

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT THE
TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER FOR OUTWARD
BOUND AT THE SELANGOR CLUB, KUALA LUMPUR
ON 23RD FEBRUARY, 1965

Honourable Prime Minister, Your Excellencies, and Gentlemen,

As you know, this function here this evening is in celebration of the end of the first decade of the Outward Bound movement in this country and the beginning of second one.

It is therefore appropriate, on an occasion like this, to look back into our achievements in the past as well as to our plans for the future.

But before I do so I should like, on behalf of the Outward Bound Council, to welcome you all and to thank you for your presence and for your support at this our Tenth Anniversary Dinner.

In particular, I am very grateful to our Tunku, the Prime Minister, for his presence here not only in his capacity as Prime Minister but also as Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

A nation is a poor guardian of its own interests if it does not encourage its youth, who are the citizens of the future, to become strong, self-reliant and vigilant men and women, to man the watch towers over all it holds most dear.

Malaysia as a young nation and has a young population considers that it is of the utmost importance that we should pay particular attention to our youth and give great accent to our activities.

It was because of the realization of this fact that our Prime Minister, after the last National Election, decided to form the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and place this Ministry under his own personal charge.

The Outward Bound Trust is one that caters for our youth. The Outward Bound Trust of Malaya was formed in 1953 when this country was facing trouble from militant Communism, as in fact it still is today.

In the face of internal threat as well as in the face of external aggression, more than at any other time, a nation needs men and women with

character, courage and self-confidence so that can willingly act on their own and lead others to play their parts in the defence of their country.

Outward Bound achieves this through its own special methods by making young people fit, by teaching them to look after themselves in the open, and by facing them with problems which they have to tackle on their own in every day life.

The need for such an organisation was felt in 1953 when four men; Tuan Haji Mubin Sheppard, Mr. Richard West and Mr. George Rothery of the Malayan Civil Service and Mr. Ted Marsh of Barlows visited Outward Bound Schools in Britain.

They were very impressed with the work which was being done in these schools which all follow the concept that in democracy you only compel others to do things by example.

On their return to Malaya they sold the idea of founding a school in Malaya to Field Marshall Tun Templer. Then Tun Templer called a meeting of leading businessmen and Government Officials, some of whom are still here with us this evening.

The names of the founders were:

Mr. R.B. Carey

Dato H.A. Campbell

Dato Sir Douglas Waring

Tun H.S. Lee

Dato Haji Mustapha Albakri

Dato Clough Thuraisingham

Mr. P.L. Fickling

Mr. E. Heinsworth

Mr. J.D. Register

Mr. C.T. Smith

These men agreed to found the Trust and having done so formed the first council.

Then realising that there would be no real progress in attracting public interest until a school was in existence, Dato H.A. Campbell volunteered to be a Chairman of the Management Committee and personally guaranteed the first \$100,000 towards the cost of erecting the building. He also offered all the facilities of the Engineering Department of Socfin Company of which he was General Manager to prepare plans and supervise building works. With this excellent and encouraging start, the Council asked the Outward Bound Trust in London for the services of an adviser and Mr. G.W. Fuller arrived in this country in

may 1953. The site at Lumut was chosen and planning commenced shortly afterwards and Mr. Fuller was appointed the School's first Warden.

Perhaps the Tunku will remember that in 1954, on his return from London after his first mission for negotiating for Independence of our country, Mr. Fuller was his fellow passenger.

Mr. Fuller impressed the Tunku on this project and the Tunku offered his whole hearted support and promised at the time to send his son on the first course. The school was ready for occupation early in 1955 and the first course started on 30th April. Needless to say, the Tunku's son was among those who attended the first course.

In 1954 while the school was being built, the Rubber Growers' Association decided to set up a Trust Fund to support the school and to provide scholarships for underprivileged boys. This fund which is known as the R.G.A. Memorial Fund in memory of all Planters, irrespective of colour or creed, who gave their lives during the emergency, amounted to no less than \$205,000 and the revenue from this sum has provided scholarships for 170 boys during the past ten years.

Over 4,500 boys between the ages of 17 and 25 from all walks of life in Malaysia have attend the course at this school as trainees. Boys from Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and even a few from Indonesia (of course, before confrontation started) have also attended courses.

It is a pity that more from Indonesia did not have the opportunity of attending courses at this school because if they did, with the training which they would have received, they might have been able to knock some sense into the heads of their so called leaders.

The Outward Bound Trust now enters its second decade and more than ever it needs the help of well meaning and public spirited people who have the future well being of Malaysia at heart.

As in 1953, when the school was founded, we are now facing open aggression from outside. Our young nation needs leaders at every level in our walk of life. We need good and loyal citizens with a sense of responsibility and dedication and a realization of their obligation to their country and to their birthright. Not only do we need leaders, we need good and loyal followers as well.

The school at Lumut has proved its worth in the progress of our nation and has played a leading part in helping our young men to a realization of the challenging times in which they live.

If this school intended to play this important part, it will need help from more and more people. Until the middle of last year, the cost of the school remained unchanged from the original figure decided upon in 1955, that is \$250.

This was raised to \$275 last year and even at this figure, the cost at our school still remains by far the cheapest not in this country but in the world. This has only been made possible by the generosity of a number of people. In particular, sponsors who put up the money to send young men on courses, and commercial firms which donate goods and equipment or which sell them to the Trust at special rates. The Armed Forces have also helped by donating surplus equipment which can be used by the trainees.

I hope that in the years to come, greatly increased help of this sort will be forthcoming and I appeal to all of you here this evening to support the school and press your friends and business associates to do likewise.

Your presence and support this evening has provided funds, some of which will be used to give scholarship to a few young men who have volunteered for services with the Vigilante Corps. These men, most of whom are untrained, are willingly risking their lives in the interests of their fellow citizens.

Once again, I thank you all for your presence here tonight.

If you support Outward Bound Movement in Malaysia, you will be helping to strengthen the foundations of our nation and you will be contributing towards the continuance of a firm and enlightened leadership which carries with it, stability, freedom, and a sound future for this country.

Now, gentlemen, may I ask you to rise and join with me in drinking to the health and the continued success of the Outward Bound Trust.