

respective peoples. We are determined to work together and make this region of South East Asia a better and happier place for all of us to live.

Mr Prime Minister, your Government has given the lead in promoting and expanding the frontiers of co-operation among countries and regions. I am confident that this lead will be followed up and that as a result of the deliberations of this conference the countries in South East Asia will move closer together in the field of economic and social development in order to bring greater happiness and prosperity to our people in South East Asia. Thank you.

VISIT OF THAI PREMIER IS OF "GREAT SIGNIFICANCE"

"The close and awdied relations between our two countries have been sustained and refreshed by constant exchanges of visits. not only by our leaders but also by the people of our two countries people from all walks of life" said the Tun in a speech to welcome Field Marshal Tun Thanom Kittikachorn. the Prime Minister of Thailand on May 23. 1966.

Your Excellency, it always gives my colleagues and me. and indeed all the people of Malaysia, the greatest pleasure to welcome you or any of your colleagues to our country. Your visit here at this time is indeed of great significance in view of recent developments in this region of Southeast Asia. As you know. Your Excellency. President Marcos of the Philippines has announced his intention to normalise relations with Malaysia, and it has been possible for us to revive and reactivate ASA. a concept *of* regional co-operation which is dear to both our countries. Also, the new Indonesian Government has expressed its wish to bring an end to Indonesia's confrontation against Malaysia, and has agreed to discuss with us ways and means of doing this. We, on our part, have of course readily responded, and it is expected that a meeting between the Indonesian Foreign Minister and myself will take place in the very near future.

We in Malaysia hope and pray that, with the assistance and co-operation of Thailand and other friendly countries in Asia, it will be possible to bring a speedy end to this confrontation, and

thai Indonesia and Malaysia will be able to work together in friendship and co-operation, for the progress and happiness of our respective peoples, and also for peace in this region.

Thailand and Malaysia have always maintained the closest and most cordial relations and we here have a real and genuine affection and regard for you and your colleagues. I have no doubt that, under Your Excellency's wise leadership, ably supported by your distinguished colleagues, your great country. Thailand, will continue to progress and prosper, and that the close and friendly ties between our two countries will be further sustained and strengthened.

I cannot stress too strongly how close the ties are between our two countries. Thailand has remained Malaysia's staunchest, and most loyal friend and neighbour for many years in the past. Whatever stress or strain there might have been in international relations in this part of the world. Thailand has always been willing, and ready, to help Malaysia, in any way she could, and at any time. To quote one obvious instance: During the last few years, there has been strained relations between us and Indonesia, and to some extent, between us and the Philippines. Thailand has, in this time, endeavoured, to bring us back together—to bring to an end Indonesia's confrontation against us. and to have normal diplomatic relations re-established between us and the Philippines.

Your able and distinguished Foreign Minister. Tun Thanat Khoman. with his undoubted wisdom and great diplomacy, successfully brought Indonesia and Malaysia together to the conference table to settle their differences. This he did in the face of overwhelming difficulties: and the great restraint he exercised in doing so was obvious to all. Although some of the meetings, regrettably, did not end in agreement, your Foreign Minister showed that he was prepared to go to any extent, with patience and endeavour, to assist friendly countries, and to bring peace to this region.

Your great country and ours share the same ideals and aspirations. We believe in international co-operation and peace among nations, respecting each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. That is how our two countries came to be founder members of ASA—an outstanding example of regional co-operation that is now beginning to show results. Our two countries, as neighbours, are working closely together in meeting Communist aggression and subversion, particularly at our common border.

The Joint Border Committee, which our two Governments have set up. has done much in our efforts to control, and eliminate. Communist terrorism in our border areas. Our two countries, believing in peace and co-operation among nations, have never hesitated to play their part in the defence of freedom, and in the cause of world peace. It is our common aim to create political and economic stability in our respective countries, so as to counter the corrosive threat of Communist subversion and infiltration. In this field we are assisting each other in a number of ways. We, on our part, are always willing, within the limits of our ability, to extend assistance to you. in your great effort to wipe out Communist elements in your country, with the experience that we have gained through our twelve-year war against Communist terrorism. Our two countries are fully aware of the danger that the subversion and infiltration of militant Communism poses to our independence and sovereignty: and it is our determination to do everything possible to defend our independence, and our integrity, and to see that peace is maintained in this region of Southeast Asia.

Your Excellency. your great people and our people co-operate closely not only in the political, economic, social and cultural fields, but also in the field of sport, particularly golf. I see you have with you Tan Sri Thitinat Na Ranong. your former Ambassador to our country, who. besides being an able representative of your great country, has also been golfing partner to our Prime Minister. I have to say that, since he left us. our Tunku's game of golf has gone down very much, and instead of a handicap of 21. he now has a handicap of 24. So you can see. Your Excellency, how much we in Malaysia depend on you. your help, your assistance, your understanding and co-operation, even in golf

Once again. Your Excellency. I do hope that you, Toh Puan Kittikachorn. and all your colleagues, will enjoy your short stay with us; and I would like to assure you that you. and every one of your colleagues, are always welcome to Malaysia at any time. Our homes and our hearts will always remain open for you. your colleagues and people of your great country.

Now. Your Excellencies. Ladies and Gentlemen. I ask you to rise and join me. in a toast to His Excellency Tun Thanom Kittikachorn. Prime Minister of Thailand, and to wish him good health and success in his great and high office.