

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WHEN  
DECLARING OPEN THE FIRST MALAYSIAN YOUTH  
CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE MERDEKA STADIUM, KUALA  
LUMPUR ON 6TH AUGUST, 1965

Mr. President — Dato Sardon, Ladies & Gentlemen and Members of  
the Youth Council.

I am indeed pleased to be here this evening to declare open this  
First Malaysian Youth Championships.

I am equally glad to note that athletes have come from the various  
States of Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah to partake in this  
National Championships. I for one, have had contacts with the Youth  
Council as early as 1949, when I had the privilege to represent the  
then Federation of Malaya at the formation of the World Assembly of  
Youth where I became a signatory to the charter of the World  
Assembly of Youth with nine others representing nine other countries.

It has always been my desire to keep in close contact with youth  
and their activities. I never get tired being in their company and always  
willing to assist all youth irrespective of their origins in building them  
up into fine young men and women. What our country needs is healthy,  
intelligent, disciplined and dedicated youth. Any effort in this direction  
by any youth organisation has my blessings and support.

Knowing that the youth of today will be leaders of tomorrow, our  
Government has spared no effort to encourage and promote youth  
organisations and activities. The creation of a special Ministry to look  
after such affairs is a clear indication. I am confident that with the  
efforts of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports there should be  
better understanding and cooperation between the Government and  
the voluntary youth bodies. I do not think it out of context to pay  
special compliments to the numerous youth leaders in the country  
who have and are still actively engaged in youth circles which as every  
one knows is voluntary and often work pertaining to youth activities  
have to be done during leisure hours. I am hopeful that those youth  
leaders will continue helping in the building up of youth organisations  
and will also help in training their fellow members in leadership so that  
they may be able to take over when the time comes. I appeal to all  
both the public and those in authority to continue encouraging and  
helping youth leaders in their various task to serve and lead the youth  
of the Nation.

As I said earlier, I am very happy to see so many of you from different States and representing different Organisations getting together at this meet. Apart from the fact that you will be actively concerned in giving your best in each of the items you are participating, yet knowingly or unknowingly you will be cementing good relationships which is so much needed in our present context.

Our neighbour Indonesia who has become hostile is confronting us not because we are a danger or threat to them, but because they cannot remain quiet seeing us progressing so rapidly and realising that despite our cosmopolitan background we are a bunch of 'happy brothers and sisters'. I am sure we are not willing to quarrel among ourselves nor do we want to remain static in our progress. It is necessary we have to be united at all costs.