility of accelerating our own respective national economic development processes through increased intra-regional trade, through improvement of the terms of our extra-regional trade, through industrial harmonization and complementarity. The development of a community of regional interests is necessarily a slow process, especially as the long history of regional alienation had ended only a short decade ago. If in ten short years we have succeeded in transforming radically the climate of alienation into a climate of co-operation,

however rudimentary, the prospects for developing regional inter-relatedness cannot but be bright. Global developments are also forcing us to recognise the community of interests that we must share if we are to cope with them.

Excellencies:

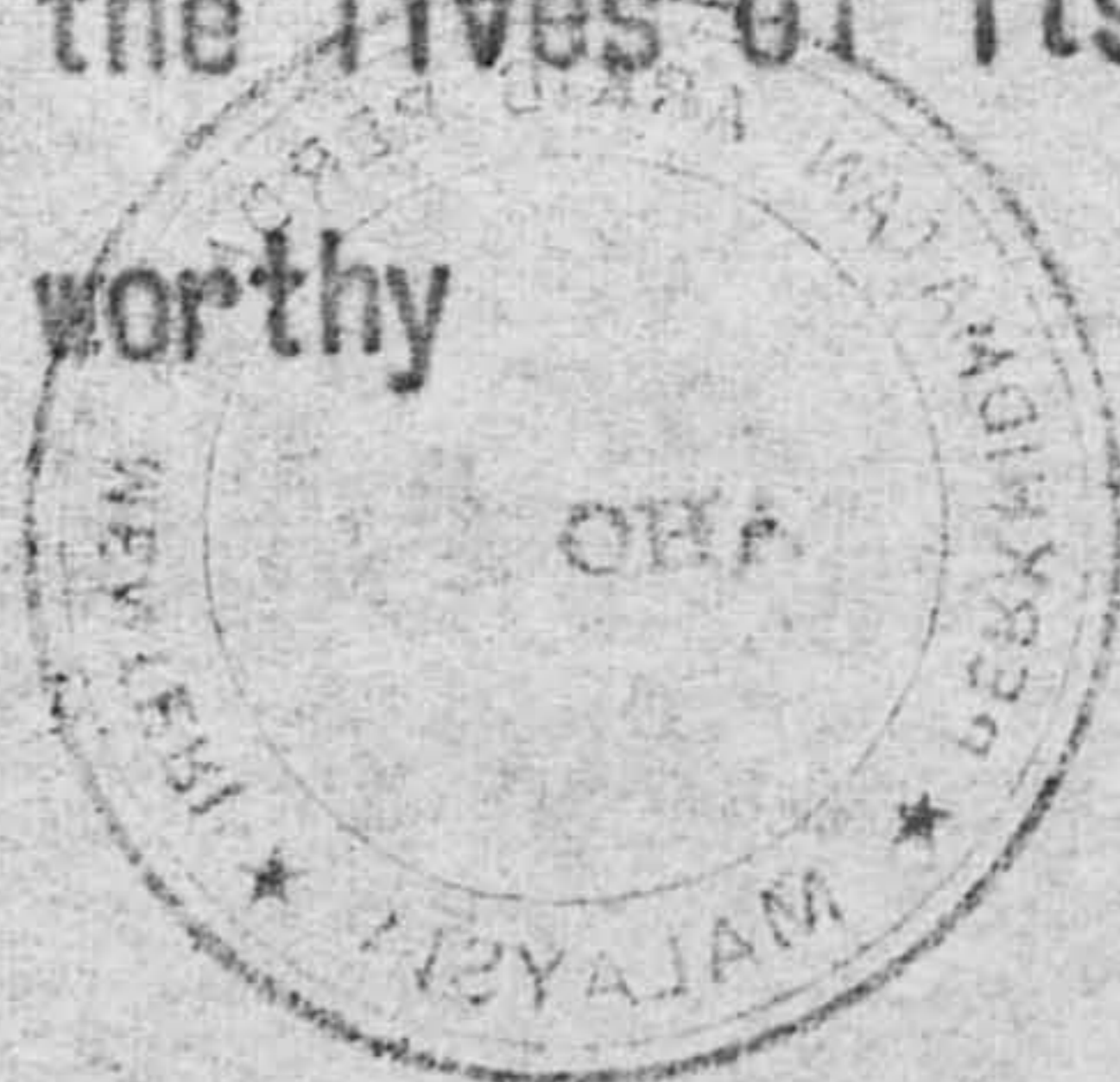
7. Southeast Asia today is in the grips of new realities, and consequently new challenges. We are in the position to influence to a not insignificant degree the shape of events in our region. We are responding, it seems to me, in a more intense and more systematic pattern. Our foreign policies impact on each other directly. Some of the results of

this have already emerged from our deliberations these last few days. We have a long way still to go. Ahead of us lies a lot of learning and mutual adjustments; a lot of discussions, a lot of hard negotiations: but we have already made another new beginning here in Bali. And though there will be the inevitable setbacks initially, I am certain that we will prevail in this decade of consolidation.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies:

8. For me personally, the experience of these last few days have been tremendously stimulating and instructive. As a new comer to Summitry, I have approached it not without a

certain diffidence. The kindness and consideration of my colleagues during our deliberations have however helped me enormously. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. Chairman, most sincerely for your graciousness in hosting this meeting in this idyllic setting. If we in ASEAN could establish in Southeast Asia the calm tranquility that epitomizes this beautiful island of Bali and the lives of its people, we would have made a worthy contribution indeed.



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KEMENTERIAN HALUJARAN DAN KAWALAN PERBATAS

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