

SUGGESTED BRIEF BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
FOR MEETING ON AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND VISIT  
ON 20TH MARCH 1967

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I am most anxious that every action be taken to make this visit a success, and to do this, requires some ground work *now*.

*Time is short*, there are only two weeks left before I leave for Australia, and I do not want, as has happened on some of my previous trips abroad, there is a last minute rush of preparation and my receiving briefs from various departments *at the very last minute* before departure.

I am not so much concerned with the detailed itinerary of the programme, which is still being worked out between Kuala Lumpur, Canberra and Wellington. In fact, this juggling of the programme details is almost likely to continue until the very last moment of my departure.

What, however, I am concerned about, *and this is why I have called this meeting this morning*, is to obtain *full and comprehensive briefs*, and pre-prepared speeches from the Heads of Departments concerned with each subject on which I shall speak.

Let us take the Australian visit first. No matter what changes take place in the detailed programme, the following items are definite:-

- (a) On my arrival, there will be a pre-prepared *publicity hand-out* for the Australian Press and public;
- (b) I shall have to make the following major speeches:-
  - (i) an after dinner speech at a banquet at a Parliament House;
  - (ii) and address to the National Press Club;
  - (iii) an address to the Institute of International Affairs;
  - (iv) an address to the Veteran's Conference;
  - (v) a speech to a gathering of Malaysian Students;
  - (vi) a speech to the Committee of Economic Development of Australia.

These, as I have said, are the *major items*, the preparation of which will *require much hard work* and *close co-operation* between all of you.

The question also arises of the separate theme of each of these addresses, and in some cases, the theme will have to overlap depending on the audiences.

In addition to making speeches, I shall require a comprehensive brief on the following:-

- (a) details of Malaysian students in Australia, their problems and their aspirations;
- (b) details of all development aid already given by Australia to Malaysia and an out-line of future proposals at present under consideration;
- (c) details of Military aid and assistance given to Malaysia by Australia.

With regard to the New Zealand programme, *the three main items* which require preparation *now*, and *which must be ready well before* my departure are:-

- (a) a speech at the Government luncheon at the New Zealand Parliament;
- (b) a lecture at the University in Wellington;
- (c) a speech at a dinner to be given at Auckland to local personalities including representatives of business, the press and Malaysian students.

Now, as I have said, *time is short*, and with all my other commitments in Malaysia before I leave I cannot possibly *myself*, get down to drafting these speeches and what I require *is first drafts of all of them* to be ready by the 1st or 2nd of April, so that I will have time, *prior to my departure* from Kuala Lumpur, to give thought to them.

This is going to require a lot of hard work on your part. As time is short, *this work will have to take priority* over all other things at present in hand.

It will require a lot of hard team work to prepare these speeches because in some cases, they will include reference to Foreign Affairs, to relationship with Singapore, to regional co-operation, to Defence, to Development.

I, therefore, want to *set up a working party* here and now, which will have to give up all other work for several days and get down to *day-to-day continuous meetings and drafting sessions* so that I can be supplied by *1st of April*, with drafts for all these addresses and speeches.

I myself will want from time to time to have discussions with this working party so that I can fully familiarise myself with the programme because it is absolutely essential that I arrive in Australia *fully prepared and fully briefed*.

My visit is concerned *not only* with regard to the relationship with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, but is also closely concerned with Malaysia's image in *international affairs* as a whole because in addition to the Australian public and the Press, there will be representatives of the foreign Press present, and I have also got to

bear in mind the impression already made in Australia *by both the Prime Minister of Singapore and the Prime Minister of Vietnam.*

In addition to all these, I want to make it certain that our Press coverage will be the best that we can give and I want to know the details of the arrangements made for the flow of information back to Malaysia during my visit.