

MESSAGE BY
THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
ON THE OCCASION OF UNITED NATIONS DAY
ON 24TH OCTOBER, 1966.

Today Malaysia along with other member countries of the United Nations and men of goodwill the world over celebrates to remind ourselves of the purposes of the Organisation and renew our pledge of dedication to uphold the principles of the Charter.

After 21 years of existence, the United Nations has now come of age. Contrary to the misgivings of cynics and prophets of doom the United Nations has emerged from crisis after crisis with added strength enjoying as it grows the increasing confidence of nations. The growth of the United Nations from 51 member countries to 119 today is an eloquent testimony to the growing strength of the Organisation and the faith and confidence which the peoples of the world have placed in it.

It is true that the United Nations suffers from certain limitations and imperfections. Whatever these may be it is still the only one universal organisation available to mankind today which small countries like Malaysia and other newly emerging nations can rely on for the safeguard of their independence and integrity so that they can be left undisturbed to chart their own destiny.

When I was at the United Nations during the opening of its current Session of the General Assembly less than a month ago, it was my special pleasure to observe that in spite of the tremendous problems that face the world body there was, significantly, amidst tension and controversies an atmosphere of growing mood of optimism among the delegates present. This to me signifies the faith of the delegates in the ability and capacity of the United Nations to work out problems of common interest. The world will long remember how the United Nations had saved them from the brink of global catastrophies in bringing peace and order in troubled spots around the world such as in Korea, Suez, the Congo, Cyprus and Cuba.

We in Malaysia sincerely hope that the United Nations would soon be able to bring the war in Vietnam to an end as it had helped end the war in the Congo and Suez not many years ago.

But an organisation like the United Nations cannot run on its own and continue to undertake the tremendous task entrusted to it without the support of its members. It is the special obligations of member countries to contribute in every way they can for the ultimate realisation of its objective for which the organisation was formed the evolution of a world order under conditions of peace, justice and prosperity.

The United Nations has unobtrusively rendered enormous services and contributions in assisting developing countries in their economic and social development, in bringing relief and rehabilitation to refugees, comforts to the sick and generally in promoting better standards of living everywhere. In 1964 the United Nations took a major step towards world wide cooperation in trade and development when it held an International Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva. Indeed, the United Nations had made a very significant move in a very special way towards establishing conditions for prosperity and permanent peace in the world.

The world needs the United Nations. It is thus a major policy of the Government of Malaysia to give all the support it can and contribute to the success of the Organisation. It is our wish to see that the world body will grow and prosper in the years to come.

1966 is a significant year for Malaysia for during the last few months friendly relations had been restored between Malaysia and Indonesia as well as between Malaysia and the Republics of Philippines and Pakistan. It is Malaysia's intention to develop the closest and the most durable relationship with these three countries as it has attempted to do with others. In conformity with the principles of justice and international law Malaysia wishes to have the friendliest relations with all its close neighbours, and on the basis of the same principle and in line with our policy of peace, cooperation and friendship, we desire above all to be friendly with all countries regardless of their ideological persuasions and systems of government. We believe that it is just and right for every country to choose the system of government and way of life best suited to it, for that

is the essence of peaceful co-existence. To us peace means so much for we believe that peace is the first pre-requisite to development. It is only under conditions of peace and friendly intercourse that cooperation is possible.

In accordance with the United Nations Charter, Malaysia stands for international cooperation in its widest sense. To this end Malaysia attaches considerable importance to its role in the United Nations. It is in keeping with this principle that we have with Thailand and the Philippines formed the Association of South-East Asia (ASA). With its reactivation we look forward to cooperating with the other members of the Association to generate economic forces for development of our respective countries, and create goodwill and understanding among ourselves. Malaysia hopes that the frontiers of regional cooperation in South-East Asia would be expanded and as many countries in this region would join together, and cooperate for mutual benefit.

It is an important co-incidence that today as we observe the 1966 United Nations Day a seminar on development organised by the Government of Malaysia is opened. In welcoming the various participating delegates to this seminar we look forward to the useful exchange of ideas and hope that this, like ASA, will prove constructive towards promoting better understanding in dealing with our common problems.

It might be still a long way before mankind can achieve its goal of social progress and better standards of life and complete freedom **but** I am confident that with the support of peace loving nations everywhere the United Nations will yet achieve its objectives. Let us, therefore, today rededicate ourselves to the principles and purposes of the Charter: to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person, to establish conditions for justice under the rule of law, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.