

SPEECH BY HON'BLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AT STATE LUNCHEON IN SYDNEY ON 19TH APRIL 1967

Mr. Deputy Premier,

I am grateful to you, Mr. Deputy Premier, for your warm welcome to my wife and myself and members of my delegation to your beautiful city of Sydney and the State of New South Wales. As you know, we are here as guests of your Government, and I am indeed happy to have this opportunity of seeing of your great country with its energetic and lively people and with its vast expanse of potentials. Certainly during the last two days, you have put up a nice weather for us.

I have long wanted to visit Australia, and this in fact the realisation of a wish that I have long cherished. I wanted to visit Australia first of all to thank the Government and people of Australia for the help and assistance you have given us - not only for your support in the defence of our country when we faced confrontation by the old order of Indonesia, but also for your help in the field of technical assistance and in the facilities of training and education which you have provided for our young boys and girls. Your engineers, your technicians, your teachers and other officials and your soldiers have become familiar and welcome figures in our society. In turn there are over 5,000 of our students here and you have kindly accepted them as part of the ordinary life here. So you see our two countries have helped each other in a number of ways, have maintained very close and very friendly relations. That is why I have come here to tell you how much we appreciate the assistance and the contribution you have made for the progress and the welfare of our country.

Before I came here I have heard so much about your great country from the leaders of your people who from time to time have visited our country, and like many others I have read about Australia - of your city, of the beauty of your countryside, of your vast potentials, of your energy and drive, and the richness and diversity of life in this vast continent. Since I arrived I have seen your national capital, Canberra, with its quiet efficiency, the vast and varied state of Queensland with its beautiful beaches, park and farms. I have seen your Universities and political centres and met your people in all walks of life. I have been greatly impressed and touched by the warmth of the people of Australia. Everywhere I went I have been

given generous and warm welcome. For all this I am truly grateful. From the activities and progress that I have seen of your great country my expectation before coming here has been confirmed that Australia is a young, lively and exciting country.

Through energy and enterprise you have done much for your people. In comparison with conditions in Asian countries, Australia is a rich and prosperous land. You have achieved it by your efforts, your energy and your enterprise. We in Malaysia are also doing what we can to close the gap between the haves and the have-nots, between the urban and the rural areas, and also between the states of West Malaysia and the new states of East Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, which have just joined us. We are determined to give our people better amenities of life and a better and higher standard of living, and we are determined to do this within the framework of Parliamentary democracy. We in Malaysia believe that democracy is the best system of Government ever devised. We believed in a free enterprise as the most effective means of releasing the energy and ingenuity of man. We believe in a democratic and free enterprise system to produce the best result, provided always that the people who operate the system are honest and efficient, tough and dedicated. But we have our enemies, the Communists, who are trying to muddy the water, to distract our attention and dissipate our energies to non-productive enterprise so that we fail to solve our development problems.

Communism feeds on the remains of lost hopes and ideals. We are determined that the hopes and ideals of our people will never be disappointed. That is why since we are now short of money to implement our development programme due to our heavy commitment for defence and to the low price of rubber, we have appealed to our friends from overseas, including you in Australia, to help us. We are grateful to you for your assistance in the past as well as your promise to assist in the future. Our success will have a direct bearing on you in Australia. Your future and your fortune are closely linked with ours.

Besides the threat of militant Communism we in Malaysia have other problems. The diversity of our people presents a great challenge to us. However for the last 10 years since we achieved Independence we have made great progress in bringing our people of various races closer together. But we cannot solve this challenging problem satisfactorily unless we are able to increase further the tempo of development and give our people of all races a real stake in our country, a rightful place in our land. Our achievement in the economic field so far has been satisfactory. Our democratic system is thriving, our plans for development have had striking results. This is a matter of great pride to us and I am sure it is also of great satisfaction to you, for

as I said, our future and fortune are inevitably linked together. We have common ideals and aspirations. Let us therefore hope that by a working together, by pooling all our efforts in the field of economic development, we will ensure a happy and prosperous future not only for our two peoples but for the whole region of Southeast Asia.

Mr. Deputy Premier, once again I thank you very much indeed for your kindness and hospitality and for the way you have welcomed us to your great city and to this beautiful and thriving States of New South Wales. I wish you and your people the best of luck and I hope to have the privilege of seeing you and your colleagues in our country soon.