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SPEECH BY Y.A.B. DATUK HUSSEIN ONN,
PERDANA MENTERI, AT DINNER IN HONOUR
OF VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
AT ISTANA TETAMU ON SATURDAY, 27TH
MARCH, 1976

Mr. Vice President,
Mrs. Rockefeller,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a happy privilege for me this evening, to extend on behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia, a very warm welcome to you, Mr. Vice President, and to your gracious lady, Mrs. Rockefeller, as well as to the other members of your party. Your distinguished record in American public life, Mr. Vice President, is further enhanced by the remarkable

services you have given to the international community. But, most of all, I am happy to welcome you, not just as an eminent representative of the United States, or as a leading citizen of the world, but in your own person. The warmth and directness of your personality, and the attentive understanding which you have shown towards our problems and our concerns, ~~have made me feel that it is not a mere~~ ~~twenty-four hours since I first made your~~ ~~acquaintance~~ and have made a distinctive impact on all ^{of us} who have had the good fortune to meet you. ~~As a practising politician, all I can say is~~ ~~that I am glad, and relieved, that you are not in~~ ~~the same game here in this country!~~

(2A)

Mr Vice-President, if I hear you correctly,
you have told me that you are a politician.

→ As you are a politician, — — — — —

~~I hope that this is not the first time~~

~~that your secret service boys have heard~~

~~of it, otherwise Mr. Vice-President you will~~

~~be in big trouble when you get home!~~

← As you are a politician, what a

coincident that I happen to be one as well.

you will no doubt agree with me that we

are completely at the mercy of and subject to

the vagaries of the people. The only loyal

people we can depend on are our wives.

They thus expect that we defend all their actions, even though sometimes, their actions cause us a lot of headache.

To illustrate my point, Mr. Vice-President, I was told of a joke which runs something like this:

Two political candidates were having a hot debate. Finally, one of them jumped up and yelled at the other: "What about the powerful interest that controls you?"

And the other guy screamed back: "You leave my wife out of this."

(20)

Mr. Vice-President, the need to have
a wife is beyond dispute. I will tell
you why:

Every man needs a wife because
there are a lot of things that go
wrong that one can't blame on
the government.

Mr. Vice President,

2. You have come at a historic moment in Southeast Asia which is pregnant with many possibilities.

In such a situation, we must dare to hope and dare to act. A people without historic vision is a poor thing, but ~~a~~ vision, unless built on realities, invites danger and is doomed to fail.

We must respond to the realities of today — that is certain. But we must also shape them to realise our vision of tomorrow. This is the path, often

delicate and difficult, which Malaysia has chosen, and we will not be deterred. Our policy in ASEAN, our attempts to encourage Southeast Asian regionalism, or at least to breakdown the barriers of past prejudices and misconceptions, our commitment to a zonal neutrality system, our determined pursuit of social justice and economic development in our own society — all these we will steadfastly pursue.

And all these are ^{*pre-dic-a-ted*} predicated on our will to fight in the defence of our country and our liberty. We accept that the world is a complex place and our responses therefore

have to be sophisticated and multi-faceted.

But we cannot afford to gamble with the
security of our people, and we do not

intend to. Where there is no hope, there

^{can}
~~will~~ be no endeavour. Our people know

the total commitment of my Government to

the creation of a peaceful, just and

prosperous Malaysia. It is a continuing

task, and we do not doubt our success.

Mr. Vice President,

3. The earlier visit made by President Ford, and your own current visit to this region, demonstrate the continuing interest of the United States in Southeast Asia.

We welcome this. In **his** important speech in Honolulu in December 1975, President

Ford spoke of the principle that peace in

Asia required a structure of economic

co-operation reflecting the aspirations

of all the peoples in the broader Asian-

Pacific region. This statement contains

crucial elements of our own perspective

of the role that the United States can

play in the region. We believe that there

are significant opportunities for the United States to construct a new pattern of co-operation based on inter-dependence. The lessons of the past are there for all who wish to see. A policy of judicious diplomatic support, a generous approach ^{on} ~~of~~ financial, economic and trade matters, the encouragement of appropriate private investment -- these contain the best assurance of a productive and lasting relationship between the United States and Southeast Asia, precisely because the benefits are mutual, and they ^{permeate} ~~permate~~ to all strata of society.

Mr. Vice President,

4. The long-standing relations between our two countries based on the concept of partnership have been good, constructive and fruitful. This happy state of affairs has been made possible, despite the obvious differences in resources and interests between our two countries, because we share, not only common political and economic philosophies, but also an outlook of moderation and responsibility. I should be less than frank however, if I do not express my conviction that the level of our relations can be intensified. The pre-occupations of the United States in recent years in the Indo-China conflict,

have tended to obscure the possibilities of constructive co-operation with other countries such as Malaysia. I believe a fresh opportunity presents itself today.

Certainly Malaysia has always made it clear that in acquiring new friends, we shall not neglect old ones; nor also do we wish to be drawn into the disputes and quarrels of others. I am hopeful, Mr. Vice President, that in that spirit, your brief visit here has made a significant contribution to the development of relations between our two countries.

Let us build on the foundation of mutual understanding and mutual interest which your visit has helped to enhance.

5. Finally, Mr. Vice President,
let me wish you and your gracious lady
a pleasant and fruitful onward journey.
Your stay with us has been all too brief,
but I hope you have captured something
of the tempo and flavour of Malaysian
life, and that you will take ^{back} some pleasant
memories with you.

6. Ladies and gentlemen, I ^{would now like to} ~~now~~
invite you all to join me in a toast
to the health, well-being and happiness
of the Vice President of the United States
and Mrs. Nelson A. Rockefeller.

**PERKHIDMATAN
ARKIB PERDANA MENTERI**



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