

STATEMENT BY THE. ACTING PRIME MINISTER ON
THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS ON 25TH JUNE, 1965

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations my Government is pleased to reiterate its full support for and faith in the principles, purposes and functions of the United Nations as an instrument for the promotion and maintenance of world peace and security, the protection of freedom and fundamental human rights and above all the stimulation of international cooperation in all fields of human endeavours for the economic, scientific and social progress for the benefit of mankind.

As a small country whose desire is to maintain its independent status in cooperation with all nations, big and small, Malaysia naturally looks towards the United Nations as the protective shield behind which nations like us may work out their own destinies and be left in peace to develop their economies so as to fulfil the concept of political independence within the context of economic well-being.

Despite the disastrous effects of the Second World War spectres of another global war involving the use of weapons whose destructive effects are horrifying even to imagine still loom large. It is most gratifying therefore that through the untiring efforts of the various Member States of the United Nations the Test Ban Treaty had been successfully drawn up and subscribed to by practically all nations of the world. Malaysia believes that this represents only the beginning of a development towards the ultimate objective — the obliteration of destructive weapons of war which might otherwise lead to even the annihilation of mankind itself.

Thus the United Nations has manifested itself as the most important force for peace. It is through the United Nations that peace has been restored in such recent international crisis as in the Congo and Cyprus. In upholding the principles of the United Nations, Malaysia has, within the limits of its meagre resources, contributed towards United Nations peace efforts wherever possible, such as in the Congo and Cyprus.

Apart from being an instrument for the peaceful settlement of international disputes and differences perhaps one of the greatest achievements of the United Nations has been its contribution towards hastening the process of decolonisation and independence to subject

peoples, particularly in Africa. As a newly independent State, Malaysia is most sympathetic to the needs and aspirations of the peoples in the non-independent territories. It is therefore actively participating in all efforts in the United Nations to bring about developments towards early independence for the remaining dependent territories.

We, in Malaysia have no doubt that peace and prosperity, goodwill and friendship, understanding and cooperation, can be achieved through the United Nations in the interests of further progress and well-being of mankind. It is to achieve this common goal that nations of the world should effectively support the various joint efforts of the United Nations. Embarking as we are on the threshold of the third decade of the United Nations since the signing of its Charter in San Francisco in 1945 and in the rather troubled situation of the present day world, Malaysia joins with other like-minded nations in the relentless appeal for greater support to further strengthen the United Nations in the pursuit of peace, prosperity and security.

Quite naturally, with the passage of time and the vastly increased membership since 1945, the provisions of the Charter have in certain respects proved to fall short of meeting the need to make it a really effective body particularly with regard to a more equitable representation of Member States in all the United Nations organs. For this reason Malaysia welcome the steps already taken to expand the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, and will exert all its efforts along with other like-minded nations to bring about where necessary an early and fruitful review of the provisions of the Charter.