

**SPEECH BY
THE HONOURABLE ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
ENTITLED "ISLAM HADHARI AND GOOD GOVERNANCE" AT THE VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY, WELLINGTON AT NEW ZEALAND
31 MARCH 2005**

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY FOR INVITING ME TO SPEAK TO THIS DISTINGUISHED GATHERING TODAY. INDEED, I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE MALAYSIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAVE MUCH IN COMMON. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF SHARED INTERESTS IN MANY INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES, A COMMON MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS AND NEW ZEALAND'S CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH ASEAN, THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS.

2. BILATERALLY, MALAYSIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAVE VERY SUBSTANTIVE RELATIONS. OUR PEOPLES KNOW EACH OTHER IN MANY WAYS. IN PARTICULAR, NEW ZEALAND SOLDIERS HAVE FOUGHT IN OUR COUNTRY IN THOSE EARLY DAYS WHEN IT WAS KNOWN AS MALAYA. SINCE THEN, THOUSANDS OF MALAYSIANS HAVE COME TO NEW ZEALAND AND GRADUATED FROM ITS UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING THIS PRESTIGIOUS VICTORIA UNIVERSITY WHICH CAN CLAIM MORE THAN 100 YEARS OF TRADITION. MALAYSIA FEELS A PARTICULAR AFFINITY WITH VICTORIA UNIVERSITY BECAUSE IT IS HERE THAT THE CHAIR OF MALAY STUDIES WAS ESTABLISHED SINCE 1997.

3. IN THE SPIRIT OF SHARING PERSPECTIVES BETWEEN OUR TWO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY AS THE PRIME MINISTER OF A MUSLIM NATION AS WELL AS THE LEADER OF A MULTI-RELIGIOUS AND MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY, OF WHICH MALAYSIA IS A TRUE REPRESENTATION. I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ALSO ON THE BASIS OF MY EXPERIENCE OF HEADING A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS COMMITTED NOT ONLY TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BETTERMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA BUT ALSO TO THEIR INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT AS INDIVIDUALS IN A DIVERSE, PROGRESSIVE, AND TOLERANT SOCIETY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

4. EXTREMISM AND RADICALISM HAVE INDEED BECOME THE SCOURGE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD TODAY. I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY THAT WE IN MALAYSIA HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CONTAINING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISM. NEVERTHELESS, WE DO WISH TO FURTHER BUILD UPON THE INTER-RACIAL TOLERANCE WE ALREADY OBSERVE AND THE INTER-FAITH COEXISTENCE WE ALREADY PRACTISE IN

MALAYSIA. BASED ON OUR OWN EXPERIENCE IN SOCIAL ENGINEERING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE ELIMINATION OF POVERTY AND THE PROVISION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE ARE KEY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST EXTREMISM AND RADICALISM.

5. IN MALAYSIA, WE HAVE INTRODUCED ISLAM HADHARI AS THE APPROACH FOR INSTITUTING A NATIONAL ORDER, IN A MUSLIM COUNTRY SUCH AS OURS, THAT IS FAIR AND JUST TO ALL IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE OR RELIGION. WE HAVE TRANSLATED ISLAM HADHARI INTO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AS CIVILIZATIONAL ISLAM. ISLAM HADHARI IS NOT THE CODE WORD FOR ANY SECRET MISSION. IT IS AN OPEN AGENDA SETTING OUT THE APPROACH WE WISH TO TAKE IN PROVIDING WHAT IS BEST FOR MALAYSIA AS A MULTI-RELIGIOUS AND MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IS MUSLIM.

6. WE VIEW ISLAM HADHARI AS THE WAY TO GOOD GOVERNANCE, THAT IS TO SAY THE WAY IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO ADMINISTER TO THE WELLBEING OF THE COUNTRY AND THE WELFARE OF ITS MULTI-RELIGIOUS AND MULTI-RACIAL POPULATION. THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM ARE UNDOUBTEDLY THE FOUNDATION AND INSPIRATION FOR OUR ACTIONS BUT THE BENEFITS ARE INTENDED FOR EQUITABLE SHARING BY ALL MALAYSIANS, MUSLIMS AS WELL AS NON-MUSLIMS ALIKE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

7. EXTREMISM AND RADICALISM, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY MANIFEST IN THE FORM OF TERRORISM, MUST BE CONDEMNED. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT JUSTIFIABLE TO ASSOCIATE TERRORISM WITH ANY PARTICULAR RACE OR RELIGION. THROUGHOUT HISTORY, ALL RELIGIONS AND RACES HAVE THEIR RESPECTIVE SHARES OF TERRORIST GROUPS. TERRORISTS MUST BE SINGLED OUT ONLY BY THEIR ACTS OF TERROR AND NOTHING ELSE.

8. ABOVE ALL, THERE IS A VITAL NEED TO CLEAR THE CONFUSION CREATED BY SOME EXTREMISTS WHO CLAIM TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN DREADFUL DEEDS AS AN ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS OBLIGATION. LET ME BE VERY EXPLICIT THAT ISLAM ABHORS TERRORISM. TERRORISTS WHO COMMIT CRIMES IN THE NAME OF ISLAM DESECRATE THE PURITY OF THE RELIGION AND THEY ARE INDEED DAMNED IN THE SIGHT OF GOD ALMIGHTY.

9. IT WOULD BE INSTRUCTIVE FOR US TO KNOW THE MOTIVES OF TERRORISTS IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE ROOT CAUSES OF THEIR ACTIONS. ARE THEY ROOTED IN POLITICAL INJUSTICE, THE DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS OR COULD IT PERHAPS BE A BRUTISH LIFE ENTRENCHED IN PERVASIVE POVERTY, OR INDEED SOMETHING ELSE? UNLESS THE ROOT CAUSES ARE ADDRESSED AND REMOVED, NEW RECRUITS WILL TAKE THE PLACE OF LEADERS AND GROUPS KILLED OR DESTROYED IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THEM. THERE IS NO SINGLE SOLUTION APPLICABLE TO ALL SITUATIONS.

10. INDEED, MALAYSIA HAD FACED TERRORISM IN THE PAST. WE FOUGHT A LONG WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION WHICH USED TERROR TACTICS TO INTIMIDATE THE POPULATION AND OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, MALAYSIA HAD OFFICIALLY LABELED THE ENEMY AS "CTS" OR COMMUNIST TERRORISTS EVEN IN THOSE EARLY YEARS OF THE 1950S. THE TERRORISTS BURNED HOUSES AND RUBBER FACTORIES, DERAILED TRAINS, AMBUSHED PASSENGER BUSES, ATTACKED POLICE STATIONS, MURDERED INNOCENT PEOPLE AND GENERALLY SPREAD FEAR INTO THE DAILY LIVES OF THE POPULATION. IT TOOK US SOME 20 YEARS TO FINALLY DEFEAT THE TERRORISTS AND SECURE A FORMAL SURRENDER. THANK GOD WE WON THAT WAR! AS I HAD INDICATED EARLIER, NEW ZEALAND SOLDIERS TOOK PART IN THAT WAR AND THEY PERFORMED VALIANTLY.

11. THE IMPORTANT LESSON TO BE LEARNED FROM THE MALAYSIAN EXPERIENCE IS THE FACT THAT THE WAR WAS NOT WON BY THE USE OF CONVENTIONAL MILITARY FORCE ALONE. WE SECURED VICTORY BY PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AS MUCH AS WE DID BY MILITARY ACTION. IT IS ON THE BASIS OF THIS DOCUMENTED SUCCESS THAT MALAYSIA HAS BEEN CALLING FOR AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROOT CAUSES OF TERRORISM.

12. WE MUST ALSO ACCEPT THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM IS A LONG-TERM CHALLENGE. TERRORISM GOES BEYOND AL QAEDA. TERRORISM NOT ONLY PREDATES AL QAEDA; TERRORISM WILL ALSO OUTLIVE AL QAEDA. WE CANNOT AFFORD AD-HOC OR SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS. MALAYSIA HAS REPEATEDLY CALLED FOR, AND CONTINUES TO BELIEVE, THAT THE GLOBAL SCOPE OF THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM REQUIRES THE WIDEST POSSIBLE COLLABORATION AMONG ALL NATIONS. THIS CAN ONLY BE GALVANIZED THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PREFERABLY HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IN THIS WAR, WE MAY NEED TO BE PREPARED TO BE FIGHTING FOR DECADES, NOT YEARS.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

13. MALAYSIA HAS ADOPTED ISLAM HADHARI AS THE LONG TERM NATIONAL APPROACH FOR PROVIDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS TO ITS CITIZENS. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT THIS APPROACH HAS ALSO BEEN INSPIRED BY OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT GOOD GOVERNANCE, HEALTHY DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES, EMPOWERMENT OF THE CITIZENRY THROUGH EDUCATION AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH WILL REMOVE ANY ATTRACTIVENESS TOWARDS RADICALISM AND BLUNT ANY TENDENCIES TOWARDS EXTREMISM.

14. WE IN MALAYSIA WOULD LIKE TO SHOW BY EXAMPLE THAT A MUSLIM COUNTRY CAN BE MODERN, DEMOCRATIC, TOLERANT AND ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE. ISLAM CERTAINLY DOES NOT ENJOIN US TO TURN OUR BACKS AGAINST THE REST OF THE WORLD. IN FACT, ISLAM TEACHES US TO FIND SUCCESS NOT ONLY IN THE HEREAFTER BUT ALSO IN THIS WORLD.

15. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT ISLAM HADHARI CAN HELP BRING MUSLIMS INTO THE MODERN WORLD AND INTEGRATE THEM IN THE MODERN ECONOMY. ISLAM HADHARI PROMOTES TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING, MODERATION AND PEACE, CERTAINLY ENLIGHTENMENT.

16. THE MUSLIM UMMAH AS A WHOLE, WHICH IS A COLLECTIVE TERM IDENTIFYING ALL ADHERENTS OF THE ISLAMIC FAITH, NEED OF COURSE TO SOLVE ITS OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS. EXTREMISM MUST BE RENOUNCED, RADICALISM ERADICATED AND ALL SECTARIAN VIOLENCE MUST BE PUT TO A STOP. ISLAM CAN CERTAINLY TAP INTO ITS OWN RICH INTELLECTUAL TRADITION AND CHALLENGE DIRECTLY THE EXTREMIST DOCTRINES THAT HAVE LATELY BECOME LINKED, ALTHOUGH UNJUSTIFIABLY, TO ISLAM. MUSLIM LEADERS AND MUSLIM SCHOLARS MUST SUCCEED IN REVIVING FULLY THE TRUE SPIRIT AND THE TRUE MEANING OF ISLAM. THE TRUTH MUST PREVAIL THAT ISLAM ABHORS EXTREMISM AND CONDEMNS TERRORISM.

17. HOWEVER, THE MUSLIM UMMAH ACTING ALONE ON ITS OWN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE TOTAL SUCCESS. ISLAMOPHOBIA MUST ALSO BE REMOVED AT THE SAME TIME. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST TAKE A STAND TO STOP ACTIONS WHICH CONTRIBUTE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO THE PERPETUATION OF INJUSTICE, OPPRESSION OR AGGRESSION AGAINST MUSLIM COUNTRIES AND THE MUSLIM UMMAH ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS A CLEAR DUTY TO DISALLOW THE MARGINALIZATION OF MUSLIMS AND INSTEAD ENABLE THEM TO TAKE PART IN INFLUENCING AND SETTING THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA. THE INCREASING GULF AND MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE MUSLIM WORLD MUST BE BRIDGED. BUT IT REQUIRES BOTH SIDES TO WORK IN TANDEM TO CLOSE THE CHASM.

18. INTER-CIVILIZATIONAL DIALOGUES CAN TAKE PLACE AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS ALONG THE "SECOND-TRACK" AT THE NON GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL. THIS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION CONCERNS HUMAN RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLES OF DIFFERENT CREEDS AND RELIGIONS. THE NON MUSLIM WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE WEST, MUST BE PREPARED TO DISCARD THEIR PREJUDICES AGAINST ISLAM AND BE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN GENUINE DIALOGUE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

19. LET ME DWELL A LITTLE ON THE QUESTION OF POVERTY SINCE A LARGE PART OF THE MUSLIM WORLD, EITHER FAIRLY OR UNFAIRLY, HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH BACKWARDNESS IGNORANCE AND VIOLENCE. AS PART OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, WE MUST DEFINITELY GIVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY. I SPOKE IN FEBRUARY IN PAKISTAN, AT THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF ISLAMABAD, AND I SAID THEN THAT THE BIGGEST THREAT TO MUSLIM SOCIETIES TODAY IS POVERTY AND ILLITERACY. IN

ORDER TO RID THE MUSLIM COMMUNITIES OF POVERTY AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THE MORE PROSPEROUS MUSLIM COUNTRIES WOULD NEED TO GET TOGETHER TO HELP THE OTHERS. THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD MUST, OF COURSE, ALSO DO THEIR PART. BUT I HAVE BEEN CALLING UPON MUSLIM COUNTRIES TO TAKE THE LEAD BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THE DICTUM OF LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE.

20. AS THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE SUMMIT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, MALAYSIA HAS INITIATED A SERIES OF SELF-HELP PROJECTS INVOLVING O I C MEMBERS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF INCREASING CAPACITIES IN SEVERAL POOR MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE O.I.C. THE IMMEDIATE PURPOSE IS TO GENERATE INCOME AND PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT. THE LONGER TERM INTENTION IS TO ASSIST THESE O.I.C COUNTRIES UPGRADE THEIR GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. SEVERAL PILOT PROJECTS IN THESE SERIES WERE LAUNCHED IN KUALA LUMPUR ON 29 MARCH 2005, JUST TWO DAYS AGO. THE UNDERLYING PURPOSE IS TO DEVELOP HUMAN CAPITAL BY ENHANCING THE CAPACITIES OF THE HUMAN INDIVIDUAL. I HOPE THIS PROGRAMME WILL ACHIEVE SUCCESS. WE CAN VIEW THIS INITIATIVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF ISLAM HADHARI BEING PUT INTO PRACTICE.

21. TO BE SURE, I MUST POINT OUT TO YOU THAT POVERTY IS CERTAINLY NOT A PROBLEM AFFLICTING ONLY POOR MUSLIM COUNTRIES. GLOBAL POVERTY IS IN FACT A GRAVE THREAT TO GLOBAL STABILITY. IT CAN BE THE "TROJAN HORSE" FOR PEOPLE WHO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE OF POVERTY TO CAMOUFLAGE THEIR OWN SECRET AGENDAS. HALF OF THE WORLD'S SIX BILLION PEOPLE ARE POOR. ALMOST HALF OF AFRICA LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY, WHICH IS DEFINED BY THE WORLD BANK AS THOSE WHO GET BY ON AN INCOME OF LESS THAN ONE DOLLAR PER DAY. NO ONE HAS BROUGHT TO THE FORE THIS PROBLEM MORE ELOQUENTLY THAN JEFFREY SACHS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM PROJECT. HE SAYS MORE THAN EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD DIE EACH YEAR BECAUSE THEY ARE TOO POOR TO STAY ALIVE. CLEARLY, THE SOLUTION FOR EXTREME POVERTY REQUIRES EXTREME MEASURES. I THINK NEW ZEALAND, AS ONE OF THE MORE PROSPEROUS OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, SHOULD PLAY ITS PART IN THIS GLOBAL MISSION.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

22. THIS IS ONLY THE THIRD OCCASION I HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT ISLAM HADHARI TO A MAINLY NON-MUSLIM AUDIENCE, IN A NON-MUSLIM COUNTRY. I DO SO TODAY BECAUSE I CONSIDER THE PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND AS FRIENDLY AND WILLING TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF OTHERS JUST AS THEY ARE WILLING TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS WITH OTHERS.

23. ISLAM HADHARI ENCOURAGES LEARNING FROM OTHERS AND LISTENING TO OTHERS AS ONE OF THE WAYS OF BETTERING ONESELF. THE GREAT INDONESIAN THINKER AND WRITER, HAMKA, HAD SAID, "THE MOST INTELLIGENT MAN DERIVE LESSONS FROM WHATEVER HE OBSERVES AND ACCEPTS ADVICE FROM WHAT HE

HEARS". AFTER ALL, AS THE FOURTH MUSLIM CALIPH AND PHILOSOPHER, ALI ABI THALIB, POINTED OUT, "A MAN'S WORTH IS HIS KNOWLEDGE".

24. ISLAM HADHARI PLACES A VERY HIGH PREMIUM ON THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ON THE CAPABILITY OF THE PEOPLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION. THIS IS BECAUSE THE ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE IS KEY TO ELEVATING THE POOR FROM POVERTY. FURTHERMORE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ARE ALSO KEY TO UPLIFTING COUNTRIES AND NATION STATES TO BECOME DEVELOPED AND MODERN ENTITIES. EDUCATION AND THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE IS THE GREATEST EQUALIZER AMONG INDIVIDUALS IN A SOCIETY AND THE GREATEST LEVELER WHICH CAN BRIDGE THE PROSPERITY GAP AMONG THE NATION STATES IN THIS GLOBALIZED WORLD.

25. PROPHET MOHAMMAD HAD SAID, "GO FORTH AND SEEK KNOWLEDGE EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO TRAVEL TO CHINA" UNDOUBTEDLY, MANY MALAYSIANS HAVE TRAVELED EVEN FURTHER TO NEW ZEALAND TO SEEK AND ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE. IN FACT, MALAYSIANS HAVE GONE EVERYWHERE INCLUDING EUROPE, THE AMERICAS AND THE MIDDLE EAST. MORE THAN 100,000 MALAYSIANS ARE GRADUATES FROM COUNTRIES OTHER THAN MALAYSIA.

26. ISLAM HADHARI IS NOT A NEW RELIGION. ISLAM HADHARI IS NOT A NEW MAZHAB, SECT OR DENOMINATION. ISLAM HADHARI IS MERELY AN APPROACH TO FOSTER A PROGRESSIVE ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION, BUILT UPON THE NOBLE VALUES AND IDEALS OF ISLAM. IT PLACES SUBSTANCE OVER FORM. IT IS BASED ON PRACTICALITY AND PRAGMATISM. IT EMPHASIZES DEVELOPMENT THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE TENETS OF ISLAM AND FOCUSES ON ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF EVERY CITIZEN, REGARDLESS OF HIS OR HER RELIGION.

27. WE LIKE TO VIEW ISLAM HADHARI AS AN EFFORT TO BRING THE FAITHFUL BACK TO BASICS, TO GIVE PRIMACY TO GOOD VALUES AND ADHERENCE TO CERTAIN FUNDAMENTALS. ISLAM HADHARI POSITS TEN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES WHICH MUSLIM NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES MUST DEMONSTRATE, NAMELY:

- FIRST, FAITH AND PIETY IN THE ALMIGHTY GOD, ALLAH;
- SECOND, A JUST AND TRUSTWORTHY GOVERNMENT;
- THIRD, A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE;
- FOURTH, VIGOROUS PURSUIT AND MASTERY OF KNOWLEDGE;
- FIFTH, BALANCED AND COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT;
- SIXTH, A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE;
- SEVENTH, PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF MINORITY GROUPS AND WOMEN;
- EIGHTH, CULTURAL AND MORAL INTEGRITY;
- NINTH, SAFEGUARDING NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT; AND
- TENTH, STRONG DEFENCE CAPABILITIES.

28. JUST IN CASE THERE IS ANY DOUBT, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO STATE THAT ISLAM HADHARI IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH DEMOCRACY BECAUSE ISLAM HADHARI IS ALL ABOUT LIVING PEACEFULLY AND RESPECTING EACH OTHER IN THE

SOCIETY. ISLAM HADHARI WOULD ENCOURAGE "MUSHAWARAH" (CONSENSUS BUILDING) AS AN APPROACH TO SOLVING PROBLEMS AND WOULD ACCEPT THE "SHURA" (CONSULTATIVE PROCESS) AS THE BEST WAY OF DEALING WITH VARIOUS SOCIETAL ISSUES. ISLAM HADHARI PROVIDES FOR DEMOCRACY IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS JOHN DEWEY, THE CLASSICAL GURU ON DEMOCRACY, PROVIDED FOR DEMOCRACY IN HIS TIME. IN 1916, IN HIS BOOK ENTITLED "DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION", JOHN DEWEY HAD STIPULATED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE REQUIRES OF EVERYONE THAT "EACH HAS TO REFER HIS OWN ACTION TO THAT OF OTHERS, AND TO CONSIDER THE ACTION OF OTHERS TO GIVE POINT AND DIRECTION TO HIS OWN".

29. AS I HAVE SAID EARLIER, MALAYSIA IS A MULTI-RELIGIOUS AND A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY. I WISH TO REEMPHASIZE THAT ISLAM HADHARI IS MEANT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL IN MALAYSIA, REGARDLESS OF THEIR RELIGIOUS OR RACIAL IDENTITIES. IT IS CERTAINLY AN EXHORTATION TO THE MUSLIMS TO TREAT WELL AND FAIRLY THEIR NON MUSLIM FELLOW CITIZENS IN ALL THEIR DEALINGS. I HAVE ALWAYS STATED THAT THE APPROACH OF ISLAM HADHARI WOULD BRING EXCELLENCE, DISTINCTION AND GLORY TO ALL MALAYSIANS, MUSLIMS AND NON MUSLIMS ALIKE.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

30. PEOPLE OF GOODWILL, NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING SUCH AS THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY CAN ALL PLAY A PART TO PROMOTE A CRITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE NON MUSLIM WORLD AND THE MUSLIM WORLD. WHILE IT IS NECESSARY ON THEIR PART TO FIND COMMON GROUND WITH PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS, MUSLIMS MUST ALSO OPEN UP THE DISCOURSE WITHIN THEIR OWN FAITH. IN THE COURSE OF MEETINGS LIKE THIS IN OTHER PLACES, I HAVE OFFERED MALAYSIA AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR PROMOTING MORE OPEN AND DIVERSE ISLAMIC DISCOURSE. I REITERATE THAT OFFER HERE TODAY. OUR UNIVERSITIES WILL WORK WITH INSTITUTIONS AROUND THE WORLD, AND I WELCOME THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY TO TAKE PART IN THIS ENDEAVOUR AND PROMOTE SUCH A CRITICAL DIALOGUE.

31. I HOPE THE GOVERNMENTS IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES WILL, IN TANDEM, MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES TO NATIONAL POLICIES AND WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE SOCIETIES. THE SPACE FOR DEBATE AND DISCOURSE AMONG THEIR PEOPLES MUST ALSO BE EXPANDED.

32. I AM CONFIDENT THAT TRUE ISLAM WILL FLOURISH ONCE AGAIN - THAT IS, ISLAM WHICH IS TOLERANT, CHARITABLE AND WHICH, ABOVE ALL, PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION. MUSLIMS EVERYWHERE DO HAVE AN OBLIGATION NOT ONLY TO BRING BACK THE GLORY OF ISLAM BUT ALSO TO PROMOTE GENUINE COEXISTENCE AMONG RELIGIONS IN THIS WORLD. FRIENDS OF THE MUSLIM WORLD, WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS OR PRECONCEPTIONS, CAN ALSO MAKE APPROPRIATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS GREAT ENTERPRISE.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

33. SEEKING PEACE AND WISHING FOR PEACE IS IN FACT A DAILY WAY OF LIFE OF ALL MUSLIMS. EVERY TIME THEY GREET FRIENDS OR MEET STRANGERS, THEY SAY "ASSALAM MU ALAIKUM" IN THE ARABIC LANGUAGE, WHICH MEANS IN ENGLISH, "MAY PEACE BE UPON YOU". WITH THAT GREETING, I CONCLUDE MY ADDRESS AND WISH ALL OF YOU THE VERY BEST.