

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE
MINISTER OF DEFENCE TO THE MALAYSIAN ARMED
FORCES AT KUALA LUMPUR ON 22ND JULY, 1965

On the occasion of my last visit to the Battalion in June I was only able in that short visit to meet the officers. It is a great pleasure to me therefore, to be able to accept the invitation of your Commanding Officer to join you all in celebrating your anniversary today and to bid you GOD SPEED on your departure for active service in Sabah.

In the three years of the Battalion's existence you have demonstrated most admirably those qualities of loyalty, cooperation, mutual trust and respect which are the ingredients for success in any multi-racial society. It is due to this spirit that the Battalion has in the past achieved such success in the field of sports, and, when taken in conjunction with good, realistic training earned for you the respect of the nation for your part in the riots in Singapore last year and your successes against Indonesian infiltrators in Johore more recently. The figure of 29 Indonesian killed and 9 captured speak well for the aggressive spirit, evident in your conduct of operations, and the state of efficiency in jungle operations the Battalion has now achieved.

But, in these days of trial of our country — Malaysia, no one can afford to rest on past achievement or be complacent for the future. There remains always much to be done to ensure the continued growth of our strength and to maintain and increase our military capability.

I, and the nation, rely on each and everyone of you here before me to keep up the standards you have achieved and, indeed not only that, but to improve upon them. The nation has every reason to have confidence in the performance of their Armed Forces in their physical struggle to contain the Indonesian aggression.

It is up to you all as members of a unit of the Malaysian Armed Forces to maintain this confidence by your unrelenting alertness and high efficiency. In this I have no doubt that our confidence in the 2nd Battalion Malaysian Infantry Regiment will not be misplaced.

You have gained a high reputation, it is now up to you to keep it. May I wish you good luck during your tour in Sabah - the conditions both physical and mental are not easy there, it is up to you to overcome them and in this I wish you all every success.

Well done and GOD SPEED.