The Arab Republic of Egypt.

Suggested text of speech by YAB Datuk Hussein Onn, Prime Minister, after dinner in honour of Her Excellency Mrs. Jehan El-Sadat, wife of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 9th November, 1976

Your Excellency,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to extend our warm welcome to you, Your Excellency, members of your distinguished family and delegation to Malaysia.

My wife and I have eagerly looked forward to your visit and we are very delighted and honoured by your gracious presence here to-day. Nearly twenty years ago His Excellency President Anwar Sadat, in another capacity, was on a short visit here; to-day we have his charming wife with us. We hope that the President and his wife and their family will be able to visit us again and together in future for they are always welcomed in this country.

Our friendship with Egypt has always been on the best of terms. We are friends not only because we are both Muslim countries sharing many things in common in our traditions and customs, but also because we share common ideals of peace, justice and progress for our peoples. We in Malaysia have therefore watched with keen interest and admiration the struggle and determination of the people of Egypt toward the fulfillment of their hopes and aspirations and the attainment of their objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mrs. Sadat herself in her own right has earned our admiration and respect for her untiring efforts and personal

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sacrifice in caring for her people especially the disabled, the women and children, and the less privileged in her country. Her role in helping the wounded and the sick, and in comforting their families during the October war in 1973, is well-known all over the world and should be an inspiration especially to women everywhere. Mrs. Sadat is not only the First Lady of a great country but a prime mover behind every important activity in Egypt to-day where women are concerned.

I may add, Your Excellency, that to the many women of Malaysia who have heard about you and your activities, your dedication to duty and selfless service in the course of women's movements in Egypt, in helping the needy, your presence here with us to-day is a special pleasure.

As in other countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) the women in Malaysia have become conscious of their role and responsibility in society, of the need to involve themselves and meet the challenges in development, and to contribute to the process of nation building. It is indeed a healthy sign that their demand for their rights as individuals and as members of the society is coupled with this sense of purpose and a desire and willingness to play a dynamic role in national programme. To-day in Malaysia women are taking active parts in national politics, economy, administration and commerce as well as in other activities where only men were once dominant. It is only a few days ago that the National Advisory Council on the Integration of Women in Development held a seminar here in Kuala Lumpur where ASEAN women leaders discussed the subject of women and employment. This Advisory Council has become yet another vehicle in women's movements in this region, one which has the support and encouragement of their respective governments. Women in ASEAN countries, such as those in Malaysia, have therefore been given full recognition as to their potentials and capabilities not only in their homes but also outside, to work side by side with men.

Your Excellency,

We would like you to know that in Malaysia you are not only among friends but among brothers and sisters. I am aware that you have aleady travelled far and spent many days away from your beloved country during your present journey to the East and Southeast Asia. Nevertheless we hope that you will continue to have an enjoyable and pleasant time in Malaysia. We would like that during your short stay here you will be able to do and see as much as you wish. If there is anything in particular we can do, anything we can offer you, we would like you to let us know. It is our hope that the memories you will have of your visit to Malaysia will bring you back to see us again in the not too distant future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I ask you to join me in a toast to Mrs. Sadat to wish her and her family good health, happiness and every success in her noble endeavour.

PERKHIDMATAN
ARKIB PERSANA MENTERI

ARKIB NEGARA MALAYSIA
ADHO
5/7/78

JUL 1978

No. Siri 224
No. Penerimaan 31/78

PERKHIDMATAN ARKIB PERDANA MENTERI
ARKIB NEGARA MALAYSIA
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your excellency.

We would like you to know that in Malaysia you are not only among friends but among protectors and strategists. I am very pleased to have already travelled far and spent many days with your people. We would like you to feel as known. It is our hope that the memories you will have of your visit to Malaysia will bring you back to see us again in the not too distant future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

May I ask you to join me in a toast to Mrs. Sadat and to her and her family good health, happiness and every success in her noble endeavour.

will be able to go and see as much as you wish. It forms is Malaysia. We would like that during your short stay here you will continue to have an enjoyable and pleasant time in the East and Southeast Asia. Nevertheless we hope that you will come back to Malaysia with your delegation during your present journey when time and tai and spent many days travelled far have already visited your people. We would like you to feel as known. It is our hope that the memories you will have of your visit to Malaysia will bring you back to see us again in the not too distant future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

May I ask you to join me in a toast to Mrs. Sadat and to her and her family good health, happiness and every success in her noble endeavour.

1. Your Excellency, madame Jehan El-Sadat.

2. Honourable President of the Senate and Puan Sri Dr. Aishah.

3. Honourable ministers and wives.

4. Your Excellency The Dean of the Diplomatic Corp and wife.

5. Your Excellency, The Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt and wife.

6. Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. The former Prime minister, Tengku Abdul Rahman, has always said that he was the happiest Prime minister.

I think I have beaten him now. I can rightly claim to be the luckiest Prime minister, at least with women. During the last few days, I have been honoured with visits and have had the honour of entertaining two gracious and well-known ladies. The first was Mrs. Bandaranaike, the Prime minister of

Sri Lanka, and now you madame, the beautiful and charming wife of a great world statesman and leader of a great people, President Anwar Sadat of The Arab Republic of Egypt. If my claim happens to be wrong, I am sure that the illustrious Tughu will not miss a chance to correct me in his newspaper column next Monday.

2. madame, I have been warned that you are a fighter for the cause of women, especially in your country. While I would not dare to cross-swords with you on this matter ——— and indeed who among the men here present would also dare to do so, for their wives are woman ——— they would like now and again to air their grievances. men, unlike women, can only suffer in silence; we think that we are more oppressed than the women.

For examples, women nowadays claim they understand everything ——— everything ofcourse <u>except their husbands</u>; again some wives are too beautiful for words, <u>but not for arguments!</u>

3. madame, speaking seriously, may I say how very glad we all are for the honour you have given us in visiting our country. The relations between our two countries have always been close and friendly. This, if I may say so, is perfectly natural. The fact that our two countries believe in the same religion is a big factor. Furthermore, I could remember, a large number of our students have been studying in Egypt, particularly at the University

of Al-Azhar, University of Cairo, University of Ein-Shams and the University of Alexandria. ~~now~~ To-day, these students are not only studying Islamic Laws and Arabic Language, but medicine and engineering as well.

4. your country has very kindly lent us doctors and lecturers. malaysia has always supported the concept of Islamic Solidarity and the Arab cause against Israel. malaysia has signed two agreements with Egypt ——— the Trade Agreement of 1962 and the Cultural Agreement of 1967. In my view, these two agreement should be reactivated.

5. Coming to a more personal matter, I was in Egypt during the second World War. I was there about the ~~middle~~ end of 1942. I was then in the Indian Army. I was camped at Mena near the Pyramids. I cannot forget the Cairo taxis ——— they were noisier and perhaps more dangerous than the Battle of Alamein. I remember going to a night-club called Bardia where I first saw in the flesh belly-dancing. It is quite amazing what women can do with their bellies! While men

can only watch in despair and utter helplessness the gradual growth of their tummies, it is incredible to see how these women can wiggle and gyrate (ji-rate) their bellies. If we look at the men at the tables here, most of them, it seems, can hardly support their tummies, what more to expect them to wiggle and gyrate! I have, however, one regret when I was there, and that is in not being able to visit the Cairo Museum; it was closed during the war.

6. Madame, I wish that your husband were with you as well, during this visit. I met him for the first time at Colombo during the Non-Aligned Summit. Please convey to him my humble invitation to visit Malaysia. Inshaallah, I shall be visiting your great country early next year. I am looking forward to it.

7. I cannot conclude my address, informal though it may be, without some reference to your work. I am aware that your special interests are Women's movement, Charitable Organisations and, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Programmes.

I hope that the programmes that we have prepared for you meet with your approval. We only wish that you could stay longer. But believe it or not madame, husbands do miss their wives when their wives are away too long, and I am sure that your husband is no exception.

8. I understand that you are an active social worker and that you have done much for your country. You take personal interest in the welfare of disabled war veterans and their families. You have a major project in hand, that is, the "Wafaa Wa Amal" (Faith and hope) Rehabilitation Centre for the handicapped war veterans and civilians. I wish you success in your endeavours. You are also involved in family planning programmes and the eradication of illiteracy. You are also campaigning

for greater women participation in public life and a new Civil Rights Law to give more rights to women and more security to the family. The Talla Society, of which you are the prime mover, has benefitted a large number of families. These, I understand, are only some of your activities and achievements.

9. Before I sit down, I am sure that all of us present here would like to wish her Excellency madam Jehan El Sadat success in all her efforts and endeavours.

May I therefore ask you all to rise and drink with me in a toast to the health and happiness of Her Excellency and to the prosperity and well-being of the people of The Arab Republic of Egypt.

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