

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE  
DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR BY THE  
PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA IN OTTAWA  
ON 6TH OCTOBER, 1971

Mr Prime Minister and Mrs Trudeau, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like first of all to thank you, Mr Prime Minister, for all the kind words you said about me just now.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation, on behalf of my wife and myself, for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in your charming capital city today. We have looked forward very much to this visit and I am sure that our stay here, though short, will be both rewarding and memorable.

Mr Prime Minister,

This is my first visit to your country, and indeed my maiden journey, if I may say so, to this part of the world since I became Prime Minister just over a year ago. My visit will provide an opportunity for me to exchange views with you and your colleagues on many subjects of common interest and concern to our two Governments. At the same time, this occasion also provides me with the opportunity to renew and strengthen the bond of friendship between our countries and peoples which have been growing day by day.

Your visit to Malaysia last year, Mr Prime Minister, was an important milestone in our relations. It was all too brief but the memory still remains. Your charm and boundless enthusiasm caught the administration of Malaysians and especially of the young. Since then, many things have happened to us both; we have both as it were changed status. On my part, I have gained the status of being Prime Minister of my country. As for you, Mr Prime Minister, you have lost the status of being the world's most eligible bachelor, though I know it is well compensated by the company you have won. Let me add that I am afraid that if

you were to visit us now, I do not think that you can hold the centre stage to yourself with such a charming and captivating person as Mrs Trudeau by your side.

Mr Prime Minister,

Perhaps, because of historical links and common experiences, our two countries have always enjoyed warm and harmonious relations. As Malaysia strives towards development and progress, we have learnt over the years to value our ties with you more and more. Canada has extended technical and financial assistance to us. Canadian private investment is on the increase and many more of our young people leave for your shores to further their studies. These are ingredients that would help Malaysia's development and progress and strengthen ever more the ties between our two countries and peoples.

At the moment, Canadian assistance is well spread out in our development projects both in east and west Malaysia. Under the Colombo Plan, Canadian experts are training Malaysians in new skills—skills which we as a developing country need badly. Canadian expertise technical know-how and capital are also involved in the development of the Jengka Triangle Complex, the feasibility study of the Temenggor Hydro-electric project, both in West Malaysia, and the forest resources survey in Sabah, East Malaysia. These are three examples of Canadian involvement in Malaysia. The complete list is in fact a long one.

Mr Prime Minister,

Today it can be said that Canada-Malaysia relations in the field of economic development are undergoing certain changes which are not unrelated to the international thinking on the subject. Of late, we have witnessed a more genuine inter-dependence among the donor and the recipient countries. Although among some donor countries a sense of moral obligation and a belief in an enlightened self-interest are important factors, in practical terms there is an increasing awareness, that assistance is effective only where receiver and donor are working in partnership. This is particularly true in the relationship between our two countries—the sort of relationship which Mr Loster Pearson, one of Canada's great sons, has termed as "partners in development". We are happy with this and with the spirit of co-operation and assistance extended by the Canadian Government in our current development effort.

I would like to add here that is my firm conviction, as I have had occasion to emphasize particularly in my country, that the main responsibility for the development of developing countries, like Malaysia, rest upon ourselves. At the same time, however great our own efforts, this will not be sufficient to enable us to achieve the desired goals as expeditiously as we must unless we are assisted through increased financial resources and more favourable economic and commercial policies on the part of the developed nations.

The Government of Malaysia is striving to mobilise and utilise its resources towards full economic development. This is possible only in an environment of peace and stability, not only in Malaysia but in the whole region of Southeast Asia. It is with this objective in mind that we proposed a guaranteed neutralization of the area. If this is achieved, countries in Southeast Asia can then proceed with the task of economic development and nation-building free from external threats and interference.

Mr Prime Minister,

It is my hope that your visit to Malaysia and my present visit here will lead to further visits and exchanges among our people to promote better knowledge and understanding of one another. Despite the expanse of waters and space which separates us, many common factors draw us together—we are both staunch supporters of the United Nations, we value our Commonwealth Association and we co-operate closely in the Colombo Plan our two countries chart a common concern to cope with the complexities of building a nation out of the diverse races and cultures in our respective countries we share a common commitment to the Democratic process, the safe guarding of human rights and the rule of law and many more. These are the factors which in the years to come will cement the growing relations between our two countries and peoples.

Mr Prime Minister,

May I once again express my sincere thanks for the honour and hospitality you have given us. I now invite you all, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in a toast to the health and well-being of Canada and her peoples.