

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE
FAREWELL DINNER HOSTED BY THE
MINISTER OF LABOUR, MR. A. J. FAULKNER,
AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, AUCK-
LAND, NEW ZEALAND ON 14TH OCTOBER, 1975

The Honourable Mr. Faulkner, Mrs. Faulkner, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you, Mr. Minister, for your gracious and generous words and for the cordial and warm hospitality extended to my wife and to me and members of my party this evening.

As my visit to New Zealand draws to a close, I must confess to some mixed feelings. After such a splendidly happy and delightful stay, with the spectacular scenic wonders of Rotorua and Lake Taupo and the gay and relaxed hospitality accorded to us still so fresh in our minds, it is inevitably with some stirrings of parting sorrow that I leave New Zealand tomorrow morning. But, what is more important, I also leave with a glad and happy heart because, more than ever, I am conscious of the abiding goodwill and friendship that exists here in New Zealand for Malaysia and the Malaysian people which we in our turn welcome and reciprocate in full measure.

New Zealand and Malaysia are relatively small countries sharing common traditions of multi-racial tolerance and harmony, and abiding faith in the democratic processes of government, and a firm commitment to a just society which provide opportunities for fulfilling and abundant lives for its citizens. As a developed country, New Zealand has of course achieved an enviable measure of success. But that success has not made you forget the enormity and importance of the tasks facing countries such as Malaysia in the field of development. Your sympathetic understanding and your very important contributions to our efforts are most deeply appreciated by the Malaysian people.

New Zealand has helped us in many ways and over many years and I am convinced that the goodwill and friendship which we have built as partners in progress will stand us in good stead in

the days ahead as we face up to new problems in the regional environment which we share. I have certainly been encouraged and heartened by my discussions with your Prime Minister as well as the other Ministers of the New Zealand Government which have shown a broad identity of views between us on these common problems. It is on this positive and optimistic note that I leave New Zealand in the full consciousness that continuing consultations between us at different level both bilaterally and multilaterally will strengthen these bonds of friendship and understanding even more.

Finally, Mr. Minister, let me take this opportunity once more to thank you for this happy evening and to extend through you to the Government and people of New Zealand my deep appreciation of the unfailing courtesy, the generous hospitality and the impeccable arrangements which have made my visit here so enjoyable and so memorable.

May I now invite distinguished guests present to drink a toast to the good health of the Honourable Mr. Faulkner and Mrs. Faulkner and to the continuing friendship between the people of New Zealand and Malaysia.