

SPEECH BY HON'BLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
TO THE AUSTRALIAN/MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION IN SYDNEY,
AUSTRALIA ON 19TH APRIL 1967

Mr. President, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure to be here. Overwhelmed as I have been by the hospitality and kindness of your Government and people, I feel at a loss as to what to say. My visit to this great country has barely been a week and I cannot tell you anything about Malaysia about which you do not already know.

To speak about Malaysia I see that many of you have already been to my country. As for those who have not, you too can claim to have known some important facts about us.

You know what exists in Malaysia for which we are renowned. For example there is a lot of rubber, there is a lot of tin and plenty of timber. You know all about this by looking at the world stock market where you see the prices of rubber and tin fluctuating from day to day!

But there is one thing in my country, Malaysia, which is equally abundant as rubber and tin but not recorded in the world stock market. Even if it were recorded this commodity, if you can describe it as such, does not fluctuate from day to day but remains at a high level. That thing is the abundance of goodwill we have for Australia and you Australians.

Tin, as you know, is produced by diggers and rubber by planters.

The main producers of goodwill in Malaysia towards Australia are the thousands of students who have already graduated at your colleges and Universities and have returned to my country fully equipped to play their part.

The kindness and hospitality which they received not only on the campus but in the homes of honest to God, decent living and sincere Australians have left its mark on those who have had the opportunity of obtaining their higher education in this country.

In many cases they have brought back a bit of your country in the form of shapely Australian girls as their wives, and we have many young Malaysian female graduates who have been unable to resist the manliness of the Australian males and succumbed to their marriage proposals.

Another source of the production of mutual goodwill between our two countries is the many thousands of Australians living and working in Malaysia in all fields.

There are Australians on our rubber estates.

There are Australians in our tin and iron ore mines.

There are Australians in our business houses, Australians in our colleges, schools and university and there are Australians in our bars, breweries and drinking houses.

All of them honest to God Australians who both at work and leisure continue to strengthen from day to day the common bond which ties Malaysia and Australia together.

We, Malaysians, have a lot in common with you Australians.

We both have a Federal form of Government.

We are both determined to uphold the principles of Democracy.

We are both determined to develop the potential of our country towards the economic stability and prosperity for our people and we are both determined to defend that democracy against the threat of our individual sovereignty from the militant communist menace which overshadows the security of the region in which we live.

Let us take democracy.

Under our Parliamentary system which is practised both in Malaysia and Australia, the most important fact which faces the political leadership of both our countries is the sobering experience that, as democratic leaders, we have to hold our breath every 5 years and you every 3 years while our people decide to review the record of our action and make their own free decision whether or not to kick us out or give us another chance! True Parliamentary democracy therefore requires the party in power to translate into action sensible policies with tangible results on the ground.

We in Malaysia realise this fact - in fact this is the very basis of the common political philosophy both in your country and mine.

It is my belief, a belief strengthened in my experience of my dual portfolios of Defence and Development, that the strongest safeguard of a young nation's sovereignty and the greatest guarantee for progress lies not only in Defence and adequate military strength but very much more so in the attainment of development results and economic strength.

The technique of national development planning is now well advanced throughout the world and it is fairly easy for any developing nation to have a plan prepared, but the technician of implementation and putting push and punch into the translation of that plan from paper into factual results is a technique for which there is little international knowledge available at the present time from which developing countries can learn and apply.

So therefore we in Malaysia have evolved our own technique of development plan implementation. I can say with modesty that these techniques have been a success. We have been able to bring changes to

both rural and urban areas and our people are enjoying a measure of happiness and progress which they desire. However we are determined to do more. I can assure you that every ounce and cent of the development aid which Australia has already so generously given to my country has been absorbed into our implementation process and has been put to the fullest use for the benefit of our people. And I can further assure you the same will apply to any such aid in the future.

I do realise, however, above all, that there is no magic short-cut to success in national development but myself am confident that with mutual trust and co-operation, goodwill, hard work and determination on the part of all Malaysians, both Government and our people, and with the goodwill, financial and technical assistance from friendly nations, Malaysia will develop from strength to strength to play our part and make our full contribution towards the security and economic stability of this region.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me say a few words on the main problem of this region Southeast Asia. It is the constant threat of militant communist expansion and ultimate domination.

As you know, we in Malaysia have taken a firm stand against militant communism in our country. For 12 years we experienced active militant communist terrorism in our country.

They drained our resources, both manpower and financial, and delayed our development. We fought them and defeated them and we are now determined that this period of our national history will not repeat itself.

We still have subversive communist elements in our midst and we still have on our border with Thailand several hundred militant communists in the jungle and similarly on our border of Sarawak. There are no less than a thousand active militant communists.

The presence in our midst of hard core communists ever willing, given a chance, to resort to guerrilla tactics and armed terrorism demand constant vigilance on our part and the maintenance of sufficient militant deterrent to maintain law and order.

But the maintenance of a strong cordon of military security, as my people have realised, is not the final answer to militant communism. That military strength is needed is undeniable to prevent us from being swamped by force by our enemy. But equally necessary is the strength and ability to carry out social and economic development.

The mutual aim of the people of our region must not only the elimination of militant communism but also to sustain and preserve the democratic way of life. We must, therefore, build up democracy so that it becomes so deeply woven into the fabric of our national way of

life that it will never be allowed to be substituted by any other form of Government.

I would like to give you a formula for this region to stop the creeping paralysis of communism which, if not arrested, will mutilate the whole of Southeast Asia.

The formula is simple. I call it "4 D's":-

- Democracy is our base.
- Defence to protect our democracy.
- Development for the prosperity of our people.
- Determination by all free countries in the area to co-operate with each other through trade, commerce, industry and all other aspects of economic development.

Before I close my address I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President, and members of your Association for the unfailing support and assistance that your Association rendered to us during the period of our trials and tribulations, that is the period of Indonesian confrontation, and more recently the funds that you raised for flood relief in Malaysia. Thank you.