

Speech at the dinner ^① in honour of the
visiting Prime Minister of Sri Lanka,
Madama Sirimavo Bandaranaike,
on 7th Nov. 1976.

1. madame, I wish I were like you
— a woman Prime Minister. I am
sure it has many advantages, among
which is, by the rule of nature, the
right and privilege to have the last
say in almost everything. What man
would have enough courage to argue
with a woman? It is bad enough
if she is a wife; it will be ^{worse} ~~political~~
~~suicide~~ if she happens to be a Prime
minister! ~~History has amply shown~~

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~~That despite that, men have been~~

~~known to commit political suicide;~~

But what men fear most, so I have

been told, is a woman's scorn,^{and}

be she a wife or a Prime Minister,

How I wish I were a woman Prime

Minister.

2.

madame, I am at the same a little
 confused in spite of what I have just
 said. I am told that you are the
only man in your cabinet. I am
 aware that politicians are quite flexible.
 But to be bisexual, that's something
 that I am incapable of achieving!

3. madame, seriously speaking, it is a
great pleasure to have you with us.

It is most kind of you to spare your
valuable time to pay us a visit. may
I, on behalf of the Government and
people of Malaysia extend to you and
members of your party a very warm welcome.

Our only regret is that your visit is a
very short one. Nevertheless, we trust that
it will be a memorable and a beneficial
one.

(5)

4.

Last August, I was in your beautiful
country attending the 5th Non-Aligned
Countries Summit Conference, you in particular,
your Government and the people of Sri
Lanka, had been very kind and hospitable
to us. we are indeed grateful. may I
say with great respect that the arrangements
that you had made for the Conference had
been excellent.

(6)

This dinner in your honour is only

a small token of our respect for you

and your great country. Your country and

mine are really no strangers to each other.

we have known each other for centuries, we

have ~~now~~ in our country descendants of people

from your country who are now our citizens;

in your country
in the same way there are descendants of

our people who are now your citizens.

6.

The relation between our two countries has always been cordial and friendly, may it be so for a long time to come. In international matters, we have many things in common. We pursue a policy of non-alignment; we are members of the Commonwealth and the United Nations and its various agencies; we are in the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries.

(a) your country's donation of twenty
 to the International Rubber Council.

7.

During the years our two countries have been cooperating more and more in international conferences, we have been cooperating in many fields, for examples, in medicine, family planning, banking, commodity issues, in police and naval matters.

There are two matters which I would like to mention ^{specially} ~~specifically~~ and for which I would like to express our appreciation and thanks. They are :-

- (a) your country's donation of twenty eyes to Malaysia's Eyes Bank.

(b) your country's kind gesture in allowing
the ~~plane~~ ^{aircraft} which carried the members
of the Japanese Red Army to land
in Colombo on its way to Libya.

8.

As regard trade between our two

countries, owing to the fact that our
 two countries produce the same type of
 agricultural products, it has remained
 small. However, we should explore other
 areas whereby trade between our two
 countries can be further increased.

any information
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9. Madame Prime Minister,

Malaysia values and loves peace. There is nothing that she will not do to achieve it. She extends her hand of friendship to any country which so wishes it. At the same time, she wishes to be left alone free from ~~any~~ any interference, incitement to insurgency and violence, in whatever form or manner and from whichever quarter or country. We have been independent for nearly 20 years, and we have no doubt whatever that our independence is genuine. We do not need to be told by others that it is otherwise.

10. madame Prime minister, It is precisely that we value our independence and our democratic way of life so much that we would like to ensure peace and stability in our region. We have no interest in big power rivalry; we do not wish to get involve in big power rivalry; we only wish to be left in peace to pursue our fortune and destiny in the way that is suitable to us. It is for that reason, and that reason only, why malaysia initiates and pursues the concept of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality. We are confident that

in time, those ^{who} ~~which~~ are suspicious or
 find various excuses to reject the concept
 will become convinced and wiser, for in
 the long run, it is as much to their
 interest as it is to ours. malaysia
greatly appreciates the assurance that Sri
Lanka supports the proposal to establish
a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in
Southeast Asia.

madame Prime Minister, Sri Lanka's initiative
to declare the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace
 must be motivated for the same reason.
malaysia fully supports it.

11. madame Prime minister. If I may say with great respect, you carry a heavy responsibility by virtue of your predecessorship of the Coordinating Bureau of the non-Aligned nations.

If I may speak very frankly, in my view the biggest challenge that the non-Aligned nations Organisation now faces is that it is truly non-aligned, favouring neither one ^{nor} block ~~or~~ the other. Then there are economic matters such as the commodity issues.

International Agreement on natural Rubber Price Stabilisation Scheme, Fund for Financing of Buffer Stocks and UNCTAD

Integrated Programme will need to be looked into as a matter of urgency.

12. Madame Prime Minister. may I say again how very glad we all are to have you with us, short though it may be. I have every confidence that the good and cordial relations between our two countries will be further enhanced by your visit.

Before I conclude, may I ask you all, Ladies and Gentlemen, to stand up and join me in a toast to the good health of Her Excellency, Madame Sirimavo Bandaranaike, and to the progress and prosperity of the people of the Republic of Sri Lanka.

END.

(10)

[Faint, illegible handwritten text]

**PERKHIDMATAN
ARKIB PERDANA MENTERI**



JUL 1978

No Siri	223
No. Penerimaan	30/78