

TR: 3.12.66

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
ON THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT ON
TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION
BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND BELGIUM AT
KUALA LUMPUR ON 2ND DECEMBER, 1966.

Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy indeed that your Excellency's first official visit to our country should culminate in the signing of an Agreement on Technical and Scientific Cooperation. Our two countries have very friendly relations and we share many common ideals of democracy and the determination to uplift the standards of living of our people through economic and social development.

The existing mutual goodwill and understanding is exemplified by the most cordial and expeditious manner with which the Agreement was negotiated between members of your delegation led by our good friend, the Belgian Ambassador to Malaysia, Mr. Taelemans, and officials of my Government. Your visit to Malaysia and the signing of this Agreement will, I am sure, promote even closer economic and technical cooperation between our two countries.

Under this Agreement, the Government of Belgium will, on the request of the Malaysian Government, provide:

- (i) scholarships, fellowships, travel and training awards for Malaysians;
- ii) experts, consultants and advisers on specific projects;
- iii) financial assistance and technical assistance for projects under the First Malaysia Plan.

On our part, the Government will extend the necessary facilities and courtesies for Belgian experts, advisers and local counterparts to implement our projects. This Agreement is general and flexible

enough to ensure effective cooperation in the provision and utilisation of assistance. It will also provide for the sharing of experience and exchange of information on projects which are of mutual interest to both countries.

Under our First Malaysia Plan, we have embarked¹ upon a bold and dynamic programme for modernizing our country and economy. This will enable us to increase agricultural incomes and raise the standard of living of our rural people as well as that of other sections of the Malaysian community. During the last few years, our rural development programmes has created a firm foundation for determined to push ahead with further development in both the rural and urban areas, especially in the relatively less developed States of Eastern Malaysia and the East Coast of Western Malaysia.

Our plan also lays emphasis on industrialisation and the development of skilled personnel to cope with the ever-growing needs for trained manpower. These programmes require substantial and rapidly expanding quantities of financial and technical assistance. With the signing of this Agreement, Malaysia will take full advantage of the financial assistance, expertise and training facilities available from Belgium. We appreciate your Government's offer of financial and technical assistance and training awards for Malaysians especially in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tropical medicine, all of which will help to strengthen the human and institutional resources of our country.

I can assure your Excellency that assistance received from Belgium or from any donor country will be effectively used. As you are aware, we have a realistic First Malaysia Plan which is in the process of being implemented. We want to ensure that whatever assistance received will form an integral part of a coherent and cooperative effort to implement this Plan of ours.

Malaysia, like many other developing countries, has many difficult and complex development problems to solve. The rising expectations of the people for a better living standard can be met not only by having a good and sound plan but also by implementing it effectively so that results will be produced and the goods delivered.

We are determined to do this. And through the spirit of mutual

cooperation between Malaysia and friendly donor countries, we hope that our objective in making solid economic progress will be realised and that our capacity to sustain a high standard of living for our people will be expanded. The signing of this Agreement today marks the beginning of such cooperation from Belgium, and I hope that it will also stimulate imaginative and new sources of aid which would contribute most to strengthen our capacity for promoting self-sustaining growth.

Your Excellency, I also hope that your short visit to our country has been pleasant and fruitful and that you will bring back to your Government and people our good wishes and appreciation.