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'Practise art of diplomacy'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian diplomats must master best practices in the art of diplomacy, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday.

He said the best diplomats were the ones able to secure good deals for their country while ensuring that their counterparts were also satisfied.

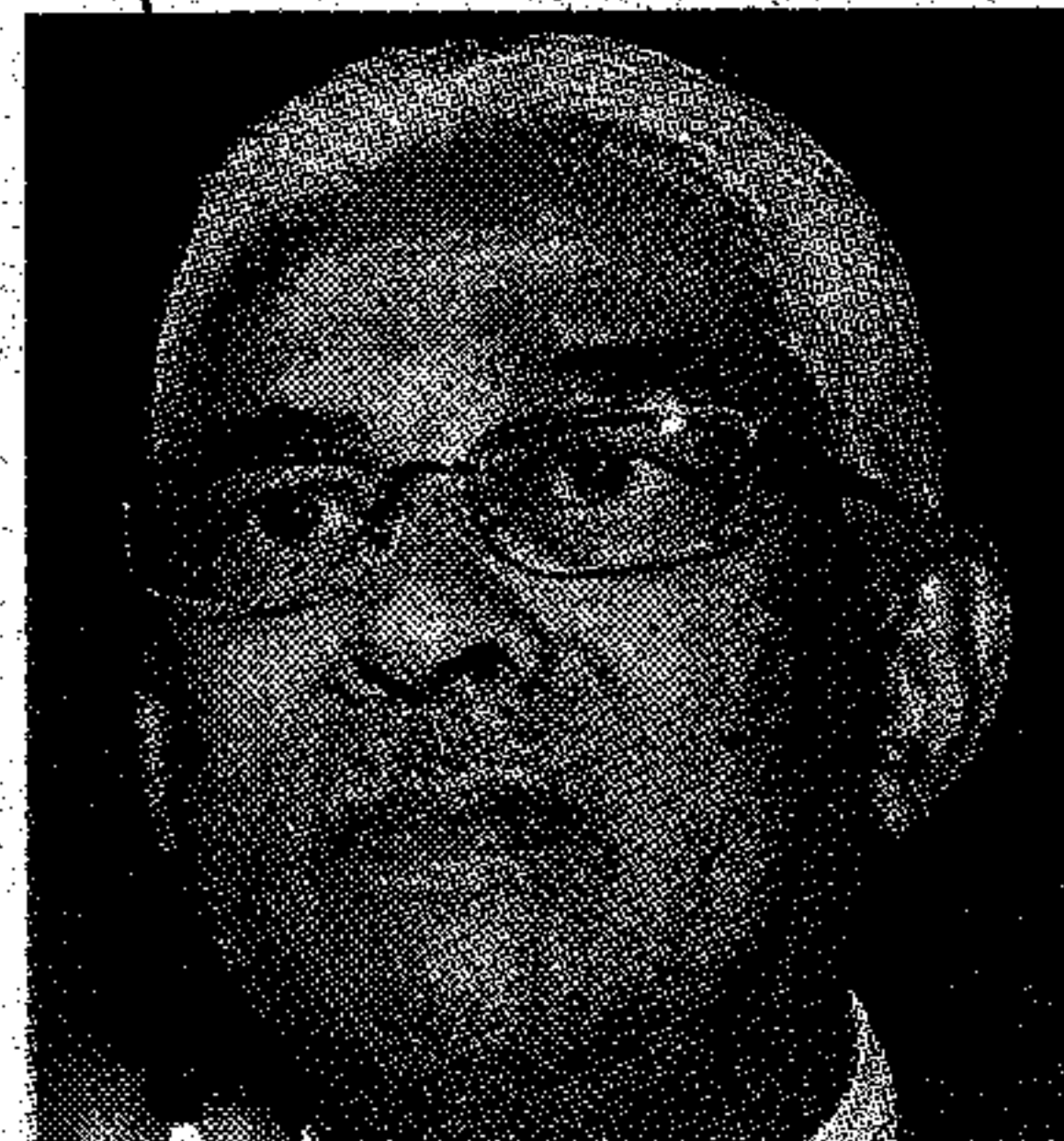
"Ensuring that no one loses face is as important in an inter-state situation as interpersonal relations.

"Taking care of the feelings of other countries is always an important aspect of effective diplomacy," he said at the launch of the book — *Malaysia: 50 years of Diplomacy, 1957-2007*.

The book is written by Dr Chandran Jeshurun.

Abdullah said the book was a proud record of Malaysia's achievements in international relations.

"It will serve as a reminder of what we did right and how we did it. The book also records occasions where we did not do well and what went wrong."



Dr Chandran Jeshurun's book details Malaysia's achievements in international relations

He added that it would be useful for Malaysian foreign service personnel who have the task of negotiating with their counterparts.

Abdullah said that the book showed that Malaysia had always been steadfast in its pursuit of world peace based on a just and equitable international order.

"Malaysia has always sought to bring about better understanding among people and nations in the interest of the common good."