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STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON
WELCOMING THE U.S. PEACE CORPS AT THE NATIONAL OPERATIONS ROOMS, MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, KUALA LUMPUR ON
14TH DECEMBER, 1964

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the eighth occasion on which I have the pleasure of receiving U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers at this National Operations Room and I like to take this opportunity of extending to you all a very warm welcome to Malaysia.

I am advised that this group consists of 37 teachers who will be sent to Sabah and Sarawak in the next few days.

As you know we, in Malaysia, have embarked upon a many-sided and ambitious programme of social and economic development. This programme is designed to help raise the standard of living in the rural areas. Our objective is to give our people a decent standard of living so that they can live with human dignity free from the bonds of poverty, ignorance and disease.

In this gigantic task of achieving our objective we need all the available men and women to help implement the projects in our Development Plan. We are short of trained and skilled personnel and have therefore requested your Government to supply us with the necessary middle level manpower. You will have responded to our request for volunteers and by joining the Peace Corps programme, you will render service not only to Malaysia but also to the world community in promoting friendship and deeper understanding between people of your country and ours.

We, like your country, believe in living at peace and harmony with our neighbours and with all peoples irrespective of race, creed, and religion. For twelve years we have fought militant communism in our land to maintain our free and democratic way of life. After the Emergency was over, we directed all our efforts and attention to develop the country and provide the people with all the amenities of life for which they deserve. We will continue to intensify our efforts to promote rapid social and economic development in Malaysia in spite of our present difficulties. I am therefore very happy that your Government have so readily provided us at our request the services of U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers to help us in our development programme.

We need men and women like you to supplement our manpower resources so as to accelerate the development programme now being undertaken in the country. Many of you will serve in the remote rural areas and your work will be an interesting and stimulating one.

I hope that I shall soon meet you again on the ground in my visits to the districts and wish you all the best and an enjoyable stay in this country.