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SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON THE
FIRST NATIONAL SOLIDARITY WEEK OVER RADIO
AND TELEVISION MALAYSIA ON 13TH NOVEMBER,
1964

Good Evening,

I am very happy indeed to speak to you tonight on the eve of my departure to London and later to Africa on a mission of national importance. On Monday, November 16th, Malaysia will be celebrating its first National Solidarity Week. The week is held to reiterate our determination to defend our national honour, independence and sovereignty against Indonesia aggression.

In our capital city, Kuala Lumpur, as in all State capitals the week will be inaugurated with a mass rally in which tens of thousands of people will be taking part and take the national solidarity pledge. We have composed a special song called 'Berjaya'. In the National Language 'Berjaya' means success. 'Berjaya' will be sung at all rallies throughout the nation and like the theme of the song, I know that with your support, the National Solidarity Week will be a great success. We hope the celebration will manifest to the world that we are a united nation and intend to live and build this united nation of Malaysian people into a strong and prosperous people in this part of the world. In our multi-racial society we have lived for generations in peace and in this country every citizens, whatever his origin, has the same status and equality of opportunity and a place under the sun.

We have been independent for more than seven years but we have never experienced in our brief period of independence the crisis that we are facing today. Our very independence and sovereignty is being threatened by a neighbouring country which we once look upon as a friend. We are still at a loss to find the reasons behind this Indonesian confrontation and aggression against us. We have done everything to be friendly with Indonesia. We have travelled far and wide to meet Indonesians to talk peace but all failed because Indonesia is not interested in maintaining peace and friendship with us. Indonesia wants to dominate and colonise us. After we became independent we signed a Friendship Treaty with Indonesia. That was the first and still is the first Friendship Treaty this country has ever signed with another foreign power. Somehow Indonesia tore this Treaty of Friendship and perhaps under pressure from the Communists — the P.K.I. — Indonesia declared

her policy of hostility and aggression against us after the birth of Malaysia. Since then Indonesia has committed acts of aggression against our territories in Borneo as well as on the mainland several times and I am very glad that each time, with the cooperation of the people, we were able to eliminate these aggressors. Indonesia has not stopped its subversion, economic confrontation and military aggression against us but in all these Indonesia has miserably failed. Indonesia has failed to disintegrate our nation. In fact, confrontation has united and stimulated our people.

Ladies and gentlemen, as a self-respecting and honourable nation we cannot tolerate aggression from any quarter. Indonesian aggression has aroused patriotism of every loyal Malaysian and our people have never before stood together in unity at any time in his history than it does today in the face of this external aggression.

The National Solidarity Committee was formed to provide a forum for the public to express their loyalty and patriotism. The Government has launched the Solidarity Week to enable our people to give manifestation of our national unity, determination and solidarity in its fight against Indonesian aggression. Our King, His Majesty the Yang Di Pertuan Agong¹ has been graciously pleased to launch this Solidarity Week. Our beloved Prime Minister, the Tunku, will address a rally at the Stadium Merdeka. In the State capitals, the Menteri Besar or Chief Ministers will preside over the rallies.

The Ministry of Information has arranged special exhibitions to be held simultaneously in Kuala Lumpur and all State capitals during the week. The exhibitions will display a variety of photographs, arms and ammunition and other equipment captured from the Indonesian invaders. I have been assured by the Solidarity Committee that the week will be a success. The Committee has told me that there is very good response from the public and everybody is looking forward enthusiastically to the week. The National Solidarity Week is not political. It is a national effort and we regret very much that there are political parties in Malaysia, namely the S.U.P.P. in Sarawak and the Socialist Front in Malaya, who have refused to participate in the celebrations of the Solidarity Week. Their action reflects their attitude and policy towards our Nation in this hour of National crisis. I hope all loyal citizens of this country, political parties other than those I have mentioned just now, voluntary and cultural bodies, public and clan associations and civic societies would exert their utmost efforts to ensure the success of the National Solidarity Week.

¹ D.Y.M.M. Tuanku Syed Putra Ibnu Almarhum Syed Hassan JamalulUail.

I am so sorry to be away from the country during the week because of the Colombo Plan Conference in London and also because of my visit to Africa. But this is also a great duty that I have to do for our nation. I have no alternative but to be away from Malaysia during the National Solidarity Week. But I can assure you that my thoughts and heart will always be among you, and I am sure every loyal Malaysian wherever he may be will think the same.

The Government has also started a fund called the National Defence Fund of which I am the Chairman and I hope during this week when we manifest to the world our patriotism and our determination to defend our sovereignty and independence by generously contributing to the National Defence Fund. I call upon everybody, the Chambers of Commerce, the rich people of this country and every loyal citizen to contribute generously to this fund. Any contribution, however small, will be appreciated and this bit every citizen can do to help repay their debts to the country in which many of them live very happily and prosperously. Our target is high and I hope a lot of money will be collected during the week. This is an opportunity for those who are not actively involved in the defence of this country to do their bit by contributing to the defence of this country.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I greet you all tonight, every loyal Malaysian with my very best wishes, good luck and Berjaya.

Good night and Merdeka.