

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON THE  
SECOND READING OF THE EMERGENCY (ESSENTIAL  
POWERS) BILL, 1964 IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT ON  
10TH SEPTEMBER, 1964

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill entitled "An Act to confer certain powers on the Yang di Pertuan Agong which it is expedient that His Majesty should be enabled to exercise in the emergency proclaimed on the third day of September, 1964, under Article 150 of the Federal Constitution" be read a second time.

Sir, this House has had a full debate on the motion moved by the Honourable the Prime Minister on the Proclamation of Emergency and now the House has fully endorsed and supported the Proclamation. Therefore, Sir, this House is now fully aware of the circumstances that made it necessary for the Government to proclaim this state of emergency.

Sir, it is indeed a sad thing for this Government — the Alliance Government — to have to advise His Majesty to proclaim a state of emergency throughout Malaysia because it was this Government just four years ago that brought the previous Emergency to an end and put an end to all the restrictions and hardships that the people of this country had to endure for twelve years.

However, as has been fully explained in the debate on the motion of the Honourable the Prime Minister, the Government considers that it is necessary, in view of the serious threat to the safety and security of our country, that a state of emergency should be proclaimed and the Government should be vested with the necessary powers under the Constitution to enable the Government to take adequate measures to defend this country and to fight the enemies.

Sir, the Emergency was proclaimed under Article 150 of the Constitution and section 2 of the Article gives His Majesty all the powers to promulgate Ordinances necessary for prosecuting the emergency. However, it is felt that instead of making a series of Ordinances from time to time, a proper way would be for Parliament to empower His Majesty by an Act of Parliament to make Essential Regulations. Honourable Members will remember that under the previous Emergency, Essential Regulations were made under similar power by the High Commissioner before Independence and later by His Majesty.

I would like once again, Sir, to assure this House that the Government will give very careful consideration to any Regulation that is considered necessary to be made; also, I can assure the House that the Government will see to it that the powers under the Emergency Regulations, will be exercised during the four years that this Government had to carry out the Emergency; and also, this House and the country are fully aware of the way in which Government had exercised the powers, fairly wide powers, conferred by the Internal Security Act which was passed by this House. Therefore, Sir, this House and, I think this country need have no fear that the Emergency Regulations that may be promulgating any regulation, I must make it clear that we will not hesitate to promulgate any regulation if we consider it necessary for the interest and for the security of our country.

Sir, I beg to move.