

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE EX-
SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA AT THE
SELANGOR CLUB, KUALA LUMPUR ON 28TH
JULY, 1963

Mr. President, The Director for Asia and The Far East of the World,
Veterans Federation, The Federation Armed Forces Adviser,
Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be with you today to open this Annual
Conference.

I have read through your Annual Report and have been impressed
with the work which your Association has been doing during 1962.
It is indeed very gratifying to know that there is such an organisation
which is mindful of the needs of men and women who have served,
their country in times of war and emergency and who were not
behind in responding to the call to eliminate the terrorist from our
presence, and also not only the needs of these persons but those of
the widows and children of the less fortunate ones who made the
supreme sacrifice.

It is a matter of great interest to learn that the Association has
provided assistance for nearly one thousand cases of children, for
relief for buying school books and paying school fees. Such assis-
tance coupled with relief to unemployed and unemployable ex-
servicemen and women; relief for the sick, provision of housing
and other benefits must involve the Association in a considerable
sum of money as witness the grants which have been made to your
Branches to meet such expenditure.

This calls for the utmost response to your Hari Bunga Poppy
Appeal and it is my sincere hope that the public will not only
readily support the appeal this year but will also endeavour to

make it a greater success than in past years thereby enabling the Association to extend the good work it is doing. During the transition period between removal and re-erection of the Cenotaph it was not possible for you to hold a full-scale Armistice parade last year. I am happy to say that it is confidently expected that the new parade ground will be ready in good time this year for you to resume your annual parades. At your last Annual Conference The Hon'ble Ag. Minister for Defence referred to the question of hospital concessional charges in respect of ex-servicemen. I would like to assure your Association that this matter has been receiving the attention of Government and if there appears to be any delay regarding a decision this only because the matter is being closely studied with a view of introducing benefits comparable with what is being given by other Governments to Ex-Servicemen.

We are on the eve of a very big event which is about to take place in our history and I refer to the inauguration of Malaysia. With the expansion of our territory your responsibilities will increase. Your field of service will be greater and it will call for more of your time if the Association is to achieve its objects and continue the invaluable service it is giving to this country. Your achievements of the past augurs well for the future.

It is great pleasure that I declare your Conference open and wish your Association continued success in the excellent work it is doing.